

Encanto Community Church

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

The Pilgrim

August Events

August 6	Adult Bible Study 8:45 AM Spanish/English 11:30 AM Deacons Meeting Outreach Meeting Pet Food Bagging
August 9	Trustees 6:15 PM Council 7 PM
August 13	Adult Bible Study 8:45 AM Christmas in August
August 17	Nourish Phoenix 8:15 AM
August 19	Yard Sale Sorting 10 AM
August 20	Rev. Dr. Gloria Smith's 30 Years Adult Bible Study 8:45 AM Spanish/English 11:30 AM
August 22	Newsletter Deadline
August 23	Late Last Supper 6:30 PM
August 26	CPR Certification 10 AM
August 27	Adult Bible Study 8:45 AM Spanish/English 11:30 AM Pastoral Relations

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.

Youth Tutoring Nights are on hiatus for the summer. Enjoy the vacation!

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

August 2023



Please Remember in Your Prayers:

Diane Boudle, Bill Edens, Jane Gempeler, Ron Jasper, Debbye Jones and Rev. Gloria Smith, Mildred Juncker, Carol Krietenstein, Rich Maxwell, Carl Madsen, George Penny, Jami Pourkeveh, the Probst Family, the Rigali Family, Cindy & Mike Robinson. 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 August culinary adventure for the Encanto Church Late Last Supper Club will take place at **6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, August 23, 2023, when we will join together for dinner at George Yang's Chinese Cuisine located at 6048 North 16th Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85016** – in the old Golden Phoenix building. If you haven't been to George Yang's, I think you will find it to be a delicious alternative to traditional Chinese food. Although their Asian fusion menu includes some of the standard favorites, you will find that they also have Thai, Burmese, and Vietnamese options. As usual, we'll order family style, giving us the opportunity to sample a much wider variety of tasty dishes. Of course, that also means that we'll share equally in the delicacies, and we'll share the bill equally, too. Please let Kathy V. know if you wish to join the party, and she will make the necessary reservations. Thanks!



GEORGE YANG'S
CHINESE CUISINE

NEWS AND INFORMATION

Treasurer's Report (General Fund for May 2023)

Beginning Balance: \$-4,755.12

Received: \$9,624.46

Disbursed: \$12,621.46

Ending Balance: \$-7,752.12

For a loss of: -\$2,997.00

Total Offering Receipts for June 2023

5/7	5/14	5/21	5/28
\$1,572	\$1,599	\$2,432.58	\$462

No withdrawals were taken from the Endowment Acct.

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

On Sunday, August 13, we celebrate the 30 year anniversary of Pastor Gloria's ordination. Reverend Dr. Gloria Smith went into discernment as a college freshman with the United Methodist Church and graduated with a Masters of Arts in Religion. She attended Christian Theological Seminary and received her Masters of Divinity. She returned to discernment with the United Church of Christ a year later and was ordained on August 22, 1993. She served as interim minister for several congregations over the years. She later went back to school for her MBA and Ph.D. in Organization and Management. We at Encanto are so fortunate to benefit from her years of experience, study, and ministry!



Thank you to Santiago for hosting Fellowship Hour last month, and to Susan P., Annette, Kathy S., and the Youth for the treats we enjoyed! If you would like to provide treats one Sunday, please sign up on the Cooking Calendar posted in Fellowship Hall. Thank you!

Deacon on Duty

The Deacons are available to assist the pastor.
The Deacon on Duty for August is:

Jamie Vice

602-277-1733

Birthdays To Remember

August

Lluvia Morales	2nd
Patty Roberts	6th
Michael Cabrera	6th
Elaine Bohlmeier	10th
Jim Mitchell	20th
Steve Holloway	29th

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, August 19, 2023, 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.

Our fall Encanto Church Yard Sale will be held on October 21, 2023. While that is many months away, you are still welcome to donate any gently used items to the sale at any time. Please let Kathy V. or Steve H. know if you need help getting your donations to church. Also, please feel free to peruse and purchase any of the pre-sale furniture that is displayed in the Fellowship Hall.



