

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

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.



BSA Venture Crew 2041 Pancake Breakfast

Please join us on **TODAY**, March 15, from 9 a.m. to noon in Asbury Hall. Enjoy a delicious pancake breakfast and help support BSA Venturing Crew 2041's Northern Tier Adventure! Recommended donation is \$10. Tickets will be available at the door. We look forward to seeing you!



Blue Prayer Cards

Prayer is simply "talking to God." It is your way of building a deeper relationship with God. Express your emotions and seek help. Have patience as the answer comes to you....

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.

Sunday Adult Classes Between Services at 10 a.m. 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.

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!

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.

Happening This Week

Today

9 a.m. Venture Crew #2041 Pancake Breakfast (Asbury Hall)
 9 a.m. Worship - Contemporary
 9 a.m. Children's Sunday School (Rooms 220, 221, 223)
 10 a.m. Jr. and Sr. High Youth Sunday School (Room 103)
 10 a.m. First Kids Choir (Room 106)
 10 a.m. The Table Adult Class (Asbury Hall)
 10 a.m. Faith for Today Adult Class (Centennial Room)
 10 a.m. Upper Room Adult Class (Epworth Room)
 11 a.m. Worship - Traditional
 4:30 p.m. Youth Choir (Room 106)
 7 p.m. AA Group - Solution on Central (Asbury Hall)

Monday, March 16

8 a.m. Men's Monday Meetup (Room 102)
 11 a.m. Lent Book Study (Wesley Lounge)
 12 p.m. Admin Prep (Conference Room)
 2 p.m. Covenant Sisters - Monday (Virtual)
 6 p.m. Staff Parish Relations Committee (Room 116)

Tuesday, March 17

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, March 18

9 a.m. Weekday School Chapel (Sanctuary)
 9:30 a.m. Prayer Quilting (Epworth Room)
 10 a.m. Memorial Service - Merle Wessel
 2:30 p.m. Cherub Choir (Room 106)
 5:45 p.m. Handbell Choir Rehearsal (Chapel)
 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)
 7:30 p.m. Al-Anon (Room 116)

Thursday, March 19

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. Girl Scouts #3462 (Epworth Room)
 6:30 p.m. Boy Scout District Boards (Asbury Hall)
 7 p.m. Praise Band (Sanctuary)

Friday, March 20

7 a.m. AA Group - Solution on Central (Wesley Lounge)
 10 a.m. Memorial Service - Judith Humbert

Saturday, March 21 - no church events

Next Sunday, March 22

9 a.m. Worship - Contemporary
 9 a.m. Children's Sunday School (Rooms 220, 221, 223)
 10 a.m. Jr. and Sr. High Youth Sunday School (Room 103)
 10 a.m. First Kids Choir (Room 106)
 10 a.m. The Table Adult Class (Room 116)
 10 a.m. Faith for Today Adult Class (Centennial Room)
 10 a.m. Upper Room Adult Class (Epworth Room)
 11 a.m. Worship - Traditional
 4:30 p.m. Youth Choir (Room 106)
 5:30 p.m. Jr. and Sr. Youth Dinner and Program (Room 103)
 7 p.m. AA Group - Solution on Central (Asbury Hall)



First United Methodist Church of Phoenix
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www.firstchurch.church

FIRSTCHURCH
 UNITED METHODISTS OF PHOENIX

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

March 15, 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	Beckie Humphrey - Director of Weekday School
Javier Olivares - District Superintendent	Russ Morrow - Business Administrator
David Rennick - Senior Pastor	Cathy Fuentes - Office Manager
Don Campbell - Lay Leader	Christine Kyhn - Organist
Joshua Elder - Minister of Music	Dr. Elizabeth Leyva - Children/Youth Choirs
Sammi Burkhart - Director of Church Communication, Growth and Marketing	Dan Hawkins - Campus Superintendent
Julie Cochran - Children's Ministry	Calvin McGruder - Associate Campus Superintendent
Patricia Magyar - Congregational Care Coordinator	Ryan Newberry - Media Booth

ORDER OF WORSHIP

***Call to Worship** Liturgist: Ron Wilson

One: Once we lived in darkness,
All: but now we walk in the light of the Lord.

One: Come, let us rejoice
All: in the God who opens our eyes.

***Opening Song** *Enter the Gates*

***Sharing the Peace of Christ**

Welcome and Announcements Sammi Burkhart
(Please register your attendance *Online* or on the *Church Center* card found in your pew.)

