

Encanto Community Church

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

The Pilgrim

August Events

August 4	Outreach Meeting Pet Food Re-Bagging Spanish/English Class
August 10	Yard Sale Sorting 10am Christmas in August Set Up 10:30am
August 11	Christmas in August
August 15	Nourish Phoenix 8am
August 18	Council Meeting Spanish/English Class
August 20	Newsletter Deadline
August 21	Late Last Supper 6:30pm

Fellowship Hour



Thank you to Michelle L. and Santiago Q. for hosting last month, and to Tony & Michelle L., Marilyn H., the ECC Youth, and the ECC Social Gang for providing tasty treats!

Please join hosts Annette H. and Janet M. for fellowship this month!

Don't forget that you can sign up to bring your favorite snack to share by putting your name on the sign up sheets on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall. Pick the date that works best for you! Sweet or savory, homemade or store bought, it's all appreciated and always enjoyed.

Thank you!

August 2024



Please Remember in Your Prayers:

Diane Boudle, Bill Edens, Tammy Hughes, Jane Gempeler, Debbye Jones and Rev. Gloria Smith, Carol Krietenstein, Rich Maxwell, Carl Madsen, Gary Mahoney, Sandee Martinez, Lillian Pain, Ivan Acevedo Patino, 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 August culinary adventure for the Encanto Church Late Last Supper Club will take place at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, August 21, 2024, when we will join together for dinner at **The Cheesecake Factory located at 2402 East Camelback, Phoenix, Arizona 85016**, in the Biltmore Shopping Mall. If you've never been to The Cheesecake Factory, you need to get out more! This long-standing restaurant has been considered one of the foremost purveyors of cheesecake for many years, consistently producing dozens of types of delectable cheesecakes and other desserts. Of course, they also have delicious main dish items including salads, pastas, sandwiches, pizzas, steaks, and comfort food - the menu is expansive with over 250 selections from which to choose! As usual, we will each pay for our own dinner, and we'll meet at the restaurant. Please let Kathy V. know if you'll be attending, so she can make the necessary arrangements. Life is short. Eat dessert first!

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



NEWS AND INFORMATION

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

Beginning Balance: \$-660.75
Received: \$17,183.02
Disbursed: \$16,792.96
Ending Balance: \$-270.69
For a gain of: \$318.00

Total Offering Receipts for June 2024

6/2	6/9	6/16	6/23	6/30
\$4,224	\$698.07	\$2,390	\$1,162.23	\$3,129.47

There was no withdrawal from the Endowment Fund in June.



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.

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.

Deacon on Duty

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

Jamie Vice
602-266-4602

Birthdays To Remember August

Lluvia Morales	2nd
Patty Roberts	6th
Michael Cabrera	6th
Elaine Bohlmeyer	10th
Jim Mitchell	20th
Steve Holloway	29th



Thank you AZStrut for all of the tech equipment we received! We appreciate you so much!



Annette has a question for all of you fellow Encantonian's! Her question is this:

Would any adults be interested in getting a group together for a journey to Kartchner Caverns? Perhaps for this fall? Annette would love to get a group assembled and is more than happy to get everything organized. She just needs to hear from you!

If this is something that's right up your alley, please reach out to Annette at annetteaaa@yahoo.com. Thank you!

Christmas in August

Ho-ho-ho Encanto! With sweat on our faces where we wish there were snowflakes, we once again get to celebrate the most joyous of holidays, Christmas in August!

Join the Outreach Committee Sunday, August 11th in a Christmas Supper Potluck following a Christmas-themed church service. The main dishes will be provided and we invite congregants to bring scrumptious side dishes and deserts so we can all leave with bellies that look like bowls full of jelly.

Trade in the heatwave and road rage for glad tidings and cheer.

This year as well, in the spirit of giving, we will be holding a supply drive that day for all the animal residents at the Animal Welfare League!

Supplies Needed Are:

- Purina One wet dog and puppy food
- old washcloths
- old towels
- old blankets
- toys
- treats



If you are able to donate anything, our furry (and human) friends at the AWL will be so greatly appreciative! On behalf of Outreach, we thank you as well!

