

Encanto Community Church

A United Church of Christ Congregation
2710 N. 7th Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85007-1124
602.266.4602

The Pilgrim

March Events

- March 1-3 Yard Sale Prep (**March 3rd-Noon-Eve**)
- March 4 **Yard Sale! 7 AM-3 PM**
- March 5 Deacon's Meeting
Spanish/English 11:30 AM
- March 7 Hand Bells 5 PM
Choir 7 PM
- March 8 Trustees 6:15 PM
Council 7 PM
- March 12 Outreach Meeting
Confirmation/Adult Ed. 11:30 AM
Spanish/English 11:30 AM
- March 14 Hand Bells 5 PM
Choir 7 PM
- March 15 Late Last Supper 6:30 PM
- March 17 St. Patrick's Day
- March 19 One Great Hour Of Sharing
Confirmation/Adult Ed. 11:30 AM
Spanish/English 11:30 AM
- March 21 **NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**
Hand Bells 5 PM
Choir 7 PM
- March 24 Cinema Under the Stars 7 PM
- March 26 Confirmation/Adult Ed. 11:30 AM
Spanish/English 11:30 AM
- March 28 Hand Bells 5 PM
Choir 7 PM
- March 31 Cinema Under the Stars 8 PM

Our conversational English and Spanish classes are now offered on Sundays after church. If you are a non-English speaker who wants to learn basic conversational English, or if you are a non-Spanish speaker who wants to learn a bit of conversational Spanish, look for the study group that will be meeting during or after Fellowship Hour on Sundays after church.

March 2023

**WE ARE AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING
CONGREGATION**



Please Remember in Your Prayers:

Alexis and Family, Diane Boudle, Bill Edens, Jane Gempeler, Ron Jasper, Debbye Jones and Rev. Gloria Smith, Mildred Juncker, the Knupp Family, Carol Krietenstein, Linda, Marilyn and Family, Rich Maxwell, Carl Madsen, George Penny, Patricia Probst, Nancy Studebaker, Shanti Sunderajan, Gavin V., Leonard Ward, Bill Willers, Encanto Community Church, Our Community, and Our World. May God's grace and healing touch be with you all.

Late Last Supper

Our March culinary adventure for the **Encanto Church Late Last Supper Club** will take place at **6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 15, 2023, when we will join together for dinner at The Rainforest Café located in the Arizona Mills Mall at 5000 South Arizona Mills Circle, Tempe, Arizona 85282.** Yes, the Rainforest Café still exists in Tempe! If you have never been to a Rainforest Café, you are in for an amusing evening. Think animatronic animals in a decorative jungle style restaurant. There is even a talking tree who offers earth-friendly messages. The menu is quite varied (similar to The Cheesecake Factory, but not as large), and the prices are a bit above midline. Join us and enjoy an unusual night out! Please let Kathy V. know if you'll be attending, so she can make the necessary arrangements. Hope to see you there! Thanks!



A WILD PLACE TO SHOP AND EAT®

NEWS AND INFORMATION

Treasurer's Report (General Fund for January 2023)

Beginning Balance: \$-6,592.83

Received: \$18,833.62

Disbursed: \$14,989.80

Ending Balance: \$-2,749.01

For a gain of: \$3,843.82

Total Offering Receipts for January 2023

1/1	1/8	1/15	1/22	1/29
1,699.34	2,305	1,599.28	4,512	1,518

There was a withdrawal from the Endowment account (\$68,350.15) during January 2023.

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



In March, Youth Tutoring Night will be held at the request of any student (young or old). If you are interested, please let Kathy Van Etten or Steve Holloway know, and we'll schedule an evening to meet at the church at 6:30 p.m. and work for a couple of hours. Qualified adults from our parish are available to offer assistance in any subject. Students should bring their textbooks or computer and homework assignments to the event. Students and teachers of all ages are welcome.



Deacon on duty for

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

Jamie Vice

602-277-1733

Birthdays To Remember

March

Cindy Walley	6th
Lloyd Lo	25th
Darwin Fisk	31st

Once again, it's tax time. Accordingly, if anyone needs a receipt for items you donated to the 2022 Encanto Church yard sales, please let Kathy Van Etten know, and she will provide you with one. Thank you.



