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 Adult Classes

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 between services.

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 between services.

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.

Congregation Survey Results Are In!

Thank you to all 170 of you who participated in the 2025 Congregational Assessment survey! The anonymous results are in and are being carefully reviewed and acted upon by your Church Council and various committees. Your invaluable input is helping shape future plans for worship, ministries, outreach, and more! To view the survey results, please scan the QR code. You may also request a paper copy by contacting the church office.



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.

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, September 23*. The book for *September* is *Snow Falling on Cedars* by *David Guterson*. We welcome all who love to read and discuss and travel the world through books.

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. Faith for Today Adult Class (Centennial Room)

10 a.m. Upper Room Člass (Epworth Room)

11 a.m. Worship - Traditional

2 p.m. Phoenix Guitar Society (Wesley Lounge)

4:30 p.m. Youth Choir (Room 106)

5:30 p.m. Jr. and Sr. High Youth Dinner and Programs (Room 103)

Monday, September 15

12 p.m. Admin Prep Group (Conference Room)

2 p.m. Covenant Sisters (Virtual)

Tuesday, September 16

9:30 a.m, Yoga (Room 114)

6 p.m. Finance Committee (Epworth Room) 6 p.m. Worship Committee (Room 116)

7 p.m. Axios (Room 102)

Wednesday, September 17

9 a.m. Weekday School Chapel
9:30 a.m. Prayer Quilting (Epworth Room)
2:30 p.m. Cherubs Choir (Room 106)
5:45 p.m. Handbell Choir Rehearsal (Chapel)
6 p.m. Boy Scout Troop #41 (Asbury Hall)

6:30 p.m. AA Group - Solution on Central (Wesley Lounge)

7 p.m. Chancel Ĉhoir (Choir Room)

7:30 p.m. Al-Anon (Room 116)

Thursday, September 18

9:30 a.m. Congregational Care Team (Library)
1 p.m. Knitty Witty Chain Gang (Wesley Lounge)

4:30 p.m. Yoga (Room 114)

6 p.m. Praise Choir (Choir Room)
6 p.m. 33 W Missouri HOA (Room 116)
6 p.m. Girl Scouts #3462 (Epworth Room)
6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts District Boards (Asbury Hall)

7 p.m. Praise Band (Sanctuary)

Friday, September 19 & Saturday, September 20 - no church events

Next Sunday, September 21

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. Youth Sunday School (Room 103) 10 a.m. Faith for Today Adult Class (Centennial Room)

10 a.m. The Table Adult Class (Room 116)
10 a.m. Upper Room Class (Epworth Room)

11 a.m. Worship - Traditional Youth Choir (Room 106)

5:30 p.m. Jr. and Sr. High Youth Dinner and Programs (Room 103)

7 p.m. AA Group - Solution on Central (Asbury Hall)

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.



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.

September 14, 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
Javier Olivares - District Superintendent
David Rennick - Senior Pastor
Patricia Rodriguez - Lay Leader
Jason Nolander - Lay Leader
Joshua Elder - Minister of Music
Jessica Morris - Director of Next
Generation Ministry

Sammi Burkhart - Director of Church

Marketing, Growth, and Communication Julie Cochran - Children's Ministry

Julie Cochran - Children's Ministry Patricia Magyar - Congregational Care Coordinator Weekday School Russ Morrow - Business Administrator Cathy Fuentes - Office Manager

Christine Kyhn - Organist
Dr. Elizabeth Leyva - Children/Youth

Beckie Humphrey - Director of

Deby Campbell - Assistant Care Team

Coordinator

Choirs

Dan Hawkins - Campus Superintendent

Geoff Barkley - Associate Campus

Geoff Barkley - Associate Campus Superintendent

Derrick Sewell - Custodian

Ryan Newberry - Media Booth

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Fantasy Prelude on Amazing Grace Christine Kyhn, organ

C. Callahan

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist: Betty Cornish

One: We come seeking refuge in a world where goodness and good news can feel far away.

All: God is our hope and our refuge.

One: We come searching for safety in a world that often calls foolishness wisdom and wisdom foolishness.

All: God is our hope and our refuge.

One: We come longing for rest in a world that bombards us with all the ways people work against the abundant life and flourishing of their neighbors.

All: God is our hope and our refuge.

One: Come, children of God, to find refuge and hope in God who delivers and restores us.

All: May God teach us and guide us to find refuge and be refuge with and for our neighbors today and every day.

*OPENING HYMN - No. 2004 (TFWS)

Praise the Source of Faith and Learning

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

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

PRAYER FOR TODAY

Liturgist: Betty Cornish

Rev. David Rennick

This world would deny you, Lord, and rely on human wisdom in their search for answers to questions they have yet to ask, but we will praise you, and exalt your name, for we know that you are Alpha, the beginning of all things, and Omega, the end, and all that is between. We have known your healing. We have known your provision. We have known your victory. Our sorrow has turned into dancing and our tears to songs of joy. We shall praise you ever more. Amen

ACT OF PRAISE

Then Shall We Sing for Joy Chancel Choir with Daga Suchon, violin Ellingboe

SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 14 (Common English Bible)

Liturgist: Betty Cornish

SONG OF REFLECTION - No. 719 My Lord, What a Morning

SERMON Connected Rev. David Rennick

SHARING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

Who Was and Is and Is to Come Powell Chancel Choir with Daga Suchon, violin

*DOXOLOGY

PASTORAL PRAYER

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. 378 Amazing Grace! How Sweet the Sounds (vs. 1-4, 6)

*BENEDICTION Rev. David Rennick

POSTLUDE

The Silver Trumpet Christine Kyhn, organ G. Martin

*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 as! 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: Calling God **Sermon Title:** Connected

You're invited to read *Psalm 14: 1-7* each day in preparation for next Sunday.

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.

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.



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.

PRAYERS TO THE CONGREGATION

PRAYER OUILT IN THE NARTHEX

A prayer quilt displayed in the narthex this morning is for **Heidi Lewis**. Heidi is the daughter of a friend of Susan Sneathen. 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, and Marge Needham

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES (Celebrating 50 or more years of marriage) Bob and Connie Bailes 9/9 Jim and Jan Hyde 9/2

SENIOR MILESTONES (Celebrating 80 or more birthdays)

Peggy Wright 9/17 Charles Raines 9/15 (94 years) Joanne Lynch 9/16

Marilyn Seese, Geoffrey Boadu, Patricia Magyar, and Diane E. Davis

ACOLYTES

Abby Goodman and Paige Pinkerton

PRAYERS FOR OUR CHURCHES

Trinity UMC, Phoenix; Trinity UMC, Yuma; Sedona UMC

First Church Foundation Announcement

First UMC's Foundation invites you to a seminar on Elder Fraud here at the church. It's been arranged for a representative from the Arizona Attorney General's office to present on this important topic at 10 a.m. on November 1. We will be taking reservations due to space limitations. Please contact the church office at (602) 263-5013 to RSVP. You won't want to miss this event!

New Hearing System Now Available

The Foundation funded an upgrade to our sound system which allows our members to connect their own hearing aids or ear buds to the sound system. Once installed, you can control the volume with your phone and you should have enhanced sound quality for your worship experience. There is a free App to install and a one time setup. If you



are interested in trying this system please see the host after the service. They have instructions and can help you set up the digital connection.

New Member Information

Are you interested in learning more about First Church and/or becoming a member? Please contact the church office at 602-263-5013 or email cathy@firstchurch.church.

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!

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.

