Featured Announcements

· Today, October 25, 2026
· 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
· Bloodmobile will be in the north parking lot

All Church Conference – Sunday, November 15, at 1 p.m.

Join us as we celebrate the ministry of First Church with our Valley District Superintendent. Goals for 2027 will be approved as we welcome leadership into serving positions and lift up our accomplishments from 2026. All members of First Church are welcome to attend and vote on matters of the church.

Christmas Community Choir Rehearsals Begin THIS Wednesday!

Every year, the Chancel Choir combines with singers from the community to present its annual Christmas Community Choir concert. This year we will perform a new work, *Magnificat,* by composer Taylor Scott Davis. The performance will take place on Sunday, December 13th, as part of our 11:00 Traditional service.

We will begin rehearsing THIS Wednesday, October 28, at 8 p.m. in the sanctuary. We then meet each subsequent Wednesday night, from 8-9 p.m.

If you would like to join us, or to find out more details, please contact Joshua Elder: joshua@firstchurch.church.

Christmas Greens

It is time once again to order Christmas Greens, aromatic seasonal gifts from Washington State. Choices include wreaths, garlands, swags, or centerpieces. Any of these can be sent to out-of-state relatives or friends also (for a slight shipping charge). A new product this year is a Reindeer, Sleigh, and Gnome Set. Orders can be placed with choir or band members, on the patio Sunday morning, or with Don Richardson 602-997-1205. Orders are due by November 1.

Advent Devotional Journaling

Make room for Advent this year with our new Advent Devotional Journal + Companion Group Study. Use the journal privately. Join the group. Or do both!
Our new Advent Devotional Journal guides you through a personal exploration of the themes of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love. Each day offers Scripture, reflection, space to write, prayer, and stories from our own church community. The devotionals will be available the week before Advent.
Want to go deeper with others? Join our four-week Advent Devotional Journaling Group where we will explore Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love together through conversation, journaling, prayer, and quiet reflection.

When: Mondays Nov. 30, Dec. 7, 14, and 21, 1-2 p.m.
Where: First Church Chapel
Facilitator: Katy Fielder

Next Sunday - All Saints' Sunday, November 1

This is a meaningful service because it gives us a chance as a community to support each other in remembering our members and other loved ones who have passed away in the last year. This Sunday gives us an opportunity to remember them in a worship setting, to sound a chime to each name, and to feel their presence in the sacrament of Holy Communion.

If you have a family member you would like to include, please send a picture and name to cathy@firstchurch.church by Tuesday, October 27.

Ongoing Announcements

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, October 27.** The book for **October** is ***The Personal Librarian*** by Christopher Murray. We welcome all who love to read and discuss and travel the world through books

Exploring Spiritual Practices

Join our book study! Pastor Mike is hosting a 10-week study of the book *Celebration of Discipline: The Path to Spiritual Growth* by Richard Foster. Grab a copy from your favorite book distributor and come join us on Thursdays at 6 p.m. in the church's chapel.

Join Us for an Eve Circle Speaker

All interested women at First Church are welcome to join us, to hear a speaker who will share about her work in helping women who are coming out of prison. We will meet on Thursday, November 12, at 7 p.m., in Wesley Lounge. For any questions, call Susan Sneathen at 602-361-8235. Hope you can join us!

Fall Festival TODAY!

Please invite your friends, neighbors, grandchildren, or anyone you think would have fun! The event will be from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. today, October 25, and will feature bounce houses, dunk tanks, crafts, food, games, and more.

First Sunday Social Hour, Next Sunday, November 1

Please join us next Sunday for our First Sunday Social Hour gathering between services at 10 a.m. in Wesley Lounge. This is a time to gather, mingle and talk about what's going on or how you can serve at First Church. The November gathering is hosted by the Congregational Care Team. We look forward to seeing you!

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.

Connect With Us!

Pastor Mike Is Available to Meet with You

Please let Pastor Mike know if you would like to have a private discussion. You can email him at mike@firstchurch.church, and he will set up a time to meet with you.

Electronic Giving Made Easy

Use the 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.

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!

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

October 25, 2026 ● 9 a.m.

Let us know you're worshiping with us today!
Complete the online attendance form or fill out the Church Center card in your pew.

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

New Here?

Welcome to First Church! We're so glad you're here. Stop by the Welcome Table in the narthex to pick up a gift bag and share your contact information so we can stay connected.

FIRSTCHURCH
UNITED METHODISTS OF PHOENIX

5510 N Central Ave (602) 263-5013 firstchurch.church

Thank you for silencing phones before the service begins.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

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

***Greeting Our Friends and Neighbors**

***Call to Worship** Liturgist: Brenda Schrader

One: Jesus invites us to ask, to seek, and to knock.
All: We come with open hearts and curious minds.

