

THE CHURCH NURSERY IS OPEN

The nursery is professionally staffed by the Lullaby Guild, open Sunday mornings 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., and welcomes infants through 3 years old. Ask any host for directions to the nursery.

Afternoon Book Group

The Afternoon Book Group meets on the fourth Tuesday of most months at 1:30 p.m., in room 116. The next meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, April 23**. The book for **April** is **The Old Place** by **Bobby Finger**. We welcome all who love to read and discuss and travel the world through books.

To Donate Altar Flowers on Sunday Mornings

In honor or in memory of loved ones, you can call Cathy Fuentes in the church office at 602-263-5013 x100 or stop by the church office when you are on campus. Every week we have two arrangements for Sunday services. Each arrangement is \$37. You may donate 1 or 2 arrangements. Please make payment by cash or check to First Church. Call to reserve a day to honor a loved one or special friend.



Sunday Adult Classes between services at 10 a.m.

Faith for Today Sunday School Class

Our class is a friendly, welcoming group. We meet to enhance our Christian beliefs and practices and how we can apply them to our everyday living. Our goals include outreach to fulfill local community needs and even beyond. We meet in Centennial Room.

The Table Sunday School Class

This class is a diverse, casual and welcoming group. It's a great class whether you're new to your faith journey or a seasoned veteran. Our discussion topics are always changing, class is loosely structured and no homework is required. We meet outside of class socially and have a goal of volunteering to serve the community quarterly. Join us in room 116!

The Upper Room Sunday School Class

In this class, we do detailed study of scripture. We meet in Epworth Room. If you have questions please call Peggy Ward at 623-533-7381.

First Church Foundation Beyond Our Walls

We recently received this communication from Haeli Miceli, Executive Director of the Desert Mission Food Bank.

We are grateful to have experienced firsthand the fantastic work of the First United Methodist Foundation of Phoenix! The Foundation exemplifies the spirit of community, compassion, and making a positive impact on the lives of others.

Desert Mission Foodbank guests have benefitted from the charitable efforts and donations from the Foundation. Between November of 2023 and February of 2024, we have been able to provide over 4,000 meals to our community because of your generosity and belief in our organization!

Please pass on our gratitude from the entire Desert Mission Team and the amazing community we serve!

SUNDAY MORNING HOSTS NEEDED!

Please consider hosting in one of the following ways:

1. **Hosts** are the friendly face of welcome. Hosts guide and assist visitors and guests, and help everyone feel at home. Hosts pass out bulletins, greet, and pass the offering plate. We are looking to recruit new faces. If you would like to serve as a host, please call the church office or email Cathy Fuentes at cathy@firstchurch.church.

2. **Front Office** help is needed Sunday mornings during both services. You will be able to listen to the worship service. You might greet people walking through, answer phones, take messages, direct office traffic, receive offerings and donations of all sorts, or make copies for the different classes that meet that morning. If you would like to host in the office, please contact Cathy Fuentes at cathy@firstchurch.church, or call the church office 602-263-5013 x100.

Thank you for giving your time and talents to help your church community!

Happening This Week

Today

9 a.m. Worship - Contemporary
9 a.m. Kids Church
10 a.m. The Table Adult Class (Room 116)
10 a.m. The Upper Room Adult Class (Epworth Room)
10 a.m. Faith for Today Adult Class (Centennial Room)
10 a.m. Kids Choir (Room 106)
10 a.m. Jr. and Sr. High Youth (Room 101 and Room 103)
11 a.m. Worship - Traditional
4 p.m. Valley Chamber Chorale - Concert
4:30 p.m. Youth Choir (Room 106)
6 p.m. Sr. High Youth Group (Room 103)

Monday, April 22

9 a.m. Weekday School Magic Show (Asbury Hall)
2 p.m. Covenant Sisters (Zoom)

Tuesday, April 23

9:30 a.m. Yoga Class (Room 114)
1:30 p.m. Afternoon Book Club (Room 116)
6 p.m. Trustees Meeting (Centennial Room)
7 p.m. Church Council and Finance Committee (Centennial Room)

Wednesday, April 24

9:30 a.m. Prayer Quilting (Epworth Room)
5:45 p.m. Handbell Choir Rehearsal
6:30 p.m. AA Group (Epworth Room)
7 p.m. Chancel Choir
7:30 p.m. Al-Anon (Room 116)

