

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

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

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

The Upper Room class is now doing a detailed study of the Gospel of John. Our leader is Dr. Pat Dickerson who has recently moved to Texas so we meet via Zoom. We invite you to join us in the Epworth Room. Bring your tablet, laptop or phone. A benefit of our Zoom sessions is that it is also possible to participate from home. Call Peggy Ward at 623-533-7381 if you have any questions.

New Sermon Series Coming Soon!



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, January 27*. The book for **January** is *The Secret Keepers of Old Depot Grocery* by **Amanda Cox**. We welcome all who love to read and discuss and travel the world through books.

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.

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.



Happening This week

Today

- 9 a.m. Worship - Contemporary
- 9 a.m. Children’s Sunday School (Rooms 220, 221, 223)
- 10 a.m. First Sunday Social Hour (Wesley Lounge)
- 10 a.m. Jr. and Sr. High Youth Sunday School (Room 103)
- 10 a.m. The Table Adult Class (Not Meeting)
- 10 a.m. Faith for Today Adult Class (Centennial Room)
- 10 a.m. Upper Room Adult Class (Epworth Room)
- 11 a.m. Worship - Traditional
- 7 p.m. AA Group - Solution on Central (Asbury Hall)

Monday, January 5

- 8 a.m. Men’s Monthly Meetup (Wesley Lounge)
- 2 p.m. Covenant Sisters - Monday (Virtual)

Tuesday, January 6

- 9:30 a.m. Yoga (Room 114)
- 5 p.m. Foundation Board Orientation (Epworth Room)
- 6 p.m. Foundation Board (Epworth Room)
- 7 p.m. Axios (Room 102)

Wednesday, January 7

- 9 a.m. Weekday School Chapel (Sanctuary)
- 9:30 a.m. Prayer Quilting (Epworth Room)
- 2:30 p.m. Cherub Choir (Room 106)
- 6 p.m. Boy Scouts #41 (Asbury Hall)
- 6:30 p.m. AA Group - Solution on Central (Wesley Lounge)
- 7 p.m. Chancel Choir (Choir Room)
- 7 p.m. Scout Parent Meeting (Centennial Room)
- 7:30 p.m. Al-Anon (Room 116)

Thursday, January 8

- 9:30 a.m. Congregational Care Team (Library)
- 10:30 a.m. United Women in Faith - Naomi Circle (Wesley Lounge)
- 1:30 p.m. Rachel Fellowship (Wesley Lounge)
- 4:30 p.m. Yoga (Room 114)
- 6 p.m. Praise Choir (Choir Room)
- 7 p.m. Praise Band (Sanctuary)
- 7 p.m. United Women in Faith - Eve Circle (Wesley Lounge)

Friday, January 9

- 7 a.m. AA Group - Solution on Central (Wesley Lounge)

Saturday, January 10

- 9 a.m. Church Leadership Orientation (Centennial Room)

Next Sunday, January 11

- 9 a.m. Worship - Contemporary
- 9 a.m. Children’s Sunday School (Rooms 220, 221, 223)
- 10 a.m. First Sunday Social Hour (Wesley Lounge)
- 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 Adult Class (Epworth Room)
- 11 a.m. Worship - Traditional
- 5:30 p.m. Jr. and Sr. Youth Dinner and Program (Room 103)
- 7 p.m. AA Group - Solution on Central (Asbury Hall)

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.



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.

January 4, 2026 • 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:

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| Carlo A. Rapanut - Bishop | Beckie Humphrey - Director of Weekday School |
| Javier Olivares - District Superintendent | Russ Morrow - Business Administrator |
| David Rennick - Senior Pastor | Cathy Fuentes - Office Manager |
| Patricia Rodriguez - 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	Mark Fearey, piano	
*CALL TO WORSHIP	Liturgist: Betty Cornish	
One: When we long for what’s familiar and known...		
All: We remember that our true comfort is found in God.		
One: When nostalgia or fear pulls us back...		
All: We choose to look forward to what God is doing now.		
One: God invites us to step out in faith...		
All: And we trust that He goes before us, as long as we pursue Him.		
One: If we pursue Him with open hearts...		
All: We can walk boldly into God’s future for us.		
*OPENING HYMN - No. 245	The First Noel	
*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST		
WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS	Rev. David Rennick	
(Please register your attendance on the <i>I’m Here</i> card found in your pew or <i>Online</i> .)		
PRAYER OF CONFESSION	Liturgist: Betty Cornish	
God of grace and truth, we confess that we often cling to what feels familiar and safe. We hold onto the past, believing it is ours to manage and control, even when You are calling us to trust You with what’s ahead. Forgive us for believing that everything depends on us. Forgive us when we carry burdens You never asked us to carry. Forgive us for trying to fix, to perfect, or to hold everything together on our own. Remind us that our one calling is to pursue You, and that as we seek You, that You are the One who does the deeper work. Teach us to rest in Your sufficiency, not our own. Lead us forward with hope, confident that You are shaping our lives as we pursue You. Amen.		
ACT OF PRAISE - No. 219	What Child Is This	
SCRIPTURE READING	Exodus 14:5-22 (New International Version)	Liturgist: Betty Cornish
SERMON	Crossing the Threshold	Sammi Burkhart
SHARING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS		
OFFERTORY	Three Kings Don Richardson, soloist	Cornelius
SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION		
SPECIAL COMMUNION OFFERING IN SUPPORT OF		
HUMAN RELATIONS DAY		

THE PRAYER OF GREAT THANKSGIVING		
The Lord be with you.		
And also with you.		
Lift up your hearts.		
We lift them up to the Lord.		
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.		
It is right to give our thanks and praise.		
SANCTUS	Page 17, red hymnal	
Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.		
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.		
Hosanna in the highest!		
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.		
Hosanna in the highest.		
ACCLAMATION	Page 18, red hymnal	
Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.		
AMEN	Page 18, red hymnal	
Amen. Amen. Amen.		
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.		
<i>This morning, we invite you to come forward down the center aisle at the direction of a host. Help yourself to the bread and the cup from the servers, then consume the elements. The elements are gluten free. You are welcome to kneel at the rail for prayer, or return directly to your seat.</i>		
COMMUNION MUSIC	Epiphany Joshua Elder, soloist	J. Elder
*CLOSING HYMN - No. 254 <i>We Three Kings</i>		
*BENEDICTION		
Rev. David Rennick		
POSTLUDE	Mark Fearey, piano	

*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.

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!

PRAYERS TO THE CONGREGATION

PRAYERS FOR OUR SPECIAL CARE
Elizabeth Vick, Bob Young, Selena Alderman, Carolyn Allen, Bill Carpenter, Ruth Clark, Mary Anne Cooper, Laura DeNinno, Yvonne Fischer, Cathy Fuentes

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES (Celebrating 50 or more years of marriage)
Brenda and Jim Unsworth 1/27

SENIOR MILESTONES (Celebrating 80 or more birthdays)
Suzanne Haehl 1/9 Doni Cunningham 1/10 Audrey Patterson 1/10

ALTAR FLOWERS
Given by Thomas Barrett, in memory of Daniel L. Germond and James W. Barrett, Jr.

HOSTS
Marilyn Seese, Ernie Shaver, and Cathy Fuentes

COMMUNION SERVERS
Diane E. Davis, John Holmes, Patricia and Sarg Magyar

ACOLYTES
Paige Pinkerton and Max Witter

PRAYERS FOR OUR CHURCHES
Ajo Federated Church; Calvary UMC, Phoenix; Chino Valley UMC

UMCOR Mission Group

Interested in joining a mission group going to UMCOR to be love in action? The United Methodist Committee on Relief is an organization that provides humanitarian relief in times of disaster. Our church has reserved spots the week of April 19, 2026, at the UMCOR Depot/Sager-Brown in Baldwin, Louisiana, to pack emergency aid kits and other items to help people in need. Please contact Tami Smith at twolandarch@gmail.com for more information.

Ron Rhode is Back at the Keyboard!

Ron will be returning to the keyboard to accompany the classic 1923 silent film *Safety Last* at the Orpheum Theatre. The performance will take place Today, January 4 at 2:00 p.m. If you’ve not seen him play at one of these you’re in for a fun time!

Tickets are available directly from the Orpheum Theatre website and will also be available the day of the performance at the box office. Please note there is a small handbag policy, so plan accordingly.



Blue Prayer Cards

As we pray, focus on the greatness, love, mercy, and power of God. It lifts us above our limitations, and our minds are directed to a source of strength and wisdom beyond our own.