

First Church Kids

All kids ages preK-5th grade are welcome to come and join the fun at Kids Church during the service! Children start with worship in the Sanctuary at 10 a.m. Then after the children’s message, our incredible leaders will guide them to their classrooms by age group. Parents are welcome to walk with us. Near the end of the service, all children will return with their leaders back to the Sanctuary to join their families for communion.



Blood Drive!

- Sunday, October 25, 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)

Planning for the Future

On Saturday, October 10 from 10-11:30 a.m., First United Methodist Foundation will sponsor a program on Planning for the Future in the Centennial Room. This educational program will provide information on options for when we or our loved ones may need more care or just want to live more simply. Participants will find out what options are available, and obtain tips to help identify best options for a variety of life situations.

Whether you're thinking about your parents or friends who are aging, or you'd like to have that peace of mind for yourself, you won't want to miss this informative program! Please register using the QR Code or by calling the Church Office at 602-263-5013.



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.



First Church Missions and Social Justice Committee

You are invited to come celebrate the 2-year anniversary of Iglesia Aliento, a United Methodist mission in central Phoenix that serves Spanish-speaking Christians. Join us for an afternoon of worship, music, fellowship, and joyful celebration as we strengthen the bonds between our congregations and discern how we can partner in serving immigrants, families, and vulnerable neighbors. A taco lunch will be served after the service. Offerings to support their mission will be welcomed. The worship service is at 12:30 p.m. on Sunday, October 18, at 701 S. 1st St., Phoenix. Contact Daniel Cox-Gonzalez at dcoxgonzalez@gmail.com or the church office at 602-263-5013.

Volunteer for Fall Festival!

Fall Festival is a beloved tradition within our church and an important outreach connection to our local community! To make it happen, we need A LOT of volunteers. We need people to decorate their trunks and hand out candy for Trunk-or-Treat (candy will be provided), people to run booths for games and activities, as well as people to help behind the scenes setting up and cleaning up. If you would like to volunteer but have mobility challenges, there are plenty of seated positions; let us know, and we'll get you a chair! This event will take place October 25, 4:30-6:30 p.m.

We are also looking for candy donations! If you would like to help in this way, please leave the candy in the drop-off bin in the Narthex or bring it to the church office! Thank you in advance for your generosity!

Please contact the church office to sign up to volunteer, or reach out to Sammi directly at sammi@firstchurch.church!

Happening This Week

Today

10 a.m.	Worship - Combined Service
10 a.m.	Children’s Sunday School (Rooms 221, 222, 223)
10 a.m.	First Kids Choir (Room 106)
10 a.m.	The Table Adult Class (Not Meeting)
10 a.m.	Faith for Today Adult Class (Not Meeting)
10 a.m.	Upper Room Adult Class (Not Meeting)
11:15 a.m.	All-Church Lunch (Asbury Hall)
4:30 p.m.	Youth Choir (Room 106)
5:15 p.m.	Al-Anon: Sunday Night Bookworms (Centennial Room)
5:30 p.m.	Jr. and Sr. High Youth Dinner (Epworth Room)
6:15 p.m.	Jr. and Sr. High Youth Programs (Room 101 and Room 103)
6:30 p.m.	AA Group - Solution on Central (Asbury Hall)

Monday, October 5

2:30 p.m.	Covenant Sisters (Virtual)
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Tuesday, October 6

9:30 a.m.	Yoga (Epworth Room)
6 p.m.	Foundation Board (Epworth Room)
7 p.m.	Axios (Room 102)

Wednesday, October 7

9:15 a.m.	Weekday School Chapel (Memorial Chapel)
9:30 a.m.	Prayer Quilting (Epworth Room)
2:30 p.m.	Cherub Choir (Room 106)
5:45 p.m.	Handbell Choir Rehearsal (Epworth Room)
6 p.m.	Boy Scouts #41 (Asbury Hall)
6:30 p.m.	AA Group - Solution on Central (Wesley Lounge)
7 p.m.	Scout Parent Meeting (Centennial Room)
7 p.m.	Chancel Choir (Choir Room)
7:30 p.m.	Al-Anon (Room 116)

Thursday, October 8

9:30 a.m.	Congregational Care Team (Library)
1:30 p.m.	Rachel Women’s Fellowship (Wesley Lounge)
4:30 p.m.	Yoga (Epworth Room)
6 p.m.	Celebration of Discipline Book Study (Chapel)
6 p.m.	Praise Choir (Choir Room)
7 p.m.	United Women in Faith - Eve Circle (Wesley Lounge)
7 p.m.	Praise Band (Sanctuary)

Friday, October 9

7 a.m.	AA - Solution on Central in the morning (Room 102)
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Saturday, October 10

10 a.m.	Planning for the Future Workshop (Centennial Room)
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Next Sunday, October 11

9 a.m.	Worship - Contemporary
9 a.m.	Children’s Sunday School (Rooms 221, 222, 223)
10 a.m.	Kids Crafts (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 (Centennial Room)
10 a.m.	Upper Room Adult Class (Epworth Room)
11 a.m.	Worship - Traditional
4:30 p.m.	Youth Choir (Room 106)
5:15 p.m.	Al-Anon: Sunday Night Bookworms (Centennial Room)
5:30 p.m.	Jr. and Sr. High Youth Dinner (Epworth Room)
6:15 p.m.	Jr. and Sr. High Youth Programs (Room 101 and Room 103)
6:30 p.m.	AA Group - Solution on Central (Asbury Hall)



FIRSTCHURCH
UNITED METHODISTS OF PHOENIX

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.

