

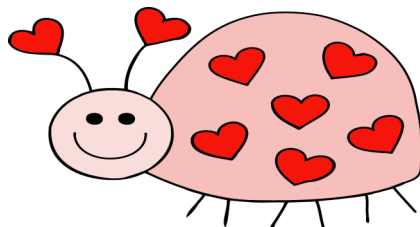
# Encanto Community Church

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

## The Pilgrim

### February Events

- February 1 Yard Sale Sorting 10am-Noon
- February 2 Girl Scout Cookies!  
"Soup-er Bowl" Collection  
Pet Food Bagging  
Trustees Meeting  
Outreach Meeting
- February 4 Choir 6:45pm  
Civics Class 7pm—Off Campus
- February 9 Super Bowl Sunday Puppy Predictions  
"Soup-er Bowl" Collection-Last Day  
Deacons Meeting
- February 11 Choir 6:45pm  
Civics Class 7pm
- February 12 Late Last Supper 6:30pm
- February 14 Happy Valentine's Day  
Happy Statehood Day Arizona
- February 17 Happy President's Day
- February 18 Newsletter Deadline  
Choir 6:45pm  
Civics Class 7pm
- February 20 Nourish Phoenix 8am
- February 22 Yard Sale Basement Haul Up
- February 23 Council Meeting  
Yard Sale Prep
- February 24-27 Yard Sale Prep
- February 28 Yard Sale Set Up



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

### February 2024



#### Please Remember in Your Prayers:

Steve Barrett, Diane Boudle, Andrea Cobb, Bill Edens, Tammy Hughes, Jane Gempeler, Debbye Jones and Rev. Gloria Smith, Carolyn Krietenstein, Carol Krietenstein, Rich Maxwell, Carl Madsen, Gary Mahoney, Sandee Martinez, Valerie Moreno, Mike Murray, Lillian Pain, George Penny, Nancy Studebaker, Shanti Sunderajan, Lewis Swarens and Family, Gavin V., Max Valentine, Encanto Community Church, Our Community and Our World. May God's grace and healing touch be with you all.

### Late Last Supper

Our February culinary adventure for the Encanto Church Late Last Supper Club will take place at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, February 12, 2025, when we will join together for dinner at **Pino's Pizza al Centro** located at 139 West Thomas, Phoenix, Arizona.

For those of you who have never been there, you will find that Pino's offers a wonderful selection of traditional Italian food at a reasonable price. Menu highlights include great salads, homemade bread, and delicious pizzas, as well as a few signature pasta and entree dishes.

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 December 2024)

**Beginning Balance: \$-7,721.23**  
**Received: \$20,145.50**  
**Disbursed: \$15,169.37**  
**Ending Balance: \$4,976.13**  
**For a loss of: \$2,745.10**

### Total Offering Receipts for December 2024

12/1	12/8	12/15	12/22	12/24	12/29
\$4,616.95	\$1,085	\$1,040.50	\$2,561	\$246	\$2,015

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.



Encanto held our first ever chili cook off and it was a huge success! We had ten competitors in a blind taste testing competition. Jim Mitchell graciously filled the spot of professional judge and the rest of the church were the "popular voters."

Congratulations to Margie and Christina Ventura for winning the Judges Vote for their turkey chili and to Steve Holloway for winning the popular vote with his beef chili. Everyone that entered did an outstanding job! Thank you Carolyn Mitchell, Patty Roberts and Michelle Lusania for making the cornbread! Carolyn, extra thanks for keeping everything so efficient and organized. You're a lifesaver! A huge round of applause for everyone that helped in every way.

Jan Russell, a very special thank you for organizing what we hope will become an annual event for us. Your dedication and hard work were no small feat and really made this the success it was.

### Deacon on Duty

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

**Tom Nasser**  
**602-309-5230**

## Birthdays To Remember February

Jen Battershell	15th
Craig Matheny	25th
Susan Patterson	25th
Rozlynn Hayden	29th



Happy Anniversary wishes go to John and Lee who celebrate their anniversary on the 10th as well as Tony and Michelle who celebrate their anniversary on the 15th!



Once again, it's tax time. Accordingly, if anyone needs a receipt for items you donated to the 2024 Encanto Church yard sales, please let Kathy Van Etten know, and she will provide you with one. Thank you.



The 2025 Spring Yard Sale will be held on **Saturday, March 1, 2025**, 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, February 28, 2025, starting at 12 noon**, to sort, price, and eat pizza for dinner (around 6:30 p.m.). Then, on Saturday, March 1, 2025, we'll meet at 6:00 a.m. to set-up and get things ready for a 7 a.m. opening. In an effort to alleviate the workload the work of the yard sale, **we will be bringing things up from the basement and doing some preliminary sorting one week before the yard sale, on Saturday, February 22, 2025, at 10 a.m.** This is a big job, and everyone's help is appreciated! **Please join us as "many hands make light work."** Of course, we will also need help in the weeks leading up to the sale picking-up donations and bringing them to church. **Please lend a hand, if you can!** 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.

