

# Encanto Community Church

An UNITED CHURCH of Christ Congregation  
2710 N. 7th Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85007-1124  
602.266.4602

## The Pilgrim

### December Events

#### Our Weekly Schedule Lets Get Together--Online

**Sunday 10 a.m.**, We continue streaming our service on Sunday mornings on the Encanto Community Church UCC **Facebook** page.

**Sunday RIGHT AFTER CHURCH a.m.**, Guess what? You can now chat with your ECC friends directly after church each Sunday. You just hop off of **Facebook** and onto **Zoom** where you will find the talking talkers. The only limitation is time, we've got to wrap it up by 11:30 a.m. so the extra cool Sunday schoolers can throw down.

**Sunday 11:30 a.m.**, Until we are able to resume in-person worship in the Sanctuary, Steve Holloway and Kathy Van Etten will be hosting a weekly **Youth Zoom Sunday School Hour from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** (Yes, that's more than an hour, but it usually takes us a while to actually get going.) This will be an opportunity for all of our youth to discuss the week's events and enjoy each other's company - at a distance. Everyone is welcome to join! You can participate either from your phone, a tablet, or a computer with a camera. Please contact Kathy and Steve if you are interested, and they will forward you the Zoom meeting link.

Please watch your email for various links and other possible occurrences. Great ideas crop up regularly and we don't want you to miss out.

### Many Thanks

Special thanks to the magnificent bakers and the wonderful delivery crew who helped herald in the Thanksgiving Season by delivering breakfast bread to all of our parishioners. Thanks go to Jill Mahoney, Cindy Walley, Lloyd Lo, Darwin Fisk, Kathy and Ed Stock, Melanie and Lisa Herrmann, Todd Montague, Meegan Finnerty, Michelle Lusania, Steve Holloway, Kathy Van Etten, and Pastor Gloria. Good job, everyone!

### December 2020

**WE ARE AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING CONGREGATION**



#### Please Remember in Your Prayers:

Ashley, Ken DeLaney, Revs Rich and Barb Doerrer-Peacock, Jesse Hogan, Debbye Jones and Rev. Gloria Smith, Carol Krietenstein, Sharon & Marlet Krietenstein, Brad Madsen, Radar and Sharon Matt, George Penny and Noreen Walters, Steven Pines, Erich Schrader, Nancy Studebaker, Leonard Ward, Encanto Community Church, Our Community, and Our World. May God's grace and healing touch be with you all.

#### Thank you for your generosity!

The Council would like to thank everyone in the church for your continued giving during this horrible pandemic. Thanks to your generosity, we have been able to meet our monthly expenses, keeping the office open to help those in need and ensure that we continue to receive the bulletin, weekly, and newsletter. Thanks to you, we have been able to continue to pay the water bill and Tony's salary so that we can have beautiful grounds. Thanks to your generosity, we have been able to keep the electricity on in the Sanctuary and pay Rev. Gloria's and Genevieve's salaries so that we are able to continue to record the worship services on a weekly basis.

Thank you so much for continuing to support the work of the church!



# NEWS & INFORMATION



## Food & Clothing Bank

One of the ministries of our church is our care for the homeless. Thanks to your generosity we have been able to keep up with the needs of our homeless. We are currently well stocked and able to take care of those who visit during our posted office hours. Many thanks to our Encanto family for your financial help.

## Save the Date

The Encanto Community Church Annual Meeting will take place on January 10<sup>th</sup> following the worship service. At this point, we don't know if we will be meeting in-person or virtually, but hope that you will join us as we review the activities and goals of the church!

## The Grotewold Report

December Birthdays

- 7- Santiago Quinteros
- 14- Chase Bauer
- 25- Maxwell Krietenstein

### Deacon on duty for December:

The Deacons are available to assist the pastor.  
The Deacon on duty for December is:

**Deb Sanders (602) 799-5763**

### Treasurer's Report

(General Fund for October 2020)



**Beginning Balance:** -\$5,369.12  
**Received:** \$9,393.00  
**Disbursed:** \$10,841.62  
**Ending Balance:** -\$6,817.74  
**For a loss of:** \$1,448.62

### Total Offering Receipts for October 2020

10/4	10/11	10/18	10/25
2635.00	1296.00	2702.00	760.00

There was no withdrawal from the Endowment account (\$96,940.81) during October 2020.

