

# Encanto Community Church

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

## The Pilgrim

### January Events

January 1	Happy New Year!
January 2	Choir 7pm
January 7	Outreach Meeting Spanish/English 11:30am Pet Food Bagging
January 9	Hand Bells 5pm Choir 7pm
January 10	Annual Reports Due! Trustees Meeting 6:15pm
January 13	Yard Sale Sorting 10am
January 14	“Un-Hanging” the Greens 11:30am Deacons Meeting with Security Team Spanish/English 11:30am
January 16	Hand Bells 5pm Choir 7pm
January 17	Late Last Supper 6:30pm
January 18	Nourish Phoenix 8:15am
January 20	Encanto Social Gang Field Trip
January 21	ANNUAL MEETING! NO Spanish/English Council Meeting 12:30pm
January 23	Newsletter Deadline Hand Bells 5pm Choir 7pm
January 28	Spanish/English
January 30	Hand Bells 5pm Choir 7pm

### January 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.

**2024**  
**HAPPY NEW YEAR**

### Late Last Supper

The Encanto Church Late Last Supper Club will join together for dinner at **6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, January 17, 2024, at The Old Spaghetti Factory located at 1418 North Central Avenue, Phoenix, Arizona.** You'll find that The Old Spaghetti Factory is a long-standing neighborhood haunt that offers a variety of basic pasta dishes at reasonable prices. As usual, we will meet at the appointed restaurant, but if you need to car pool, please let Kathy V. know, and she'll make arrangements. Otherwise, please let Kathy know if you're interest in attending, so that she can make the necessary reservations. Hope to see you there!



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

# NEWS AND INFORMATION

## Treasurer's Report. (General Fund for November 2023)

**Beginning Balance: \$5,509.68**  
**Received: \$9,772.37**  
**Disbursed: \$11,992.53**  
**Ending Balance: \$3,289.52**  
**For a loss of: \$2,220.16**

**Total Offering Receipts for November 2023**

11/5	11/12	11/19	11/26
\$2,750	\$2,125.37	\$2,063	\$943.00

There was no withdrawal from the endowment fund in November.

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



On **Sunday, January 14, 2024**, we will be taking down the Christmas decorations after church, and we can use your help. If you are available and willing to help, please join us from 11:30 a.m. until about 1 p.m. to pack things away for another year.

## Fellowship Hour

The Hospitality Committee would like to thank everyone who contributed tasty treats last year! If you would like to donate one Sunday, please sign up on the ECC Treats Calendar posted on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall. Happy New Year!



### Deacon on Duty

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

**Marilyn Hall**  
**602-266-4602**

## Birthdays To Remember January

Jamie Vice	4th
Kevin Krietenstein	10th
BJ Johnston	14th
Jeri Cabrera	15th
Betty Grotewold	19th
Martin Cabrera	20th
Sheila McClure	25th
Jane Gempeler	29th
Deb Sanders	31st



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.

The 2024 Annual Meeting takes place on Sunday, January 21st. The business portion of this meeting will consist of final approval of the budget and election of the board and committee members as recommended by the nominating committee. This portion will take place immediately following service in the sanctuary. The various committees and boards will then have tables set up in the Fellowship Hall where you can receive their annual reporting, learn more about their important work for the church, and ask questions or make suggestions for the coming year! Please be sure to join us!



In January, 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.

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Thanks to those of you who served on Nominating Committee during the past couple of months, and thanks to those of you who agreed to serve on various boards and committees during the coming year! The 2024 Officers, Boards, and Committees roster will be presented later this month. If you have already agreed to serve, please be sure you connect with your Committee Chairperson, so that you are ready to attend your January meetings. Thank you again for all of your help and dedication

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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, January 13, 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.

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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!



## Help Needed for Anniversary Recipe Calendar Project

We are starting plans for a fun project to celebrate our 80<sup>th</sup> 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 recipes

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



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On **Saturday, January 20, 2024, the Saturday Morning Social Gang is coordinating a day trip and scenic nature cruise on The Dolly Steamboat on Canyon Lake.** This will be a six-mile narrated cruise on the 103' long Dolly Steamboat that takes approximately 90 minutes with a launch time of 12 noon. Carpooling will be available from the church, if you don't want to drive. **The cost will be \$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 January 5, 2024,** so that she can keep you in the loop. 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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On behalf of both Tony and myself (Michelle), we want to thank all of you who so generously and kindly gave us a most wonderful Christmas gift. We hope that each of you know that we love and care about all of you and our amazing church as much as we feel your love for us.

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***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.

## **Congratulations!**

In December, Chloe Bauer graduated from the University of Arizona with a BA in Communication and a Public Relations Minor. She graduated Magna Cum Laude and in 3.5 years! Her parents, grandparents and uncles all attended the ceremony. Congratulations to Chloe!



