

### First Church Kids

Come and join the fun at Kids Church during the 9 a.m. service! Children start with worship in the Sanctuary at 9 a.m. Then after the children's message, our incredible leaders will guide them to their groups by age. Parents are welcome to walk with us. At the end of the service, children can be picked up from:

**Nursery House** (6 months to 3 years old) - Room 109 (8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.)

**Cubby House** (3 years old to Pre-K) - Room 222

**Fun House** (K-2nd grade) - Room 221

**Light House** (3rd grade to 5th grade) - Room 223

### Axios

Axios Unaltered is our resident queer small group that meets every week here at the church for a time of discussion, Bible study, prayer, as well as service projects to support the community. If you are LGBTQ+ please join us Tuesdays at 7 p.m. to connect with other like-minded individuals and grow in your faith. Contact Sammi Burkhart or search @axiosunaltered on social media for more information.

### 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 9 a.m. or 11 a.m. worship services, or helping **fill 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.

### Afternoon Book Group

The Afternoon Book Group meets on the fourth Tuesday of most months at 1:30 p.m. in the Library. The next meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, March 25**. The book for **March** is **One Hundred Years of Solitude** by **Gabriel Garcia Marquez**. We welcome all who love to read and discuss and travel the world through books.

### 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. Call to reserve a day to honor a loved one or special friend.



### Reserve your Niche, Wall Plaque or Patio Brick

First Church has spaces available for you to reserve your single or companion niche. The cost includes your urn and the face plate of your niche. Wall Plaques and Patio Bricks do need to be ordered with your dedication or the name you wish. If you have questions or are interested, please contact Cathy Fuentes at [cathy@firstchurch.church](mailto:cathy@firstchurch.church) or call the church office at 602-263-5013 x100.



### Consider the Lilies - Matthew 6:28

Every Easter, the presence of Easter lilies in the sanctuary contributes to the celebration of new life. **Please order on or before April 14.**

Please order \_\_\_\_\_ lily(ies) at \$22 per plant.

I am enclosing/attaching \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Given by \_\_\_\_\_

In memory or honor (circle one) of \_\_\_\_\_

**Please consider donating your lily to a member of our congregation who is unable to attend worship with us.**

I wish to donate my plant(s).  I wish to take my plant(s).

### Happening This Week

#### Today

- 9 a.m. Worship - Contemporary
- 9 a.m. Kids Sunday School (Upstairs - Rooms 221, 222, 223)
- 10 a.m. First Kids Choir (Room 106)
- 10 a.m. Jr. and Sr. High Sunday School (Room 101 and 103)
- 10 a.m. The Table Adult Class (Room 116)
- 10 a.m. Faith for Today Class (Centennial Room)
- 10 a.m. Upper Room Class (Epworth Room)
- 11 a.m. Worship - Traditional
- 3 p.m. Young Adult Bible Study (Room 102)
- 4 p.m. BSA Religious Activities Team (Conference Room)
- 4:30 p.m. Youth Choir (Room 106)
- 5:30 p.m. Jr. and Sr. High Youth Program (Room 101 and 103)

#### Monday, March 17

- 2 p.m. Covenant Sisters (Zoom)

#### Tuesday, March 18

- 9:30 a.m. Yoga (Room 114)
- 6 p.m. Finance Committee (Epworth Room)
- 7 p.m. Axios (Room 102)

#### Wednesday, March 19

- 9:30 a.m. Prayer Quilting (Epworth Room)
- 5:45 p.m. Handbell Choir Rehearsal
- 6 p.m. Boy Scouts #41 (Asbury Hall)
- 6:30 p.m. AA Group (Wesley Lounge)
- 7 p.m. Chancel Choir
- 7:30 p.m. Al-Anon (Room 116)
- 8 p.m. Community Choir

#### Thursday, March 20

- 9:30 a.m. Congregational Care Team (Library)
- 10 a.m. Games Galore (Centennial Room)
- 1 p.m. Knitty Witty Chain Gang (Wesley Lounge)
- 2 p.m. WDS Cherub Choir
- 4:30 p.m. Yoga (Room 114)
- 6 p.m. Girl Scouts #3462 (Epworth Room)
- 6 p.m. Praise Choir
- 6:30 p.m. Boy Scout District Board (Asbury Hall)
- 7 p.m. Praise Band

