

Encanto Community Church

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

The Pilgrim

April Events

April 1	April Fool's Day
April 2	Palm Sunday Confirmation/Adult Ed. 11:30 AM Spanish/English 11:30 AM
April 4	Hand Bells 5 PM Choir 7 PM
April 6	Maundy Thursday Service 7 PM Soup Supper 6 PM
April 7	Good Friday
April 9	Happy Easter! Easter Egg Hunt After Church
April 11	Hand Bells 5 PM Choir 7 PM
April 12	Trustees 6:15 PM Council 7 PM
April 14	Cinema Under the Stars 8 PM "Wakanda Forever"
April 15	Yard Sale Sorting 10 AM
April 16	Church Picnic Spanish/English 11:30 AM
April 18	Hand Bells 5 PM Choir 7 PM
April 19	Late Last Supper 6:30 PM
April 20	Nourish Phoenix 8:15 AM
April 21	Mobile Onsite Mammography (M.O.M) Cinema Under the Stars 8 PM "Knives Out"
April 23	Confirmation/Adult Ed. 11:30 AM Spanish/English 11:30 AM
April 25	NEWSLETTER DEADLINE! Hand Bells 5 PM Choir 7 PM
April 27-29	Southwest Conference Annual Meeting

April 2023



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, the Rigali Family, Nancy Studebaker, Shanti Sunderajan, Gavin V., Jay Gonzalez, 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 April culinary adventure for the **Encanto Church Late Last Supper Club** will take place at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 19, 2023, when we will join together for dinner at the **George and Dragon English Pub** located at **4240 North Central Avenue, Phoenix, Arizona 85012** – that's on the west side of Central, a couple blocks north of Indian School Road. If you have never been to George and Dragon, you are in for a trip "across the pond" to your favorite pub in Merry Olde England. The George and Dragon has been in operation for 28 years, and it is a favorite local venue for watching both European and American football. True to their motto, the restaurant promises "Delicious Food. Proper Pints. Good Times." The menu includes typical English pub fare such as Fish & Chips, Bangers & Mash, Shepherd's Pie, and Cornish Pasties as well as burgers, salads, and numerous appetizers – not to mention a plethora of fascinating ales and drinks! Come join us for a fun 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!



**WE ARE AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING
CONGREGATION.
EVERYONE IS WELCOME
HERE!**

NEWS AND INFORMATION

Treasurer's Report (General Fund for February 2023)

Beginning Balance: \$-2,749.01

Received: \$12,706.52

Disbursed: \$15,169.05

Ending Balance: \$-5,211.54

For a loss of: \$2,462.53

Total Offering Receipts for February 2023

2/5	2/12	2/19	2/26
2,509.82	3,603.00	1,730.00	1,565.31

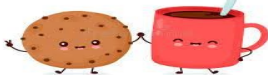
There was no withdrawal from the Endowment account (\$66,630.21) during February 2023.

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



Fellowship Hour

Thank you to Tom N., Kathy S., Jan R., and Santiago Q. for providing treats for March! Thank you to Annette H. and Janet M. for hosting! If you would like to provide cookies or treats, please sign up on the Cookie Calendar posted on the Fellowship Hall bulletin board. Thanks!



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.

Deacon on duty for

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

Paul Petrasek

1-317-430-6677

Birthdays To Remember

April

Del Krietenstein	15th
Tony Lusania	16th
Paul Petrasek	16th
Zoe Robinson	17th
Melanie Herrmann	27th



Soup Supper & Maundy Thursday Service

6:00 PM Supper

7:00 PM Service



On **Thursday, April 6th**, we will gather to share a Soup Supper and Maundy Thursday Worship Service commemorating the gift of Holy Communion and the final hours of Jesus life.

Soup Supper – Please contribute a crock pot of soup or bread, appetizers or desserts for the dinner (as you are able). We will gather at 6:00 pm (or as soon as you can arrive for dinner) in Fellowship Hall.

Maundy Thursday Service – At 7:00 pm we will move to the sanctuary for the worship service.

Everyone is welcome to share in our fellowship meal and in Christ's Table during the service.

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>

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 remaining movies is: **Godspell on Friday, March 31, at 8 p.m.**; **Wakanda Forever on Friday, April 14, at 8 p.m.**; and **Knives Out on Friday, April 21, at 8 p.m.** Come join us for a delightful evening of entertainment and great snacks!

In April, 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.

Yard Sale

Thanks to everyone who came out to help during the recent yard sale! What an amazing turnout! All of your donations of time, energy, money, and goods were greatly appreciated! This round, we made \$3,068.85 during the sale, and we donated a significant amount to Goodwill for which we received \$310.40! That gives us a grand total of **\$3,379.25!** Great job, Encanto! As always, the funds will be used for various church and youth activities! Don't forget, it's not too early to donate items for the next sale. In an effort to reduce the amount of work required the week before the next yard sale, some of us are getting together one Saturday per month to sort, price, and clean yard sale donations that have already been received. This month, the **Yard Sale Sorting Squad will be working in the basement of Fellowship Hall on Saturday, April 15, 2022, from 10 a.m. until 12 p.m.** Please join us as "many hands make light work." Also, please remember to enter Fellowship Hall via the rear kitchen door that morning, so you don't disturb the support group that will be meeting in the main area of the Hall. Thank you.