# Pastoral Ponderings

I offer you this prayer as we begin the New Year.

## New Year Prayer

*© God of steadfast love,*

*We enter a new year which offers us the possibility for change.  
May your spirit assist us in discovering the excitement of walking a  
new path and comfort us when we become anxious about the  
unknown.*

*We thank you for the experiences that have brought us to this time and  
for who we are that we might offer our talent and gifts for your  
service.*

*Surround us with your guidance that we will make decisions that lead  
to life abundant for ourselves and all who share the road with us on  
this journey.*

*We ask this in your holy name. Amen.*

Happy New Year

Blessings, Rev. Gloria

## Council Meeting: December 6, 2023

A joint meeting of the ECC Trustees and Council Members was held on December 6, 2023.

The Trustees Meeting was called to order by Chairman Steve Holloway at 6:16 P.M.

Prayer was led by Rev. Steve Barrett.

Attendees: Todd Montague, Kathy Stock, Pastor Gloria Smith, Steve Barrett, Lisa Herrmann, Kathy Van Etten, John Hasenstab, Patty Roberts, Melanie Herrmann, Del Krietenstein, Marilyn Hall.

Pastor Gloria provided a delicious dinner for the meeting, and it was really enjoyed and appreciated by all in attendance; a brief pause was taken and dinner was self-served.

The Joint meeting was resumed at 6:50 P.M.

The Trustees Meeting minutes for the November 8, 2023 meeting were reviewed, voted upon and accepted into the church records.

Facilities Report given by Steve Holloway: The Church Sign work is ongoing, the Plexiglas and lettering can be done within our proposed budget; Smart locks have been purchased, but another set is needed for the outside bathroom door; the blinds have been purchased and installed in the Fellowship Hall basement; the ceiling tiles in the nursery still need to be replaced; the wings in the Rose Garden area may need to be scheduled for repairs; the exterminator will treat the new trail site found in the Church Office area; the site for the first aid kit will be prepped for mounting to ensure no wall damage; based on recent activity, we will be securing the costume cabinets; the Duke Property owners have been contacted to address the problem issues affecting the ECC Campus.

Tech and Security: The Sanctuary mics were reconfigured to improve the sound for the Christmas Cantata; rekeying will be done in January; Deacons security training is scheduled for mid-January; and the Evacuation Maps are being framed for mounting in the needed sites.

Treasurer's Report given by Kathy Van Etten; the Endowment Fund rebounded upward for the past month. Many of our expenses are now caught up. There are now new bank fees for our Church account as part of Chase's new rules. The Insurance numbers for 2024 have been received, the Workers Compensation premium will increase \$300.00 and the ECC liability coverage premium will increase \$2000.00 for the upcoming year.

The ECC Trustees Meeting was adjourned by Chairman Steve Holloway at 7:36 P.M.

The ECC Council Meeting for December 6, 2023 was called to order by Moderator Lisa Herrmann at 7:40 P.M.

The Deacons Report was given by John Hasenstab; the Sanctuary Christmas decorations and the Emergency Buckets are completed. The Sanctuary has been decorated for Advent. Bibles will be ordered to be given out to requestors. This year for the Christmas Service Offering; the Deacons will be collecting offerings using Christmas Stockings, an announcement will be made at the beginning of the Christmas Services. The Deacons will be meeting on December 10, 2023 after Sunday Services.

Stewardship Report given by John Hasenstab; a total of 23 pledge cards were received for monetary and services pledges.

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Financial Secretary's Report given by John Hasenstab; the monies are in the bank.

Religious Education Report given by Kathy Van Etten; we are working on the Christmas Play and other Holiday related projects.

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

Outreach Report given by Melanie Herrmann; we are reaching out to PACC911 to explore the option for hosting an adoption event for the ECC Campus in 2024. We are also distributing marketing materials for the upcoming Christmas Events here at ECC.

Hospitality Report given by Todd Montague; the signup sheets are posted in the Fellowship Hall, more hosts are needed for future Sundays Fellowship Hours.

Pastoral Report given by Pastor Gloria Smith; Google has been contacted for corrections on the ECC postings online. The UCC Conference will be held on April 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at the Shepherd of the Hills UCC Campus in Phoenix, Arizona.

Moderator's Report: None.

Nominating Committee Report: Hospitality Hosts positions are open.

The ECC Calendar was reviewed, updates and necessary changes were made for upcoming events and dates.

Old Business: the Annual Business Meeting will be held partly in the Sanctuary and the committee meet/greet portion will held in the Fellowship Hall. The annual Christmas Dinner tasks were reviewed with

Trustees and Council Members. The ECC Recipe Project will be determined after the beginning of 2024.

The ECC Directory Updates; software and help is being researched.

New Business: None.

Moderator Lisa Herrmann adjourned the ECC Council Meeting at 9:42 P.M.