#### Friday, March 21 & Saturday, March 22 - no church events

#### Next Sunday, March 23

- 8 a.m. Covenant Sisters (Library)
- 9 a.m. Worship - Contemporary
- 9 a.m. Kids Sunday School (Upstairs - Rooms 221, 222, 223)
- 10 a.m. New Members Class (Wesley Lounge)
- 10 a.m. First Kids Choir (Room 106)
- 10 a.m. Jr. and Sr. High Sunday School (Room 101 and 103)
- 10 a.m. The Table Adult Class (Room 116)
- 10 a.m. Faith for Today Class (Centennial Room)
- 10 a.m. Upper Room Class (Epworth Room)
- 11 a.m. Worship - Traditional
- 3 p.m. Young Adult Bible Study (Room 102)
- 4:30 p.m. Youth Choir (Room 106)
- 5:30 p.m. Jr. and Sr. High Youth Program (Room 101 and 103)

### Young Adult Small Group

Join our young adult ministry! Teens who are out of high school, twenties and thirties are invited to this new group meeting each week on Sundays at 3 p.m. for a time of Bible study, prayer, and connection. Prepare to be challenged and dive deeply into the Word of God. Let's take our faith to the next level!

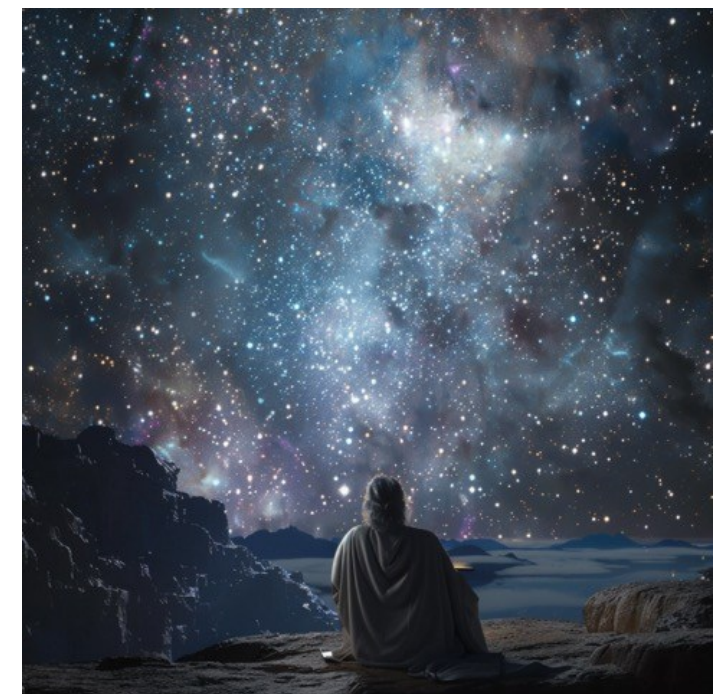


First United Methodist Church of Phoenix  
5510 N Central Avenue  
Phoenix, AZ 85012  
602-263-5013  
[www.firstchurch.church](http://www.firstchurch.church)

**FIRSTCHURCH**  
UNITED METHODISTS OF PHOENIX

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

## March 16, 2025 • 9 a.m. Second Sunday of Lent



**Thank you for silencing phones before the service begins.**

### Our Ministry Together

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

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| Carlo A. Rapanut - Bishop  | Deby Campbell - Congregational Care Coordinator |
| Javier Olivares - District Superintendent  | Beckie Humphrey - Director of Weekday School    |
| David Rennick - Senior Pastor  | Russ Morrow - Business Administrator            |
| Patricia Rodriguez - Lay Leader  | Cathy Fuentes - Office Manager                  |
| Jason Nolander - Lay Leader  | Ron Rhode - Organist                            |
| Joshua Elder - Minister of Music   | Dr. Elizabeth Leyva - Children/Youth Choirs     |
| Jessica Morris - Ministry Director of Children/Jr. High Youth, Community Engagement and Outreach | Dan Hawkins - Campus Superintendent             |
| Sammi Burkhart - Ministry Director of Sr. High Youth/Young Adults, and Communication             | Geoff Barkley - Associate Campus Superintendent |
| Julie Cochran - Children's Ministry  | Derrick Sewell - Custodian                      |
|  | Ryan Newberry - Media Booth                     |



## ORDER OF WORSHIP

**\*Call to Worship** Liturgist: Brenda Schrader

One: The LORD is my light and my salvation,  
**All: whom shall I fear?**

One: Through storms and peril, danger and strife,  
**All: the LORD is the stronghold of my life - of whom shall I be afraid?**

One: Through darkness and torment, tears and pain,  
**All: the LORD is my light and my salvation - whom shall I fear?**

One: Through uncertainty and confusion, sorrow and loss,  
**All: the LORD is the stronghold of my life - of whom shall I be afraid?**

**\*Opening Song** *The Plans*

**\*Sharing the Peace of Christ**

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

**Children's Message** Julie Cochran, Children's Ministry

Following the Children's Message, children ages 3 - 5th grade are invited to follow the teachers to Children's Sunday School located upstairs. Children may return to their parents in the pews, or childcare is available for infants through age three in our nursery, Room 109. First-time visitors are encouraged to accompany their children to the Sunday School room.

