


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:
(6 months to 3 years old) - Room 109 (8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.)
(Pre-K to Kinder) - Room 220
(1st to 2nd grade) - Room 221
(3rd to 5th grade) - Room 223

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 Burkhardt or search @axiosunaltered on social media for more information.

FirstKids Choir
It's not too late for kids in kindergarten - 5th grade to come check out FirstKids Choir. Join us 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.

Food Pantry Items Needed
The shelves of our food assistance pantry are in need of the following items: cas-es 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 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)
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 Choir (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
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



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

September 14, 2025 • 9 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		
*Call to Worship	Liturgist: Bonnie Hicks	
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 Song	Praise is Rising (Hosanna)	
*Sharing the Peace of Christ		
Welcome	Rev. David Rennick	
(Please register your attendance on the <i>I'm Here</i> card found in your pew or <i>Online</i> .)		
Children's Message	Jessica Morris, Children's Ministry	
<div>Following the Children's Message, children pre-K through 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.</div>		
A Time of Praise	Our God Saves Christ Our Hope in Life and Death	
Scripture Reading	Psalm 14 (Common English Bible)	Liturgist: Bonnie Hicks
Sermon	Connected	Rev. David Rennick
Sharing Our Tithes and Offerings		
Special Music	Cry of My Heart First Youth Singer; Dr. Elizabeth Leyva, director	Butler
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	<i>Always</i>	
*Benediction	Rev. David Rennick	

*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 <i>Online</i> attendance form or the <i>I'm Here</i> card found in your pew.	

NEXT WEEK'S SERMON	
Sermon Series: <i>Calling God</i> Sermon Title: <i>On Hold</i> You're invited to read <i>Psalm 79: 1-9</i> each day in preparation for next Sunday.	

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 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 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.	

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 QUILT 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) Jim and Jan Hyde 9/2 Bob and Connie Bailes 9/9
SENIOR MILESTONES (Celebrating 80 or more birthdays) Charles Raines 9/15 (94 years) Joanne Lynch 9/16 Peggy Wright 9/17
HOSTS Josh Boadu, Janet Spiker, Mindy Smidt, and Jeff Schrader
PRAYERS FOR OUR CHURCHES Trinity UMC, Phoenix; Trinity UMC, Yuma; Sedona UMC

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.

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 ushers after the service. They have instructions and can help you set up the digital connection.	

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!