EMBRACING
WHO WE ARE



UNIFIED IN LOVE

*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 and Deby Campbell - Congregational Care Coordinators	Geoff Barkley - Morning Custodian
	Karissa Morales - Evening Custodian
	Ryan Newberry - Media Booth

ORDER OF WORSHIP		
PRELUDE	<i>O God Beyond All Praising</i> First Praise Band	Elder and Tully
WELCOME	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		
CHORAL INTRODUCTION	<i>Christ Has Broken Down the Wall</i> Praise Choir and Chancel Choir with Katy Fielder, soloist	Miller
*CALL TO WORSHIP		
Liturgists: David Whitaker, Jerry Harbin, Don Richardson, and Marie Garber :		
One: Venimos de lugares diferentes, llevando experiencias, historias y sueños diferentes. (Spanish) <i>We come from different places, carrying different stories, experiences and hopes.</i>		
All: Yet in Christ, we are gathered together in love.		
One: Über Nationen und Kulturen, Sprachen und Traditionen hinweg versammeln sich die Nachfolger Jesu an einem Tisch. (German) <i>Across nations and cultures, languages and traditions, the followers of Jesus gather around one table.</i>		
All: We are many, yet we belong to one body.		
One: Christ calls us to look beyond ourselves, to serve with humility, and to care for the needs of others. (English)		
All: Let the same mind be in us that was in Christ Jesus.		
One: Ah-besie Nyesuah, auhh oh Nunez. Ah mon nyon doe. Boh neh uoh ah mon, ah peh peh. (Grebo) <i>With Christians around the world, let us celebrate the grace that unites us and the diversity that enriches us.</i>		
All: Unified in love, let us worship God together!		
*OPENING HYMN - No. 2221 (TFWS) <i>In Unity We Lift Our Song</i>		
CHILDREN’S MESSAGE	Julie Cochran, Next Gen Ministry	
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.		
RECEIVING NEW MEMBERS <i>Sally Hineman, Andy Lahr, John Bowers, and Susan Bowers</i>		
ACT OF PRAISE	<i>Sisi Ni Moja (We Are One)</i> Praise Choir and Chancel Choir	Narverud
PASTORAL PRAYER	Rev. Mike Wilkerson	
SHARING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS		

OFFERTORY	<i>I Dream A World</i> Praise Choir, Chancel Choir and Praise Band	Dilworth
*DOXOLOGY		
*OFFERTORY PRAYER	Rev. Mike Wilkerson	
SCRIPTURE READING	<i>Philippians 2:1-13</i>	Liturgist: Don Richardson
SERMON	<i>Unified In Love</i>	Rev. Mike Wilkerson
Sacrament of Communion		
SPECIAL COMMUNION OFFERING IN SUPPORT OF WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY		
PRAYER OF CONFESSION		
Merciful God, we confess that we have not fully loved you with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength. There have been times when we have prioritized our personal comfort over the needs of others or have been slow to follow through in caring for each other. Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience. Heal the wounds we have inflicted upon ourselves and others, and help us remember the diverse ways you have faithfully loved us. And now we ask you to listen to our hearts as we confess the ways we have fallen short in the ways of love.		
THE PRAYER OF GREAT THANKSGIVING (TFWS No. 2257 b,c,d)		
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.		
SANCTUS		
Holy, holy, holy Lord; God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest!		
Blest is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest...!		
MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION		
Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again. Hosanna in the highest...!		
GREAT AMEN		
Amen. Amen. Amen. Hosanna in the highest...!		
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.		
We invite you to come forward down the center aisle at the direction of an usher; standing as a sign of being resurrected people, receive the bread or wafer, dip it into the cup, and consume the elements. If you so desire, you may kneel at the communion rail after consuming the elements.		

COMMUNION MUSIC - No. 620	<i>One Bread, One Body</i> <i>You Are Welcome Here</i>
*CLOSING HYMN - No. 2223 (TFWS) <i>They’ll Know We Are Christians by Our Love</i>	
*BENEDICTION	Rev. Mike Wilkerson
POSTLUDE	<i>March for Joyous Occasions</i> Christine Kyhn, organ

*For those who are able, please stand.	

PRAYERS TO THE 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.
PRAYER QUILT MINISTRY
A prayer quilt displayed in the narthex this morning is for Cynthia Hamlin . Cynthia is a friend of Phyllis Chase. 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 Karen Henderson . Karen 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
Ray McFarland, Gerry Oliver, Jean Oliver, Bonnie Rheaume, Judy Sandige, Susan Secrest, Jim Unsworth, Elizabeth Vick, Selena Alderman, Carolyn Allen
MEMORIAL SERVICE
First Church is saddened to announce the death of Rev. Deborah Lerner , who passed on September 24. Services are November 7 at 11 a.m., at Shepherd of the Hills UMC, 13658 W. Meeker Blvd., Sun City West, AZ. 85375
PRAYERS FOR OUR CHURCH COMMUNITY
Jim Hyde and Karen Champagne
ALTAR FLOWERS
Given by the Garber family, in honor of Marie Morais Garber’s birthday. 80 years of faith, love and grace.
SENIOR MILESTONES (Celebrating 80 or more birthdays)
Janet Nelson 10/5 Mary Price 10/5 Marie Morais Garber 10/6
John Beaver 10/6 John Reinhold 10/6
HOSTS
Steve Haehl, Jeff Schrader, Lance Scott, and Cathy Fuentes
PRAYERS FOR OUR CHURCHES
Shepherd of the Hills UMC, Sun City West; Shepherd of the Valley UMC, Phoenix; Spirit of Hope UMC, Phoenix

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!		