One: Our questions need not separate us from God; they can draw us into deeper understanding.
All: We seek wisdom, welcome discovery, and embrace the mystery of faith.

One: Together, we grow in faith through learning, questioning, and loving one another.
All: Let us worship God with open hearts, open minds, and open doors!

***Opening Song** 10,000 Reasons *(Bless the Lord)*

Children's Message Rev. Mike Wilkerson

Following the Children's Message, children in pre-K through 5th grade are invited to follow the teachers to Kids Church located upstairs in rooms 221-223. Alternatively, children may return to their parents in the pews. Our nursery is available in room 109 for infants through age three. First-time visitors are encouraged to accompany their children to their Sunday School classrooms.

***A Time of Praise** *Oh How I Need You* (Find You)
Always

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.**

Sharing Our Tithes and Offerings

Special Music *Amani Utupe* Simms
First Youth Singers
Alice Elder, djembe; Emma Jean Elder, shaker; Ruth, wood block; Seth, guiro

***Doxology**

***Offertory Prayer** Rev. Mike Wilkerson

Scripture Reading *James 1:5 and Matthew 7:7-11*
Liturgist: Brenda Schrader

Sermon *Ask, Search, Knock* Rev. Mike Wilkerson

Unison Prayer: Liturgist: Brenda Schrader

Gracious God, thank you for creating us with curious minds and hearts that long to know you. Give us the courage to ask difficult questions, the humility to acknowledge what we do not know, and the wisdom to recognize your presence in unexpected places. May our questions lead us toward deeper understanding, our discoveries inspire greater compassion, and our faith continue to grow throughout our lives. In the spirit of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

Special Music *The More We Get Together* King
Weekday School Cherub Choir; Morgan Pinkerton, director

***Closing Song** *Be Thou My Vision (You're All That I See)*

***Benediction** Rev. Mike Wilkerson

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***For those who are able, please stand.**

Prayers for Our Congregation

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. Please update your request as needed.

PRAYER QUILT MINISTRY
The prayer quilt displayed in the narthex this morning is for **Chris O'Brien**. Chris is a friend of Marcia Boyer. We invite you to stop, tie a knot, and pray for healing, grace, and comfort.

DEATH
First Church is saddened to announce the death of **Barbara Harvey**, who passed on October 4. Barbara was a long-time member of FUMC.

PRAYERS FOR OUR SPECIAL CARE
Selena Alderman, Carolyn Allen, June Becker, Bill Carpenter, Ruth Clark, Mary Cooper, Delora Cornelius, Laura DeNinno, Yvonne Fischer, Barbara K. Johnson

PRAYERS FOR OUR CHURCH COMMUNITY
Jim Hyde, Doug Dunipace, Elizabeth Vick, and Karen Champagne

SENIOR MILESTONES (Celebrating 80 or more birthdays)
Sandy Fox 10/26 Rosemary Lutz 10/31

HOSTS
Steve Haehl, Mindy Smidt, Lance Scott, and Jane Scott

PRAYERS FOR OUR CHURCHES
Shepherd of the Hills UMC, Sun City West; Shepherd of the Valley UMC, Phoenix; Spirit of Hope UMC, Phoenix

Seasons of Giving – Investing in Our Youth

Our Fall **Seasons of Giving** campaign is focused on highlighting how your offerings to the general church fund support the children and youth of our church by ensuring they have the resources and opportunities to grow in faith, build friendships, and strengthen their connection to our church family. Your generous contributions help provide essential operational funding for classroom updates, curriculum, administrative supplies, snacks, program meals, recognitions, special events, and other youth activities. When you give your offering, you are helping our church's operating fund continue to provide meaningful programs and experiences for the next generation. **Every gift, no matter the size, makes a difference!** We hope you will prayerfully consider giving above and beyond your regular contributions to help us invest in the future of our church. **To give online, visit https://firstchurchphoenix.churchcenter.com/giving**.

Communion Offering
Next Sunday, November 1, will be in support of **UMOM**.

Church Staff Members
Mike Wilkerson (Senior Pastor)
Joshua Elder (Minister of Music)
Sammi Burkhart (Director of Communication, Growth and Marketing)
Julie Cochran (Next Gen Ministry Director)
Patricia Magyar & Deby Campbell (Congregational Care Coordinators)
Dan Hawkins (Campus Superintendent)
Geoff Barkley (Morning Custodian)
Karissa Morales (Evening Custodian)
Ryan Newberry (Media Booth)
Russ Morrow (Business Administrator)
Cathy Fuentes (Office Manager)
Christine Kyhn (Organist)
Elizabeth Leyva (Children/Youth Choir)
Natasha Hawkins (Weekday School Director)
Monica Rockey (Weekday School Assistant Director)

Conference Leadership
Carlo A. Rapanut - Bishop
Melissa Rynders - District Superintendent