

Encanto Community Church

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

The Pilgrim

February Events

- February 4 Trustees Meeting
Outreach Meeting
Pet Food Bagging
Spanish/English 11:30am
Soup Collection for Tackle Hunger
- February 6 Hand Bells 5pm
Choir 7pm
- February 10 Dolly Steamboat Trip with Picnic!
- February 11 Deacons Meeting
Spanish/English 11:30am
Soup Collection for Tackle Hunger
- February 13 Hand Bells 5pm
Choir 7pm
- February 14 Happy Valentine's Day
Ash Wednesday-
ECC service with First Church 7pm
- February 15 Nourish Phoenix 8:15am
- February 17 Yard Sale Sorting 10am
Pickleball Court Painting 10am
- February 18 Council Meeting
Spanish/English 11:30am
- February 19 Happy President's Day
- February 20 Hand Bells 5pm
Choir 7pm
- February 21 Late Last Supper 6:30pm
- February 24 Yard Sale Haul Up 10am
- February 25-29 Yard Sale Prep
- February 27 Hand Bells 5pm
Choir 7pm
- February 29 Happy Leap Year!



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

February 2024



Please Remember in Your Prayers:

Diane Boudle, Bill Edens, Tammy Hughes, Jane Gempeler, Debbye Jones and Rev. Gloria Smith, Helen Kmiecik, Carol Krietenstein, Rich Maxwell, Carl Madsen, Sally Mitchell, Lillian Pain, George Penny, Jami Pourkeveh, Cindy & Mike Robinson. Nancy Studebaker, Shanti Sunderajan, Gavin V., Matthew Walker, Encanto Community Church, Our Community, and Our World. May God's grace and healing touch be with you all.

As part of the Super Bowl activities in February, we will be collecting soup to send to Nourish Phoenix. The Rev. Brad Smith started this in 1990 with a prayer about that as we enjoy the Super Bowl may we remember those who are without a bowl of soup to eat. **Please bring some cans of soup to the Fellowship Hall On the 4th and 11th** to add to our Tackle Hunger project.

Late Last Supper

Our February culinary adventure for the Encanto Church Late Last Supper Club will take place at **6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, February 21, 2024, when we will join together for dinner to celebrate the Lunar New Year at China Chili's** located at 302 East Flower, Phoenix, Arizona. If you've never been to China Chili's, you should know that it has been a local favorite for many years, consistently producing delicious Chinese food, including traditional fare, seafood, and vegetarian specialties. 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!


China Chili
FINE CHINESE CUISINE

NEWS AND INFORMATION

Treasurer's Report.

(General Fund for December 2023)

Beginning Balance: \$3,289.52

Received: \$14,255.37

Disbursed: \$13,702.65

Ending Balance: \$3,842.24

For a gain of: \$552.72

Total Offering Receipts for December 2023

12/3	12/10	12/17	12/24	12/31
\$4,003	\$2,163	\$1,748.37	\$3,075	\$1,497

There was no withdrawal from the endowment fund in December.

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



Our conversational English and Spanish classes continue to be 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.

On Saturday, February 17, 2024, at 10 a.m., we will be marking and painting lines for our new pickleball court on the concrete basketball/volleyball court just west of Fellowship Hall, and we can use your help. If you are available and willing to help, please join us from 10:00 a.m. until about 1 p.m. to prepare our game court for the hottest new sport!



Deacon on Duty

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

Tom Nasser
602-309-5230

Birthdays To Remember February

Jen Battershell	15th
Craig Matheny	25th
Susan Patterson	25th
Rozlynn Hayden	29th



Happy Anniversary Wishes also go out this month to John H. and Lee P. who celebrate on February 10th as well as Tony and Michelle Lusania who celebrate on the 15th.

Fellowship Hour

At the recent church council meeting, it came to the attention of the Hospitality co-chairs that there may be some confusion about treats. There are two ways to donate. A person or persons may bring a treat to share at Fellowship Hour after signing up on the ECC Treats Calendar. If that is the case, the person(s) are recognized by name on the display plate. If you do bring a treat, you need to bring 5 dozen. It may be one thing i.e. all chocolate chip cookies or a combination of your choice. The treat(s) may be sweet or savory or a combination of both. Treats may be homemade or store bought. If you do bring a treat, it needs to be in the kitchen by 9:30 so the staff can plate it and still get to church. The second option that happens is that we do try to have a "cookie" bank. We keep that in the freezer for emergencies such as when the person who signed up for treats was unable to come to church. With the "cookie" bank we don't do the recognition because they are pulled from the freezer randomly and sometimes mixed with ones that had been left from a prior Sunday. Sometimes people bake cookies at home and bring us the extras they had. Sometimes people have had a party; used bought cookies and had leftovers. We are happy to accept any extra cookies or treats that you may have. Thank you!



