

# Encanto Community Church

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

## The Pilgrim

### September Events

- September 3 Adult Bible Study 8:45 AM  
Deacon's Meeting  
Pet Food Bagging  
Spanish/English 11:30 AM
- September 5 Hand Bells 6 PM  
Choir 7 PM
- September 10 Adult Bible Study 8:45 AM  
**Rally Day**  
Outreach Meeting  
Spanish/English 11:30 AM
- September 12 Hand Bells 6 PM  
Choir 7 PM
- September 13 Trustees 6:15 PM  
Council 7 PM
- September 17 Adult Bible Study 8:45 AM  
Spaghetti Dinner & Silent Auction
- September 19 Hand Bells 6 PM  
Choir 7 PM
- September 20 Late Last Supper 6:30 PM
- September 23 Yard Sale Sorting 10 AM-Noon
- September 24 Adult Bible Study 8:45 AM  
Spanish/English 11:30 AM
- September 26 Hand Bells 6 PM  
Choir 7 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.

Youth tutoring nights are on hiatus for the summer. Enjoy the vacation!

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

### September 2023



#### Please Remember in Your Prayers:

Aunt Sue & Family, 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

The September culinary adventure for the Encanto Church Late Last Supper Club will occur at 6:30 p.m., Wednesday, September 20, 2023. This month, we'll be dining together at The Fry Bread House located at 4545 North Seventh Avenue, Phoenix. As usual, we'll meet at the restaurant, and we will each pay our own way. For those of you who have never been there, you will find that The Fry Bread House offers traditional Tohono O'odham Native American cuisine including delicious green chili and red chili stew, Indian tacos, chumuth (large hand-stretched tortillas), tamales, and burros. Most of the menu offerings have both a meat and vegetarian variety. Of course, they also serve fabulous fry bread that can be ordered with a variety of toppings such as honey, powdered sugar, cinnamon, and chocolate. One final note: The Fry Bread House has won the James Beard award for "American Classics" - a highly prestigious honor that is only bestowed upon five restaurants in the country each year. Please let Kathy V. know if you wish to join the party. Thanks!



# NEWS AND INFORMATION

## **Treasurer's Report** (General Fund for June 2023)

**Beginning Balance: \$-7,752.12**

**Received: \$16,034.79**

**Disbursed: \$14,119.18**

**Ending Balance: \$-5,836.51**

**For a gain of: \$1,915.61**

### **Total Offering Receipts for June 2023**

<u>6/4</u>	<u>6/11</u>	<u>6/18</u>	<u>6/25</u>
\$5,054	\$1,018.46	\$2,337.20	\$2,518

No withdrawals were taken from the Endowment Acct.

(General Fund for July 2023)

**Beginning Balance: \$-5,836.51**

**Received: \$11,860.97**

**Disbursed: \$13,875.68**

**Ending Balance: \$-7,851.22**

**For a loss of: \$-2,014.71**

### **Total Offering Receipts for July 2023**

<u>7/2</u>	<u>7/9</u>	<u>7/16</u>	<u>7/23</u>	<u>7/30</u>
\$2,524	\$1,333	\$2,482	\$2,141	\$1,568.28

There was no withdrawal from the Endowment Acct.

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

## **Fellowship Hour**

Thank you to Michelle & Marilyn for hosting during August, and to all who contributed treats for *Christmas in August* and other Sundays!

If you would like to provide treats one Sunday, please sign up on the Cooking Calendar posted in Fellowship Hall. Thank you!

Thanks to everyone who helped produce our annual Christmas in August dinner, especially Melanie, Michelle, Marilyn, Todd, and Kathy S.! It was delicious! Good job, Outreach Committee! We look forward to doing it again next year!