Merry (almost) Christmas!

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!



Hi all. On September 22nd we will have the annual Spaghetti Dinner and Silent Auction. This is the a fund raiser for Church. For those of you who are not familiar with this, we serve a complete Spaghetti Dinner with dessert for the most reasonable price of \$10.00 per person, \$5.00 for children under 12. At the same time we will have items out for the silent auction. This event takes a lot of help. We will need people to help with the set up the day before and we will need people the day of to help serve as well as clean up.

Please think about it and if you would like to help even though it's quite early, you can email me at jjanrus@gmail.com. It's a lot of work and I don't want to wait until the last minute.

I will be in charge of the dinner and Kathy V. is in charge of the Silent Auction. We will need donations of new or nearly new items. If you come across items you would like to donate please see Kathy. The September Pilgrim will have more info.

Thanks to everyone in advance.

Jan Russell

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



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, August 10, 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.

August 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 Happy Birthday Lluvia Morales	3
4 Outreach Meeting Pet Food Re-Bagging Spanish/English Class	5	6 Happy Birthday Patty Roberts Michael Cabrera	7	8	9	10 Yard Sale Sort 10am Christmas in August Set Up 10:30am Happy Birthday Elaine Bohlmeier
11 Christmas in August	12	13	14	15 Nourish Phx 8am	16	17
18 Council Meeting Spanish/English Class	19	20 Newsletter Deadline Happy Birthday Jim Mitchell	21 Late Last Supper 6:30pm	22	23	24
25 Spanish/English Class	26	27	28	29 Happy Birthday Steve Holloway	30	31

Pastoral Ponderings

I recently read an article published on Religious News Service that reflected on the happiness score of Israel in comparison to the other nations. Israel is 5th on the International Scale for Happiness and with only the Nordic countries scoring higher. When we consider the continual threat that hovers over Israel from Iran, Syria, Hamas and other Islamic extremists, you could easily assume that the residents of Israel would be anxious and constantly on guard. Living daily with threats of war has traditionally led from a healthy emotional state to one that deteriorates from constant stress.

A new book by Dan Senor and Saul Singer, "The Genius of Israel: The Surprising Resilience of a Divided Nation in a Turbulent World," examines the emotional resilience of the people of Israel in comparison to a phenomena known as "deaths of despair." "Death of despair" refers to deaths resulting from "suicide, addictions and other health issues that come from emotional turmoil." The book asks why Israel has the lowest rate of "deaths of despair" among other wealthy countries.

According to Senor and Singer, "it is all about connection, belonging and meaning. Israelis feel connected to one another. They feel they are part of a national project. This gives their lives meaning, and it creates a larger sense of family connections as they share the weekly Shabbat meal. Connection and community produces an individual joy and national joy.

Rabbi Jeffrey Salkin, author of the article, observed on trips to Israel that people gather in community to pray for resolution to conflict, the return of the hostages and any other national event affecting the well-being of people. They believe these gatherings are a way of promoting and spreading 'chesed' — loving kindness. Prayers and discussions of concern turn into a choir as traditional folk music is sung by all the participants. As the songs continue, emotional stress turns to internal peace and joy.

We sing in church and we sing in bars but why are we so self-conscious and timid about gathering in groups at spaces of violence and destruction or times of stress? Most of us have heard quotes about the importance and life changing effects of music but do we yield to its healing and communal properties? Do we allow it to bring 'hope' alive in us?

I hope you will ponder on these quotes and how music can strengthen our emotional state, church community and our neighborhood communities.

"Music can change the world because it can change people." (Bono is an Irish singer-songwriter and activist.)

"Music has charms to sooth a savage breast, to soften rocks, or bend a knotted oak."
(William Congreve was an English dramatist of the late 1600s)

"Music is very spiritual, it has the power to bring people together.

Edgar Holland Winter is musician and songwriter who performed in the 1970s.

"Music washes away from the soul the dust of everyday life." (Berthold Auerbach was a 19th century German poet.)

"Music is a moral law. It gives soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination, and charm and gaiety to life and to everything." (Plato was an ancient Greek philosopher of the 5th century BCE.)