Copies of the monthly Treasurer's Reports, including a list of all disbursements, are on file in the office.



If you would like to keep in touch with our congregation and friends or share some information, please join us on the Encanto Community Church Facebook page. It's pretty doggone fun.

## COVID Update

November 20, 2020

Dear Encanto Community Church Family,

When this pandemic started and we quit meeting in-person in March, we never anticipated that in November, eight months later, Covid-19 would still be a major topic of the day and that the positivity percent would be higher than it was then. Yet, here we are. The virus is running rampant in the United States. I just read the Arizona report for today- 4,417 new cases were reported and 43 Arizonans died. In Arizona, 6,427 people have lost the fight with this terrible disease, leaving families to cope with their loss.

A few weeks ago, the Encanto Church Council started to struggle with what we, as a church, were going to do about Advent and Christmas. Like it is to most of you, Christmas the Council is about Christ and spending Advent and Christmas Eve with church family in church-and of course spending time with our biological family and friends. We spent time trying to brainstorm ideas to make in-person worship happen by Advent. Ways that we could meet in-person as safely as possible. We also decided to get your feedback on in-person worship.

Thank you so much for the feedback!

**After reviewing your feedback, looking at the current coronavirus data, and further discussion, the Council has decided to continue with on-line worship services only.**

We know that this makes for a very different Advent and Christmas season, but we also know that we love you and want to have you in our lives for a very long time. In-person worship, at this time, would put us all at a much higher risk of exposure to the virus, and it is not a risk that we are willing to take. Your safety continues to be our top priority.

We know that we are all suffering from isolationism. We are anxious to return to "normal" life. But, for now, we can't. Please continue to practice social distancing, wearing a mask while in public, and keep your gatherings outdoors and small. The more that we practice these precautions, the sooner we will get to see each other and worship together in person. Also, remember that the vaccine trials seem to be going well and that a vaccine should be available to all of us by Spring.

We love you and miss seeing you!  
Jill Mahoney, Moderator

# Pastoral Ponderings

What a year we have lived through and are continuing to live with daily. We became aware of the Coronavirus. The cries of those seeing injustice in our society and in our migrant detention centers rose loudly on our streets. The campaigning voices of candidates and their surrogates occupied our various forms of media. All of these experiences became each of our experiences and we often felt helpless and powerless to change what confronts us daily regardless of our personal positions.

We have lived through the elections and for many hope has returned and a belief that the issues of a stressful 2020 will be addressed soon. Yet, we know that everything needing attention cannot be solved overnight. More importantly, policy and laws cannot bridge the divide that exists in our society. Almost half of the citizens in our nation feel as if their vision has been crushed or stolen by the other half of the citizens of our nation. We do need a bridge but the only successful bridge will be one built in the human heart. A heart that reaches out in compassion and love.

Advent is a time of watching and waiting. We watch and wait for the love and compassion of the Christ Child Spirit to be born in us again as we prepare for 2021. We watch and wait intentionally for the fulfillment of God's Beloved Community. Yet, watching and waiting is not a passive activity. We are called as the children of God to be active in preparing our heart to receive the Christ Spirit and live in a manner that creates the Beloved Community.

We can work with God today and in this environment. We do not have to forsake our own beliefs and opinions to create civility and harmony. But, less be honest we can listen more and talk less. We can admit that words that turn into loud words will not change anything. We can show those who are angry that they are safe in our presence ... safe from physical harm, insult, or hate. We know how to do this since it is who we are as Jesus's followers.

There is no guarantee that we will be accepted or even appreciated. Yet, our current environment with its divisions reminds me that I need to remember the lessons of the story of the "Good Samaritan" (Luke 10:29-27).