Thursday, April 25

9:30 a.m. Congregational Care Team (Room 116)
10 a.m. Games Galore (Centennial Room)
4:30 p.m. Yoga Class (Room 114)
6 p.m. Praise Choir
7 p.m. Praise Band

Friday, April 26

11 a.m. Memorial Service - David Kinser

Saturday, April 27 - no church events

Next Sunday, April 28

9 a.m. Worship - Contemporary
9 a.m. Kids Church
10 a.m. The Table Adult Class (Room 116)
10 a.m. The Upper Room Adult Class (Epworth Room)
10 a.m. Faith for Today Adult Class (Centennial Room)
10 a.m. Kids Choir (Room 106)
10 a.m. Jr. High and Sr. High Youth (Room 101 and Room 103)
11 a.m. Worship - Traditional
4:30 p.m. Youth Choir (Room 106)
6 p.m. Sr. High Youth Group (Room 103)

Consider Prayer Quilting

Whether you have a few sewing skills or you're an accomplished quilter, we have room for you! We meet weekly on Wednesdays in Epworth Room from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Your schedule may bring you in later, or if needed, you may leave earlier. We enjoy fellowship, laughter and end with prayers for quilt recipients. Come join us!

Community Yoga Class at First United Methodist Church

First United Methodist Church offers two weekly yoga classes to our community. Classes meet Tuesdays, 9:30 - 10:30 a.m., and Thursdays, 4:30 - 5:30 p.m. The cost is \$12 per class or four classes for \$40. Email the church office for more information: info@firstchurch.church.



First United Methodist Church of Phoenix
5510 N Central Avenue
Phoenix, AZ 85012
602-263-5013
firstchurch.church

First Church is an inclusive community of faith where **ANYONE** can experience the goodness and grace of God.

April 21, 2024 • 11 a.m.

The Fourth Sunday of Easter



Our Ministry Together

The ministers of this church are its members; those who assist them are:

Carlo A. Rapanut - Bishop	Patricia Magyar - Congregational Care Coordinator
Javier Olivares - District Superintendent	Russ Morrow - Business Administrator
David Rennick - Senior Pastor	Cathy Fuentes - Office Manager
Patricia Rodriguez - Lay Leader	Ron Rhode - Organist
David Whitaker - Lay Leader	Dr. Elizabeth Leyva - Children/Youth Choirs
Joshua Elder - Minister of Music	Dan Hawkins - Campus Superintendent
Julie Cochran - Children's Ministry Coordinator	John Riley - Custodian
Beckie Humphrey - Director of Weekday School	Derrick Sewell - Custodian

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE *Fanfare on "Victory"* Wyton
Ron Rhode, organ

WELCOME Rev. David Rennick
(Please register your attendance on the *I'm Here* card found in your pew or *Online*.)

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

INTRODUCTION *Be Thou My Vision* arr. Scoggins, Jr.
Rejoicing Handbells

*CALL TO WORSHIP Liturgist: Jane Kelley

One: How shall we live when we have more than enough?
All: We have no greater praise to offer than caring for your creatures and Creation.
One: The earth is our teacher - nurturing and tender.
All: In this hour, O God, nourish us in the soil of your love.
One: Let us worship God, the Ground of all Being.

*OPENING HYMN - No. 144 *This Is My Father's World*

PRAYER FOR TODAY Liturgist: Jane Kelley
Living Word, whose love abides in us, You call us to love in truth and action. Give courage to our hearts so we may love your beloveds. Open our ears to the wisdom of those you send, who might otherwise be dismissed. Transform our charity into justice over all the earth. Amen.