*** Salkin, Jeffrey. (2024). "Why are Israelis so happy?". Religious News Service. <https://religionnews.com/category/opinion/columns/jeffrey-salkin/>

Take Jesus to Dinner and a Movie *(Re-Run by Request)*

by

Kathy Van Etten

(Church Treasurer)

As some of you may recall, I wrote the first of these articles in March of 2016, when we had just lost the tenancy of the Great Hope Korean Church who had been sharing our worship space for a couple of years. At that point, we lost the rental income we were receiving from them which constituted about 10% of our monthly budget. Fortunately, over the years, we have been able to make up that deficit through various means.

Now, however, we have a new financial challenge. As you may know, after five years, the family who was renting our parsonage decided it was time to move on a few months ago, giving us the opportunity to make some needed repairs to the property and to raise the rent to a sum closer to market value. Of course, this meant that we needed to spend several thousand dollars to repaint the interior and exterior of the home, refinish the tub, repair the sprinklers and other fixtures, and beautify the yard. All of that work took a couple of months, and it has taken several weeks to find new renters. Nevertheless, as of last Sunday, we are happy to report that we have a lovely family settling in as our new tenants.

Our new folks are paying a fair amount of rent every month, and that will greatly help our church budget moving forward. Right now, though, we are struggling to make-up the \$7,000 that we lost in rental proceeds while the home was empty and the \$6,500 that we needed to spend in repairs and utilities to get the house “spruced up.” Combining this deficit with our high church insurance premiums (\$2,500 per month), the increased staff salaries that took effect the first of this year, and the high summer electric bills, I am concerned that we need to increase our monthly offerings over the next couple of months.

Yes, we have a reasonable endowment that was created from the bequests of many generous parishioners who have long since passed away, but that money is only to be used for true emergencies. If we are forced to use it merely to “make ends meet,” it will be gone very, very quickly. Consequently, I thought this would be a good time to update this article and ask for everyone’s help.

To reiterate my 2016 thoughts, here’s my suggestion about how to handle our current financial dilemma: Take Jesus to Dinner and a Movie!

Yes, I realize you don’t know what I’m talking about, but you will in a minute. Read on. . .

The reality is that our current deficit is not an insignificant amount, but it is not an insurmountable one either. Indeed, if you run the numbers, this amount can be made up fairly easily if all of us contribute to the cause. If everyone simply donates a small additional amount every month, the problem will be solved.

How much should I give, you ask? My suggestion is to consider your donation in terms of what it would cost for you to take Jesus to dinner and a movie (including popcorn) at least once a month. If you’re “feeling flush,” perhaps you would even spring for Jesus, God, and the Holy Ghost to join you for a meal and a show!

Indeed, considering everything that God has done for each of us through our wonderful church, it’s not too much to ask that we “pick up the dinner tab” for a while in order to get us through the coming lean months.

Consequently, if you are only able to take Jesus to McDonald’s once in a while, put an extra \$15 in the offering plate for that week - assuming you actually go get the food and don’t pay for Door Dash delivery. On the other hand, if you are able to take Jesus, God, and the Holy Ghost to dinner at Durant’s, pitch an extra \$200 in the offering plate for the month – unless, of course, you are ordering drinks, in which case, you had better double that amount. Don’t forget to add the post-dinner entertainment, too. Movies cost about \$15 per person these days if you go to the theatre, or if you stream a “rental, you can add \$20 to the total.

This may seem like a silly way to look at the matter, but I think you’ll find it quite practical.

At the end of the day, if twenty of us who are able to do so donate an extra \$100 or \$200 per month to our beloved church every month for the next few months (perhaps, through October), we’ll get through the shortfall with relative ease, and we’ll be ready to embark on an exciting new chapter by the holidays.

Just a little food for thought . . .

Thank you for your consideration.

Council Meeting: July 21, 2024

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

The ECC Council July 21, 2024 Meeting was called to order by Moderator Lisa Herrmann at 11:47 A.M.

Kathy Stock sent in a prayer for reading at the July 2024 Council Meeting. (read by Lisa Herrmann).