All week, every week, please remember that we collect a variety of items for recycling including plastic water bottles, aluminum cans, newspaper, catalogues, and scrap metal. Proceeds go to support various church activities. Please see Cindy or Michelle for details about where to leave the recyclables when you bring them to church. Thank you!

TAKING GOD TO DINNER – PART TWO

by

Kathy Van Etten

(Church Treasurer)

As some of you may recall, I wrote the first of these articles in March of 2016, when we had just lost the tenancy of the Great Hope Korean Church who had been sharing our worship space for a couple of years. At that point, we also lost the rental income we were receiving from them (\$1,250 per month) which constituted about 10% of our monthly budget. Fortunately, over the years, we have been able to make up that deficit through various means. However, given our high insurance premiums (\$2,300 per month), I am concerned that we need to maintain our increased monthly income over the summer.

Yes, we have a reasonable endowment that was created from the bequests of many generous parishioners who have long since passed away, but that money is only to be used for true emergencies. If we are forced to use it merely to “make ends meet,” it will be gone very, very quickly. Consequently, I thought this would be a good time to re-run this article and ask for everyone’s help.

To reiterate my 2016 thoughts, here’s my suggestion about how to handle our current financial dilemma: Take God to Dinner!

Yes, I realize you don’t know what I’m talking about, but you will in a minute.

Read on. . .

The reality is that \$1,250 per month is approximately 10% of our monthly budget. This is not an insignificant amount, but it is not an insurmountable one either. Indeed, if you run the numbers, this amount can be made up fairly easily if all of us contribute to the cause. If everyone simply donates a small additional amount every month, the problem will be solved.

How much should I give, you ask? My suggestion is to consider your donation in terms of what it would cost for you to take God to dinner once a week or once a month, depending upon your lifestyle. If you’re “feeling flush,” perhaps you would even spring for God, Jesus, and the Holy Ghost to join you for dinner!

Indeed, considering everything that God has done for each of us through our wonderful church, it’s not too much to ask that we “pick up the dinner tab” for a while in order to get us through the coming lean months.

I would further suggest that you seek guidance from the old Marxian philosophy: “From each according to his ability, to each according to his needs.”

Consequently, if you are only able to take God to McDonald’s once in a while, put an extra \$10 in the offering plate for that week. On the other hand, if you are able to take God, Jesus, and the Holy Ghost to dinner at Durant’s, pitch an extra \$100 in the offering plate for the month – unless, of course, you are ordering drinks, in which case, you had better double that amount.

This may seem like a silly way to look at the matter, but I think you’ll find it quite practical.

At the end of the day, if twelve of us who are able to do so donate an extra \$100 to our beloved church every month for the next few months (perhaps, through September), we’ll get through the summer shortfall with relative ease, and we’ll be ready to embark on an exciting new chapter in the fall.

Just a little food for thought . . .

Thank you for your consideration.

Who the Hell Are You?

by Rev. Dr. Steve Barrett

Sophia (Sophie) is the ancient Greek word variously translated as “clever, skillful, intelligent, and especially wise.” The name has been popular since the fourth century. If you know our Sophie, you know that she is very well named! And we are so grateful that ECC has been able to be a part of Sophie’s life’s journey. Let’s learn a bit about this extraordinary young woman.

Sophie was born and raised here in Phoenix. She came to our church 12 or 13 years ago when she attended Phoenix Christian Academy, which met on our church campus. Through the years she has been an active member in our Religious Education program and our youth group. While she has been away from us due to her college studies, she comes back to us every time she has the chance.

Sophie describes her current profession as Student. Having recently completed her undergraduate degree at Gustavus Adolphus College in Minnesota, she is now heading to Princeton Theological Seminary this fall to pursue a Masters of Theological Studies degree. Sophie is considering a career in teaching and research.

