

Encanto Community Church

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

The Pilgrim

March Events

March 1	Yard Sale Set Up 12pm-9pm
March 2	YARD SALE! 7am-3pm
March 3	Trustees Meeting Outreach Meeting Pet Food Bagging Spanish/English 11:30am
March 5	Handbells 5pm Choir 7pm
March 10	Deacons Meeting Spanish/English 11:30am
March 12	Handbells 5pm Choir 7pm Fellowship Hall Reserved
March 13	Fellowship Hall Reserved
March 17	Happy St. Patrick's Day! Spanish/English 11:30am
March 19	Handbells 5pm Choir 7pm
March 20	Late Last Supper 6:30pm
March 24	Spanish/English 11:30am Council 11:30am
March 26	Handbells 5pm Choir 7pm Newsletter Deadline
March 28	Maundy Thursday Soup Supper 5:30pm Service 7pm
March 29	Good Friday
March 31	Happy Easter! Easter Egg Hunt Following Service



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

March 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., Encanto Community Church, Our Community, and Our World. May God's grace and healing touch be with you all.

Late Last Supper

Our March culinary adventure for the Encanto Church Late Last Supper Club will take place at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 20, 2024, when we will join together for dinner at **La Santisima located at 4117 North 16th Street, Phoenix, Arizona**. If you've never been to La Santisima, you should know that it has wonderful Mexican food with an enormous menu. They specialize in a variety of mole dishes, vegetarian plates, and delicious seafood creations. In addition, that have a tremendous number of mix and match tacos, a large salsa bar, and homemade Horchata. Look over the menu online before we go to see the many choices. As usual, we'll meet at the restaurant, and we will each pay for our own meal. Please let Kathy V. know if you wish to join the party, and she will make the necessary reservations. Thanks!



NEWS AND INFORMATION

Treasurer's Report. (General Fund for January 2024)

Beginning Balance: \$3,842.24
Received: \$10,232.44
Disbursed: \$15,096.18
Ending Balance: \$-1,012.50
For a loss of: \$4,863.74

Total Offering Receipts for January 2024

1/7	1/14	1/21	1/28
\$1,184.26	\$2,721	\$2,366	\$1,769

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.

In March, 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.



Deacon on Duty

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

Jamie Vice
602-266-4602

Birthdays To Remember **March**

Cindy Walley	6th
Loretta Mortimer	7th
Marlen Morales	14th
Lloyd Lo	25th
Darwin Fisk	31st



Happy Anniversary Wishes also go out this month to Bruce and Loretta Mortimer! They are celebrating 50 years of marriage on March 8th! Congratulations!



On Thursday, March 28th at 5:30pm, we are hosting the Maundy Thursday Soup Supper! As usual, supper will be in Fellowship Hall. Service for Maundy Thursday is being partnered with New Hope UCC and First Church UCC and will begin at 7pm.

Please plan on bringing soup or dessert to share with everyone.

Fellowship Hour

Thank you to Lety, Annette, Kathy & Steve, and Jill & Cindy for providing treats last month, and to Lety & Michelle for hosting!

Craig & Marilyn are your hosts this month, so be sure to stop by and say "Hello!"



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 12 noon, to sort, price, and eat pizza for dinner **(around 6:00 p.m.)**. Then, on Saturday, March 2, 2023, we'll meet at 6:00 a.m. to set-up and get things ready for a 7 a.m. opening. The yard sale is a big job, and everyone's help is appreciated! Please lend a hand to help on either Friday, March 1, or Saturday, March 2. If you can't move heavy things, you can unpack boxes, stage smaller items, or clean and price various goods. There is always plenty to do for everyone! Remember, the proceeds from the yard sale fund a goodly portion of our church budget.

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!

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!

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.



sc0179 www.fotosearch.com



Late Last Supper Club at China Chili's.





Maundy Thursday Combined Worship Service
Thursday, March 28th @ 7:00 PM

Join us as we worship together with First Church UCC and New Hope UCC at Encanto Community Church UCC



Dolly Steamboat Trip
at Canyon Lake



Pastoral Ponderings

Greetings!