### **Deacon on Duty**

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

**Marilyn Hall**

**602-790-3295**

## **Birthdays To Remember**

### **September**

Pearl Carter	3rd
Janet Maxwell	12th
Chris Schwarz	14th
Kathy Van Etten	16th
Ed Stock	17th
Tom Nasser	19th
Pablito Campos Morales	22nd
Lisa Herrmann	22nd
Megan Swarens	22nd
Geneva Donner	23rd
George Martinez	24th
Steve Barrett	27th
Gloria Smith	30th



It's finally here! The return of the annual Spaghetti Dinner and Silent Auction on Sunday September 17th. The cost is still \$10.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children under 12. Just think, something that has not gone on in the past three years. During the dinner the Silent auction items will be on display for people to inspect. Now I'm asking for your help. We need people to help keep food on the table and to help out with the Silent Auction. Saturday the 16th, we will need lots of help setting up the tables and the Silent Auction. We will meet at church at 10.00am until we are done. If you would like to help, please see me at church or at [jjanlrus@gmail.com](mailto:jjanlrus@gmail.com). Kathy V is in charge of the Silent Auction so if you have any like new or gently used items you would like to donate, please have them at church by the 16th. Thank you in advance for everything.

Jan Russell



# Pet Blessing & Memorial Service

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

**Sunday, October 1, 2023**

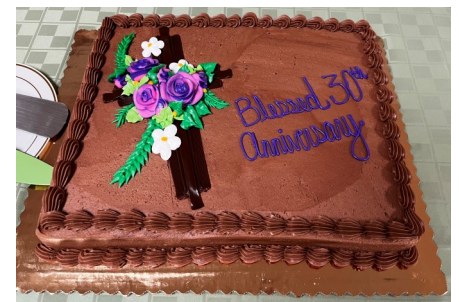
Blessing Service 10:00 AM & Memorial Service 11:30 AM

**Blessing Service is 1 Hour Service of Celebration**

*(All Pets Welcome—Please use a leash or carrier)*



[www.encantocommunitychurch.org](http://www.encantocommunitychurch.org)  
Facebook—Encanto Community Church UCC



## Thank You

*I was deeply touched by your kindness, generosity and words of congratulations on Sunday, August 20th at the Celebration of my 30th Ordination Anniversary.*

*Each of you is a blessing in my life. Along with God's inspiration, your support and encouragement gives me the strength to continue in my call and service to the church.*

*May God's Love and Peace continue to fill each of your lives as we continue our spiritual journey together.*

*Shalom, Rev. Gloria*

# Who the Hell Are You?

by Rev. Dr. Steve Barrett

## Bruce Mortimer, “We Like You!”

We are delighted that our church community has been growing in recent years. Shortly after West Church closed, Bruce and Loretta Mortimer began attending Encanto. As Bruce told me, he has always belonged to the UCC. When several of their West friends came to ECC, it was a natural fit to attend our church.

Bruce was born in Medina, Ohio, and spent his first 25 years in northeastern Ohio. After a few years in western New York, he made his way to Arizona. Among the many things Bruce enjoys about State 48 is the fact that natural disasters are rare here. And we don't have to shovel snow!

Professionally Bruce worked as a manufacturer of gypsum wallboard. In case you are wondering, gypsum board is commonly known as drywall. It is the premier building material for wall, ceiling, and partition systems in residential, institutional and commercial structures.

Shortly after his high school graduation, Bruce attended a football game at the “away school,” which was 40 miles from his home. Little did he know that he would meet the love of his life, Loretta, that very evening. Over the years the Mortimers were blessed with three children, two sons and a daughter, and later two grandsons. Tragically one son was killed in an accident, but he will always live on in their hearts. The extended family all lives close to each other making for many lively get togethers.

Over the years there have been several canine and feline members of the family. Currently a mixed breed dog named Brandi shares their home and provides many smiles and perhaps a frown or two. Randi is three years old. She is a good jumper, being able to make it over a six foot wall. She is putty in your hands if you give her a good belly rub.

Some of Bruce's interests at various times in his life have been playing the trumpet, computer games, camping and coin collecting. His favorite color is blue. Best loved foods include any variety of ham and pizza. For a good restaurant meal his choices are Chili's or Texas Roadhouse.

