Featured Announcements

Electric 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 at 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.

Electric Light Parade: Volunteers Needed!

Help make this year's Electric Light Parade a bright success! We are in special need of volunteers to serve as pre-parade parking lot attendants, or to stay late and join our post-parade clean-up crew.

- **Date:** Saturday, December 5th, 2026
- **Parking Assistance:** 3:45 – 7:15 p.m. Set-up, ticket sales, direct traffic, keep lots safe and organized.
- **Clean-Up Crew:** 8:30 -9:15 p.m. (or until finished). Pick up litter, collect chairs, clean up seating and snack bar areas.

Please email Julie Cochran at julie@firstchurch.church to sign up to volunteer.

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

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.

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.

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

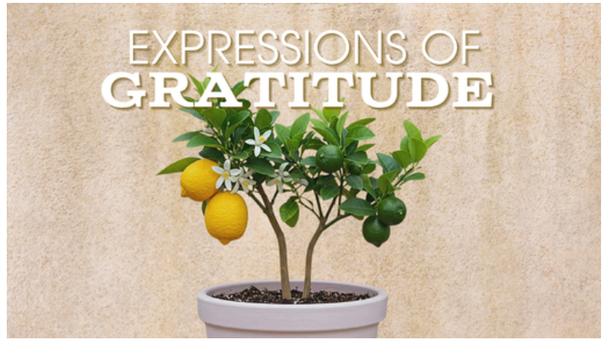
Use the Church Center mobile app to give to First Church with convenient and secure electronic methods, including credit card, debit card, bank transfer from savings or checking, and Apple Pay. Scan this QR code to get started.

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 22, 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 *We Gather Together* W. Held
Now Thank We All Our God (from Cantata No. 79) JS Bach
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: John Holmes
One: God has blessed us with gifts of grace, love, and abundant possibilities.
All: With grateful hearts, we gather to give thanks and praise.
One: Through Jesus Christ, we discover how to love abundantly and share that love with the world.
All: We seek to follow Christ through lives of compassion, generosity, and service.
One: As we offer our gifts, we plant seeds of hope, nourish the roots of our faith, and strengthen our relationships with God and each other.
All: With joyful hearts, we dedicate ourselves to God's continuing work.
One: Come, let us celebrate the abundant grace of God!
All: Let us worship God with thanksgiving and gratitude!

***Opening Hymn** - No. 694 *Come, Ye Thankful People, Come*

Act of Praise Rejoice! Give Thanks! Celebrate! Martin
Chancel Choir

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 Presentation Brenda Schrader, Chair of Church Council

Sharing Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory *Sing Out, My Soul* Garrett
Chancel Choir

***Doxology**

***Offertory Prayer**

Scripture Reading *2 Corinthians 9:6-15* Liturgist: John Holmes

Hymn of Gratitude - No. 131 *We Gather Together*

Sermon *Grateful for God* Rev. Mike Wilkerson

Receiving Pledges
If you are prepared to make a pledge today, please bring your card forward as the choir sings the Anthem of Reflection. Pledge cards are available from the hosts for those who need them.

Anthem of Reflection *Thankful for Our Every Blessing* Martin
Chancel Choir

Prayer of Dedication
Generous God, all that we have and all that we are come from your abundant grace. With grateful hearts, we offer these commitments as expressions of our love for you and our neighbors. Bless the gifts we share, the work of our hands, and the creativity of our hearts, so that our generosity strengthens this community of faith and extends your love far beyond these walls. Amen.

***Closing Hymn** - No. 102 *Now Thank We All Our God*

***Benediction** Rev. Mike Wilkerson

Postlude *Improvisation on Now Thank We All (Marche triomphale)*
by S. Karg-Elert
Christine Kyhn, organ

***

*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 quilts displayed in the narthex this morning are for **Tip and Judy Ward**. Tip and Judy are brother and sister-in-law of John Ward, Peggy Ward's husband. 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 **Christine "Chris" Wilfong**, who passed on November 14. A memorial service will be held Friday, January 8, 2027, at 10 a.m., at FUMC.

PRAYERS FOR OUR SPECIAL CARE
Mary Lou Salyer, Judy Sandige, Susan Secrest, Jim Unsworth, Elizabeth Vick, Selena Aldeman, Carolyn Allen, June Becker, Bill Carpenter, Ruth Clark, Mary Anne Cooper, Delora Cornelius

SENIOR MILESTONES (Celebrating 80 or more birthdays)
Pat Triplett 11/25

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

ALTAR FLOWERS
Given by Michelle Vanecko, in memory of grandson Daniel Goodwin, dad Daniel Vanecko, and uncle Steve Vanecko.

HOSTS
Geoffrey Boadu, Michelle Vanecko, Patricia Magyar, and Cathy Fuentes

ACOLYTES
Paige Pinkerton and Alice Elder

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

Church Staff Members
Rev. 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)
Ramon Morales-Lai (Custodian)
John Rockey (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
Rev. Carlo A. Rapanut (Bishop)
Rev. Melissa Rynders (District Superintendent)