The ECC Council Meeting Minutes from the last meeting held on May 19, 2024, were reviewed and accepted into the church records by all in attendance.

Treasurers Report was given by Kathy Van Etten, both budgets for the month of May and June were given to all in attendance. The budget for May was again dismal, but so far, the month of June is looking better, but not all bills have been received and/or paid as of this meeting date for June. To safely meet the budget for July 2024, a withdrawal will be needed to meet expenses before the payroll is due on the 30th of June. There were significant expenses that occurred this month that increased the normal currently monthly expenses, mainly unforeseen repairs and maintenance items.

Facilities Report given by Steve Holloway; there was a water leak in the garden area, under the oleanders, Tony located the leakage and swiftly repaired the line. The parsonage is now rented, on the day of walk-thru for the incoming tenants, the A/C was not working. We owe a big thank you to Chris, Tony & Michelle's son, for stepping up and rapidly repairing the unit immediately for a super-duper nominal cost. The Duke Property's maintenance has recently improved, it is now back on the open market. The fans have been purchased for the Pulpit areas for Pastor Gloria and the Organ area. The last weeks of July, Steve and Kathy will be away, and Rev. Gloria will be the contact for any Trustee Issue (s) that arise. There is possibly an irrigation leak on the ECC Campus at the front of the 7th Ave parking lot area, Del and Tony will investigate the problem this week.

Security Report given by Lisa Herrmann. The rekeying project will begin soon as we have really finalized the master plan for stamping and installation. The tentative dates have been set for September 7, 2024, and September 8, 2024 (Rally Day) will be key wrap-up day. We did obtain a quote for the grant purposes for security shutters and doors, and it has been given to the Trustees for review, these will be solar powered. We still need a latch on the door in the organist area.

The financial Secretary's report: given by John Hasenstab, all monies are in the bank. There will be no Deacons Meeting in August.

Stewardship Report: none this month.

Tech Report given by Steve Holloway; using the current cameras we have; we will need to increase the number of cameras to 6 to fully capture the coverage areas needed. We did locate the professional assessment done previously so we will review prior to installation for proper placement.

Memorial Fund Report submitted by Kathy Stock; see printed reports given to all in attendance.

Religious Education Report given by Kathy Van Etten; the youth group had two wonderful outings. For our summer of 2024, we toured Kartchner Caverns State Park in Benson, Arizona. We also went to Willow Springs Lake, on the Mogollon Rim. Youth Sunday will be September 15, 2024. There will no Water Parks trip this summer. Our students are in training for public speaking and service by doing the weekly announcements in the upcoming months. We are researching our upcoming Christmas Play for this year. The Youth Sunday Services Theme this year will be Space.

Outreach Report given by Melanie Herrmann; the recipient of the Christmas tidings this year will be the AAWL, a listing of wished for items will be published in the weekly newsletter. Setup will be Saturday, August 10, 2024.

Hospitality Report given by Todd Montague; Nothing new to report, the signups are going well, both time and monies have been spent this year to improve and organize the hospitality items for our usage during Fellowship Hours and our Social gatherings.

Pastor's Report given by Rev. Gloria Smith; I will be leaving for a visit with my mom in August during the time we will be celebrating the Christmas in August. In Mid-September, I will be attending the Strategic Planning Conference for the Executive Board Retreat. On October 12, 2024, will be the induction of Rev. Dr. Toni Hawkins and luncheon. The back door repair was postponed for a later day. Custom Demographics were given to all in attendance as well as a copy of the Area's Custom American Beliefs Study Report.

Moderator's Report given by Lisa Herrmann; we have a tandem burial plot that was donated to the church that will now be offered for sale at a later date this year we are researching process and prospects.

Calendar Reviews and updates were made for the upcoming months.

Old business: recipe project update, we are at a standstill, entering info into Canva, but we are now moving forward with assistance and perhaps we will transition to Publisher.

New Business: The Summer attendance numbers determine the worship service location, due to the summer numbers, the balance of the summer services will be in the Sanctuary, because of the minor difference energy costs historically we are still gathering data.

Meeting adjourned at 3:44 P. M. by moderator Lisa Herrmann.

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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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