

# Encanto Community Church

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

## The Pilgrim

### September Events

September 1	Trustees Meeting Outreach Meeting Pet Food Re-Bagging Spanish/English Class
September 3	Choir 7pm
September 7	Yard Sale Sorting 10am-Noon Key "Club" 10:30am
September 8	Deacons Meeting Rally Day Spanish/English Class
September 10	Choir 7pm
September 15	Youth Sunday Council Meeting Spanish/English Class
September 17	Choir 7pm
September 18	Late Last Supper 6:30pm
September 19	Nourish Phoenix 8am
September 22	Spaghetti Dinner and Silent Auction
September 24	Newsletter Deadline Choir 7pm
September 29	Pet Food Re-Bagging Outreach Meeting Spanish/English Class

### Fellowship Hour

Thank you to Annette & Janet for hosting last month, and to Jan & Betty for providing treats! Thanks also to everyone who brought something to share for Christmas in August - it is appreciated! Please join hosts Craig & Santiago for fellowship this month.



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

### September 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 September culinary adventure for the Encanto Church Late Last Supper Club will take place at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, September 18, 2024, when we will join together for dinner at **Wok 'n Roll located at 2801 North Central Avenue, Phoenix, Arizona 85004** on the southeast corner of Thomas and Central. If you've never been to Wok 'n Roll, it's a great new neighborhood restaurant that has all kinds of diversions. While Karaoke and Tiki Tuesday won't be happening on the night we go, it gives you an idea of the vibe. The menu includes mostly Asian food such as rice bowls, sushi, noodles, Chinese entrees, appetizers, and a full bar! It looks delicious, and our own Jen Battershell works there. 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!



# NEWS AND INFORMATION

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

Beginning Balance: \$-270.69  
Received: \$21,259.70  
Disbursed: \$15,929.99  
Ending Balance: \$5,059.02  
For a gain of: \$5,329.71

### Total Offering Receipts for July 2024

7/7	7/14	7/21	7/28
\$1,288.05	\$2,415	\$1,476	\$2,540

There was a \$10,000 withdrawal from the Endowment Fund in July.



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 September is:

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

## Birthdays To Remember September

Pearl "Perky" Carter	3rd
Janet Maxwell	12th
Chris Schwarz	14th
Kathy Van Etten	16th
Ed Stock	17th
Tom Nasser	19th
Lisa Herrmann	22nd
Megan Swarens	22nd
Pablo Morales-Campos	22nd
Geneva Donner	23rd
George Martinez	24th
Steve Barrett	27th
Gloria Smith	30th



## Late Last Supper at The Cheesecake Factory



And for all of you Air Force Veterans (Steve B., Steve H., Craig M., George P. and my grandpa), Happy 77th Birthday to our United States Air Force!



U.S. AIR FORCE

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!

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Our fall Encanto Church Yard Sale will be held on Saturday, October 26, 2024. While that is many months away, you are still welcome to donate any gently used items to the sale at any time. Please let Kathy V. or Steve H. know if you need help getting your donations to church. Also, please feel free to peruse and purchase any of the pre-sale furniture that is displayed in the Fellowship Hall.



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, September 7, 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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In September, 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 should bring their textbooks or computer and homework assignments to the event. Students and teachers of all ages are welcome.



On Sunday, September 22d, the Saturday Morning Social Gang will be hosting our annual Spaghetti Dinner and Silent Auction fundraiser! This means that we will serve a delicious spaghetti dinner after church in the Fellowship Hall complete with salad, garlic bread, and dessert. Cost for the dinner is \$10 per person and \$5 for children. At the same time, we will have a Silent Auction that always includes all sorts of interesting treasures. If you have something to donate to the Silent Auction (either goods or services), please bring it to the church office or contact Kathy Van Etten as soon as possible. All proceeds go to benefit the church. Mark your calendars! This is an occasion you won't to miss!