*29 But the legal expert wanted to prove that he was right, so he said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"*

*30 Jesus replied, "A man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho. He encountered thieves, who stripped him naked, beat him up, and left him near death. 31 Now it just so happened that a priest was also going down the same road. When he saw the injured man, he crossed over to the other side of the road and went on his way. 32 Likewise, a Levite came by that spot, saw the injured man, and crossed over to the other side of the road and went on his way. 33 A Samaritan, who was on a journey, came to where the man was. But when he saw him, he was moved with compassion. 34 The Samaritan went to him and bandaged his wounds, tending them with oil and wine. Then he placed the wounded man on his own donkey, took him to an inn, and took care of him. 35 The next day, he took two full days' worth of wages and gave them to the innkeeper. He said, 'Take care of him, and when I return, I will pay you back for any additional costs.' 36 What do you think? Which one of these three was a neighbor to the man who encountered thieves?"*

*37 Then the legal expert said, "The one who demonstrated mercy toward him." Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise."*

While we watch and wait ... let's go and show compassion and mercy.

Blessings to you this Advent Season.  
Rev. Gloria



## Blue Christmas Service

Wednesday, December 16<sup>th</sup> @ 7 PM

Live on Facebook: Encanto Community Church UCC

*"A Service of Reflection, Comfort and Hope"*

If there ever was a stressful and painful year for contemporary people, it is now. The Blue Christmas Service recognizes the pain and grief of these days while offering comfort and peace for our souls.

Please invite all who may find comfort by joining with us.



## Employee Christmas Gifts

In an effort to better express our appreciation for our VERY hard-working staff, Church Council has decided to handle the **employee Christmas gifts** as they have done the past couple of years. Instead of giving everyone a Christmas "bonus" from the General Fund, we will harken back to olden days when we simply took up a congregational collection for our marvelous employees. **Accordingly, as the Christmas season approaches, you may give whatever you feel is appropriate to show your gratitude to our beloved staff: Rev. Gloria Smith, Genevieve Benham, and Tony (& Michelle) Lusania. Gifts may be made in cash or check and should be sent to (or dropped off at) the church office before December 20, 2020, with a note stating who is the intended recipient.** Don't worry. We haven't forgotten Cindy and Jill! We are simply respecting their request not to be included in this year's recipients. Of course, you can always donate any funds that you would have given to them to the church instead. Please feel free to contact Kathy V. if you have any questions. Thank you!!!



## Christmas Eve Candlelight Service of Celebration

Friday, December 25<sup>th</sup> @ 7:30 PM

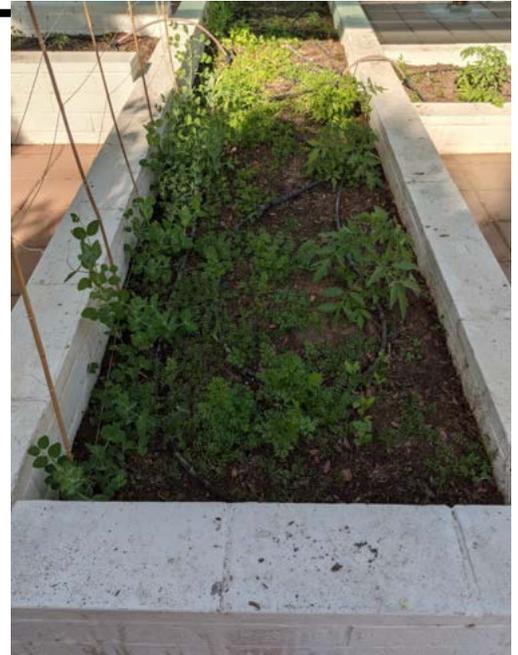
Live on Facebook: Encanto Community Church UCC

Our Christmas Eve service will be different than anything that we have experienced (at least in my lifetime) but it can still be inspiring and joyful. Each of us has someone or a couple of people we feel safe with during this virus. I hope that you will invite them to your home and hook that computer up to your television for viewing. Bring your hot chocolate, song sheets and candles so that you share the joy of this season.

If you do not know how to view your computer through the television ... let us know and we will help.