Bruce describes himself as a football fan, but not a fanatic! He also enjoys baseball and basketball. While he certainly supports the Cardinals, he is still a fan of the Cleveland Browns and the Buffalo Bills. For theatrical entertainment his top movies include Grease, Back to the Future and Man of La Mancha. Small screen pleasures include Combat! and Carol Burnett. Best loved actors are Tom Hanks, Morgan Freeman and Sandra Bullock. Among Bruce's musical interests are classic rock, especially Neil Diamond, Linda Ronstadt, and Herb Alpert and the Tijuana Brass.

Although Bruce is not a big traveler, he has enjoyed Niagara Falls, camping at the Gettysburg battlefield, and driving across the country. Something you might not know about Bruce is that he has a bad sense of humor. He loves vanilla or butter pecan ice cream. And if he ever returns to earth as an animal, he would be a dog, because dogs are well-liked, and Bruce likes to be liked.

Bruce, you have been a blessing to our church. We like you! We are thankful that you are willing to help out whenever you are asked. We are blessed by your deep faith, and we hope that we might be a blessing to you for many years to come



# Pastoral Ponderings

September 1st, has been designated as World Day of Prayer for Creation. It is also the beginning of the Liturgical Season of Creation (or known by some other denominations: Creation Time). During this time we acknowledge the wonderful aspects of God's creation and as caretakers of all of creation we need improve our sense of unity with creation. In other words, we are co-creators with God and stand with all that God has created not apart from it.

The extreme weather and disasters of this year has is a loud cry from creation as our common home is jeopardized. In response to this cry, the members of the Season of Creation Advisory Committee of the World Council of Churches, the theme "Let Justice and Peace Flow" has been chosen with a seasonal logo of a mighty river.

Two of the Bishops on the Season of Creation Advisory Committee share the following quotes as to the importance of this liturgical season within the church:

"There has never before been a time, in the history of human existence, when we have so gravely threatened not only our own existence, but that of the rest of the living world. But it's not too late to act, if we do it now, if we do it together." - Bishop Olivia Graham, Diocese of Reading, Church of England

"The Season of Creation is a vital and necessary reminder that God's saving, healing, justice-seeking love extends to every part of creation. As the Church, the household of God, we are called to live out this life-giving love for the benefit of all." - Rev Faith Whitby, Bishop of the Central District, Methodist Church of Southern Africa

I pray that you will use the coming weeks to ponder the needs of creation and the small ways you can contribute to living a more just and peaceful life that allows all of creation's life to flourish.

The prayer below can be prayed often during this coming season.

Creator of All,  
From your communion of love life sprung forth like a mighty river and the whole cosmos came into being. On this Earth of overflowing love, the Word was made flesh and went forth with the life-giving waters proclaiming peace and justice for all creation.

You called human beings to till and keep your garden. You placed us into right relationship with each creature, but we failed to listen to the cries of the Earth and the cries of the most vulnerable. We broke with the flowing communion of love and sinned against you by not safeguarding the conditions for life. We lament the loss of our fellow species and their habitats, we grieve the loss of human cultures, along with the lives and livelihoods that have been displaced or perished, and we ache at the sight of an economy of death, war and violence that we have inflicted on ourselves and on the Earth.

Open our ears to your creative, reconciling and sustaining Word that calls to us through the book of Scripture and the book of creation. Bless us once again with your life-giving waters so that the Creator Spirit may let justice and peace flow in our hearts and overflow into all creation.

Open our hearts to receive the living waters of God's justice and peace, and to share it with our suffering brothers and sisters, all creatures around us, and all creation.

Bless us to walk together with all people of good will so that the many streams of the living waters of God's justice and peace may become a mighty river all over the Earth. In the name of the One who came to proclaim good news to all creation, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Blessings, Rev. Gloria