Meet the newest member of ECC! This grey fox likes to be on the roof of Fellowship Hall in the evenings.



Tony and Michelle have named this fella Sancho. Welcome to ECC!

Confirmation Classes and Adult Education Classes Schedule

February 26th & March 12th	<p>Development of Christianity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Judaism • The Beginnings • Ancient • Enlightenment • Modern
March 19th	<p>Growth of Protestant Christianity</p> <p>The Reformation</p>
March 26th	<p>Birth and Growth of the United Church of Christ</p>
April 2nd	<p>Christian Beliefs – Historical and Current</p> <p>Part 1 of 3</p>
April 16th	<p>Christian Beliefs – Historical and Current</p> <p>Part 2 of 3</p>
April 23rd	<p>Christian Beliefs – Historical and Current</p> <p>Part 3 of 3</p>
May 7th	<p>What is the Church and Christian Life</p>

Yard Sale

The 2023 Spring Yard Sale will be held on **Saturday, March 4, 2023, from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.**, with proceeds being split between the Church General Fund and Youth Activities. Of course, it will feature all kinds of items including furniture, artwork, clothing, holiday items, collectibles, and clever gift ideas!

As usual, we will meet on the preceding **Friday, March 3, 2023, starting at noon**, to set-up, stage, price, and eat pizza. Then, on Saturday, March 4, 2023, we'll meet at 6:00 a.m. to set-up and get things ready for a 7 a.m. opening. Of course, we will also need help in the weeks leading up to the sale, pricing, sorting, and cleaning, not to mention picking-up donations and bringing them to church. Please lend a hand, if you can!

If you're not able to work the sale, at least come by, do some shopping, and make a donation. It's for a good cause! You will find the array fascinating, ranging from the ridiculous to the sublime, and remember that all proceeds benefit our church! Hope to see you there!

CINEMA UNDER THE STARS

We are thrilled to offer **four weeks of Cinema under the Stars this spring – two weeks in March and two weeks in April!** So, please join us on the designated Fridays in March and April at the designated times, when will screen different family-friendly movies outdoors on our lovely front lawn. We'll provide the snacks and drinks, and you bring your lawn chair or blanket. Admission is free, and as always, **ALL** are welcome!

The line-up for the movies is:

Puss in Boots: The Last Wish on Friday, March 24, at 7 p.m.

Godspell on Friday, March 31, at 8 p.m.

Wakanda Forever on Friday, April 14, at 8 p.m.

Knives Out on Friday, April 21, at 8 p.m.



A huge welcome to our newest ECC members! KJ, Lety and Craig, we welcome you to the Encanto family!



Pastoral Ponderings

On Wednesday, February 22nd, we entered the season of Lent. In the history of the church, Lent was often a dark and sad season where sacrifice was the focus of heightening our relationship with God. In order to improve our relationship with God, the Church administered strict dietary rules and congregants were required to sacrifice something in their life: chocolate, entertainment, and numerous other items. It was also a historic belief, that salvation was obtained through abandoning joy and beauty in this earthly life and we should only tolerate this earthly life in order to reach heaven.

Our relationship with God is serious business but the same life that was avoided is the life and relationships that God created for us on this earth. So, can our focus on deepening our relationship take a new turn and achieve for us even more growth than we could ever expect?

Aging can bring an awareness of many new insights, whether it is bodies that once hurt in places they never hurt before or wisdom which comes from knowledge and experience. Aging also reminds us how fragile life is and that the days of our life are limited as we attend more funerals. We hear of friends, family and even ourselves receive a life threatening diagnosis. The words: "Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return" are a little more meaningful or even frightening every year.

Six years ago, Christine Valters Painter wrote: "Death of any kind is rarely a welcome experience. Even when we witness the mysteries of nature year after year reveal the glories of springtime which emerge from winter's fallow landscape. We resist death, we try to numb ourselves from life's inevitable stripping away of our "secure" frameworks. We spend so much energy and money on staying young. But when we turn to face death wide-eyed and fully present, when we feel the fullness of the grief it brings, we also slowly begin to discover the new life awaiting us."

