

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.



Christmas Decorations



Give now

OUR BELOVED SANCTUARY, A SYMBOL OF FAITH AND BEAUTY, NEEDS YOUR HELP TO REPLACE ITS WORN-OUT CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS. IMAGINE THE STUNNING GRANDEUR OF FRESH GARLANDS, NEW RIBBONS AND BOWS, AND VIBRANT ORNAMENTS ADORNING OUR SACRED SPACE THIS HOLIDAY SEASON. YOUR GENEROUS GIFT WILL HELP US CREATE A TRULY MAGICAL CHRISTMAS FOR ALL WHO VISIT, PRESERVING THE TIMELESS TRADITION OF FESTIVE BEAUTY IN OUR GORGEOUS SANCTUARY.

Sunday Adult Classes

The Table Sunday School Class

This class is a diverse, casual and welcoming group of people. 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. Currently, we are studying Colossians. Dr. Pat Dickerson, a New Testament scholar, leads us as we look at context, authorship, intended audience, specific words and how they are translated from the original text, and what was happening in the world in general. We meet in Epworth Room from 10 to 11 a.m. If you have questions, please call Peggy Ward at 623-533-7381.

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.

Blue Prayer Cards

True prayer is neither a mere mental exercise nor a vocal performance. It is far deeper than that. It is a spiritual transaction with the Creator of heaven and earth.

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!

Looking for a Way to Serve First Church?

There are many ways you can get involved while serving 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 or 602-263-5013 ext. 100.

Happening This Week

Today

- 9 a.m. Worship - Contemporary
- 9 a.m. Children’s Sunday School (Rooms 220, 221, 223)
- 10 a.m. Kids Crafts (Room 223)
- 10 a.m. First Kids Choir (Room 106)
- 10 a.m. Jr. and Sr. High Youth Sunday School (Room 103)
- 10 a.m. The Table Adult Class (Room 116)
- 10 a.m. Upper Room Class (Epworth Room)
- 11 a.m. Worship - Traditional
- 4:30 p.m. Youth Choir (Room 106)
- 5:30 p.m. Jr. and Sr. High Youth Dinner and Programs (Room 103)

Monday, August 25 - no church events

Tuesday, August 26

- 1:30 p.m. Afternoon Book Club (Room 116)
- 5 p.m. Trustees (Epworth Room)
- 6 p.m. Church Council (Epworth Room)
- 7 p.m. Axios (Room 102)

Wednesday, August 27

- 9:30 a.m. Prayer Quilting (Epworth Room)
- 10 a.m. Dressmakers Sewing Group (Epworth Room)
- 2:30 p.m. Cherubs Choir (Room 106)
- 6 p.m. Boy Scout #41 (Asbury Hall)
- 6:30 p.m. AA Group (Wesley Lounge)
- 7:30 p.m. Al-Anon (Room 116)

Thursday, August 28

- 9:30 a.m. Congregational Care Team (Library)
- 7 p.m. Praise Band (Sanctuary)

Friday, August 29 & Saturday, August 30 - no church events

Next Sunday, August 31

- 9 a.m. Worship - Contemporary
- 9 a.m. Children’s Sunday School (Rooms 220, 221, 223)
- 10 a.m. Kids Crafts (Room 223)
- 10 a.m. First Kids Choir (Room 106)
- 10 a.m. Jr. and Sr. High Youth Sunday School (Room 103)
- 10 a.m. The Table Adult Class (Room 116)
- 10 a.m. Upper Room Class (Epworth Room)
- 11 a.m. Worship - Traditional
- 12 p.m. Reception for Ron Rhode (Wesley Lounge)

Food Pantry Items Needed

The shelves of our food assistance pantry are in need of the following items: cases of bottled water, Vienna sausage, packaged or canned tuna, canned soup, small jars of jelly and peanut butter (plastic jars please), fruit cups, apple sauce, granola bars, hard or chewable candy. For all canned goods, please provide only pop top cans. If you are able to help with any of these items, please drop them off to the church office.

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, August 26*. The book for *August* is *Remarkably Bright Creatures* by *Shelby Van Pelt*. We welcome all who love to read and discuss and travel the world through books.



FIRSTCHURCH
UNITED METHODISTS OF PHOENIX

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

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

August 24, 2025 • 11 a.m.



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 - Assistant Care Team 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 - Director of Next Generation Ministry | Dan Hawkins - Campus Superintendent |
| Sammi Burkhart - Director of Church Marketing, Growth, and Communication | Geoff Barkley - Associate Campus Superintendent |
| Julie Cochran - Children’s Ministry | Derrick Sewell - Custodian |
| Patricia Magyar - Congregational Care Coordinator | Ryan Newberry - Media Booth |