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On behalf of the Outreach Committee I would like to extend special gratitude to those who donated toys, food, and supplies for our furry friends at Arizona Animal Welfare League during this year's Christmas in August! Your contributions have made a huge impact on all of the animals there. The Arizona Animal Welfare League is the largest and oldest no-kill shelter in Arizona and our very own Megan Swarens has been working there day in day out. Megan always comes each Sunday with stories about the latest and greatest cats and dogs that they have taken in, she has even found homes for some animals personally with congregants here at the church. Through her, we have learned so much about the hard and passionate work the AAWL staff and volunteers are doing in the Valley to help one of the most vulnerable populations.

At any one time, the shelter can hold 140 cats and 190 dogs, that's a lot of animals, lots of mouths to feed, beds to warm, and toys to delight! And with your invaluable donations and support, those animals can continue to get the best possible care there is! Thank you!



- Melanie

# September 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Pet Food Bagging Trustees Meeting Outreach Meeting Spanish/English Class	2	3 Choir 7pm Happy Birthday Pearl Carter	4	5	6	7 Yard Sale Sort 10am Key Club 10:30am
8 Rally Day Deacons Meeting Spanish/English Class	9	10 Choir 7pm	11	12 Happy Birthday Janet Maxwell	13	14 Happy Birthday Chris Schwarz
15 Youth Sunday Council Meeting Spanish/English Class	16 Happy Birthday Kathy Van Etten	17 Choir 7pm Happy Birthday Ed Stock	18 Late Last Supper 6:30pm	19 Nourish Phx. 8am Happy Birthday Tom Nasser	20	21
22 Council Meeting Spaghetti Dinner and Silent Auction Happy Birthday Lisa Herrmann Megan Swarens Pablo Morales-Campos	23 Happy Birthday Geneva Donner	24 Choir 7pm Newsletter Deadline Happy Birthday George Martinez	25	26	27 Happy Birthday Steve Barrett	28
29 Pet Food Bagging Outreach Meeting Spanish/English Class	30 Happy Birthday Pastor Gloria Smith					

Join the Southwest Conference Historical Legacy Preservation Team! Are you passionate about history or enjoy organizing and preserving stories? The Southwest Conference (SWC) is seeking dedicated individuals to join the new Historical Legacy Preservation Team to document and share the rich history of the Southwest Conference and its congregations. This is an opportunity to be a part of something new and exciting—preserving the legacies, traditions, and stories that have shaped our conference. If you have an interest in historical research, archival work, or simply piecing together the past, we would love to have you on board! Contact Shandrika McDowell at [ea@uccswc.org](mailto:ea@uccswc.org) on how you can get involved. Let us come together to gain a deeper understanding and appreciation of our history to ensure it is preserved for future generations. We look forward to the possibility of working with you!

## Pet Blessing & Memorial Service

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

**First Sunday in October**

Blessing Service 10:00 AM & Memorial Service 11:30 AM

**Blessing Service is 1 Hour Service of Celebration**

*(All Pets Welcome—Please use a leash or carrier)*



[www.encantocommunitychurch.org](http://www.encantocommunitychurch.org)  
Facebook—Encanto Community Church UCC

Mark your calendars for October 6th at 10am. Our Pet Blessing is officially on the calendar for 2024. All scaly, furry, creepy, crawly pets are welcome. Please keep your pet on a leash or in a carrier or other appropriate method. We will be taking pictures of you with your pet to be emailed out during the week after the service.



To continue supporting our greatest level of comfort and security on our church campus, it has been recommended that we change out our campus keys on a regular basis. Our rekeying of locks will occur on September 7th. On Sunday, September 8th, all people designated as key holders will receive their new keys.

You're invited to Dr. Toni's installation service!

The Executive Board of the Southwest Conference of the United Church of Christ requests your presence and prayers in joyful celebration at this sacred and historic occasion of the

Service of Installation for Rev. Dr. Altonnette D. Hawkins Conference Minister, Southwest Conference UCC.

Our theme will be God Is Doing a Great Work! We'll hear from our guest preacher, the Rev. Ruth D. Harvey Pastor, Toms River UCC – Central Atlantic Conference UCC.

