Featured Announcements

All Church Conference – Today, 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 - Come Sing with Us!

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 be Sunday, December 13, as part of our 11:00 Traditional service.

Rehearsals have begun, but there is still time to join! We rehearse every Wednesday night, 8-9 p.m. If you would like to join us or to find out more details, please contact Joshua Elder at joshua@firstchurch.church.

Advent Devotional Journal

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. Scan the QR code to register.

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

Advent at First Church

December 5th - Light Parade
5 p.m. APS holiday parade filled with amazing light displays.

December 6th - Southwest Vocal Alliance Concert
3 p.m. Barbershop Harmonies featuring Christmas Classics. Tickets available on the Southwest Vocal Alliance website.

December 8th - Phoenix College Choir Concert
7:30 p.m. Traditional Christmas holiday songs as well as holiday songs from around the world. Tickets available on eventbrite.com.

December 13th - Taste of Christmas
10 a.m. Join us in Asbury Hall for our annual dessert party and a visit from Santa.

December 13th - Christmas Cantata
11 a.m. Christmas Community Choir explores the Virgin Mary's *Magnificat* prayer.

December 20th - Blue Christmas
4 p.m. A service for those who are struggling or grieving.

December 24th - Christmas Eve
4 p.m. Children and Family Service
5 to 7 p.m. Petting Zoo and Hot Chocolate and Cider
7 p.m. Traditional Candlelight Service

Ongoing Announcements

Afternoon Book Group

The next Afternoon Book Group will meet at 1:30 p.m. in the Library on **Tuesday, November 17.** The book for **November** is ***The Women of Oak Ridge*** by Michelle Schoklee. We welcome all who love to read, discuss, and travel the world through books

Share Christmas Joy: Annual Toy Drive

Help share Christmas joy through First United Methodist Church of Phoenix's annual Christmas toy drive, held in conjunction with the Arizona Department of Child Safety.

Bring toys or gift cards to church Nov. 8 through Dec. 6. You may also drop off donations at the church office through Dec. 11, the final collection deadline. Drop off unwrapped toys in the box in the narthex next to the Christmas tree.

Suggested donations include LEGO sets; stuffed animals, including Squishmallows for boys and girls; board games; toy cars, including remote-control cars and trucks; and sports items such as soccer balls and basketballs. Gift cards are also welcome.

Light Parade Tickets Now on Sale!

Tickets for this year's Electric Light Parade are on sale now and can be purchased on Sunday mornings between services, or from the church office during regular business hours. All proceeds benefit the First Church Youth Group. Thank you for your support!
Date: Saturday, December 5th; parking lot opens 4:30 p.m., parade starts at 7 p.m.
Parking Passes: $20 per vehicle; Reserved Seating: $5 per person
Please contact the church office at 602-263-5013 with any questions.

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 with him. You can email him at mike@firstchurch.church, and he will set up a time to meet with you.

Electronic Giving Made Easy

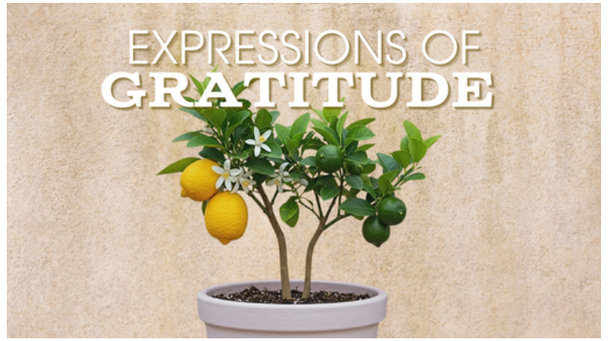
Use the Church Center mobile app to give to First Church with convenient and secure electronic methods, including credit card, debit card, bank transfer from savings or checking, and Apple Pay. Scan this QR code to get started.

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.

November 15, 2026 ● 11 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

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Prelude *For the Beauty of the Earth (Four Chorale Miniatures)* Burkhardt
Christine Kyhn, organ

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: Scott Holcomb

One: God has blessed us with imagination, creativity, and gifts of many kinds.

All: With grateful hearts, we celebrate the gifts God has given us.

One: Through art, music, words, and countless expressions of creativity, God's Spirit moves among us.

All: We open our hearts and minds to the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

One: As we share our gifts, we inspire one another and participate in God's transforming work.

All: With gratitude and joy, let us worship our Creator!

***Opening Hymn** - No. 62 *All Creatures of Our God and King (vs. 1-4, 7)*

Act of Praise *Adoro Te Devote* Krug
Rejoicing Handbells with Emma Jean Elder, soloist

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.**

Stewardship Video

Sharing Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory *How Can I Keep from Singing* Getty and de Barra
First Youth Singers; Alice Elder, ocarina

***Offertory Prayer**

***Doxology**

Scripture Reading *Exodus 35:25-35* Liturgist: Scott Holcomb

Song of Reflection *Colorful Creator* (see insert)

Sermon *Grateful to Create* Rev. Mike Wilkerson

Unison Prayer Liturgist: Scott Holcomb

Gracious and creative God, we thank you for the gifts of imagination, inspiration, and creativity. You have blessed each of us with unique abilities to express your love and grace in this world. Open our hearts to the movement of your Spirit, that we may recognize beauty, discover new possibilities, and find inspiration in the gifts others share. Amen.

***Closing Hymn** - No. 96 *Praise the Lord Who Reigns Above*

***Benediction** Rev. Mike Wilkerson

Postlude *Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven* Burkhardt
Christine Kyhn, organ

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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 **Mark Sendrow**. Mark is a friend of Robin Spencer. 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 **Doug Dunipace**, who passed on November 6. A memorial service will be held Saturday, January 16, 2027, at 10 a.m., at FUMC.

PRAYERS FOR OUR SPECIAL CARE
Yvonne Fischer, Barbara K. Johnson, Vickie Johnson, Ronda Klein, Betty Luallin, Terry Lutz, Ray McFarland, Gerry Oliver, Jean Oliver, Bonnie Rheaume

PRAYERS FOR OUR CHURCH COMMUNITY
Jim Hyde, Bonnie Rheaume, Elizabeth Vick, and Karen Champagne

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES (50 years or more of marriage)
Deb and Don Campbell 11/23

HOSTS
Stephanie Grainer, Audrey Clayton, Ernie Shaver, and Cathy Fuentes

ACOLYTES
Emma Jean Elder and Alice Elder

PRAYERS FOR OUR CHURCHES
Sunrise UMC, Phoenix; Willowbrook UMC, Sun City

2026 Stewardship Campaign
Water Deeper. Grow Stronger.

Our 2026 stewardship campaign has started and will run through Sunday, November 22. This is a time when we ask the congregation to prayerfully discern what they would like to pledge in support of the upcoming work of the church. We have big plans for the future, but we need your help to make them happen. More Bible and book studies are on the way, including a special First Church Advent Devotional compiled and edited by our own Katy Fielder. We also have new Christmas decorations to hang, a multi-church retreat in mid-February, and a church camping trip to Mingus Mountain in April. All of this stems from your generosity.

Please consider how you intend to support the church with your time, talent, witness, and financial resources, and note it on a pledge card. You can mail your pledge card or hand-deliver it to the office, drop it in the offering plate, or bring it to the final stewardship service on November 22, when we invite members to come forward with their pledge cards.

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)
Stevi Shearer (Next Gen Ministry Assistant)
Patricia Magyar & Deby Campbell (Congregational Care Coordinators)
Dan Hawkins (Campus Superintendent)
Karissa Morales (Associate Superintendent)
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