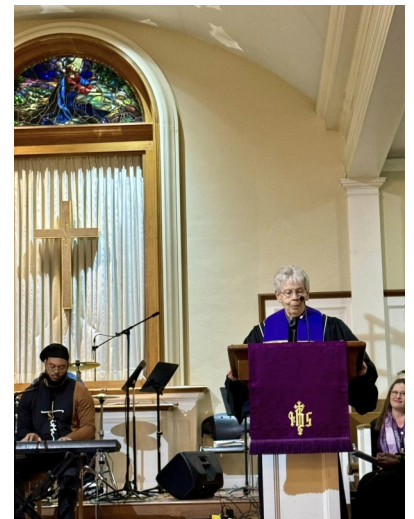
How fast time seems to fly this year. We are already 2 weeks into Lent and Easter is one month away. The entire purpose of Lent is to bring us closer to God and resurrect within our self new life and vitality on Easter through the life and ministry of Jesus. I hope that you are taking the time to invest in your spiritual life during this Holy Season.

If you were unable to attend the joint Ash Wednesday Service held at First Church UCC along with New Hope UCC, I believe you missed a wonderful experience. We will be joining with First Church UCC and New Hope UCC again for Maundy Thursday Worship Service this year. This worship service will be held at Encanto Community Church following our Soup Supper. I pray that you will participate in this service which really intensifies the meaning of Holy Week and Easter.

The sermons given during Lent are from the Book of Exodus. Through the stories of Moses and the Israelites we focus on God's continual awareness of the lives of humans and what injustices and exclusions they are experiencing each day. They also remind us that we are created with the ability to see as God sees and to tune into God's willingness to guide us through our journey and assisting others in their journey. It is the journey of bringing God's Realm to Earth through us. So I pray you give some thought to this awareness.

My prayers are with you as you individually spend 40 days in the wilderness.

Blessings, Rev. Gloria



Council Meeting: February 18, 2024

The ECC Council Meeting for February 18, 2024 was called to order by Moderator Lisa Herrmann at 11:41 A.M.

Prayer was led by Pastor Gloria Smith.

Attendees: Todd Montague, Lisa Herrmann, Melanie Herrmann, Steve Barrett, Pastor Gloria Smith, Steve Holloway, Kathy Stock, John Hasenstab, Cindy Walley, and Kathy Van Etten.

The Meeting Minutes from the ECC Council's January 21, 2024 meeting were reviewed, voted upon, motioned, and accepted by all in attendance for the Church Records.

The Treasurers Report was given by Kathy Van Etten: printed copies were distributed to all in attendance. January 2024 was not a good financial month, we are starting the year financially in the red, this is the beginning of a new fiscal year, and there are now increased payroll, and higher ECC operational costs due to inflation and higher external economic prices. This January we also incurred onetime expenses: the refrigerator in the Caretaker's Cottage had to be replaced, and the roses in the Rose Garden were trimmed. The positive economic news for January is the upward bounce of the Endowment Fund, and the Goodwill check for the October 23, 2023 yard sale was received during the week of February 12, 2024.

Trustees Report given by Steve Holloway; the ECC Parsonage's lease is up on March 15, 2024, if needed the current lease will be extended for 6 months at a higher rate and also will include cost of water each month. The new lease after the 6 month extension is up will be adjusted to the neighborhood's current rental market rate value. The parsonage's water bill is now in the church's name and will be included in the monthly rent. A new extension ladder is still on the purchase list, and the shelf for the AED and First Aid Kit are being built. The blinds are installed in the Fellowship Hall basement, the smart locks are awaiting installation. The leak in the upstairs Fellowship Hall area is still in need of repair, and there was an additional treatment needed for termites in the Fellowship Hall area. The Pickle Ball Court is now painted thanks to Tony, Todd and Steve, and we have the Pickle Ball set stored in the office area for usage. Tom is also working on replacing the slats on the benches in the sports court area, and new rose bushes are needed for the Pet Garden area. One of the remote controls for one of the cameras fell and was damaged, a replacement has been ordered, and we are working to get the camera fully operational again.

