

# Encanto Community Church

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

## The Pilgrim

### May Events

- May 2 Choir 7pm-8:30pm
- May 7 Choir 7pm
- May 5 Happy Cinco de Mayo!  
Trustees Meeting  
Outreach Meeting  
Pet Food Re-Bagging  
Spanish/English Class
- May 12 Happy Mother's Day!  
Deacons Meeting  
Cookbook Team Meeting
- May 14 Choir 7pm-8:30pm
- May 16 Nourish Phoenix 8:15am
- May 18 Choir 9am-10:30am  
Social Gang Event 10am  
Yard Sale Sorting 1pm
- May 19 Music Appreciation Day!  
Choir Cantata  
Council Meeting
- May 21 Newsletter Deadline
- May 22 Late Last Supper 6:30pm
- May 27 Memorial Day

### May 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, Gary Mahoney, Sandee Martinez, Lillian Pain, George Penny, Cindy & Mike Robinson. Nancy Studebaker, Shanti Sunderajan, Gavin V. Su Westberg, Encanto Community Church, Our Community and Our World. May God's grace and healing touch be with you all.

### Late Last Supper

Our April culinary adventure for the Encanto Church Late Last Supper Club will take place at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 22, 2024, when we will join together for dinner at Thai Rama, located at 1221 West Camelback Road, Phoenix, Arizona.

As many of you know, Thai Rama has wonderful curries, vegetarian dishes, and seafood items. Also, we'll certainly have a mix of both spicy and non-spicy selections, so don't shy away just because you don't like "hot" food, and you think all Thai food is spicy - it's not! We'll order family style, as usual, and divide the bill by the number of us. So, plan accordingly. As usual, we'll meet at the restaurant. Please let Kathy V. know if you wish to join the party, and she will make the necessary reservations. Thanks!



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

# NEWS AND INFORMATION

## Treasurer's Report. (General Fund for March 2024)

Beginning Balance: \$-4,412.04  
Received: \$19,050.54  
Disbursed: \$16,824.37  
Ending Balance: \$-2,185.87  
For a gain of: \$2,226.17

### Total Offering Receipts for March 2024

3/3	3/10	3/17	3/24	3/31
\$4,659.25	\$1,083	\$1,686	\$903	\$4,239.29

There was no withdrawal from the endowment fund in March.

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



For those thinking of including our church in your will or trust there are several formats you can employ. A straightforward bequest can be made to the church's general fund or endowment. If you are contemplating a restricted estate commitment in which you wish to direct your gift toward a specific purpose, members of our Stewardship Committee would be happy to meet with you and your attorney to identify the best ways to fulfill your charitable objectives and ensure that your contribution makes a meaningful difference.



### Deacon on Duty

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

**Lauri Hasler**  
**602-573-2734**

## Birthdays To Remember May

Stacie Nasser	7th
Lety Torres	19th
Sergio Perez	29th



It's hot outside! We need your clean, non-holely men's shorts, t-shirts and socks. If you were looking to donate any of these to a thrift or thinking of throwing them out, please bring them here where we can put them to good use.

In the food area, we could really use water, crackers (not sandwich, we have lots of those) and ready to eat soups (NOT condensed please.)

We are also running low on full fare bus passes. With the heat, our homeless community can ride both the city bus and the light rail all day and stay out of the sun and potentially save their lives by not dying of heat stroke/exhaustion.

Thank you in advance for your kindness and generosity.



# Fellowship Hour

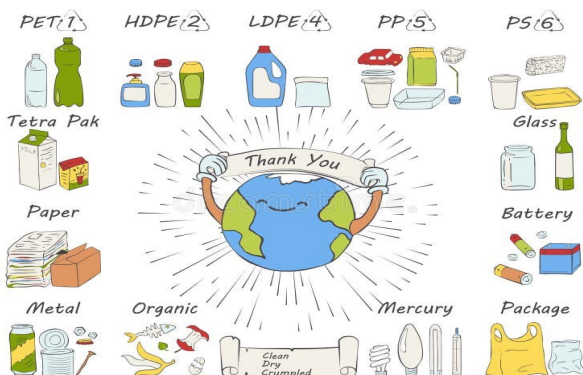


Thank you to Jamie & Todd for being the April Fellowship Hosts. Thank you to Kathy S., and Annette for providing treats.

Special thanks to the Deacons for hosting and providing food for the Church Picnic, as well as all of you who brought sides and desserts to share!

Hey Kids, just an update on our garden outreach. As you may remember we are partnering with Advance: Partnering for Healthy Communities. Advance is an organization committed to assisting vulnerable populations with their health and nutrition needs and one of their programs is preparing and providing meals to elderly community members. Every two weeks or so we harvest the ripened vegetables from our garden so Advance can use them for their meals. It has been exciting to donate larger and larger harvests to this wonderful group of people. Thank you for your support of this worthwhile project.

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!