When it comes to pets, Sophie is a proud mom to Sigge, an 8 or 9 year old mutt who loves coming to church, lying around and eating treats. Among Sophie’s many interests are playing the organ and piano, singing, swimming laps and reading. Her favorite color is dark orange, and her favorite food is chocolate or moose tracks ice cream. Just in case you are wondering, moose tracks started out as a magical combination of vanilla ice cream, peanut butter cup and the famous Moose Tracks Fudge. (I’m all in!)

For more reasonably priced dining, just take Sophie to Miracle Mile Deli. For more upscale dining The Capital Grille is her first choice. Sophie is not a big sports follower, but when she does watch she always roots for Arizona teams. Topping her list of most beloved movies are Chitty Chitty Bang Bang, Young Frankenstein and Pink Panther. First place in television viewing is shared by The Andy Griffith Show, Perry Mason and The Goldbergs.

Sophie is a lover of many musical genres, especially classical, indie and folk. Her favorite band is San Cisco, an Australian indie pop band that formed in 2009. The band has won awards for Best Independent Single, Best Breakthrough Independent Artist and Song of the Year in Australia. Sophie’s most favored travel destinations include Bridgman, Michigan, on the shores of Lake Michigan, Sweden, Austria and Ouray, Colorado.

If Sophie could somehow manage to travel back in time, she would like to meet J. S. Bach. In describing her most memorable costume, Sophie mentioned that she was extremely adorable in a bat costume around the age of three. And her go to snack food is anything composed of dark chocolate.

Sophie, please know that whether you are near to us, or far away, you are always close to our hearts. Your ECC family not only loves you, but we are also proud of you. We look forward to seeing the many future successes that we know will come your way!



Pastoral Ponderings

General Synod of the UCC took the opportunity to correct our foundational history as a denomination. Everyone who has been a part of the United Church of Christ for a long time or participated in confirmation classes were taught that the UCC originated from the uniting of four denominational streams. Yet, through the study of our historical papers and a willingness to address the historical facts that were ignored due to systemic racism, another denominational stream has been added to our historical story.

History acknowledged that the UCC was comprised of four denominations: Congregational, Christian, Evangelical and Reformed. The Christian and Congregational had previously united into a denomination as well as the Evangelical and Reformed denominations. Yet, in 1957, the Afro-Christian Convention also united with the UCC and brought into the fold at least “150 churches, 25,000 members, 185 ordained ministers and licentiates, and 150 Sunday schools, located primarily ... in North Carolina and Virginia”, according to the research of the Rev. Virginia Delk.

“Following the Civil War, these churches gathered and worked in local Conferences that consolidated in 1892 to form the Afro-Christian Convention,” she said. “In spite of the many challenges of racism that it encountered, it operated in the form and function of other Protestant denominations. It met biennially, had a publishing house, divisions of Christian education, local and foreign missions, strong women’s auxiliaries, and more.” (Speller, Julia. 2023. Afro-Christian Convention The Fifth Stream of the United Church of Christ. Chapter 6)

On July 3, 2023, The Reverend Doctor John Dorhauer as General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ offered an apology to all members and churches from the fifth stream:

“I grieve that, now having celebrated our 66th anniversary, three generations of United Church of Christ children have gone through confirmation being told that there were only four streams present at our birthing, There were always five.” ...

“On behalf of the United Church of Christ, and to the leaders active in and descended from the Afro-Christian stream of our beloved faith, and in recognition of the sin of centering whiteness, I hereby issue an apology for my and our complicity in and with the manifestations of white privilege that motivated some of us to set this table without you,” ([D'Agostino](#), Maic. United Church News. Dorhauer apologizes to Afro-Christian Convention for ‘rewriting of our history’. Jul 4, 2023.)

Our church and denomination stands on the shoulder of many faithful Christians. I hope you will take the opportunity to read information available on the UCC.org website by typing Afro-Christian Convention into the search engine or by purchasing the book: Afro-Christian Convention - The Fifth Stream of the United Church of Christ edited by Virginia Delk.