Security Task Force Report given by Lisa Herrmann; the annual contacts listings are being updated. FEMA has now scheduled spring webinars on safety and security for houses of worship.

Deacons Report given by John Hasenstab: Feedback critique of the Christmas Services was received and as a result, the Deacons will implement a change to release Christmas Service attendees at the conclusion of services. The Deacons Room in the Fellowship Hall will be reorganized after Easter. Deacon Paul Petrasek visited Bradley and was able to deliver his gift card. We are striving to visit and keep in contact with our shut-ins.

Stewardship Report given by John Hasenstab: no report, we have not met for this year, but ideas were noted from the First Church visit during Ash Wednesday Services

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

Religious Education Report given by Kathy Van Etten; there was a very good turn out from the ECC Youth. There will be a group from a UCC Church in Massachusetts flying into Phoenix on April 12, 2024, on their mission visit to the northern portion of our state, they will be spending the night in the Fellowship Hall. Religious Education will be coordinating needed services with our Outreach Committee for the visit. We are also exploring summer camp options for our ECC Youth.

Memorial Fund Report given by Kathy Stock; printed copies were given to all in attendance, and the annual Rose Garden expenses were paid.

Outreach Report given by Melanie Herrmann: April 12, 2024 the Cinema under the stars will feature Willie Wonka, the April 19, 2024 cinema presentation will be Next Goal Wins. Outreach is researching affordable pet care services for our pet ministry.

Hospitality Report given by Todd Montague; we will be hosting hospitality hours in the Fellowship Gardens area on Sunday, February 25, 2024 due to the yard sale staging. New treat suppliers have signed up for upcoming Sundays.

Pastor's Report given by Pastor Gloria Smith; the first Joint Ash Wednesday Services went well. ECC will be hosting Maundy Thursday Services on Thursday, March 28, 2024. The Annual UCC Conference will be April 26-April 27, 2024 and will be held in Phoenix this year at the Shepherd of the Hills United Church of Christ, the keynote speaker will be Rev. Dr. Yvonne Delk.

New Business: prep work is being done for hosting the combined Maundy Services. The corner house on the south side of the church will be on the market soon. We are also exploring offsite covered picnic locations for ECC future Saturday outings. Changes to Sunday preservice are being implemented to improve the quality of the Sunday Services.

Calendar updates and reviews were done for February, March and April.

Old Business: we now have several volunteers for the ECC 80th Anniversary Cookbook project, all recipes must be emailed or given to Michelle in the ECC office by April 30, 2024. Office@encantocommunitychurch.org

The February 18, 2024 ECC Council meeting was adjourned at 3:30 P.M. by Moderator Lisa Herrmann.

March 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Yard Sale Set Up 1pm	2 Yard Sale! 7am-3pm
3 Pet Food Bagging Trustees Meeting Outreach Meeting Spanish/English 11:30am	4 Goodwill Pick Up	5 Handbells 5pm Choir 7pm	6 Happy Birthday Cindy Walley	7 Happy Birthday Loretta Mortimer	8 Happy 50th Anniversary Bruce and Loretta	9
10 Deacons Meeting Spanish/English 11:30am	11	12 Handbells 5pm Choir 7pm	13	14 Happy Birthday Marlen Morales	15	16
17 Spanish/English 11:30am	18	19 Handbells 5pm Choir 7pm	20 Late Last Supper 6:30pm	21 Nourish Phx 8:15am	22	23
24 Council Meeting Spanish/English 11:30am	25 Happy Birthday Lloyd Lo	26 Handbells 5pm Choir 7pm Newsletter Deadline	27	28 Maundy Thursday Soup Supper 5:30pm Service at 7pm	29	30
31 Easter Sunday Egg Hunt After Church Happy Birthday Darwin Risk						

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