Our garden is planted and growing. We are growing carrots, peas, and tomatoes (and maybe a volunteer pepper plant or two). Deb, John, and Cindy W. have been doing weeding and general maintenance. Fingers crossed for a bountiful harvest in 2021.



# Who the Hell Are You?

by Rev. Dr. Steve Barrett

## Who the Hell Are You? Jan Russell

For December we feature one of our official church sweethearts, Janice (Jan) Russell. Jan has been a part of the ECC family since she was five months old. Can you imagine the stories she has to tell! The Rev. Waldo Richards and Vern Higginbotham came to visit her parents, and that was the beginning. Her father would later help build the sanctuary, which was completely built by members of the church circa 1950.

Jan is one of those rare birds known as a Phoenician. That's right. She was born and raised in Phoenix. She attended Encanto School, Clarendon, and West High. For twenty years she worked at American Express. Jan is single, and lives with the love of her life, a chug (chihuahua pug) named McGee. McGee is a rescue, and he will celebrate his seventh birthday on New Year's Eve.

We are especially blessed that Jan is an arts and crafty type person, because she eagerly shares her abilities with all of us. She likes to recycle birthday cards. However, her number one passion is cooking. For fifteen years she catered a monthly meal for the Encanto Men's Group. If you have been around ECC for a while, you have been treated to some mouth-watering food a la Jan! Some of the meals she loves to cook are barbeque spare ribs, potato salad, chicken curry, pot roast and lasagna (to name a few)!

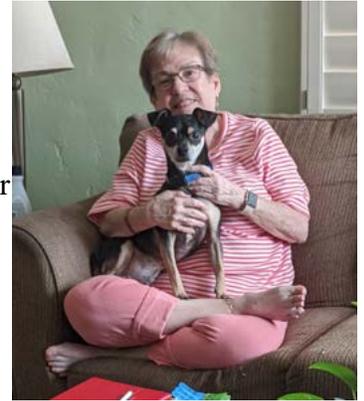


Jan loves the color red. She doesn't really have a favorite food, because she loves it all. Her favored inexpensive restaurant is Fifth Avenue Café. For a more upscale dining experience, Jan likes Seasons 52, which features a rotating menu of seasonal American dishes alongside international wines.

Jan's number one sports team is the Phoenix Mercury. Her favorite movie is an American classic, "Now, Voyager", starring Bette Davis and Paul Henreid, who fall in love during a romantic cruise. As you might guess, Jan loves to watch cooking competitions, as well as NCIS. Her go to music is classic country all the way. Patsy Cline is her best-liked singer. And there are two products Jan couldn't live without, her television and her iPad.

You might not know that Jan once worked as a hairdresser, or that she was a go-go dancer in her youth. For a year and a half or so, at the ages of 18-19, she danced in various valley clubs. Maybe she will teach the choir some of her moves when we are back together again!

Like many of us during this time of pandemic, Jan appreciates human contact other than sales calls or folks asking for money. If you want to brighten Jan's day, give her an old-fashioned phone call. You will have a good time! Jan, we thank you for many years of brightening our days and filling our tummies. And we hope to see you soon!



## Council Meeting: October 28, 2020 via Zoom

Attendees: Lloyd Lo, Darwin Fisk, Kathy Stock, Kathy Van Etten, Steve Holloway, Jill Mahoney, John Hasenstab, Rev Gloria Smith

Prayer lead by Jill Mahoney at 7:03pm

-For Constitution clean up in January- There is a question brought up on length of time of people need to stay on committees and most were -3 years with the exception of hospitality . Moderator will address nominations committee to possibly get new blood in some the committees. Council approval may needed to extend tenure for committees

-COVID 19- discussion on current events happening and all agree currently COVID 19 numbers are high. Council voted and passed that we are staying closed at the moment. Should there be any concerns to contact council members. Discussion on possible options for reopening ie service outside, reservations, taping areas for social distancing, etc. When we go live we will still stream on FB. Tech work as far putting things up and taking down. Discussed possible outdoor locations at the church to accommodate people and service Council has agreed that we will survey congregation and get their feedback on outdoor services. If there are enough people, we will figure out logistics for outdoor service. Advent would be a good time to start this outdoor service with the understanding that we will always be streaming on FB

-Loyalty Sunday will go electronic and stewardship will not have a letter this year. they will just send out the cards.