A MOMENT OF SILENT PRAYER AND REFLECTION

SPECIAL MUSIC *I Will Walk* Merrifield
FirstKids Choir
Soloists: Scarlet Balila, Savannah Nieman, Alex Rennick, and Alexa Nieman

SCRIPTURE READING *1 John 3:16-24* Liturgist: Jane Kelley

ACT OF PRAISE *Abide with Me* Moklebust
Rejoicing Handbells with Monica Anthony, flute

SERMON *Be Love* Rev. David Rennick

SHARING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY *My Shepherd Will Supply My Need* Wilberg
Chancel Choir with Monica Anthony, flute and Ruby Vineyard, oboe

*DOXOLOGY

PRAYER OF DEDICATION Liturgist: Jane Kelley

PASTORAL PRAYER Rev. David Rennick

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name.
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

*CLOSING HYMN *O God Who Shaped Creation*



1. O God who shaped cre - a - tion at earth's cha - o - tic dawn,
2. O God, with pain and an-guish a moth - er sees her child
3. O God, when trin - kets tar-nish and plea - sures lose their charm,
4. In mer - cy and com-pas-sion your good - ness is re - vealed;



your word of power was spo - ken, and lo! the dark was gone!
em - bark on dead-end path - ways, al - lur - ing, but de - filed;
when, wea - ried by our wan - d'ring, we see your o - pened arm,
with ten - der - ness you touch us, and bro - ken hearts are healed.



You framed us in your im - age, you brought us in - to birth,
so too your heart is bro - ken when hate and lust in - crease,
with moth - er - like com - pas - sion you share your warm em - brace;
You claim us as your chil - dren, you strip our pride - ful shame;



you bless our in - fant foot - steps and shared your splen - dored earth.
when worlds you birthed and nur - tured spurn ways that lead to peace.
you set for us a ban - quet and heal us through your grace.
with free - dom born of mer - cy we bless your ho - ly name!

*BENEDICTION Rev. David Rennick

POSTLUDE *Tuba Tune in D Major* Lang
Ron Rhode, organ

*For those who are able, please stand.
PLEASE set your phones to vibrate before the service starts.

PRAYERS TO THE CONGREGATION

PRAYER QUILT IN THE NARTHEX

A prayer quilt displayed in the Narthex this morning is for **Hope Yingst**. Hope is the granddaughter of Betty Cornish. We invite you to stop, tie a knot, and pray for healing, grace and comfort.

PRAYERS FOR OUR SPECIAL CARE

Donald Randall, Bonnie Rheaume, Bobbie Rudd, Darwin Schultz, Susan Secrest, Buzz and Liv Stevens, Jane Suddarth, Bev Sutton

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES (Celebrating 50 or more years of marriage)

Dave and Charlene Kingston 4/10 Jack and Susan Sneathen 4/22

SENIOR MILESTONES (Celebrating 80 or more birthdays)

Albert Asendorf 4/25 Maxine Perkins 4/27
Nancy Maxwell 4/27

HOSTS

Judy Walden, Mike Fox, Sandy Fox, and Michelle Vanecko

ACOLYTES

Alice Elder and Erin Sullivan

PRAYERS FOR OUR CHURCHES

First UMC, Glendale; First UMC, Phoenix; First UMC, Sun City

WELCOME GUESTS!

Thank you for visiting First Church today. We are so glad you chose to worship with us! Please stop by our **Welcome Table** in the Narthex and take a gift bag. We also encourage you to share your contact information so we may formally welcome you.

NEXT WEEK'S SERMON

Sermon Series: *Living Beyond Light, Hope, and Love*
Sermon Title: *We Connect*

You're invited to read *John 15:1-8* each day in preparation for next Sunday.

Youth Mission Trip Fundraiser Send Pastor David to Puerto Rico

Simply choose an envelope from \$1 to \$100 and donate that dollar amount. The envelopes will be displayed on a board in the breezeway outside the sanctuary. Our Youth Group will be present after the 9 a.m. worship service and before the 11 a.m. worship service.

Friendship Day – May 5

As a way to say thank you for your prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness, we will include moments during our worship services on May 5th to say thank you for being you. We value you, our volunteers, and all who make First Church a place for *ANYONE*.

Grief Support for Children and Families

Stepping Stones of Hope will host "One Day at Camp," a day of healing for adults and families grieving the death loss of a loved one, on Saturday, April 27 at 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., in Asbury Hall. This special day will provide an opportunity for adults and children, ages 6-17, with or without their parent(s) or guardian(s), to share with others the stories of their grief journey. This is a day to gain tools to cope, learn, and adapt. For more information, please call Diane Raden at the Stepping Stones of Hope office at 602-264-7520 or register at www.steppingstonesofhope.org. Grateful thanks to First United Methodist Foundation for sponsoring this special day for families, making it possible to offer this program at no charge.