Lent should recognize the fragility of life but deepening the life we are capable of having in the presence of God. Maybe our focus this Lent should be a time of pausing, opening our eyes and ears and discovering as Jacob did in Genesis; "Surely the LORD is in this place—and I did not know it!". We can then enter the celebration of Easter with new life and knowing that God is in this place and I know it. The journey of Lent will require intentional actions on our part if we want to experience a new or richer life through spiritual growth.

Spiritual growth is usually the result of participating in meaningful activities undertaken on a regular basis. There are numerous spiritual practices that can lead an individual into the presence of God and the beauty of this life within God's presence here on earth. Each of us will need to determine what activities or actions produce the results we are seeking. Yet, we often ask, "What are the various spiritual practices available?"

Some of the traditional spiritual practices known to Christians include fasting, frugality, giving of self or finances, reading of scripture, meditation, prayer and reflection, service, simplicity, and worship. New forms of spiritual practices include affirmations, walking a labyrinth, art. Physical meditation such as yoga or Tai Chi, reading of Lent devotionals, breathe work, spiritually oriented conversations, dancing, centering prayer, mindfulness practices, celebrations of life and relationships (before a death occurs) with friends and family and nature walks. There are many more that could be listed but the primary point is to intentional participate in one or more activities that brings you in touch with your blessings, believes, attitudes, and spirit.

May God guide you on this Lenten journey.

Blessings, Rev. Gloria

Who the Hell Are You?

by Rev. Dr. Steve Barrett

K J Kinder, a Most Welcome New Member!

One of the greatest blessings to any church happens when a person checks us out and decides to remain with us and to become a member of the family. This month we are delighted to introduce one of our newest members, K J Kinder. K J comes to us from Ktizo UCC church, where he was in charge of Heat Relief and the Building Committee.

K J was born in Spokane, Washington, and grew up there, while spending childhood summers in Canada. He works in the field of real estate. And his family consists of a partner and a cat named Emily.

K J's favorite color is blue, and his best loved food is either Mexican or Italian. My Mother's Restaurant is K J's go to place for inexpensive dining. Who doesn't love this down-home mainstay serving American grub from roasted meats to apple pie and pizza? In a little bit higher price range, you might run into K J at another Phoenix institution, Durant's on Central Avenue.

When it comes to sports, K J strongly supports the Diamondbacks. He has too many movies and television selections to mention, but you will most likely find him watching comedy or drama. His listening pleasures include jazz, oldies from the 70's to the 90's, as well as classic country songs.

K J enjoys travel, with a special affinity for both Canada and Mexico. Something most people don't know about him is that he sponsors kids in Guatemala. If he were to win the lottery, he believes that everything he has belongs to God, and that he is only here to take care of it. He is grateful for every blessing!

K J, we are enriched by your becoming a member of ECC. We believe that we will be a better church because of you. And we hope to do everything we can to encourage you on your life's journey. Welcome to the family!



March 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Yard Sale Prep	2 Yard Sale Prep	3 Yard Sale Prep Noon-Evening	4 YARD SALE!! 7 AM-3 PM
5 Deacons Meeting Pet Food Bagging Spanish/English 11:30 AM	6 Happy Birthday Cindy Walley	7	8 Trustees 6:15 PM Council 7 PM	9	10	11
12 Outreach Meeting Spanish/English 11:30 AM Confirmation 11:30 AM	13	14 Hand Bells 5 PM Choir 7 PM	15 Late Last Supper 6:30 PM	16 Nourish Phx 8:15 AM	17 Happy St. Patrick's Day	18
19 O.G.H.S. Confirmation 11:30 AM Spanish/English 11:30 AM	20	21 Hand Bells 5 PM Choir 7 PM Newsletter Deadline	22	23	24 Cinema Under the Stars 7 PM	25 Happy Birthday Lloyd Lo
26 Confirmation 11:30 AM Spanish/English 11:30 AM	27	28 Hand Bells 5 PM Choir 7 PM	29	30	31 Cinema Under the Stars 8 PM Happy Birthday Darwin Fisk	

Council Meeting: February 8, 2023

The ECC Council Meeting on Wednesday, February 8, 2023 was called to order at 7:01 P.M., by Moderator Lisa Herrmann.