Please join the celebration on Saturday, October 12, 2024, at 11 am Church of the Beatitudes, 555 W Glendale Avenue, Phoenix, AZ,

Please RSVP by September 15, 2024 to [EA@uccswc.org](mailto:EA@uccswc.org).

Host congregations: Church of the Beatitudes UCC and New Hope UCC of Phoenix

Join us for a reception following the service.

The Executive Board of the Southwest Conference of the United Church of Christ invites you to the

*Service of Installation for Conference Minister*

*Rev. Dr. Toni Hawkins*

Guest Preacher:  
Rev. Ruth Harvey  
Tom Rivers UCC

Praise  
Worship  
Celebrate!

*"For I am about to do something new. See, I have already begun. Do you not see it? I will make a pathway through the wilderness. I will create rivers in the dry wasteland." Isaiah 43:19. NLT*

**GOD IS DOING A GREAT WORK!**  
SERVICE: 11AM | SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2024  
CHURCH OF THE BEATITUDES  
555 W. GLENDALE AVE  
PHOENIX, ARIZONA

# Christmas in August

A big thank you to everyone who made last month's Christmas in August a tremendous success! Special thanks goes to Melanie Herrmann and all of her Outreach crew as well as everyone who helped clean-up, not to mention everyone who brought delicious food to share and gifts for our animal friends at the Animal Welfare League!



## Council Meeting: August 18, 2024

The ECC Council Meeting on August 18, 2024, was called to order by Moderator Lisa Herrmann at 11:40 A.M.

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

Kathy Van Etten led the prayer.

The Minutes from the July 21, 2024, Council Meeting, were reviewed, voted upon, and accepted into the church records.

Treasurers Report was given by Kathy Van Etten; a withdrawal was taken from the Endowment Fund to meet the payroll and monthly expenses. The rent for the parsonage was received, and we did not have any exceptions or unexpected expenditures for the month. We did, however, have high utilities and water expenses.

Trustees Report given by Steve Holloway: There were problems with the parsonage's a/c unit on walk through, a big thank you to Chris/Tony and Michelle's son for the very speedy repairs. The costly water leak in the garden area was located and repaired by Tony.

Tech Report given by Steve Holloway; None this month.

Security Task Force report given by Lisa Herrmann; copies of the DHS Assessment Report were emailed to Council Members for review and feedback. Updates on the Rekey Project will be posted in the upcoming weekly bulletin.

Stewardship Report given by John Hasenstab; Stewards will be meeting in September.

Financial Secretary Report given by John Hasenstab; all monies are in the bank. The input for the new church software system is moving forward very timely.

Memorial Fund Report: Kathy Stock provided printed copies for all in attendance, Lisa Herrmann distributed them to the attendees.

Pastors Report given by Rev. Gloria Smith; There is now a grant available from the Conference for funding programs, but the deadline to apply is in September. Helpful information will be published in upcoming bulletins regarding the dos and don'ts regarding political activity on the ECC Campus. Preparations are underway for the upcoming Season of Creation. The Induction and Luncheon for Rev. Toni Hawkins will be in September.

Religious Education Report given by Kathy Van Etten; we are happy and excited to have fresh faces coming to our youth programs. We are currently working on the upcoming Youth Sunday Services; this year's theme will be Outer Space and Aliens. There will be no Water Park trips this year due to prohibitive cost, work continues the script for this year's Christmas Play.

Outreach Report given by Melannie Herrmann; this year's Christmas in August went very well, the volunteers did a super job in every area. The ECC Garden is now scheduled to be replanted in September – weather permitting. The Neighbors in Need will be in October, presentation/announcement on the 13th, and the Offering held on October 20th.

Hospitality Report given by Todd Montague; the treat signup sheet is posted in the Fellowship Hall Kitchen area and looks very tasty for the remainder of this year.

Deacons Report given by John Hasenstab; no meeting in July, we will be meeting in September.

