

**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](mailto:cathy@firstchurch.church) or 602-263-5013 ext. 100.

Happening This Week	
<b>Today</b>	
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 Class (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)
<b>Monday, September 15</b>	
12 p.m.	Admin Prep Group (Conference Room)
2 p.m.	Covenant Sisters (Virtual)
<b>Tuesday, September 16</b>	
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)
<b>Wednesday, September 17</b>	
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 Choir (Choir Room)
7:30 p.m.	Al-Anon (Room 116)
<b>Thursday, September 18</b>	
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)
<b>Friday, September 19 &amp; Saturday, September 20</b> - no church events	
<b>Next Sunday, September 21</b>	
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
4:30 p.m.	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](http://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	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	Christine Kyhn - 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>Fantasy Prelude on Amazing Grace</i> 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:	<b>God is our hope and our refuge.</b>	
One:	We come searching for safety in a world that often calls foolishness wisdom and wisdom foolishness.	
All:	<b>God is our hope and our refuge.</b>	
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:	<b>God is our hope and our refuge.</b>	
One:	Come, children of God, to find refuge and hope in God who delivers and restores us.	
All:	<b>May God teach us and guide us to find refuge and be refuge with and for our neighbors today and every day.</b>	
*OPENING HYMN - No. 2004 (TFWS)	<i>Praise the Source of Faith and Learning</i>	
*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST		
WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS	Rev. David Rennick	
(Please register your attendance on the <b>I'm Here</b> card found in your pew or <b>Online</b> .)		
PRAYER FOR TODAY	Liturgist: Betty Cornish	
<b>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</b>		
ACT OF PRAISE	<i>Then Shall We Sing for Joy</i> Chancel Choir with Daga Suchon, violin	Ellingboe
SCRIPTURE READING	<i>Psalms 14</i> (Common English Bible)	Liturgist: Betty Cornish
SONG OF REFLECTION - No. 719	<i>My Lord, What a Morning</i>	
SERMON	<i>Connected</i>	Rev. David Rennick
SHARING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS		
OFFERTORY	<i>Who Was and Is and Is to Come</i> Chancel Choir with Daga Suchon, violin	Powell

## A cartoon illustration of four children of different ethnicities and genders, each holding up a large, colorful star. From left to right: a girl with pink hair in an orange dress holding a yellow star, a boy with brown skin in a yellow shirt and blue shorts holding a green star, a girl with red hair in a pink dress holding a blue star, and a boy with blonde hair in a green shirt and blue pants holding an orange star. They are all smiling and appear to be in a celebratory mood.