ORDER OF WORSHIP		
PRELUDE	<i>Berceuse</i> Ron Rhode, organ	L. Vierne
*CALL TO WORSHIP		
		Liturgist: Betty Cornish
One: Lord Jesus, bind us to you and to our siblings with love. All: May our hearts not be turned away from you and your word. May our souls not be deceived nor our talents or minds enticed by allurements or error, so that we may never distance ourselves from your love.		
One: May we learn this morning to love our neighbor as ourselves with strength, wisdom and gentleness. All: With your help, you who are blessed throughout all ages. (From Saint Anthony of Padua)		
*OPENING HYMN - No. 182 <i>Word of God, Come Down on Earth</i>		
*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST		
WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS		
(Please register your attendance on the <i>I'm Here</i> card found in your pew or <i>Online</i> .)		Rev. David Rennick
PRAYER FOR TODAY		
		Liturgist: Betty Cornish
Holy God, send some companions, who can look in a pained face and not turn away, who can look at bruises and scars and not pull back, who can hear anger and rage and not run away, who can touch a fragile body with tenderness and not pity, who can stay through the dark nights and shadowed days. Holy God, touch us and use us to be the neighbor, the friend to those in need. Amen.		
ACT OF PRAISE		
<i>If Ye Love Me</i> Quartet: Karen Turner, Pamela Goodnight-Long, Richie Renfrow, and Derick Claes		Tallis
SCRIPTURE READING		
<i>Luke 10:25-37</i> (Common English Bible)		Liturgist: Betty Cornish
SONG OF REFLECTION - No. 121 <i>There's a Wideness in God's Mercy</i>		
SERMON		
<i>Welcoming the Stranger - The Social Community</i> Rev. David Rennick		
SHARING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS		
OFFERTORY		
<i>Creation Will Be at Peace</i> Summer Choir		Page
*DOXOLOGY		

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 HYMN - No. 2238 (TFWS) <i>In the Midst of New Dimensions</i>	
*BENEDICTION	
Rev. David Rennick	
POSTLUDE	
<i>Carillon</i> Ron Rhode, organ	
L. Vierne	

*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. Please complete the ***Online*** attendance form or the ***I'm Here*** card found in your pew.

NEXT WEEK’S SERMON


Sermon Series: *Faith in Action: Living the Social Principles*
Sermon Title: *Waging Peace - The Political Community*
You’re invited to read ***Micah 6:6-8*** each day in preparation for next Sunday.

Community Yoga Class at First Church

First United Methodist Church will be offering two weekly yoga classes to our community. Classes resume Tuesday, September 2. Classes will 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.

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.



FirstKids Choir

It's not too late for kids in kindergarten - 5th grade to come check out FirstKids Choir. Join us from 10:05-10:50 a.m. in room 106 and see how fun singing can be! For more information, email Elizabeth Leyva at elizabeth@firstchurch.church.

First Youth Singers

All youth in 6th-12th grades are welcome to join us 4:30-5:30 p.m. for First Youth Singers. We meet most Sundays before youth group in room 106. Even if you haven't sung before, come see what it's all about! For more information, email Elizabeth Leyva at elizabeth@firstchurch.church.

PRAYERS TO THE CONGREGATION

PRAYER QUILT IN THE NARTHEX
A prayer quilt displayed in the narthex this morning is for **Amanda Foster**. Amanda is the niece of Beverly Shindler. We invite you to stop, tie a knot, and pray for healing, grace and comfort.

A prayer quilt displayed in the narthex this morning is for **Mark and Luba Volodarsky**. Mark and Luba are long-time friends of Pat Jones. We invite you to stop, tie a knot, and pray for healing, grace and comfort.

PRAYERS FOR OUR SPECIAL CARE
Yvonne Fischer, Barbara Harvey, Judith Humbert, Barbara K. Johnson, Vickie Johnson, Ronda Klein, Betty Luallin, Terry Lutz, Ray McFarland, Marge Needham

DEATH
First Church is saddened to announce the death of **Shirley Myer**, who passed on August 16. Services are pending.

HOSPITALIZED
Doug Dunipace

SENIOR MILESTONES (Celebrating 80 or more birthdays)
Vickie Beaver 8/24 Ken Hagin 8/29

HOSTS
Geoffrey Boadu, Tim Mahoney, Marie Mahoney, and Marilyn Seese

PRAYERS FOR OUR CHURCHES
New Song UMC, Surprise; Prescott UMC, Prescott Valley UMC

Ron Rhode is retiring from Music Ministry!

After decades of service to the local church, Ron Rhode has decided to hang up the keys and enjoy civilian life. Ron has served several churches in the Phoenix area since he moved here in 1973, including First United Methodist Church of Gilbert, Church of the Beatitudes (and the Beatitudes Campus), and finally First United Methodist Church of Phoenix.

Ron is most well-known as a theatre organist. Having given concerts internationally, Ron has played virtually every major theatre organ in the world. He was the Associate Organist at Organ Stop Pizza in Mesa for over 25 years, and many have heard him accompany the “Silent Sundays” film series at the Orpheum Theatre.

Ron’s final service will be Sunday, August 31. There will be a casual reception after the 11 a.m. service, during which we can express our love and appreciation to him, and honor his service with gifts as you choose.

For the past 10 years, First Church has been blessed beyond measure by Ron’s musical gifts. We are honored to be his final post. We will miss him dearly.

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 need to be ordered with your dedication or the name you wish. If you have questions or are interested, please contact Cathy Fuentes through email at cathy@firstchurch.church or call the church office at 602-263-5013 x100.

**Volunteers Needed for First Church
Tutoring Program**

Please join a group of First Church tutors who assist and support students, kindergarten - 4th grade, in the Madison School District OASIS Intergenerational Tutoring Program. For more information, please contact Marie Morais Garber at 602-448-0419.