Children's Message Sammi Burkhart, Communications Director

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.

Prayer of Confession Liturgist: Ron Wilson
Healing God, we confess that we prefer familiar blindness to disruptive truth. We judge by appearances and resist the work of your grace. Forgive us, and open our eyes anew. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon
The light of Christ shines in the darkness, and the darkness cannot overcome it. In Christ, you are forgiven and made whole. Thanks be to God.

***A Time of Praise** *Highlands* (Song of Ascent)

Scripture Reading *1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 and Mark 11:24*
Liturgist: Ron Wilson
(International Standard Version)

Sermon *A Prayer Away* Patricia Magyar

***Song of Response** *The Lord's Prayer (It's Yours)*

***Affirmation of Faith - The Apostles' Creed** Liturgist: Ron Wilson

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord: who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Sharing Our Tithes and Offerings

Special Music *Trust in God* Lake, Furtick
First Praise Band

Pastoral Prayer Patricia Magyar

Silent Prayer and Reflection

***Closing Song** *The Plans*

***Benediction** Patricia Magyar

*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 *Church Center* card found in your pew.

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.

Men's Monday Meetup
Mondays at 8 a.m. in Room 102
Faith, Conversation, and Camaraderie
This week our theme is today's passage.

FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

Applications for the First United Methodist Foundation scholarships are available on our website. All applicants should submit their application using the new online form, <https://firstchurch.church/scholarship-application/>. Submit completed applications by 4 p.m. on Monday, March 16, 2026. All scholarships will be awarded in May.

First Church Logo Shirts

We will be placing an order soon for First Church logo shirts. These high-quality poly knit golf shirts are embroidered with the First Church logo and are available in various colors and sizes for men and women. The cost is \$35 for men and \$32 for women. Please contact the church office to learn more about sizes and colors today, info@firstchurch.church or 602-263-5013.

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, March 24**. The book for March is *Flights of the Wild Swan* by Melissa Pritchard. We welcome all who love to read and discuss and travel the world through books.

PRAYERS TO THE CONGREGATION

PRAYERS FOR OUR SPECIAL CARE

Liv Stevens, Jim Unsworth, Elizabeth Vick, Bob Young, Selena Alderman, Carolyn Allen, June Becker, Bill Carpenter, Ruth Clark, Mary Anne Cooper

IN MEMORY

First Church is saddened to announce the death of **Merle Wessel**, who passed on February 28. Services are scheduled for Wednesday, March 18, at 10 a.m., at FUMC.

First Church is saddened to announce the death of **Judith Humbert**, who passed on February 13. Services are scheduled for Friday, March 20, at 10 a.m., at FUMC.

SENIOR MILESTONES (Celebrating 80 or more birthdays)

Jim Copeland	3/17	Patricia Magyar	3/17
Terry Lutz	3/18	Fred Moor	3/20

HOSTS

Steve Haehl, Mindy Smidt, Janet Spiker, and Marilyn Seese

PRAYERS FOR OUR CHURCHES

Dove of the Desert UMC, Glendale; Maryvale UMC, Phoenix; Faith UMC, Phoenix

Habitat for Humanity Outreach Opportunity

Our church is partnering with other UMC churches across the Valley to complete a Habitat for Humanity Home this spring. Due to the wide number of churches participating, spots are limited and are first come first serve, so if you're interested, please contact Sammi right away! We have two openings left on April 11th for "doors and trim day," and two openings on April 18th on "interior paint and exterior paint prep day."

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, applesauce, 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.

The Groups and Gatherings Committee Needs YOU

Do you have a knack for bringing people together? Do you like planning a great movie night for your friends or family activities after the big game? If so, we have a great way for you to serve your church!

We're developing a Gatherings Team to plan events and activities for our church throughout the year. The team will be able to plan as few or as many events as they'd like, with no pressure, and will have support from church leaders when needed.

Unlike our established administrative committees, there are no regularly scheduled meetings, no minutes to take, and no reports to present! The team will meet/communicate as needed to share ideas and plan some fun events for our church and the community, including things like board game nights, movie nights, outings to go to dinner, attend a theatre performance, or whatever else sounds fun to you!

Does this give you some ideas? If you are looking for a way to serve that is creative, flexible, and FUN, please email Sammi at sammi@firstchurch.church to join today. Thank you for bringing more engagement to our church!