

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

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.

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.

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.

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!



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

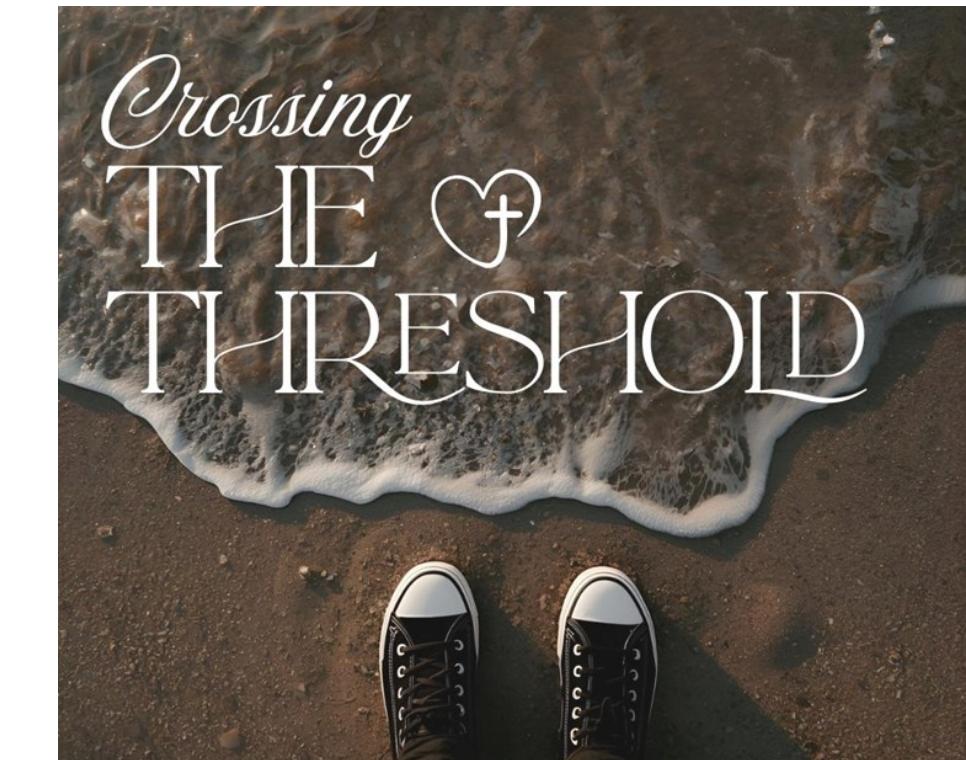
First United Methodist Church offers two weekly yoga classes to our community. Classes meet Tuesdays, 9:30 - 10:30 a.m., and Thursdays, 4:30 - 5:30 p.m. The cost is \$12 per class or four classes for \$40. Email the church office for more information: info@firstchurch.church.



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 • 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
Javier Olivares - District Superintendent
David Rennick - Senior Pastor
Patricia Rodriguez - Lay Leader
Joshua Elder - Minister of Music
Jessica Morris - Director of Next Generation Ministry
Sammi Burkhardt - Director of Church Marketing, Growth, and Communication
Julie Cochran - Children's Ministry
Patricia Magyar - Congregational Care Coordinator
Beckie Humphrey - Director of Weekday School
Russ Morrow - Business Administrator
Cathy Fuentes - Office Manager
Christine Kuhn - Organist
Dr. Elizabeth Leyva - Children/Youth Choirs
Dan Hawkins - Campus Superintendent
Geoff Barkley - Associate Campus Superintendent
Derrick Sewell - Custodian
Ryan Newberry - Media Booth

ORDER OF WORSHIP

*Call to Worship

Liturgist: Brenda Schrader

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 Song

Be Thou My Vision (You're All That I See)

*Sharing the Peace of Christ

Welcome

(Please register your attendance on the *I'm Here* card found in your pew or [Online](#).)

Children's Message

Rev. David Rennick

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.

Scripture Reading

Exodus 14:5-22 Liturgist: Brenda Schrader
(New International Version)

Sermon

Crossing the Threshold Sammi Burkhart

Sharing Our Tithes and Offerings

Special Music

Epiphany Joshua Elder, soloist J. Elder

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.

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.**

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.

Communion Song

We Three Kings

*Closing Song

The First Noel

*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 [Online](#) attendance form or the *I'm Here* card found in your pew.

First Sunday Social Hour, TODAY, January 4

Please join us for our First Sunday Social Hour gathering between services at 10 a.m. in Wesley Lounge. This is a time to gather, mingle and talk about what's going on or how you can serve at First Church. We look forward to seeing you!

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.

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.

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

Janet Spiker, Ron Wilson, Mindy Smidt, and Cathy Fuentes

COMMUNION SERVERS

Ron Pinkerton, Tanya Pinkerton, Paige Pinkerton, and Abby Goodman

PRAYERS FOR OUR CHURCHES

Ajo Federated Church; Calvary UMC, Phoenix; Chino Valley UMC

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!