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!

In February, 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 of all ages are welcome.

As you may have heard the January cruise on The Dolly Steamboat on Canyon Lake had to be postponed due to an accident on the lake road. Accordingly, we have moved the trip to Saturday, February 10, 2024. It will still be a six-mile narrated cruise on the 103' long Dolly Steamboat that takes approximately 90 minutes, but the launch time will be 2 p.m. We will be picnicking beforehand at the Canyon Lake Marina. Carpooling will be available from the church, if you don't want to drive. The cost is \$30 per person, payable in advance and tickets are non-refundable and non-exchangeable. If you are interested in joining us, please let Kathy V. know by February 3, 2024, so that she can give you the details. Everyone is welcome!



Once again, it's tax time. Accordingly, if anyone needs a receipt for items you donated to the 2023 Encanto Church yard sales, please let Kathy Van Etten know, and she will provide you with one. Thank you.



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You've heard all about Christmas. But what about Candlemas? This ancient Christian holy day, greatly overlooked, commemorates the end of the Christmas season. Candlemas is rich with meaning, depth, and relevance for all of us. You are cordially invited to learn about and celebrate this highlight of the liturgical calendar on Candlemas evening in a free presentation and discussion on Zoom led by Dr. George Martinez: **Fri., Feb. 2, 2024, 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.** via Zoom. Here is the link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87291296176?pwd=aLWwR3SmEMoAYT68hwaozoNabHsR36E.1>

You should not need these, but just in case: meeting ID number 872 9129 6176; passcode 882403

You may want to have a candle ready to light as we conclude the webinar (optional). This informal, focused virtual gathering is not associated with any organization or denomination; it is simply a heartfelt annual tradition of the presenter.



Help Needed for Anniversary Recipe Calendar Project

We are starting plans for a fun project to celebrate our 80th anniversary! We have a long tradition of sharing fantastic recipes from all our talented cooks and bakers in the congregation, and with our anniversary is an opportunity to create an updated complement to our beloved church recipe book of the past.

But we need help!

We need:

Someone comfortable with any desktop publishing software to build this project
Someone to help coordinate collection and sort through a plethora of recipes

If you're reading this and thinking, 'Well that's something I could do' please email Lisa Herrmann at lisa.herrmann@gmail.com (be careful spelling – there are 8 letters in my last name, where 6 would do!)

A Fable that appeared many years ago during a Pledge drive at Encanto.

Being repeated by your current Stewardship Committee. If you haven't turned in your pledge card yet, please do so. Thank you to those who have done so. It is very helpful as we budget financially as well as knowing who is willing to assist in other ways.

Once upon a time there was a church member. He didn't believe in pledging every Sunday. He always had an answer ready for the Every Member Canvas. "I don't believe in pledging for every Sunday," he said. "I give when I go," he said. One Sunday he went to church. The building was run down. The door was locked. There was a sign on the door. "For the benefit of those who like to support the church once in a while, this church will be available once in a while."

Moral: The efforts of those who support the church regularly make it possible for those who support the church once in a while to have something to support.

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, February 17, 2024, 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.

It's Yard Sale Time Once Again!

The 2024 Spring Yard Sale will be held on **Saturday, March 2, 2024, 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 1, 2024, starting at 1 p.m.**, to sort, price, and eat pizza for dinner (around 6:30 p.m.). Then, on Saturday, March 2, 2024, we'll meet at 6:00 a.m. to set-up and get things ready for a 7 a.m. opening. In an effort to alleviate the workload the work of the yard sale, **we will be bringing things up from the basement and doing some preliminary sorting two weeks before the yard sale, on Saturday, February 24, 2024, at 10 a.m. This is a big job, and everyone's help is appreciated! Please join us as "many hands make light work."** Of course, we will also need help in the weeks leading up to the sale 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!

Late Last Supper Club at The Old Spaghetti Factory.



