

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.

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.

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 to 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.



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.

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 Kids Choir (Room 106)
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
5 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 24 - no church events
Tuesday, August 25
9:30 a.m. Yoga (Room 114)
1:30 p.m. Afternoon Book Club (Room 116)
5 p.m. Trustees (Epworth Room)
6 p.m. Church Council (Epworth Room)

Wednesday, August 26
9:30 a.m. Prayer Quilting (Epworth Room)
10 a.m. Dressmakers Sewing Group (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 (Asbury Hall)
7:30 p.m. Al-Anon (Room 116)

Thursday, August 27
9:30 a.m. Congregational Care Team (Library)
4:30 p.m. Yoga (Room 114)
7 p.m. Summer Praise Band (Sanctuary)

Friday, August 28
7 a.m. AA - Solution on Central in the morning (Room 102)

Saturday, August 29 - no church events

Next Sunday, August 30
9 a.m. Worship - Contemporary
9 a.m. Summer Kids and Youth Sunday School (Room 221)
10 a.m. First Kids Choir (Room 106)
10 a.m. Jr. and Sr. High Youth Sunday School (Room 103)
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
5:15 p.m. Al-Anon: Sunday Night Bookworms (Centennial Room)
5:30 p.m. Jr. and Sr. High Youth Dinner and Program (Room 103)
6:30 p.m. AA Group - Solution on Central (Asbury Hall)

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

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 August. 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 23, 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 - Weekday School Director		
Melissa Rynders - District Superintendent	Monica Rockey - Weekday School Assistant Director		
Mike Wilkerson - Senior Pastor	Russ Morrow - Business Administrator		
Don Campbell - Lay Leader	Cathy Fuentes - Office Manager		
Joshua Elder - Minister of Music	Christine Kyhn - Organist		
Sammi Burkhart - Director of Church Communication, Growth and Marketing	Elizabeth Leyva - Children/Youth Choirs		
Julie Cochran - Director of Next Gen Ministry	Dan Hawkins - Campus Superintendent		
Patricia Magyar - Congregational Care Coordinator	Geoff Barkley - Morning Custodian		
	Karissa Morales - Evening Custodian		
	Ryan Newberry - Media Booth		

ORDER OF WORSHIP		
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: Deby Campbell	
One: We come from many places and many stories. All: Yet God has gathered us here as one people.		
One: We carry stories handed down by families, communities, and generations. All: Some have given us strength; others we are learning to release.		
One: The world may try to tell us who we are because of where we come from. All: But God calls us beloved and invites us to become something new.		
One: Come, let us remember where we have come from and listen for where God is leading us. All: Come, let us worship the God who knows our whole story and is still writing with us.		
*Opening Song	Desert Song	
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.		
Sacrament of Baptism	Henry Barry Rhyneer Parents: Kaleb Rhyneer and Tatum Cork Rhyneer	
*A Time of Praise	Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters Build My Life	
Mission Moment	Dan Cox-Gonzalez	
Sharing Our Tithes and Offerings		
Special Music	Blessings Joy Ageh, Natalie Blair, and Jennifer Schwarz	
		Story
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>Exodus 1:8-10, 15-17; 2:1-10</i>	Liturgist: Deby Campbell
Sermon	<i>Origin Stories</i>	Rev. Mike Wilkerson
Unison Prayer		
God of our beginnings and our becoming, you know the stories that have shaped us: the families and communities that formed us, the traditions that have strengthened us, and the assumptions that have sometimes limited us. We thank you for the stories that have taught us compassion, courage, faith, and love. Give us wisdom to recognize the stories that no longer give life. Help us unlearn prejudices we have inherited, expectations that diminish us or others, and labels that keep us from seeing one another clearly. Remind us that our beginnings are part of who we are, but they do not determine who we must become. Lead us into the freedom of discovering who you are calling us to be. Amen.		
*Closing Song	<i>Trust in God</i>	
*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 <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!	

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

Pastor Mike is Holding Open Office Hours
Pastor Mike will be holding open office hours at the church to meet with anyone who wishes to stop by and chat on Mondays between 6 and 7 p.m. and Wednesdays between 11 a.m. and 12 p.m. There will also be a Zoom Room open during these hours using the following meeting ID and passcode:
Pastor Mike's Zoom Room ID: 602 263 5510 Pastor Mike's Zoom Room passcode: 5013
If you would like to schedule an appointment at a different time, please email Pastor Mike at mike@firstchurch.church .

PRAYERS TO THE CONGREGATION
PRAYER QUILT MINISTRY
A prayer quilt displayed in the narthex this morning is for Dan Hutchison . Dan is the brother-in-law of Shari Hutchison. We invite you to stop, tie a knot, and pray for healing, grace and comfort.
PRAYERS FOR OUR SPECIAL CARE
Selena Alderman, Carolyn Allen, June Becker, Bill Carpenter, Ruth Clark, Mary Anne Cooper, Delora Cornelius, Laura DeNinno, Yvonne Fischer, Barbara Harvey
DEATH
First Church is saddened to announce the death of Barbara Zippel , who passed on August 11. Barbara was a long-time member of FUMC, and the wife of Tom Pickrell. Services are scheduled for Saturday, September 12 at 10 a.m., FUMC.
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)
Marjorie Lange 8/17 Vickie Beaver 8/24 Ken Hagin 8/29
HOSTS
Steve Haehl, Lance Scott, Jane Scott, and Jeff Schrader
PRAYERS FOR OUR CHURCHES
New Song UMC, Surprise; Prescott UMC; Prescott Valley UMC

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.	

Kids End of Summer Celebration and Open House
Next Sunday, August 30
Come celebrate the end of summer, and officially kick off the new school year for our Kids and Youth programs. All are invited from 10 a.m. to 12 noon, to come have some fun and cool down in the grassy courtyard area. Enjoy ice cream sandwiches, popsicles, and tons of water play fun, and including slip n’ slides, super soakers, kiddie pools, sprinklers and more. Bring a swimsuit and a towel! The upstairs kids’ classrooms (rooms 221, 222, and 223) and the youth rooms (101 and 103) will be open all morning to drop by, say hi, and learn more about what’s in store for the upcoming year.

Fall Festival Sponsorship Opportunities
Mark your calendars! Our annual Fall Festival will be held on Sunday, October 25, and we are excited to make this year's event our best yet. This fun-filled community celebration brings together families, friends, and neighbors for an afternoon of fellowship, food, games, and activities for all ages.
To help make this event a success and build on last year's festival, we are seeking financial sponsors to help underwrite event expenses. If you own a business, work for a company that supports community events, or know someone who may be interested in sponsoring the festival, we would love to hear from you.
Sponsorship opportunities are available at the following levels:
- Gold Sponsor: \$1,000 - Silver Sponsor: \$500 - Bronze Sponsor: \$250
If you would like more information about becoming a sponsor, please contact our office at info@firstchurch.church .
Thank you for helping us create a wonderful event that welcomes our congregation and the entire community!