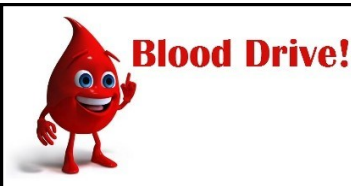


THE CHURCH NURSERY IS OPEN
The nursery is professionally staffed by the Lullaby Guild, open Sunday mornings, 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., in Room 109, and welcomes infants through 3 years old. Ask any host for directions to the nursery.



Blood Drive!

- Sunday, August 16, 2026
- 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
- Bloodmobile will be in the north parking lot
- Appointments are recommended!

Contact **Stephanie Espinoza** at 602-284-1258 or visit www.donors.vitalant.org (Blood Drive code: firstunited)

Would You Like To Receive Text Messages from First Church?
If you'd like to receive text message news and updates from our church, please contact the office to be added onto the text list!

New Member Information
Are you interested in learning more about First Church and/or becoming a member? Please contact the church office at 602-263-5013 or email cathy@firstchurch.church.

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.



We invite you to take a blue prayer card in the pew
Write your prayer request for a loved one and place it in the offering plate. The Care Team will hold the prayers in love and care.

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 (Not Meeting in August)

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. Worship - Contemporary
9 a.m. Summer Kids and Youth Sunday School (Room 221)
10 a.m. First Sunday Social Hour (Wesley Lounge)
10 a.m. Children's and Youth Crafts (Room 221)
10 a.m. The Table Adult Class (Not Meeting)
10 a.m. Faith for Today Adult Class (Not Meeting in August)
10 a.m. Upper Room Adult Class (Epworth Room)
11 a.m. Worship - Traditional
4 p.m. Summer Youth Program (Off Campus)
5:15 p.m. Al-Anon: Sunday Night Bookworms (Centennial Room)
6:30 p.m. AA Group - Solution on Central (Asbury Hall)

Monday, August 3 - no church events

Tuesday, August 4

9:30 a.m. Yoga (Room 114)
6 p.m. Summer Adult Voice Class (Wesley Lounge)

Wednesday, August 5

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, August 6

9:30 a.m. Congregational Care Team (Library)
4:30 p.m. Yoga (Room 114)
6 p.m. Summer Adult Voice Class (Wesley Lounge)

Friday, August 7

7 a.m. AA - Solution on Central in the morning (Room 102)

Saturday, August 8 - no church events

Next Sunday, August 9

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 221)
10 a.m. The Table Adult Class (Room 116)
10 a.m. Faith for Today Adult Class (Not Meeting in August)
10 a.m. Upper Room Adult Class (Epworth Room)
11 a.m. Worship - Traditional
4 p.m. Summer Youth Program (Off Campus)
5:15 p.m. Al-Anon: Sunday Night Bookworms (Centennial Room)
6:30 p.m. AA Group - Solution on Central (Asbury Hall)

Ice Cream Social
Mark your calendars for Saturday, August 22! The church will be hosting an ice cream social in Asbury Hall from 2 to 4 p.m.! There will be activities for children and lots of good community. Please feel free to bring a card game or a board game to share. RSVPs are requested but not required. To let us know you are planning on coming, please contact the church office.

Kids & Youth Ministries
Kids Church, Jr. High, and Sr. High will remain on the current summer schedule through the end of August, with a single all-ages Sunday School class, 9-10 a.m. in room 221. Supervised crafts and games are available between services, 10-11 a.m. in room 221. There are no regular evening Youth Group meetings over the summer, but there are fun youth events and activities happening throughout the month. Please contact julie@firstchurch.church with any questions or to be added to the youth invite list. Kids Church, Youth Sunday School, and evening Youth Group will return to regular school-year hours beginning Sunday, September 6.



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.

August 2, 2026 • 9 a.m.



GOOD POSTURE

*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
Mike Wilkerson - Senior Pastor	Cathy Fuentes - Office Manager
Don Campbell - Lay Leader	Christine Kyhn - Organist
Joshua Elder - Minister of Music	Elizabeth Leyva - Children/Youth Choirs
Sammi Burkhardt - 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

Patricia Magyar

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

*Greeting Our Friends and Neighbors

*Call to Worship

Liturgist: Patricia Rodriguez

One: We come before the Lord humbly.
All: We kneel in prayer.

One: We come before the Lord with praise.
All: We dance with joy in worship.

One: We come before the Lord with a spirit of openness.
All: Our hearts are ready to receive, and our hands are ready to work.
In mind, body, and spirit, let us worship God.

*Opening Song

Enter the Gates

Children’s Message

Abby Goodman, Next Gen Volunteer

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.

