

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., in Room 109, and welcomes infants through 3 years old. Ask any host for directions to the nursery.

UMCOR Trip in September

One final trip to the Sager Brown UMCOR Depot is planned for September 20-25, 2026. This adult mission trip to Baldwin, Louisiana, is the “next time” you’ve been waiting for! Come along to the hub of relief supply operations, which responds to disasters in the U.S. We are headed back one last time before the depot closes at the end of 2026. Volunteer opportunities include working on relief kits and serving in the local community. Thanks to Janet Spiker’s leadership and our Foundation for approving coverage of some expenses, this is an experience you don’t want to miss! Spaces are limited, and the July 14 registration deadline is approaching. Interested or just want to learn more? Contact the church office today!

Summer Voice Class for Adults

Do you love to sing? This class is free of charge and appropriate for all skill levels, whether you’ve never sung before or are already an accomplished singer. No prior experience or training is necessary. The class begins Thursday, July 9, and will meet Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6-7:30 p.m., in room 106, through Tuesday, August 11, for a total of 10 sessions. To sign up, or if you have questions, contact Dr. Elizabeth Leyva at elizabeth@firstchurch.church or call the church office to leave a message. Space is limited so sign up today!!

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.

Strategic Plan

Church leaders have developed a comprehensive Strategic Plan to guide the next few years. It is centered around our vision of being an inclusive community of faith where ANYONE can experience the goodness and grace of God. Built from congregational input, it outlines key goals to help our ministries grow in a sustainable and vibrant way. The plan will be actively monitored, with regular updates and adjustments to ensure we’re not just creating a plan, but truly living it. Please scan this QR Code to read the Strategic Plan.



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 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.	Youth Camp at Mingus Mountain (Off Campus)
9 a.m.	Worship - Contemporary
9 a.m.	Summer Kids and Youth Sunday School (Room 221)
10 a.m.	Children’s and Youth Crafts (Room 222)
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
5:15 p.m.	Al-Anon: Sunday Night Bookworms (Centennial Room)
6:30 p.m.	AA Group - Solution on Central (Asbury Hall)
Monday, July 13	
5 p.m.	Giving Subcommittee of the Finance Committee (Off Campus)
Tuesday, July 14	
6 p.m.	Summer Adult Voice (Room 106)
6:30 p.m.	Missions and Social Justice Committee (Virtual)
7 p.m.	Axios (Room 102)
Wednesday, July 15	
9:30 a.m.	Prayer Quilting (Epworth Room)
6:30 p.m.	AA Group - Solution on Central (Asbury Hall)
7 p.m.	Summer Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)
7:30 p.m.	Al-Anon (Room 116)
Thursday, July 16	
9:30 a.m.	Congregational Care Team (Library)
1 p.m.	Knitty Witty Chain Gang (Wesley Lounge)
6 p.m.	Summer Adult Voice (Room 106)
6 p.m.	Summer Praise Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)
7 p.m.	Compassionate Friends - The Greater Phoenix Chapter #1157 (Centennial Room)
7 p.m.	Summer Praise Band (Sanctuary)
Friday, July 17	
7 a.m.	AA-Solution on Central in the morning (Room 102)
Saturday, July 18 - no church events	
Next Sunday, July 19	
9 a.m.	Worship - Contemporary
9 a.m.	Summer Kids and Youth Sunday School (Room 221)
10 a.m.	Kids and Youth Crafts (Room 222)
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
5:15 p.m.	Al - Anon: Sunday Night Bookworms (Centennial Room)
6:30 p.m.	AA Group - Solution on Central (Asbury Hall)

Blue Prayer Cards

Pray daily. It is the starting place for everything in our life. Have patience and wait for God's nudging. And always know that God has a plan to give you a future with hope.

Summer Schedule Update – Kids & Youth Ministries

Kids, Jr. High and Sr. High have moved to summer hours for June, July, and August. All-ages Sunday School will be meeting 9-10 a.m. in room 221. Kids and Youth crafts and games will be available between services, 10-11 a.m. in room 222.

There will be no regular evening Youth Group meetings over the summer, but there are lots of fun activities and service events planned. Please contact julie@firstchurch.church with any questions or to be added to the invite list. And finally, save the date for Sunday, August 30, for our End of Summer/Back to Sunday School kickoff celebration to be held from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. in the grassy courtyard area. Kids Church, Youth Sunday School, and evening Youth Group will return to regular school-year hours.

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.

July 12, 2026 • 9 a.m.



*If you need assistance at any time, please notify a host (usher). They are here to help ensure you feel welcomed and supported.