# Church Cook Book



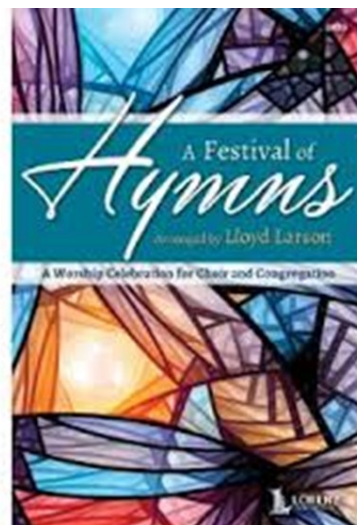
We're producing a new, updated Encanto Community Church Cookbook for our 80th anniversary and we need your recipes! We all know that us Encantonian's love a good meal.

Please share your favorite:

Appetizers, Main Dishes, Side Dishes, Desserts and Miscellaneous.

Email to the church office:  
[office@encantocommunitychurch.org](mailto:office@encantocommunitychurch.org)

Please submit your recipes and photos no later than **May 10, 2024**. Thank you.



Join us  
 May 19 at  
 10 AM for  
 our Music  
 Appreciation  
 Day Choir  
 Cantata.



# Late Last Supper at The Original Hamburger Works



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, May 18, 2024, from 1 p.m. until 3 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.

Congratulations Chris Schwarz for running in this year's Pat's Run, honoring the incredible legacy of Pat Tillman.



Youth Tutoring Nights will be on hiatus for the summer beginning in May. Enjoy the vacation!

# Pastoral Ponderings

## Greetings

This month as “The Pilgrim” is going to print – I am busy getting ready for Annual Meeting and a Ecclesiastical Council for a future minister. So, I thought it would be a good time to share excerpts from an article authored by penceducc and published (4-1-2024) on the Vital Signs and Statistics of the United Church of Christ (<https://carducc.wordpress.com/2024/04/01/notes-on-the-nones-part-i-outlining-the-trend-and-why-sociology-is-hard/>). I am sorry that I can not include the entire article but copyright laws do not permit it.

## Notes on the “Nones” Part I: Outlining the Trend and Why Sociology is Hard

“For more than a decade, the growing number of Americans who do not affiliate or identify with a religious tradition has been the topic of national conversation. Regular releases from Pew and Gallup have kept readers abreast of the population’s growth, while news outlets have featured regular articles on what these statistics might mean for the future of faith. Yet for all the reporting that has been done, there is much about the Nones that is less well-known.”

“The notion that religiosity is in some sense declining has been a regular feature of American life for generations. Reflecting on his Youth in mid-19th century Boston, Henry Adams saw the “disappearance of religion” as a defining feature of the milieu. “The religious instinct,” as he put it “had vanished,” not simply for himself or his relations but for the whole of Bostonian high society. A century later, such feelings were increasingly taken as features of the age. Readers may recall the controversy that surrounded a 1966 Time Magazine story on Death of God Theology or Paul Tillich’s characterization of the 20th century as one marked by the loss of a “spiritual center” and guarantor of meaning.”

“As many observers have noted, moreover, religion has accrued its own negative associations of late by way of church scandals as well as political polarization. Hence, as early as 2001, authors were speculating that rising disaffiliation could, in part, reflect the reluctance of politically liberal respondents to identify as religious in a time when the religious right was on the rise (even if they continued to believe in God or pray, see below). It’s no secret that Nones lean left, and while causality is difficult to parse with such questions, more recent work suggests that political affiliation is more predictive of subsequent adoption of the None label than vice versa and that, in an experimental context, exposing left-leaning individuals to religious messaging from right-wing political candidates increases their likelihood of identifying as None.”

“Consider the following curveballs:

Around 70% of Pew Nones believe in God or some higher power, including 23% of self-described atheists (nearly all of the second group opting for “higher power”; Pew, 2024)

61% of GSS Nones also reported some level of belief in God or a higher power. Notably, the GSS version of the question has more options, including a don’t know/don’t believe there is any way to find out option absent from Pew’s version (GSS Data Explorer Tabulations, 2015-2022)

Nearly as many Pew Nones believe in a soul beyond the physical body (67%) and the existence of “something spiritual beyond the natural world” (63%; *ibid.*)

A Quarter of Gallup Nones indicated in 2023 that they believed in angels (Gallup, 2023)

Pew Nones in the United States pray more often and have more certainty in God’s existence than self-identified Christians in Western Europe (Pew, 2018).”

I hope that you will ponder how this brief information inform our relationship to “Nones” and any preconceived notions we have.

Blessings, Rev. Gloria

## Council Meeting: April 21, 2024

The ECC Council Meeting on April 21, 2024, was called to order by Moderator, Lisa Herrmann at 12:18 p.m.

Attendees: John Hasenstab, Lisa Herrmann, Melanie Herrmann, Steve Holloway, Todd Montague, Rev. Gloria Smith, Kathy Van Etten, and Cindy Walley. Prayer was led by Kathy Van Etten. The 3/24/24 meeting minutes were approved.

