

### 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.

### Sunday Morning Donuts

First Church would like to thank Guy, Arienne, Ava and Julia Berry for providing donuts every Sunday morning. We appreciate all you do to serve your church and our congregation.

### 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, May 28**. The book for **May** is **The Night Watchman** by **Louise Erdich**. We welcome all who love to read and discuss and travel the world through books.

### Circles Potluck in May

The women of the Eve and Rachel Circles invite all ladies to join us in a potluck dinner. It will be held in Centennial Room, on Thursday May 9, at 5:30 p.m. We hope you will join us for good food and fellowship! Contact Karen Horton to let us know if you are planning to attend, or for any questions, 602-427-8415.

### Grateful Thanks to FUMC!

On April 27, 19 children and adult campers attended “One Day at Camp” hosted by Stepping Stones of Hope, an organization supporting families who have experienced the loss of a loved one. Through sharing their stories and participating in various activities, they learned ways to cope with their fears, anger, sadness and, once again, to begin to see hopeful visions for the future.

Grateful thanks to First Church for opening their doors to the community, Russ Morrow and Cathy Fuentes who coordinated details, the custodians who cheerfully set-up and cleaned up the campus before and after the event and the 16 volunteers who served as staff, including Donna Wright and Diane Raden, members of the FUMC congregation. All of this was made possible through the generosity of a grant from the First United Methodist Foundation.

Stepping Stones of Hope is so grateful for the willingness of First Church to provide a safe place for feelings to be expressed and for grieving families to know they are not alone.

### 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!

### Looking for a Way to Serve First Church?

There are many ways you can get involved while serving your First Church. Some require very little time. Consider hosting and assisting in the church office during our 9 a.m. or 11 a.m. worship services. Helping with filling the pew pockets during the week in preparation for Sunday services. Hosts are always needed for memorial services to prepare for receptions. If you are interested, please contact Cathy Fuentes at [cathy@firstchurch.church](mailto:cathy@firstchurch.church) or 602-263-5013 ext. 100.

### Happening This Week

#### Today

- 9 a.m. Worship - Contemporary
- 9 a.m. Kids Church
- 10 a.m. First Sundays Social Hour (Wesley Lounge)
- 10 a.m. The Table Adult Class (Not Meeting)
- 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
- 4:30 p.m. Youth Choir (Room 106)
- 6 p.m. Sr. High Youth Group (Room 103)

#### Monday, May 6

- 2 p.m. Covenant Sisters (Zoom)
- 5 p.m. Foundation Financial Development Committee (Zoom)
- 6 p.m. Safety Committee (Zoom)

#### Tuesday, May 7

- 9:30 a.m. Yoga Class (Room 114)
- 6 p.m. Foundation Board (Centennial Room)

#### Wednesday, May 8

- 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, May 9

- 9:30 a.m. Congregational Care Team (Room 116)
- 10 a.m. Games Galore (Centennial Room)
- 4:30 p.m. Yoga Class (Room 114)
- 5 p.m. United Women in Faith Pot Luck - Combined (Asbury Hall)
- 6 p.m. Praise Choir
- 7 p.m. Praise Band

#### Friday, May 10 and Saturday, May 11 - no church events

#### Next Sunday, May 12

- 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)
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### The Upper Room Daily Devotional Booklets

The Upper Room magazine's mission is to provide a practical way to listen to scripture, connect with believers around the world, and spend time with God each day. *Booklets are now available in the church office.*

### 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](mailto:info@firstchurch.church).



First United Methodist Church of Phoenix  
5510 N Central Avenue  
Phoenix, AZ 85012  
602-263-5013  
[firstchurch.church](http://firstchurch.church)

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

**May 5, 2024 • 11 a.m.**

## Friendship Day



# Friendship Sunday!

### Our Ministry Together

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

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

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE *Christians, We Have Met to Worship* arr. Oliver  
Ron Rhode, organ and Don Newsom, piano

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

CHORAL INTRODUCTION *In Unity We Lift Our Song* Luther  
Chancel Choir

\*CALL TO WORSHIP Liturgist: Doug Dunipace

One: Easter people, Jesus chose you and calls you friend!  
**All: We abide in Christ because Christ abides in us.**

One: Jesus made a home among us to show us how to love.  
**All: We abide in Love because Love abides in us.**

One: Jesus invites us in and beckons us to come to the Table to know the joy that comes when we love one another the way God loves us.  
**All: We abide in Joy because Joy abides in us.**

One: Easter people, Jesus welcomes you home!  
**All: We come to make our home with God and one another, bound together by Love and enlivened by Joy. Amen.**