# September 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 Pet Food Bagging Deacons Meeting Spanish/English 11:30am Happy Birthday	4	5 Hand Bells 6pm Choir 7pm	6	7	8	9
10 Rally Day Outreach Meeting Spanish/English 11:30am	11	12 Hand Bells 6pm Choir 7pm Happy Birthday Janet Maxwell	13 Trustees 6:15pm Council 7pm	14 Happy Birthday Chris Schwarz	15	16 Happy Birthday Kathy Van Etten
17 Spaghetti Dinner & Silent Auction Happy Birthday Ed Stock	18	19 Hand Bells 6pm Choir 7pm Happy Birthday Tom Nasser	20 Late Last Supper 6:30pm	21 Nourish Phx. 8:15am	22 Happy Birthday Pablito Campos Morales Lisa Herrmann Megan Swarens	23 Yard Sale Starting 10am Happy Birthday Geneva Donner
24 Happy Birthday George Martinez	25	26 Hand Bells 6pm Choir 7pm Newsletter Deadline	27 Happy Birthday Steve Barrett	28	29	30 Happy Birthday Gloria Smith

## Council Meeting: August 9, 2023

The August 9, 2023 ECC Council meeting was called to order at 7:45 P.M., by Moderator Lisa Herrmann; to jointly hear the Treasurers Reports for June 2023, and July 2023.

The Treasurers Reports for June 2023 and July 2023 were presented by Kathy Van Etten to both the ECC Trustees and the ECC Council. There will be a necessitated draw from the Endowment this month to meet the budget expenses. The monthly expenses have exceeded the incomes for the past two months.

The Joint meeting was ended by Chairman Steve Holloway adjourning the August 9, 2023 ECC Trustees Meeting at 7:47 P.M.

The ECC Council meeting for August 9, 2023 was formally called to order at 7:49 P.M. by Moderator Lisa Herrmann. Prayer was led by Kathy Van Etten. Attendees: Todd Montague, Melanie Herrmann, Steve Holloway, Kathy Van Etten, Pastor Gloria Smith. Tom Nasser, Lisa Herrmann, and Steve Barrett.

The ECC Council Meeting Minutes from the June 14, 2023 were reviewed, approved and accepted by all in attendance, into the Church Records.

Trustees Report was given Steve Holloway; we have a temporary space shortage for storing the incoming yard sale items. There are no new updates to report on the Church Sign's replacement. The speakers will be installed in the choir area, and the electrical shortage in the Choir area podium has been located and repairs are being scheduled. The ceiling tiles in the Fellowship Hall upstairs will also be repaired.

Pastor's Report was given by Pastor Gloria Smith; Season of Creation Study begins September 1, 2023. The ECC Pet Blessing signs will go up 2 weeks prior to the ECC October 1, 2023 Pet Blessing Services. The deadline for collecting the Disaster Relief Kits items is on August 20, 2023. The passing of the peace and the original Communion option will be returning this fall to the Sunday Communion Services, Communion options will be ½ traditional, and ½ prepackaged. UCC happenings: The Church of The Good Shepherd in Sahuarita, Arizona is a refugee shelter and just received a grant. Proceeds from a recent sale of a property will now return to the Beatitudes coffers. Pastor Gloria will be going on vacation this fall, the exact dates will be announced soon.

Stewardship Report: None.

Financial Secretary report given by Kathy Van Etten (for John Hasenstab), the monies are in the bank.

Religious Education Report given by Kathy Van Etten; the ECC Youth will be going to the water park on August 19, 2023.

Memorial Fund Report given by Kathy Stock, printed copies were handed out to all in attendance.

Outreach Report was given by Melanie Herrmann; Christmas in August will be on Sunday, August 13, 2023 following Sunday Services. The ECC Garden Project will be starting up in the fall. The ECC Welcome packets are being prepared. The cards for the October 1, 2023 Pet Blessing will be distributed prior to the Blessing and will be distributed to area veterinarians, dog care centers, such as Dogtopia and other pet related facilities. The Neighbors in Need for 2023 has been added to the upcoming calendar.

Hospitality Report given by Todd Montague; the cookie bank inventory is getting low, the sign up sheets are posted in the Fellowship Hall. The refreshment pitchers have been replaced.

Moderators Report given by Lisa Herrmann; we are working with Servant Keeper to update the ECC Directory and other Church Records. A handout/link was given to attendees regarding grant information from Interfaith Power & Light funded by the Department of Energy. The Church Calendar was reviewed and updated as needed.

Old Business: ECC's 80 year anniversary is coming soon.

**\* Pastor Gloria Smith will be also be celebrating Anniversaries of 30 years of Ordination, and 12 years as our Pastor at ECC.**

New Business: None at this time.