The Treasurer's Report was given by Kathy Van Etten. The 3/2/24 Yard Sale proceeds were updated with the Goodwill check. Easter donations allowed us to catch up on some bills. The Endowment Fund increased slightly. Specific receipts and disbursements were reviewed. There will be no parsonage rental income in April causing a significant shortfall for the month. Discussion was held regarding cost of the parsonage repairs. Thus far, we have collected \$215 for the One Great Sharing offering.

The Trustees' Report was given by Steve Holloway. Parsonage: most of the repairs/cleaning work has been completed. Steve summarized the work completed to date as well as the work to be done. Hopefully, all work can be completed by the end of April so that rental signs can go up, and new renters found by mid-May. The front church sign is completed, and Martin will install it. The stairs to the basement have been repaired. Other items discussed: a) The last time the sanctuary building, Fellowship Hall, and the Caretaker's House were painted, inside and out; b) The use of the kitchen fire extinguishers; c) The April 20th concert and the use of the sanctuary for other community music events in the future. The Security Task Force will be meeting next week to discuss cameras, re-keying, and grants. Technology: We were able to stream the service on Facebook today. Hopefully, that will continue. The church internet and phones were out this weekend for about 30 hours, but Cox completed repairs early Sunday morning. The unusual issues with the organ were diagnosed, and a new board has been ordered at a cost of approximately \$4,000. Cindy graciously offered to pay for the new organ board by using money from the Emmanuel Baptist Church Endowment Fund. Everyone was very grateful! The digital projector used for movie night is no longer working and will need to be replaced. Also, Steve believes he may have diagnosed the problem with the Sanctuary monitors.

The Deacon's Report was given by John Hasenstab. Church Picnic was held today and was a great success! A review of the Lent, Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday and Easter activities was done, with positive feedback overall. We hope to continue the combined services with New Hope and First Church. Flowers will be distributed on Mother's Day, and ideas for Father's Day were discussed. John provided an update of the parishioners who are homebound.

Stewardship Report given by John Hasenstab. The committee hasn't met yet. They will discuss the proposed wording for specific estate commitments. Discussion held regarding other ways of giving as well as giving to specific funds and items.

Financial Secretary's Report given by John Hasenstab. John will try the "Church Trac" software. General discussion was held regarding what a future software system needs to do for us. The weekly bulletin now has a section showing current giving and average weekly expenditures.

Religious Education Report was given by Kathy Van Etten. The holiday tree in Fellowship Hall will be decorated for Mother's Day next. Possible plans for summer youth activities were discussed. As part of their comparative religion studies, the students studied the basics of Passover this past Sunday.

Cindy Walley led a discussion about having two or three main areas for the church to focus on. Various ideas were discussed, and the issues will be addressed again at the next meeting.

Memorial Fund Report provided by Kathy Stock was reviewed.

Outreach Report was given by Melanie Herrmann. The next committee meetings will be held on April 28 and May 5 (so that future committee meetings can be held on the first Sunday of the month). Items for discussion will be the neighborhood survey, Cinema Under the Stars, and Christmas in August.

Hospitality Report was given by Todd Montague. Things are going well.

Pastor's Report was given by Rev. Gloria Smith. She and Janet Maxwell will be attending the Southwest UCC Annual Conference in Phoenix from April 25 through 27. A vote will be held to grant New Hope UCC full standing. Pastor Gloria will be on vacation from April 28 through May 4. Rev. Kristina Campbell will be preaching in her absence on Sunday, April 28.

Moderator's Report was given by Lisa Herrmann. She discussed her concern about finding replacements for a few church positions. Calendar updates were made for May and June, as well as significant dates through the end of the year.

Old Business: the ECC Recipe Book project was discussed. Discussion about the possible Maricopa County Sheriff's office presentation regarding fraud and scams was tabled for a later date.

New Business: It was determined that Council will take their summer recess in June, but they will resume their monthly meetings in July.

The ECC Council Meeting was adjourned at 4:15 p.m. by Moderator, Lisa Herrmann.

# May 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 Choir 7pm-8:30pm	3	4
5 Pet Food Bagging Trustees Outreach Meeting Spanish/English 11:30am Cinco de Mayo	6	7 Choir 7pm Happy Birthday Stacie Nasser	8	9	10	11
12 Mother's Day Deacons Meeting Spanish/English 11:30am	13	14 Choir 7pm-8:30pm	15	16 Nourish Phx 8:15am	17	18 Choir 9am-10:30am Social Gang Event 10am Yard Sale Sorting 1pm
19 Council Meeting Spanish/English 11:30am Choir Cantata Music Appreciation Day Happy Birthday Lety Torres	20	21 Newsletter Deadline	22 Late Last Supper 6:30pm	23	24	25
26 Spanish/English 11:30am	27 Memorial Day	28	29 Happy Birthday Sergio Perez	30	31	



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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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