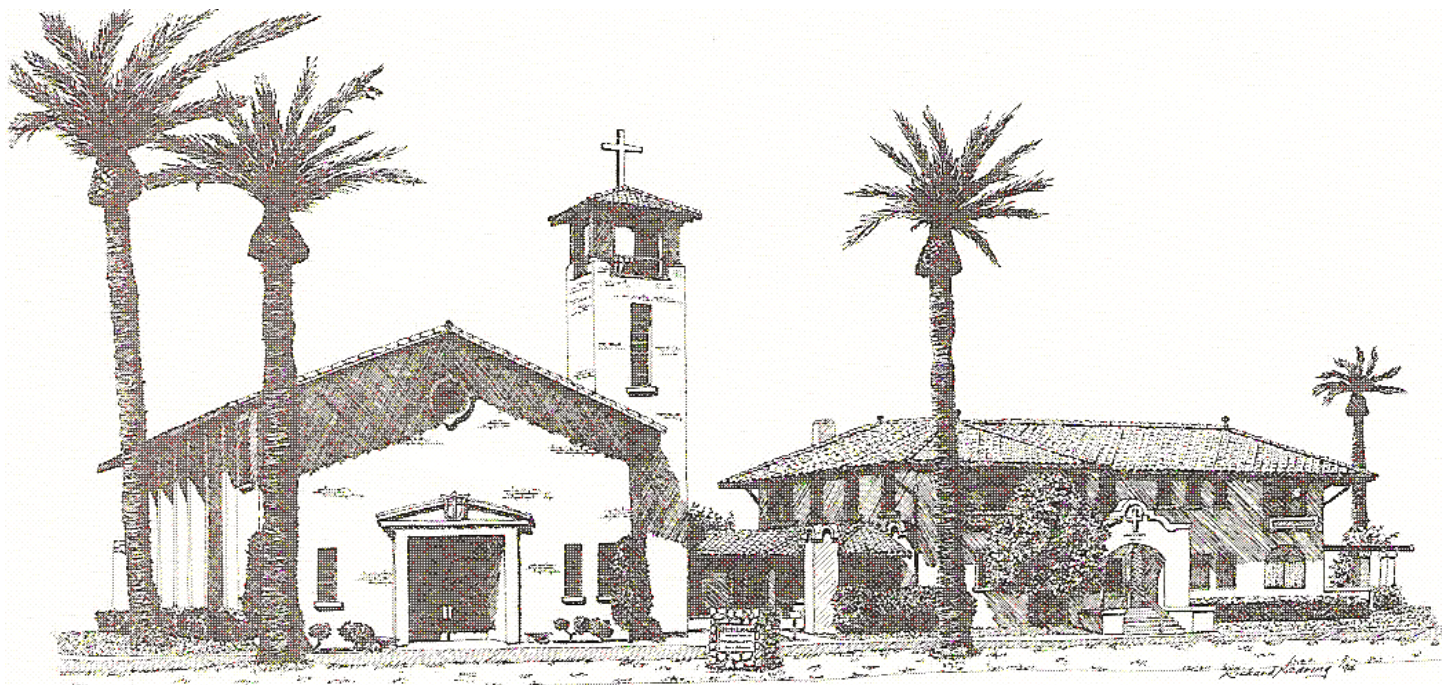


**Encanto Community Church**  
United Church of Christ  
2710 North 7th Avenue  
Phoenix, AZ 85007



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

**Encanto Community Church**  
**United Church of Christ**  
**Phone # 602.266.4602**  
**[www.EncantoCommunityChurch.org](http://www.EncantoCommunityChurch.org)**





# January 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Happy New Year	2 Choir 7pm	3	4 Happy Birthday Jamie Vice	5	6
7 Outreach Meeting Spanish/English 11:30am Pet Food Bagging	8	9 Hand Bells 5pm Choir 7pm	10 Trustees 6:15pm Annual Reports Due! Happy Birthday Kevin Krietenstein	11	12	13 Yard Sale Starting 10am
14 Deacon's Meeting Spanish/English 11:30am Christmas Clean Up Happy Birthday BJ Johnston	15 Happy Birthday Jeri Cabrera	16 Hand Bells 5pm Choir 7pm	17 Late Last Supper 6:30pm	18 Nourish Phx 8:15am	19 Happy Birthday Betty Grotewold	20 Social Gang Field Trip Happy Birthday Martin Cabrera
21 Annual Meeting Council 12:30pm	22	23 Hand Bells 5pm Choir 7pm Newsletter Deadline	24	25 Happy Birthday Sheila McClure	26	27
28 Spanish/English 11:30am	29 Happy Birthday Jane Gempeler	30 Hand Bells 5pm Choir 7pm	31 Happy Birthday Deb Sanders			



**Our annual Christmas Play and Luncheon with our most special guest, Santa!**