Meeting adjourned 7:46pm

## Council Meeting: November 11, 2020 via Zoom

Attendees: Kathy Van Etten, Kathy Stock, Jill Mahoney, Rev Gloria Smith, Steve Holloway, Melanie Herrmann, Darwin Fisk, Lloyd Lo & John Hasenstab

Called to order 7:06pm, prayer lead by Jill Mahoney

Deacons: No meeting yet this month, next meeting is Sunday (11/15/2020). At our last meeting we discussed budget, pulpit supply, critiqued pet blessing, worked on setting up all Saints Sunday and contacted people who lost people this year and asked them to give a speech. We will critique all saints service this Sunday. Talked about Advent candle and some decorating for the holiday. Moderator talked about experience handing out snacks and water to people who were waiting in line to vote on election day. ICM had an online event on 10/27/2020; ICM's new name is "Nourish Phoenix." Nourish Phoenix is more than just a food pantry, they are providing other new support services such as assistance to get AHCCCS, Food Stamps, etc. At present, Nourish Phoenix is in need of Thanksgiving Dinner food sides for their food boxes. The date the donations need to be at the church will be verified; if it's the 16<sup>th</sup> or 18<sup>th</sup> of November.

Trustees: Cox Cable in process to be installed. Dealing with issues with fire extinguishers. Lyle's Plaque has been put up and currently doing touch up painting in the Fellowship Hall.

Treasurers Report: withdrawal from endowment fund in the amount of \$8000.00 for payroll, benevolence etc... We hope this pull will hold us until the end of the year. Basically, we pulled the interest we received this year from endowment. We did not have a good first two Sundays of the month. Hoping December will be a good month. Parsonage rent has arrived. Monthly expenses are better.

<b>Treasurer's Report</b>					
<b>10/01/2020-10/31/2020</b>					
	<b>BEGINNING BALANCE</b>	<b>RECEI VED</b>	<b>DISB/ LOSS</b>	<b>ENDING BALANCE</b>	<b>GAIN/ LOSS</b>
<b>TOTAL SPECIAL FUNDS</b>	6,899.88	0.05	0	6,899.93	0.05
<b>GENERAL FUNDS</b>	-5,369.12	9,393.00	10,841.62	-6,817.74	-1,448.62
<b>UCF (ENDOW) 11/09/2020</b>	96,227.00	713.81	0.00	98,940.81	713.81

Financial Secretary: The money is in the bank

RE: We are still meeting every Sunday on Zoom. Will have something special on Gratitude Sunday. No Christmas play this year but something perhaps for New Years. Working on doggie calendars.

Outreach: Discussed November drop off; the bread loaves to be delivered to parishioners. On Thanksgiving Sunday, we can Zoom and discuss what we are thankful for. Working on plans for Christmas. Next meeting will be this Sunday (11/15/2020) at 3:00pm.

Memorial Report: Emailed last week. Council has reviewed it and have no questions.

Technology: Resolved humming situation on Gloria's microphone, as long as the lights are turned off. Planning to get lights to alleviate the dark areas in the church due to the lack of lighting. In the long run will look at what we can do for permanent lighting so assure that the video is accommodated. Microphone dropping sound is being worked on and appears to be from body pack to headset. DVD project, we could not get movie files for pet blessing to work on current DVD creator. We will get a better software to do this. Discussed possible products to be used.