Attendees were: John Hasenstab, Steve Holloway, Todd Montague, Kathy Van Etten, Kathy Stock, Melanie Herrmann, Steve Barrett, Pastor Gloria Smith, and Lisa Herrmann.

The Treasurers Report was given by Kathy Van Etten; an Endowment withdrawal was made on January 13, 2023. A donation was received for the Endowment Fund. We are striving to become totally current on the bills, and so far we are making good progress.

ECC Council members were led in prayer by John Hasenstab.

The ECC Council Minutes from the January 11, 2023 Meeting were reviewed by all, Kathy Van Etten motioned that they be accepted, it was seconded by Melanie Herrmann and accepted by all in attendance for the records.

The Trustees Report was given by Chairman Steve Holloway; the cement flooring for the shed has been postponed, we are sourcing a small batch cement vendor for the pouring. A Thank You to Tony for assisting the Poverty Pets Lady in doing their needed property repairs. Tony will also be doing more berming to the ECC Buildings walls where needed. The filing cabinets in the office areas are in need of maintenance; reorganizing, archiving, some purged, and even the cabinets moved to other ECC locations; a time for this will be scheduled in the upcoming months. The ECC animal family now welcomes a new member, a fox has been watching over our campus from his rooftop perch.

The Deacons Report was presented by John Hasenstab; the Deacons will meet on Sunday, February 12, 2023 to plan the upcoming events in March, and this spring.

Stewardship Report was presented by Kathy Stock, the committee has not met this year, but we have received pledges and we thank all of you for your pledged support.

The Financial Secretary Report was given by John Hasenstab, all monies are in the bank.

The Religious Education Report was presented by Kathy Van Etten; we are very excited to welcome several new youngsters. We are now crafting for upcoming Holidays and events. We are continuing work on the Spring Yard Sale coming up on March 4, 2023.

The Memorial Fund Report was given by Kathy Stock, all attendees were given printed copies. A Cochairman will be needed for the Memorial Fund so this will be discussed in future meetings or perhaps the Annual Meeting.

The Outreach Report was presented by Melanie Herrmann; the Blessing Bags Project was a big success, a Thank You to all who helped with the prepping, and the distribution to those unhoused. The ECC garden produce was harvested on Sunday, February 5, 2023 after services and meetings. We are still working on the welcome packets and the One Great Hour of Sharing is coming up in March. The Hospitality Committee Report was given by Todd Montague; we now have 13 members on hospitality, and we have Fellowship Hour cookie sign ups thru April.

The Pastor's Report was presented by Pastor Gloria Smith; the Summer Services location is being discussed. The Confirmation Classes will begin Sunday, February 12, 2023. On April 30, 2023 through May 6, 2023 Pastor Gloria will be on vacation. The ECC Deacons will work on the services coverage for those dates. A Pet Memorial Service will be held for Sasha and her siblings on Wednesday, February 15, 2023. The UCC Conference is upcoming in El Paso, Texas.

The Moderator's Report was given by Lisa Herrmann; nothing has been bought to the Moderator's attention this month. The update forms for the ECC 2023 Directory will be available soon to be handed out and also will be on the narthex table for all to fill out and return. Calendars were reviewed and updates were made for March, April, May and June.

Old Business: None

New Business: Summer worship location will be discussed further and decision made after Maundy Services.

The ECC Council Meeting for February 8, 2023 was adjourned by Moderator Lisa Herrmann at 9:30 P.M.

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



Rev. Dr. Gloria Smith, Minister
Lisa Herrmann, Moderator
Jill Mahoney, Choir Director
Genevieve Benham, Organist
Tony Lusania, Caretaker
Michelle Lusania, Office Administrative Assistant

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