

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.

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.



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.



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.



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.

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.



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.

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!!

Happening This Week	
Today	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)
7:30 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)
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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 19, 2026 • 11 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		
PRELUDE	<i>Praise the Lord, Rise Up Rejoicing When Morning Guilds the Skies</i> Christine Kyhn, organ	D. Wood C. Kyhn
WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS		Rev. Mike Wilkerson
(Please register your attendance on the <i>Church Center</i> card found in your pew or <i>Online</i> .)		
*GREETING OUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS		
*CALL TO WORSHIP		Liturgist: Sammi Burkhart
One: Come, all who long for the presence of God. Come from the valleys of weariness and the mountains of joy.		
All: We come seeking the One who meets us in silence, in grace, and in love.		
One: God does not abandon us in our despair, but strengthens us for the journey ahead.		
All: The Lord renews our hope, restores our courage, and calls us by name.		
One: As Elijah encountered God on the mountain, so we gather expecting to meet the living God today.		
All: May our hearts be opened, our spirits renewed, and our lives transformed.		
One: Come, let us worship the God who refreshes the weary, speaks to the listening heart, and sends us forth with purpose.		
All: We come to worship the Lord!		
*OPENING HYMN - No. 383 <i>This Is a Day of New Beginnings</i> (vs. 1-4)		
ACT OF PRAISE	<i>Homeward Bound</i> Katy Fielder, soloist	Keen
HEARTFELT GIVING		Colleen McManus
SHARING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS		
OFFERTORY	<i>Take My Life, and Let It Be Consecrated</i> Summer Choir	Hayes
*DOXOLOGY		
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.		
SCRIPTURE READING	<i>I Kings 19:11-14</i>	Liturgist: Sammi Burkhart
SONG OF REFLECTION - No. 396 <i>O Jesus, I Have Promised</i>		
SERMON	<i>Coming Home</i>	Rev. Mike Wilkerson
UNISON PRAYER God of inspiration and courage, we thank you for the ways you invite us into a relationship with you. Help us to discern your call on our lives and grant us the strength to pursue the path you set before us. May we be found faithful in all the dimensions of our life as we seek to love as you have loved us. Amen.		
*CLOSING HYMN - No. 2238 (TFWS) <i>In the Midst of New Dimensions</i>		
*BENEDICTION	Rev. Mike Wilkerson	
POSTLUDE	<i>Toccata</i> Christine Kyhn, organ	J. Biery

*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>Church Center</i> 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!	
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Seasons of Giving... Keepin’ It Cool! The June electric bill has been almost covered! We will never stop being amazed by the incredible generosity of those who love First Church. If you’ve already made a special gift to Seasons of Giving to help with our summer utility costs, thank you. We’ve now stepped into July and it's certainly getting hotter and hotter! Our July campus electricity cost will be around \$7,500 to keep facilities air-conditioned and comfortable for all. Your support helps us meet our budget needs while ensuring a welcoming environment for everyone. Every gift, no matter the amount, makes a difference. With grateful hearts, your Finance Committee and the Heartfelt Generosity Team

PRAYERS TO THE CONGREGATION PRAYER QUILT MINISTRY A prayer quilt displayed in the narthex this morning is for Bette Rose Wojack . Bette Rose is a friend of Connie Bailes. We invite you to stop, tie a knot, and pray for healing, grace and comfort. PRAYERS FOR OUR SPECIAL CARE Judy Sandige, Jim Unsworth, Elizabeth Vick, Selena Alderman, Carolyn Allen, June Becker, Bill Carpenter, Ruth Clark, Mary Anne Coooper, Delora Cornelius WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES (Celebrating 50 or more years of marriage) Cliff and Rita Hotchkiss 7/21 Steve and Suzanne Haehl 7/28 Dennis and Barbara Rogers 7/31 SENIOR MILESTONES (Celebrating 80 or more birthdays) Don Richardson 7/22 Liv Stevens 7/24 ALTAR FLOWERS Given by Innocent Abiaka, in appreciation to Patricia Magyar for her several visits when he was ill and the Congregational Care Team for their get well cards and prayers. HOSTS Diane Gara-Weiner, Audrey Clayton, Don Hillegass, and Sandy Hillegass PRAYERS FOR OUR CHURCHES Mission Bell UMC, Glendale; Mountain View UMC, Cottonwood
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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!
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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 do need to be ordered with your dedication or the name you wish. If you have questions or are interested, please contact Cathy Fuentes through email at cathy@firstchurch.church or call the church office at 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!

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.
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