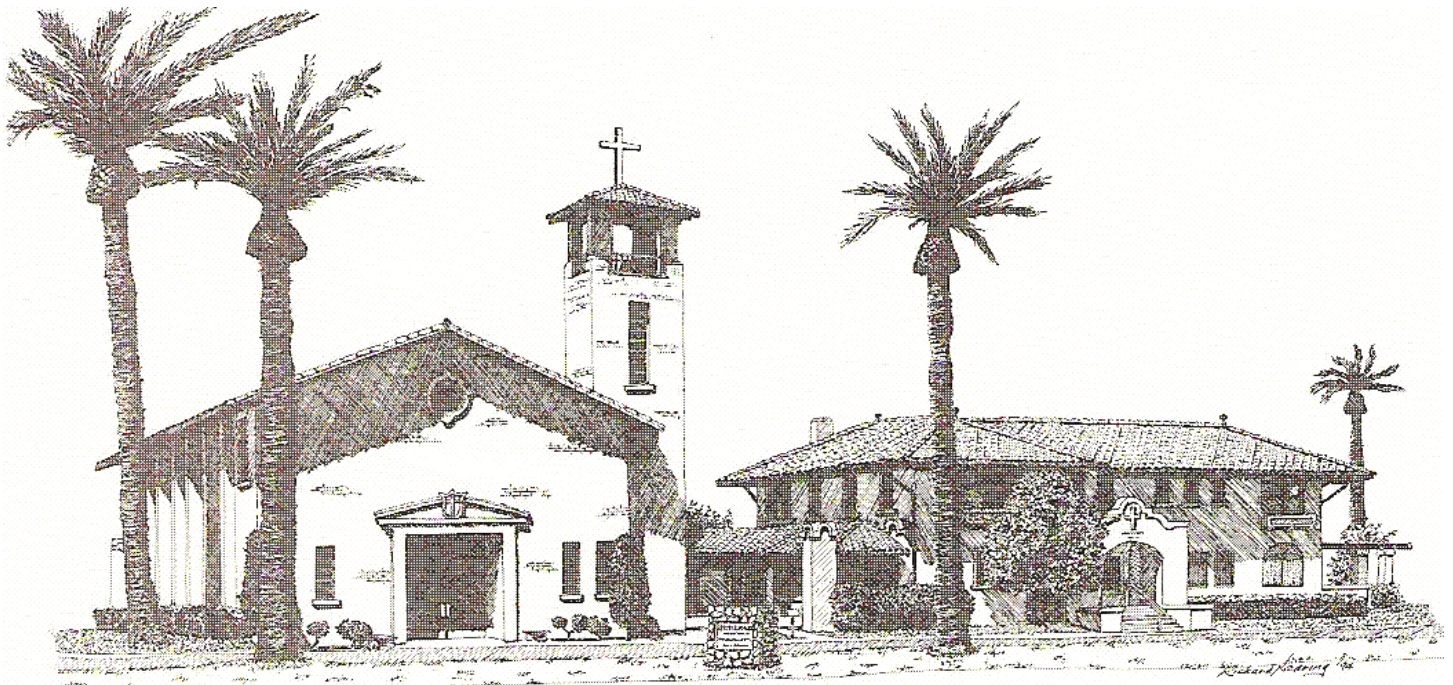
The ECC Council Meeting on August 9, 2023 by adjourned at 9:23 P.M. by Moderator Lisa Herrmann.

**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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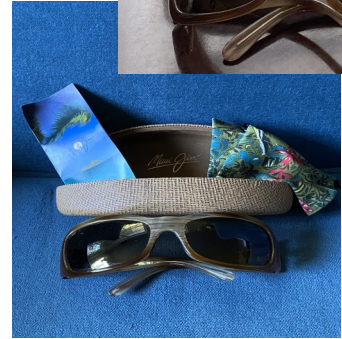
# Yard Sale Corner

Chaise Lounge-a  
Readers Delight!

\$75



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



Treadmill in great condition.  
\$75

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



Christmas in August Festivities