Although we will not be having our usual "pre-church breakfast" on Easter, we will still be having our traditional **Easter Egg Hunt after church during Fellowship Hour on Sunday, April 9, 2023.** All children and adults are welcome to participate either by hunting or hiding plastic candy-filled eggs. If you want to help hide eggs, please be in Fellowship Hall by 9:30 a.m. on Easter morning; and if you want to hunt eggs, please gather on the front porch of Fellowship Hall immediately following the church service. Those who wish to **donate non-chocolate candy to the cause should bring their donations to church by Sunday, April 2, 2023,** as we will be filling the eggs prior to Easter.



Pastoral Ponderings

Greetings, as we enjoy the season of spring!

We are close to Holy Week and journeying through the final days of Jesus' life and then his resurrection. While we have looked closely at the Christian life and attitudes we are to hunger and strive for while on earth, Lent and Easter also ask us to ask ourselves; 'Who do we say, Jesus is?'

Historically, the universal Church has required specific beliefs Christians were expected to believe and profess. One of the most significant was (and is in some denominations) the Nicene Creed. The Nicene Creed was adopted by the Ancient Church Fathers in 325 CE and later amended during a Council in 325 CE. Mainline Denominations currently use a modified version of the Nicene Creed that was prepared by the English Language Liturgical Consultation. In regard to Jesus it says:

Nicene Creed

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

The United Church of Christ holds the following belief concerning creeds;

"The United Church of Christ embraces a theological heritage that affirms the Bible as the authoritative witness to the Word of God, the creeds of the ecumenical councils, and the confessions of the Reformation. The UCC has roots in the "covenantal" tradition—meaning there is no centralized authority or hierarchy that can impose any doctrine or form of worship on its members. Christ alone is Head of the church. We seek a balance between freedom of conscience and accountability to the apostolic faith. The UCC therefore receives the historic creeds and confessions of our ancestors as testimonies, but not tests of the faith (<https://www.ucc.org/who-we-are/about/general-synod/general-synod-resolutions-regarding-environmental-justice/beliefs/>)"

The United Church of Christ also has a Statement of Faith but it does not hold a position of authority but guidance and a document of reflection.

(Continued on the next page)

Pastoral Ponderings

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST STATEMENT OF FAITH—ADAPTED BY ROBERT V. MOSS

We believe in God, the Eternal Spirit, who is made known to us in Jesus our brother, and to whose deeds we testify:

God calls the worlds into being, creates humankind in the divine image, and sets before us the ways of life and death.

God seeks in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.

God judges all humanity and all nations by that will of righteousness declared through prophets and apostles.

In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Lord, God has come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling the whole creation to its Creator.

God bestows upon us the Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.

God calls us into the church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be servants in the service of the whole human family, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table, to join him in his passion and victory.

God promises to all who trust in the gospel forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, the presence of the Holy Spirit in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in that kingdom which has no end.

Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto God.

The United Church of Christ does not give us dogmas to accept without understanding or reflection. Each person must do the work to establish a relationship with God and Jesus according to individual beliefs.

I hope you will take the time to reflect on the Nicene Creed, Statement of Faith, Scriptures, and your own spiritual inspiration to answer the question: 'Who do you say Jesus is?'

Blessings,
Rev. Gloria



Who the Hell Are You?

by Rev. Dr. Steve Barrett

Lety Torres, You've Captured Our Hearts!

Shortly after West Congregational Church UCC closed its doors, a most extraordinary woman began attending our church. She brought with her a group of family and friends who have enriched our lives in more ways than we can count. I am talking about the one and only Lety Torres. We rejoice that Lety recently decided to join Encanto ECC!

Lety was drawn to ECC by the shared life we have as a church family. She loves our after worship fellowship, along with the many other opportunities we have to come together. She enjoys our style of worship and music. If the church needs something to be done, Lety, along with her family, will be there. When we need to decorate for any holiday, you can count on Lety. When we have our semi-annual yard sale, Lety will be there throughout the process. She is active in our Spanish-English group. And whenever you see her, you are likely to encounter the famous Lety smile!

Lety was born and raised in Cuautla, Morelos, Mexico. Cuautla is about 65 miles south of Mexico City, and has a population of approximately 157,000 residents. The city's name means "where the eagles roam." It is noted for its rich history, and the Museo Historico de Cuautla has displays on revolutionary leaders Emiliano Zapata and Jose Maria Morelos y Pavon.

Since the age of seven, Lety has been a hard worker, doing what is needed to provide for her family of origin, and now for her children. She has cleaned houses, washed clothes, run errands and served as a domestic assistant. Lety loves to study, to interact with people, to enjoy the outdoors, and most of all to spend time with her family.