Pastoral Ponderings

Decades ago, Christian churches used to gather for worship together on special holy days as a sign of covenant and unity. As churches became busier, the first activity that disappeared from their yearly calendar was sharing worship with sister churches. As a result, members of each individual church lost the opportunity to meet members of other churches and for churches to understand that they are not alone in this world as they seek to bring God's realm to earth. This loss of support makes it harder to hold on to hope as we continue to work on God's behalf.

This year, Encanto Community Church UCC will be joining First Congregational UCC and New Hope UCC in gathering for Ash Wednesday and Maundy Thursday. First Church UCC will host all three churches on Ash Wednesday and the music will be provided by musicians from First Church and New Hope. Rev. Susan Valiquette, Rev. Myra Taylor and I will lead the service. Encanto Community Church UCC will host Maundy Thursday with music provided by our musicians. We are inviting both churches to join us for our Soup Supper prior to the service and have asked them to contribute soup, appetizers and desserts to the supper.

Many of you are familiar with First Church UCC which is located at 1407 N 2nd St, Phoenix, AZ. New Hope UCC is a new church start and open for worship on Palm Sunday of 2023. They currently rent space from a school in Laveen for Sunday morning worship. They will continue to meet in a rented space until growth permits them to move into their own church.

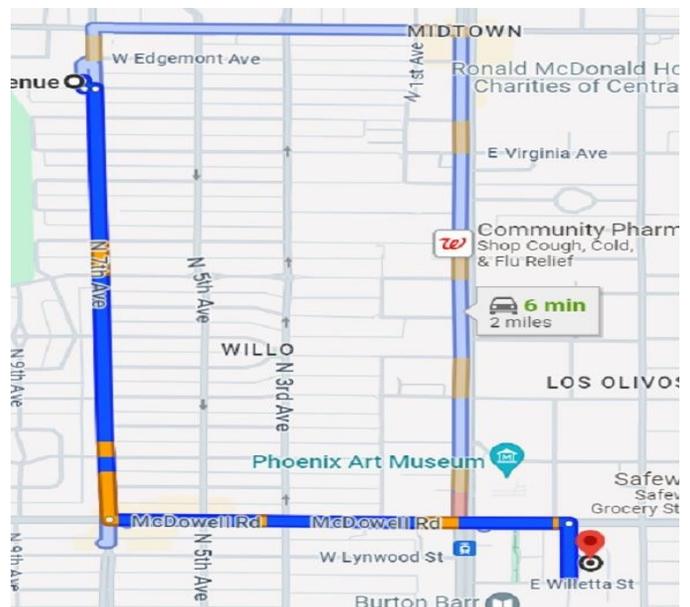
This should be an exciting time for all of us and I hope that you will make the commitment to attend both services. We will make transportation available for those who need a ride to the service at First Church UCC.

There is a Lenten Study entitled "Hard and Holy Work: A Lenten Journey through the Book of Exodus" written by the Rev. Mary Alice Birdwhistell and Hebrew Bible scholar Tyler Mayfield. I will be using book to inspire my messages for Lent. A couple of the general questions that this study asks: Are we paying attention to the holy ground beneath our feet? Where do we see burning bushes in our world today, and what are they calling us to do? Do spiritual encounters in our lives have holy consequences in the world around us?

May we open ourselves to the wonderful opportunities Lent offers as we prepare to welcome the Risen Christ in our spirit.

Blessings, Rev. Gloria

February 14th @ 7 pm
Joint Worship Service
First Church UCC
1407 N. 2nd Street Phoenix, AZ



Council Meeting: January 21, 2024

The January 21, 2024 ECC Council meeting was called to order by Moderator Lisa Herrmann at 11:59 A.M.

Attendees: Kathy Van Etten, Pastor Gloria Smith, Melanie Herrmann, Todd Montague, Lisa Herrmann, Rev. Steve Barrett, John Hasenstab, Steve Holloway, and Kathy Stock.
Prayer was led by Todd Montague.

The minutes from the December ECC Joint meeting of the ECC Council and Trustees were reviewed, voted upon and accepted in to the Church records by all members in attendance.

The Treasurers Report was given by Kathy Van Etten, the finances were in the black closing out the 2023 year. The Endowment Fund bounced upward. Receipts were good, the expenses were up, and the annual distributions were made.