Moderators Report given by Lisa Herrmann; the crypt project research continues.

Calendar updates were made for the remaining months of 2024.

Old business given by Lisa Herrmann; None.

New Business given by Lisa Herrmann; a Memorial for Bruce Mortimer will be held on Saturday, August 24, 2024, at 1:00 P.M.

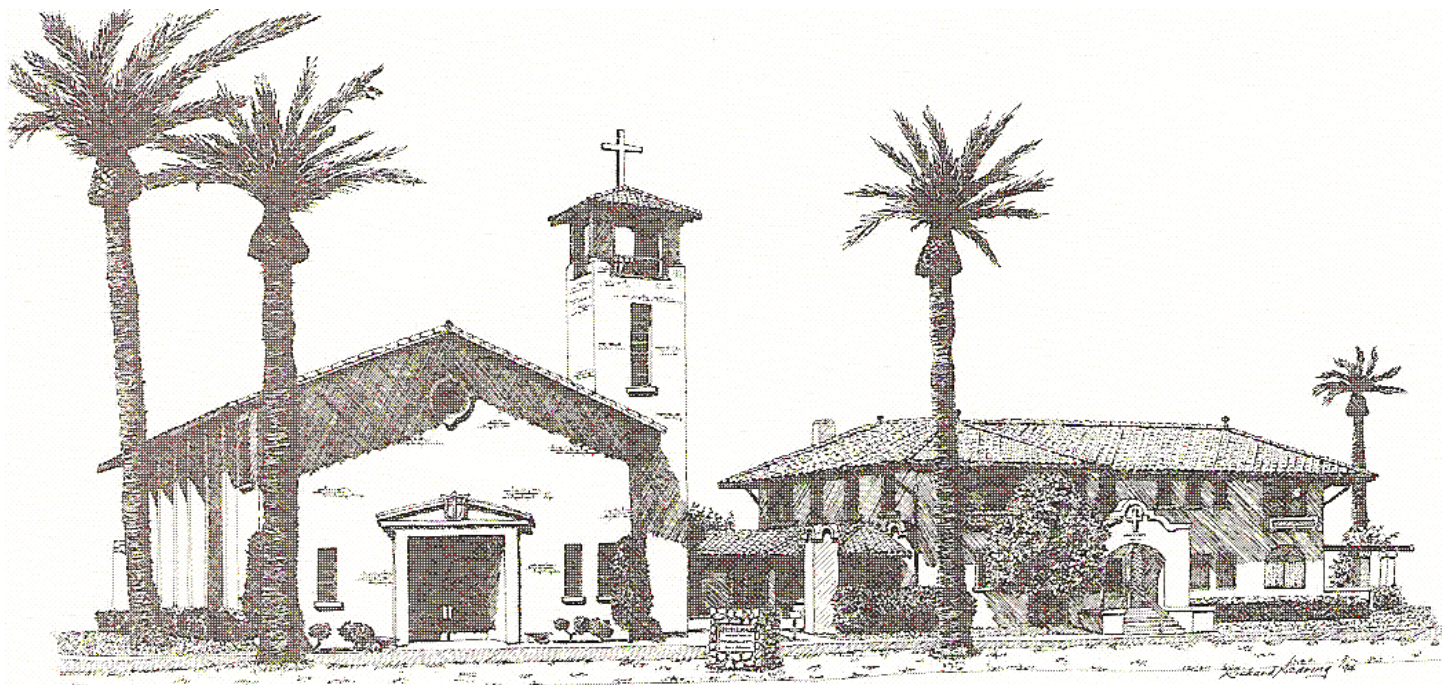
The ECC August 18, 2024, Council Meeting was adjourned at 2:04 P.M. by Moderator Lisa Herrmann.

**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)**







## Guidelines for Congregations and Clergy on Political Action

How can UCC congregations participate constructively in the political process during this election year? What are the opportunities and legal limits to faith-inspired political activity? This guide helps you understand what kind of activities UCC churches and clergy can undertake to lift up our concerns and our witness in the elections.