Lety's favorite color is red, and her favorite food is pozole, which is a traditional soup or stew from Mexican cuisine. It is made from hominy with meat, usually pork or chicken, and garnished with shredded lettuce or cabbage, chili peppers, onion, garlic, radishes, avocado, salsa or limes. (I am getting so hungry just thinking about it.) When she has the chance to dine out, a Chinese restaurant is likely to be her venue of choice.

While it is hard to imagine Lety relaxing, when she does get the chance to take it easy, she enjoys watching Spanish telenovelas on television. We commonly describe these shows as Spanish soap operas. They are faster paced than the soap operas of the English speaking world. It is sometimes claimed that telenovelas are Mexico's leading export product.

Lety has many favorite actors, but one actress in particular. Silvia Pinal Hidalgo is one of Mexico's leading female stars, and one of the last surviving stars from the Golden Age of Mexican cinema. She is also a part of the Golden age of Hollywood starring in the Burt Reynolds film *Shark!* (1969). At the top of Lety's music play list are kumbia and norteña numbers, with Jenni Rivera being her favorite singer. Lety likes traveling to Las Vegas, but if she were able to time travel she would go to Italy in the 1980's and 90's, which she describes as a beautiful era, to enjoy the country's elegance and grand museums. Her most beloved holiday is Christmas. If she were to come back in the next life as an animal, she would choose to be a big, scary dog! (Her current household has five canine members!)

In so many ways, Lety, you have captured our hearts. We look forward to getting to know you better in the coming years. And we are deeply honored by your choice of ECC to be your family of faith.



Council Meeting: March 8, 2023

The ECC Council March 8, 2023 Meeting was called to order by Moderator Lisa Herrmann at 7:07 P.M. Attendees: John Hasenstab, Todd Montague, Kathy Van Etten, Steve Barrett, Lisa Herrmann, Melanie Herrmann, Kathy Stock, Steve Holloway and via zoom Pastor Gloria Smith. Prayer was led by Kathy Van Etten. The Meeting Minutes from the February 8, 2023 Council Meeting were reviewed, a motion was given by Katy Stock and all council members voted to accept as were written into the records.

The Treasurers Report: Given by Kathy Van Etten, the Endowment Fund is downward in February. ECC received our last payment from the Amazon Smile Program as it is being discontinued.

The Trustees Report: Given by Steve Holloway, the work on the Church's new sign continues. A big ECC Thank You to our benefactors Patty Roberts and Tom Nasser for the shed's cement flooring which is now scheduled to be completed during the week of the March 12th . The irrigation box on the corner of 7 th Ave. and West Thomas Road was recently damaged causing the stoppage of irrigation to the ECC Campus grounds, but the City of Phoenix is repairing and irrigation will resume upon completion of the repairs.

The Deacons Report: Given by John Hasenstab, the Deacons Fund will be sending \$500.00 to the UCC Church in Northern California to aid in the disaster relief efforts caused by the wildfires, and flooding in the area. The Deacons meeting for March was hosted by Paul Petrasek with a delicious gourmet brunch. There will be a Father's Day Pancake Breakfast this year, and the ECC Picnic will be in April. The Deacons are working to stay in touch regularly with our sick and shut in members and ECC friends.

The Stewardship Report: Given by John Hasenstab; Stewardship is working on various projects to improve interest in the pledges and ECC Endowment sources.

The Financial Secretary Report: Given by John Hasenstab, the monies are in the bank.

Religious Education Report: Given by Kathy Van Etten, the UCC Conference is offering scholarships up to approx. \$2,000.00, the Sow the Seed Grant money, Kathy Van Etten will speak with Barbara Peacock to explore the options. There are no more UCC Summer Camps in Arizona but there are camps in California and there are available scholarship grants for youth.

Memorial Fund Report: Given by Kathy Stock, printed detail fund copies were given to all in attendance and arrangements have been made to ensure the signees are updated.

Outreach Report: Given by Melanie Herrmann; The One Great Hour of Sharing presentation will be given on Sunday March 12, 2023, and the Offering will be taken up on Sunday, March 19, 2023. Cinema under the Stars begins on March 24, 2023.

Hospitality Report: Given by Todd Montague when weather permits some Sunday hospitalities will be held outside.

Pastors Report: Given by Pastor Gloria Smith, the ECC Campus lawn needs weed and feed after the irrigation is restored. On Palm Sunday we will have a Cantata by the ECC Choir. There is the possibility of a donation for the work on the mural in the Pet Memorial Garden.

Moderators Report: Given by Moderator Lisa Herrmann, We are continuing work on objectives statements. Calendar reviews and revisions were made for the next several months and upcoming events.

Old Business: None.

New Business: A reminder to all.....**Please turn off all lights and lock the doors if you are the last to leave the Fellowship Hall.**

The March 8, 2023 ECC Council Meeting was adjourned by Moderator Lisa Herrmann

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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