**Special Music** *Me Without You* McKeehan, arr. Hitt  
FirstKids Choir  
Soloists: Savannah Nieman, Jayla Morris, and Janelle Morris

**\*Song of Reflection** *Promises*

**Scripture Reading** *Genesis 15:1-12* Liturgist: Brenda Schrader  
(Common English Bible)

**Sermon** *God's Covenant with Abram* Rev. Vernon Meyer, guest speaker

**Sharing Our Tithes and Offerings**

**Special Music** *God of Wonders* Powell  
First Praise Band

**Pastoral Prayer** Rev. David Rennick

## Silent Prayer and Reflection

### 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 Song** *Your Grace is Enough*

**\*Benediction** Rev. Vernon Meyer

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\*For those who are able, please stand.

## 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:** *The Wonder Series "I Am"*  
**Sermon Title:** *The Bread of Life*

You're invited to read *John 6:35* each day in preparation for next Sunday.

## Blue Prayer Cards

Prayer is an earnest request for help and an expression of thanks to God. Consider filling out a prayer request card with the information and place it in the offering plate.

## Community Yoga Class at First 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).

## WorkShop Notice

We would like to inform you that the WorkShop service event originally scheduled for March 30 has been postponed. This decision will allow us to explore more opportunities to impact the community and First Church.

A special thank you to our Missions/Social Justice Committee for bringing this outreach initiative to the congregation's attention.

Stay tuned for more details as we look forward to launching WorkShop this fall.

## FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

Applications for the First United Methodist Foundation scholarships are available on our website. All applicants should submit their application using a new online form, <https://firstchurch.church/scholarship-application/>. Submit completed applications by 4 p.m. on Monday, March 17, 2025. All scholarships will be awarded in May.

## PRAYERS TO THE CONGREGATION

### PRAYER QUILT IN THE NARTHEX

A prayer quilt displayed in the Narthex this morning is for **Al Smith**. Al is the brother of Terry Smith. We invite you to stop, tie a knot, and pray for healing, grace and comfort.

### PRAYERS FOR OUR SPECIAL CARE

Elizabeth Vick, Bob Young, Selena Alderman, Carolyn Allen, Bill Carpenter, Ruth Clark, Grant Cooper, Hedy Cunningham, Laura DeNinno, Yvonne Fischer

### DEATH

First Church is saddened to announce the death of **Mary Lou McWilliams**, who passed last week.

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

Patricia Magyar	3/17	Terry Lutz	3/18
Fred Moor	3/20	Cheryl Figgs	3/22

### HOSTS

Jeff Schrader, Mindy Smidt, Steve Haehl, and Janet Spiker

### PRAYERS FOR OUR CHURCHES

Dove of the Desert UMC, Glendale; Maryvale UMC, Phoenix; Faith UMC, Phoenix

## Change for Change – Lent Challenge

During Lent, bring your loose change and place in the 5-gallon water jug located in front of the sanctuary. Our goal is to fill the jug to the brim before Easter. You might be surprised how when putting our change together can bring a change to others. This season's Change for Change will benefit Iglesia Aliento (Spirit Church) and their ongoing ministry to the Latino community. Thank you for your participation to make a change with your change.

## Attention Business Owners!

First Church has a business directory for all church members to receive a complimentary listing if they are self-employed, an independent contractor, or a business owner. This is a classified ad-style listing with one sentence about what you do, and your contact information. This enables our members to support one another when looking for a business professional. Please email [info@firstchurch.church](mailto:info@firstchurch.church) with your information if you would like to be included.

## New Member Class

**Sunday, March 23, 10 a.m.**

Rev. David Rennick welcomes prospective members, to answer any questions you may have, and shares expectations of membership. If you plan to attend, please call Cathy Fuentes at 602.263.5013 x100 or email [cathy@firstchurch.church](mailto:cathy@firstchurch.church), so that we can prepare your new member packet.