Blessings, Rev. Dr. Gloria

August 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Happy Birthday Lluvia Morales	3	4	5
6 Pet Food Bagging Spanish/English 11:30 AM Outreach Meeting Deacons Meeting Happy Birthday Patty Roberts Michael Cabrera	7	8	9 Trustees 6:15 AM Council 7 PM	10 Happy Birthday Elaine Bohlmeier	11	12
13 Christmas in August	14	15	16	17 Nourish Phx 8:15 AM	18	19 Yard Sale Sorting 10 AM
20 Gloria 30 Years!! Spanish/English 11:30 AM Happy Birthday Jim Mitchell	21	22 Newsletter Dead- line	23 Late Last Supper 6:30 PM	24	25	26 CPR 10 AM-1 PM
27 Pastoral Relations Mtg. Spanish/English 11:30 AM	28	29 Happy Birthday Steve Holloway	30	31		

As part of continual improvement of security and safety for our church family, the ECC Security Task Force has contracted LP Health Directions to provide a 3-hour training in Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR). The training will be held on Saturday, August 26th from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the Encanto Church Fellowship Hall. We encourage you to consider participating, particularly if you are a member of any group of the church that meets outside of worship time, but also as a member of the general congregation. The more people we have trained in this basic life-saving technique, the better! The training and certification you receive is also something you could apply in your daily life and family activities. The cost is \$25 per person, but let us know what you're able to contribute. You can sign up through this link to our form: <https://forms.gle/fPnFm5TaBwsRU6P77> or by letting me know via email: Lisa.Herrmann@gmail.com.



Merry Christmas Encanto!! Oh? You're saying it's only August? You're saying it's 116 degrees outside? Well that won't ever stop us from celebrating the best holiday of all, Christmas!. Everyone is invited to join the Outreach Committee Sunday, **August 13th**, for our annual **Christmas in August Celebration** where we sing our favorite Christmas carols and enjoy a fabulous **Christmas Supper Potluck**. The main dishes will be provided and we invite congregants to bring any side dishes and of course delicious desserts. There will be music and merriment as we all pretend that it's much colder outside than it actually is. Hope to see you all there. Merry (almost) Christmas!



On September 17th we will have the return of the annual Spaghetti Dinner and Silent Auction! This is the only fundraiser of the year. With the funds raised, we donate to our various local charities. Also, if there are special projects that need funding, we will help out when possible. For those of you who are not familiar with this, after church we serve a spaghetti dinner for \$10.00 per person over 12 and \$5.00 for children under 12. At the same time we will have items out for the silent auction. Now for all this we will need lots of help. First, we will need volunteers to help on Saturday, September 17th with the set up both for the dinner and the auction. On the day of the dinner, we will need people to make sure the food is kept on the table. We need people to help out with the auction and of course we will need plenty of help with the clean up and take down of the extra tables and chairs. Please think about it and if you would like to help, even though it's quite early, please email Jan Russell at jjanrus@gmail.com. The sooner we have an idea of how many volunteers we have, the sooner and easier it is to make a game plan. Jan is in charge of the Spaghetti Dinner and Kathy V. is in charge of the Silent Auction. If you have any new to nearly new items you would like to donate for the auction, please see Kathy. Be on the lookout for next months newsletter for more information. Thanks in advance to everyone!