### Political Activities of Churches are Limited Due to IRS Tax Exempt Status

Almost all churches are tax-exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code on the basis that they are “operated exclusively for religious, charitable or educational purposes”

As a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization, a church:

- is exempt from paying corporate income taxes, and donations to it are tax deductible on federal tax returns
- may expend funds for religious, charitable and educational purposes, and an insubstantial amount on lobbying and to promote legislation

A 501 (c)(3) exempt organization may not “participate in, or intervene in any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office”

### Political Activities

Political activities are quite broad and range from contributions to a political candidate to discussing public policies and election-year issues to publishing the voting records of incumbents running for re-election. Only some of these activities are considered active “electioneering,” which cannot be done by a church.

There are no restrictions on educating church members about election-year issues and promoting discussion of public policy. However, your church is prohibited from expressing its support for or opposition to any candidate during the discussion of issues and policies if it wishes to maintain its tax-exempt status.

Other kinds of unrestricted political activity include holding voter registration and get-out-the-vote drives, preparing and distributing nonpartisan voter guides and voting records, and sponsoring candidate forums and debates.

Clergy and church leaders have the same rights as every American citizen and may fully participate in political campaigns as individuals; however, they must announce that they are acting on their own behalf and not on behalf of the church.

‘Shout out, do not  
hold back! Lift up  
your voice like a  
trumpet!’  
— Isaiah 58:1

**United Church of Christ  
Justice and Witness Ministries**  
100 Maryland Ave. NE, #330  
Washington, DC 20002  
202 543 1517



# Guidelines for Congregations and Clergy on Political Action

Political Activities	Churches?	Clergy as Individuals?
Discuss the position of candidates on public issues	Yes	Yes
Endorsement of political candidates	No	Yes
Contributions to political candidates	No	Yes
In-kind expenditures in favor of or against political candidates	No	Yes
Independent expenditures in favor of or against political candidates	No	Yes
Contribution to PACs	No	Yes
Appearance of political candidate at church meeting or service*	Yes	N/A
Payment of expenses for candidate to appear	No	Yes
Distribute at church:		
1) Nonpartisan candidate surveys or guides**	Yes	Yes
2) Voting records	Yes	Yes
3) Candidate political statements	No	Yes
Rent church list at market value if offered at same rate for all candidates	Yes	N/A
Publish in church newsletter, bulletin, or magazine***:		
1) Political ads sold at market rate	Yes	N/A
2) Political ads sold at less than market rate	No	N/A
3) News stories	Yes	N/A
4) Editorials endorsing or opposing a political candidate	No	N/A
Nonpartisan voter education and registration	Yes	Yes
Nonpartisan get-out-the-vote drives	Yes	Yes

\* A political candidate may appear at a church service. The appearance of candidate before a church service, however, is limited as follows:

- Any other candidate for the same office that requests to appear must be given the same opportunity; and
- No solicitation for funds may be made by any representative of the church. In addition, a church may allow political candidates to use the facilities of the church for events or meetings on the same basis that civic groups and other organizations are allowed. If civic groups and other organizations are required to pay rent for using the church property, the political candidate should be charged the same amount.

\*\* A church may publish or distribute the results of surveys of candidates on public issues. Such surveys, however, must be non-partisan. As a result, 501 (c)(3) church groups should observe

the following conditions in publishing or distributing the survey:

- Publish the response of all the candidates for the particular office by use of 'yes' and 'no.' The survey should not specify what is the desired response.
- Do not include any words indicating either endorsement of or support for any of the candidates or their positions on issues.

\*\*\* Church publications:

- Political Ads: A church newsletter or magazine may publish an ad for a political candidate, as long as the ad is purchased at the regular rate for ads in that publication.
- News Stories: A church newsletter, bulletin or magazine may publish, without limitation, news stories on political candidates and political campaigns.
- Editorials: A church may not publish an editorial supporting or endorsing a candidate for political office or political party.