Gratitude Sunday: Waiting on response from members and will make a list asking them to speak. Depending on who responds, we will go forward from there. Deacons will discuss on their meeting on Sunday (11/15/2020)

Pastors Report: Loyalty Sunday is this Sunday (11/15/2020) followed by Gratitude Sunday and then Advent. The theme for advent is "Enriching Christmas thru the eyes of Judaism". Blue Christmas will be recorded and focused on the concept of loss in 2020 i.e. lives, jobs, etc... Council dinner will be when it is safe for us to come back and meet. Christmas Eve is still being worked on; depending on what we do as a church. Will address in newsletter the healing of broken relationships in 2020.

continued on the next page

## Council Meeting: November 11, 2020 via Zoom-cont.

Moderator: Attending webinars at the Lake Institute of Faith and Giving online and learning new things on how to approach stewardship in a church such as who to put on stewardship, 55% of churches know who gives how much. When you write a stewardship letters, you base the letter on how a member gives. There are 3 types: impulsive givers, regular givers & project givers. This will aid to address stewardship letter to the type of giver. We need to start thinking in the abundance arena by saying Thank You to the members. This is food for thought for Council and Nomination Committee. Looking to next year at council meetings that we educate ourselves and create a path toward this. Nomination Committee guidance from Council and how many people are needed to fill in the slate for stewardship. Could we do a video vs a letter to show people where their donation dollars go towards? How many is it going to take and what will they need to focus on. Possibly 3 members for stewardship at this point.

Old Business: Our Insurance has put forward a need to have a plan for resuming to have anyone in the building that we need to have cleaning process and supplies. The list is following per CDC guidelines. The insurance also states to have point person to ensure the plan is followed. The church and its leadership could be held liable if someone gets sick. Need to watch videos from insurance with regards to processes. We need to have a cleaning plan to be followed in Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall. Clean thoroughly before and after facilities are used.

Pet Spay and Neuter Clinic on Dec 18<sup>th</sup>; they will use the bathroom for staff only. All services will be done outside in buses. Protocol will be put together and council will review protocols and approve prior to the date.

Nomination Committee will be meeting on 12/06/2020.

Chimes are not working; moderator was following up on request to get the church chimes fixed. Discussed available choices of programs/plans & prices for the bell tower chimes. Information will be forwarded to Trustees to review.

Cox has started job. The install is in progress

Constitution- getting things ready for nomination committee as well as the term periods for tenures for positions in various committees. We have agreed to change to a 3 year term except for hospitality. Pastoral committee will have a 3 year term except for moderator and deacon representative, depending on their tenure on the committee.

Mission statement in process and the timing is not right. We will pursue when we get back to normal and return to church.

Annual Meeting Reports are due by 12/30/2020 with the exception of the Treasurer or Memorial Reports. The annual meeting will be held on 01/10/2021.

New Business: Hanging of the greens, please contact Kathy Van Etten. The plan is to schedule with individual family groups to work in pods.

Need to order new UCC Calendars. Please contact Cindy if you would like one.

COVID19: Survey results - council will review and meet again next Wednesday to make a decision. Moderator will compile the responses and email out to Council members. Discussed reaching out to other members of the church community

Will discuss logistics of Annual Meeting in December meeting.

Meeting adjourned 9:35pm

## Council Meeting: November 11, 2020 via Zoom

Attendees: Kathy Van Etten, Kathy Stock, Jill Mahoney, Melanie Herrmann, Rev Gloria Smith, Steve Holloway, John, Darwin & Lloyd Lo

Coronavirus Meeting: Council has agreed that the church will remain closed until end of the year. We need to make choices and decisions for the holiday season ie Blue Christmas and Christmas Eve and is currently being worked on.

Moderator will communicate to congregation regarding Council decisions.

This year, we not be doing Santa wrapped gifts for the children. In lieu of buying gifts we may decide to donate to a charity, this is to be determined at a later date.

Meeting adjourned 7:14pm

## Congratulations Mitchell Nasser



Congratulations to Mitchell on receiving his Eagle Scout designation! As most of you know, ECC is the beneficiary of Mitchell's Eagle Scout project; a pergola over our vegetable garden. His hard work has been a truly wonderful addition to our garden, both in function and appearance.

We are so proud of you, Mitch, good job!

**Encanto Community Church**  
United Church of Christ  
2710 North 7th Avenue  
Phoenix, AZ 85007



**Rev. Dr. Gloria Smith**, Minister  
**Jill Mahoney**, Moderator  
**Jill Mahoney**, Choir Director  
**Genevieve Benham**, Organist  
**Tony Lusania**, Caretaker

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