The Facilities Report was given by Steve Holloway; a new longer ladder is needed for the ECC Campus, and will be purchased soon. The parsonage water bill is now in the church's name, and will now be included in the monthly rent. The blinds are installed in the basement area windows. The smart locks are ready to be installed. The water leakage upstairs in the Fellowship Hall areas need to be resolved. The termite sites were treated twice, and also the rat and roach problems were treated. The Duke Property Group has been contacted to resolve the ECC Campus property misuse. Tony will be trimming the roses this year. The Trustees monthly meeting will now be held on the first Sunday of each month. The painting of the pickle ball court has been scheduled. The refrigerator in the caretaker's cottage has broken and a replacement has been ordered.

The Tech Report given by Steve Holloway; a third camera was successfully added during last Sunday's services.
Security Task Force Report: given by Lisa Herrmann; the Deacons training was done, and we will reach out to city wide groups and churches to keep current on any events or occurrences regarding ECC Campus Safety. Carillion costs are being researched.

The Deacons report was given by John Hasenstab, The security training was done and the Deacons annual assignment list is now completed. There will be no Easter Cantata, Joint services with area churches for Ash Wednesday and Maundy Thursday are being planned.

Financial Secretary Report given by John Hasenstab, the monies are in the bank. The pledge cards were received. During the Christmas Eve Services the offerings were received in the Christmas Marked boxes, none in the Christmas Stockings, so no more stockings.

Stewardship Report by John Hasenstab; the annual envelopes are needing to be ordered. New software for the financial secretary's usage and other ECC Office and record keeping functions are is being researched hopefully to be implemented during this calendar year.

Religious Education Report given by Kathy Van Etten; George Martinez will be presenting the Children's message in February on the Candlemas. We are gearing up for the spring 2024 yard sale. The Conference is not doing camps, but will be doing service day in June 2024, details will be forth coming so save the day.

Memorial Fund Report given by Kathy Stock; printed copies were given to all in attendance.

Outreach Report given by Melanie Herrmann; new members joined outreach, projects are being planned for the year. Outreach will meet on the 4th Sunday of each month, but will meet in February on Sunday, February 4, after Sunday Services.

Hospitality Report given by Todd Montague; we are needing more members to donate fellowship treats or cookie bank deposits.

Pastor's Report given by Pastor Gloria Smith; returned from a couple of weeks' vacation to a busy schedule this past Tuesday. ECC will be combining upcoming services with our UCC area churches, music will be a combined group also. Maundy Services will be hosted at Our ECC Campus for the soup. Posts will be put on our Facebook pages regarding service sites. First Congregational Church is selling their building but will purchase a new building site due to asbestos issues.

Moderators Report given by Moderator Lisa Herrmann; Council will define objectives for the upcoming year. Christmas dinner note to all; cleanup assistance is needed annually. The activities for the 2024 Church Calendar Events are being scheduled. The Church Software is being researched and will be purchased in a timely manner. Calendar updates and changes were made to the first quarter calendar.

Old Business: We are open for suggestions for soliciting volunteers for the upcoming events each month. The ECC Recipe Book Project is still pending. New Business: The Church Picnic will be discussed and planned during the February's Deacons meeting.

The ECC Council January 21, 2024 meeting was adjourned by Moderator Lisa Herrmann at 2:52 P.M.

February 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 Trustees Meeting Outreach Meeting Pet Food Bagging Spanish/English	5	6 Hand Bells 5pm Choir 7pm	7	8	9	10 Dolly Steamboat 10:30am Happy Anniversary John H. & Lee P.
11 Deacons Meeting Spanish/English	12	13 Hand Bells 5pm Choir 7pm	14 Ash Wednesday 7pm-at First Church UCC Happy Valentine's Day	15 Nourish Phx 8:15am Happy Birthday Jen Battershell & Happy Anniversary Tony & Michelle	16	17 Yard Sale Sorting 10am Pickleball Painting 10am
18 Council Meeting Spanish/English	19	20 Hand Bells 5pm Choir 7pm	21 Late Last Supper 6:30pm	22	23	24 Yard Sale Haul Up 10am
25 Spanish/English Yard Sale Prep Happy Birthday Craig Matheny Susan Patterson	26 Yard Sale Prep	27 Hand Bells 5pm Choir 7pm Yard Sale Prep	28 Yard Sale Prep	29 Yard Sale Prep Happy Birthday Rozlynn Hayden		

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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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