\*OPENING HYMN - No. 553 *And Are We Yet Alive*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION Liturgist: Doug Dunipace  
**Almighty God, you love us, but we have not loved you; you call, but we have not listened. We walk away from neighbors in need, wrapped up in our own concerns. We have gone along with evil, with pride, quarrelling, and divisiveness. Holy God, help us to face up to ourselves, so that, as you move toward us in mercy, we repent, turn to you, and receive mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

A MOMENT OF SILENT PRAYER AND REFLECTION

SONG OF REFLECTION - No. 2083 (TFWS)  
*My Song Is Love Unknown (vs. 1,2,5)*

SCRIPTURE READING *John 15:9-17* Liturgist: Doug Dunipace

SERMON *Part 2: We Create* Rev. David Rennick

SHARING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS  
*Special Communion Offering in support of the Annual Conference Mission Projects*

OFFERTORY *Beloved, God's Chosen* Cherwien  
Chancel Choir

A LITANY OF FRIENDSHIP AND THANKSGIVING

### SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

THE PRAYER OF GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**  
Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them up to the Lord.**  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**  
Blessed are you, Lord our God, creator and sovereign of the universe...

SANCTUS Page 17, red hymnal

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest!  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

ACCLAMATION Page 18, red hymnal

**Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

AMEN Page 18, red hymnal

**Amen. Amen. Amen.**

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.**

*This morning, we invite you to come forward down the center aisle at the direction of a host. Help yourself to the bread and the cup from the servers, then consume the elements. The elements are gluten free. You are welcome to kneel at the rail for prayer, or return directly to your seat.*

COMMUNION MUSIC *The Gift of Love* Elder  
Katherine Rosenfeld, soloist

\*CLOSING HYMN - No. 384 *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

\*BENEDICTION Rev. David Rennick

POSTLUDE *A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing* Manz  
Ron Rhode, organ

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

### 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.

## PRAYERS TO THE CONGREGATION

### PRAYER QUILT IN THE NARTHEX

A prayer quilt displayed in the Narthex this morning is for **Dixie Hilton**. Dixie is a friend of Susan Sneathen's sister. We invite you to stop, tie a knot, and pray for healing, grace and comfort.

### PRAYERS FOR OUR SPECIAL CARE

Grant Cooper, Hedy Cunningham, Margaret Eikmeier, Barbara Harvey, Jim Hyde, Barbara K Johnson, Marjorie Johnson, Vickie Johnson, Herb Kanter, Ronda Klein

### WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES (Celebrating 50 or more years of marriage)

John and Vicki Beaver 5/2 Grier and Carolyn Cooper 5/13  
William and Dana Devine 5/22

### SENIOR MILESTONES (Celebrating 80 or more birthdays)

Frances Sawyers 5/10

### ALTAR FLOWERS

Merrill and Barb Davison, in memory of Merrill's mother Barbara Davison on Mother's Day.

Merrill and Barb Davison, in memory of Barb's mother Signes Davies on her birthday and Mother's Day.

### ACOLYTES

Emma Jean Elder, Chris Boadu, and MaryJane Fernandez

### HOSTS

Stephanie Grainer, Sharon Strasbaugh, Michelle Vanecko, and Cathy Fuentes

### PRAYERS FOR OUR CHURCHES

Haven UMC, Jerome; Lakeview UMC, Sun City; Liberty UMC, Buckeye

### NEXT WEEK'S SERMON

**Sermon Series:** *Living Beyond Light, Hope, and Love*  
**Sermon Title:** *Part 3: We Share*  
You're invited to read *Psalms 1* each day in preparation for next Sunday.

### Friendship Day – Today, 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 to thank you for being you. We value you, our volunteers, and all who make First Church a place for *ANYONE*.

### Let's get out and enjoy the beautiful Arizona weather with a hike!

Saturday, May 11 at 7 a.m. Meet at Tom Rice's home 2357 E. Becker Lane in Phoenix for a 3-mile walk in the Phoenix Mountain Preserve. It takes a bit over an hour, with two modest climbs. Hiking boots are best due to uneven surfaces and rocks. Tennis shoes work as well. Doable for almost any age. Well-behaved dogs on leash are welcome too. Bring water and let's do this! Questions? Tomriceaz@msn.com or 602-999-2465. Hope to see you there!

### Congregational Care Team

Each Thursday morning the Care Team gets together to pray for individuals on the prayer request cards that were submitted. We appreciate your requests and diligently keep up to date on the status of individuals on the list.

Thank you for helping the Care Team.

### DESERT SOUTHWEST CONFERENCE

This year's mission project focus is support for churches engaged in asylum and border missions and is our communion offering for May. Your offering can be placed in the offering baskets at the front of the Communion line or directly through the Desert Southwest Conference using the QR code.