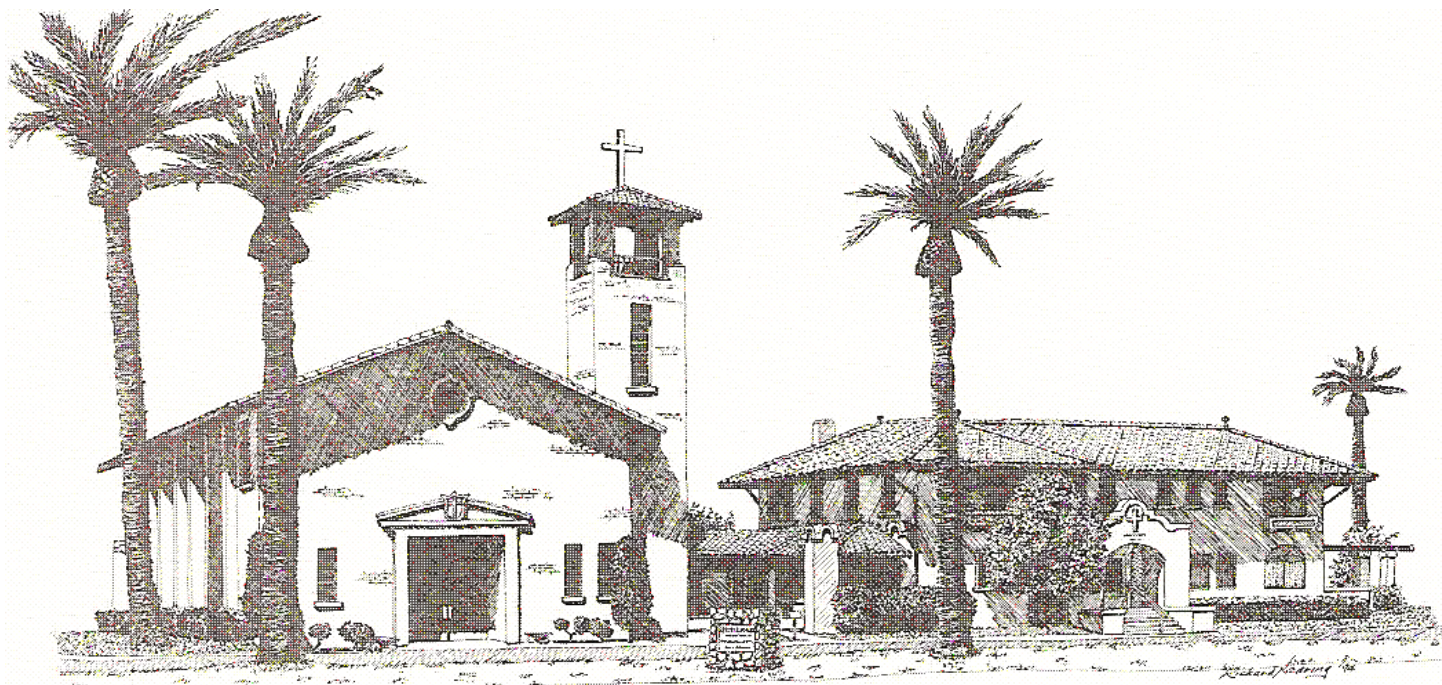


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United Church of Christ
2710 North 7th Avenue
Phoenix, AZ 85007



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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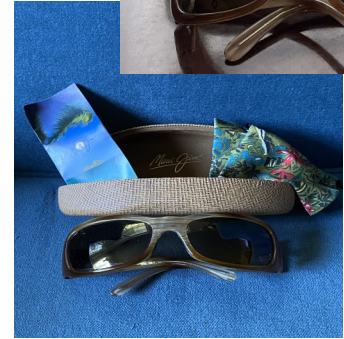
Yard Sale Corner

Chaise Lounge-a
Readers Delight!

\$75



Maui Jim Sunglasses
Case, cleaning cloth &
Certificate of Authenticity
\$75



Matching Bedroom Set.
\$85 for the pair.



Exercise Bike-Almost New!
\$75



If you are interested in purchasing any of
these fine items, please see Kathy V. or
contact Michelle in the office. Thanks!



Deacons are spearheading a Disaster Clean Up
Kit mission. If you are interested in donating to
the cause, please sign up in Fellowship Hall.
You can also donate money for the items
needed if you would rather. Just make sure to
 earmark the donation as Disaster Clean Up.
Anything you can do is greatly appreciated.