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	Natasha Hawkins - Director of Weekday School
Melissa Rynders - District Superintendent	Russ Morrow - Business Administrator
Rev. Mike Wilkerson - 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 - Director of Next Gen Ministry	Geoff Barkley - Morning Custodian
Patricia Magyar - Congregational Care Coordinator	Karissa Morales - Evening Custodian
	Ryan Newberry - Media Booth

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Mike Wilkerson

(Please register your attendance on the *Church Center* card found in your pew or *Online*.)

*Sharing the Peace of Christ

*Call to Worship

Liturgist: Bonnie Hicks

One: Come, all who are weary from life's journey.
Come, all who carry burdens seen and unseen.

All: We come seeking the God who meets us in our need.

One: The God who met Elijah in the wilderness meets us here.
The God who sustained him for the journey to the mountain will sustain us also.

All: We come to receive God's strength, to hear God's voice, and to worship with grateful hearts.

One: Come, let us worship the Lord, who refreshes the weary, restores the brokenhearted, and leads us onward in faith.

All: We will worship God with all that we are. Amen.

*Opening Song

Giving It All to You

Children’s Message

Rev. Mike Wilkerson

Following the Children’s Message, all children and youth pre-K and older are invited to follow the leaders to Kids Summer Class located upstairs in room 221. All ages will combine for weekly themed “Fruits of the Spirit” lessons, crafts, and activities. At the end of service, please pick up children from room 221.

Blessing for the Journey

Rev. Mike Wilkerson

God of love and wisdom, we give you thanks for the ways you come to us and call us to be with you. Be with our children as they embark on a journey of discovery today, and remind them of your presence so they remember they are never alone. As they learn more about themselves and each other, help them discover you in new ways. As children of God, we ask these things in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

*A Time of Praise

Open the Eyes of My Heart
New Wine

Scripture Reading

1 Kings 19:4-9

Liturgist: Bonnie Hicks

Sermon

Preparing for the Mountain

Rev. Mike Wilkerson

Sharing Our Tithes and Offerings

Special Music

Close
First Praise Band

King/Ussher

Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Mike Wilkerson

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

The Plans

*Benediction

Rev. Mike Wilkerson

*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 in your pew.

 **Electronic Giving Made Easy**

Use the new Church Center mobile app to give to First Church with convenient and secure electronic methods, including credit card, debit card, bank transfer from savings or checking, and Apple Pay. Scan this QR code to get started. Thank you!



Madison School District Shoe Drive

Our church has organized a shoe drive for the month of July that will benefit students in the Madison School District. These shoes will go to students who are homeless, refugees, or simply low-income, to help make this school year successful for them. We are accepting all sizes of new children's shoes. Please purchase and bring to the narthex on Sundays or to the church office. If you would like to participate, but not go shoe shopping, the church is also accepting donations, and we will use the money to buy additional shoes.



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.



PRAYERS TO THE CONGREGATION

PRAYER QUILT MINISTRY

A prayer quilt displayed in the narthex this morning is for **Suzi Fischer**. Suzi is a friend of Marcia Boyer. We invite you to stop, tie a knot, and pray for healing, grace and comfort.

PRAYERS FOR OUR SPECIAL CARE

Barbara Harvey, Jim Hyde, Barbara K. Johnson, Vickie Johnson, Ronda Klein, Betty Luallin, Terry Lutz, Ray McFarland, Gerry Oliver, Jean Oliver, Bonnie Rheaume

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES (Celebrating 50 or more years of marriage)

Jim and Lynda McCoy7/12Terry and Rosemary Lutz7/13

Cliff and Rita Hotchkiss7/21Steve and Suzanne Haehl7/28

Dennis and Barbara Rogers7/31

SENIOR MILESTONES (Celebrating 80 or more birthdays)

Karen Horton7/13Ken Starkey7/13

Eleanor Warner7/14Coral Ayraud7/14

ALTAR FLOWERS

Given by the Verhelst Family, in memory of Luann Verhelst’s birthday on July 15.

HOSTS

Jeff Schrader, Steve Haehl, Marilyn Seese, and Mindy Smidt

PRAYERS FOR OUR CHURCHES

Mission Bell UMC, Glendale; Mountain View UMC, Cottonwood

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!

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, July 28**. The book for July is *Under the Tulip Tree* by Michelle Shocklee. We welcome all who love to read and discuss and travel the world through books.

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 at info@firstchurch.church or 602-263-5013.

Would You Like To Receive Text Messages from First Church?

If you'd like to opt into text message news and updates from our church, please contact the office to be added onto the text list!

Keepin’ It Cool

During the summer months, our campus electricity costs average **\$7,500 per month** to keep facilities air-conditioned and comfortable for all. As part of our **Seasons of Giving** campaign, we invite those who are able to make an additional gift of any amount to help offset these seasonal utility expenses. Your support helps us meet our budget needs while ensuring a welcoming environment for everyone. On behalf of the Heartfelt Giving Committee, thank you for helping us stay cool this summer!