Scripture Reading

Luke 18:9-14

Liturgist: Patricia Rodriguez

Sermon

Good Posture

Sammi Burkhart

Sharing Our Tithes and Offerings

Special Music

The Stand

First Praise Band

Houston

Sacrament of Communion

Rev. Tom Kiracofe

Special Communion Offering in Support of Native American Awareness

Prayer of Confession

Lord, we confess that we have not always postured ourselves before you correctly, whether coming to you lacking humility, or with closed hearts and closed hands, we often reflect a posture that is all about us instead of about you. Please help us to kneel before you, lift our hands to you, and dance in your presence, even when we are unable to leave our seats. Please draw us closer to you in mind, body, and spirit. Amen.

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 Music

Gratitude

*Closing Song

The Lord’s Prayer (It’s Yours)

*Benediction

Sammi Burkhart

*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

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!

Weekday School News

The Weekday School will be closed for teacher in-service from July 27 to August 7. We are gearing up for our first day of the 2026-27 school year on August 10.

Save the Date! Sunday, August 30 – End of Summer Celebration & Open House

Kids of all ages, families, and kids-at-heart are invited to celebrate the end of summer from 10 a.m. to 12 noon in the grassy courtyard area. Come cool down with ice cream sandwiches and popsicles while enjoying tons of water play fun including slip n’ slides, super soakers, kiddie pools, sprinklers and more. Bring a swimsuit and a towel! The upstairs kids’ classrooms (rooms 221, 222, & 223) and the youth rooms (101 and 103) will be open to drop by, say hi, and learn more about what’s in store for the upcoming year.

FirstKids Choir

Calling all kindergarteners through 5th graders: FirstKids Choir starts on August 16! Experience the joy of singing in a fun environment. Come try it out on August 16, 10:05-10:50, in room 106. For more information, contact Elizabeth Leyva at elizabeth@firstchurch.church.

Light Up Our Sanctuary with NEW Christmas Decorations

Your generous gifts to the 2025 Christmas Decorations Fund made a beautiful difference last year, helping us enhance our sanctuary for the Christmas season. This year, the Worship Committee is once again inviting your support as we continue bringing our vision to life. Please consider making a gift that will add warmth and beauty to our cherished worship space for many Christmases to come.

PRAYERS TO THE CONGREGATION

PRAYER QUILT MINISTRY

A prayer quilt displayed in the narthex this morning is for **Patricia Behnke**. Patricia is a high school friend of Connie Bailes. We invite you to stop, tie a knot, and pray for healing, grace and comfort.

A prayer quilt displayed in the narthex this morning is for **Janine Demetry**. Janine 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

Gerry Oliver, Jean Oliver, Bonnie Rheäume, Judy Sandige, Susan Secrest, Jim Unsworth, Elizabeth Vick, Selena Alderman, Carolyn Allen, June Becker

PRAYERS FOR OUR CHURCH COMMUNITY

Tom Rice, Jim Hyde, and Karen Champagne

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES (Celebrating 50 or more years of marriage)

H. Barry and Lucy Holt 8/16 Bijan and Judy Mohraz 8/16

SENIOR MILESTONES (Celebrating 80 or more birthdays)

Janet Kendall 8/5

HOSTS

Steve Haehl, Lance Scott, Jeff Schrader, and Mindy Smidt

PRAYERS FOR OUR CHURCHES

New Song UMC, Surprise; Prescott UMC; Prescott Valley UMC

Looking for a Way to ENGAGE?

There are many ways you can get involved while serving First Church. Some require very little time. Consider hosting and assisting in the **church office** during 9 a.m. or 11 a.m. worship services, or helping **fill pew pockets** during the week in preparation for Sunday services. **Hosts** are always needed for memorial services to prepare for receptions. If you are interested, please contact Cathy Fuentes at cathy@firstchurch.church or 602-263-5013 ext. 100.

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, August 25**. The book for **August** is *Bright Young Women* by Jessica Knoll. 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.

Faith and Family Night Outing at Diamondbacks

Some members of our church are getting together a group of people interested in attending the Diamondbacks Baseball Faith and Family Night on August 21st, which will feature a Q and A with the players as well as musical performances. If you are interested in going, please contact the church office to be added to the list. Tickets available at \$32.

Seasons of Giving... Keepin’ It Cool!

A big THANK YOU to everyone who has made a special gift to offset our higher utility bills this summer! We’ve had 33 givers since we kicked off Seasons For Giving in June. We have “one more” very hot month coming up (we say “really hot” because we all hope September will be cooler). There’s still time in August to make a gift that will make a difference. If you can, help us get to 50+ givers! With grateful hearts, your Finance Committee and the Heartfelt Generosity Team.