Several of our youth have commented that they would like to learn about civics since that subject is no longer taught in grade school or high school. Accordingly, Kathy V. and Steve H. have agreed to teach a **Civics 101 course at the church during the upcoming spring semester. The class meets most Tuesdays at 7 p.m.** We will build on the Civics 101 curricula offered by the Sandra Day O'Connor Institute for American for Democracy that is based at the ASU Law School. Everyone is welcome!



No words can adequately express my heartfelt appreciation and delight for the overwhelming show of love in sharing my 90th birthday celebration. I sincerely thank all of you for the beautiful cards, verbal greetings and hugs! Encanto has been my church home for more than half of those years. I wish for all of you the same blessings I have received from my loving church family.

Betty Grotewold



# February 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Yard Sale Sorting 10am-Noon
2 Trustees Meeting Outreach Meeting Pet Food Re-Bagging Girl Scout Cookies	3	4 Choir 6:45pm Civics Class 7pm-Off Campus	5	6	7	8
9 Deacons Meeting Super Bowl Sunday Puppy Predictions Last Day for Souper Bowl Collections	10 Happy Anniversary John H. and Lee P.	11 Choir 6:45pm Civics Class 7pm	12 Late Last Supper 6:30pm	13	14 Happy Valentine's Day	15 Happy Birthday Jen Battershell  Happy Anniversary Tony and Michelle
16	17 Happy President's Day	18 Choir 6:45pm Civics Class 7pm Newsletter Deadline	19	20 Nourish Phx. 8am	21	22 Yard Sale Haul Up
23 Council Meeting Yard Sale Prep	24 Yard Sale Prep	25 Choir 6:45pm Yard Sale Prep  Happy Birthday Craig Matheny Susan Patterson	26 Yard Sale Prep	27 Yard Sale Prep	28 Yard Sale Set Up Day	Happy Birthday Rozyynn Hayden (Usually on a Leap Year)



## Soup-er Bowl Drive

Hey everyone! Don't forget that we are still collecting cans of soup for both Nourish Phoenix as well as our own food pantry to help those in need. The cans can be any size, they don't need to have the pop-tabs but if they do, too, great as that helps those who may not have access to can openers. The last Sunday to donate is on **February 9th**.



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**Some of favorite young adults at their annual Christmas Luncheon.**



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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, February 1, 2025, 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.

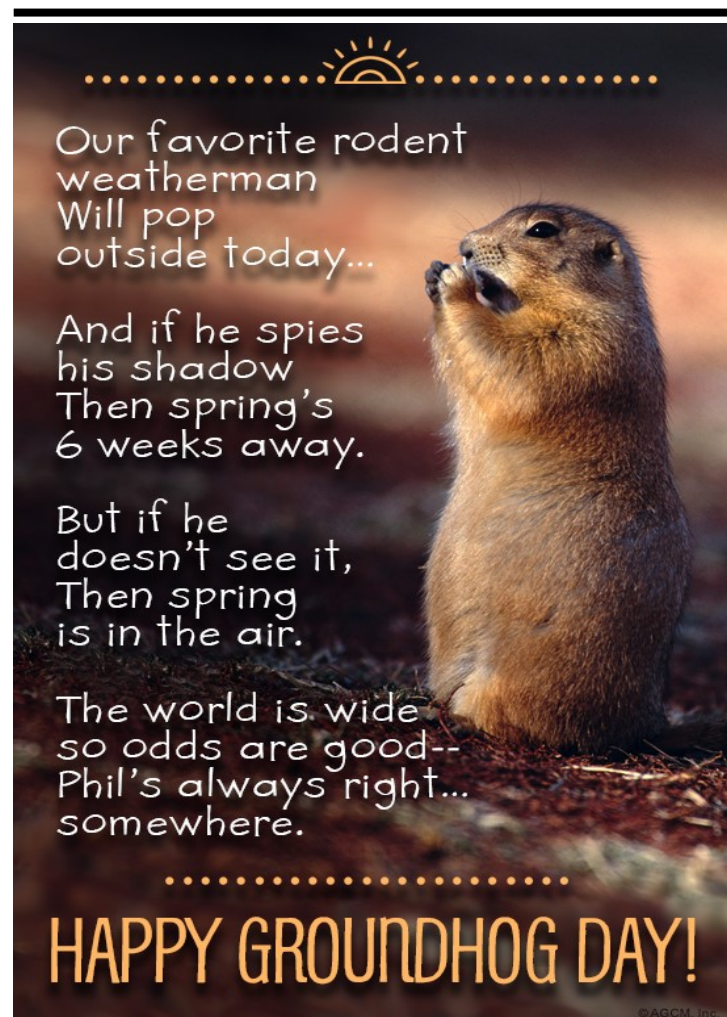


## Fellowship Hour



A special thanks to Margie and Christina for helping us ring in the new year with lots of goodies and to Todd for providing the bubbly. Thank you to Michelle and Tony for giving us the delicious Bundt cakes to share on the 5th and to Emmy for sharing her heritage with the wonderful Filipino food on the 12th as we "undecorated" the Fellowship Hall. Kathy wants to be sure to thank her sons for making sure she didn't burn some of it.

Chili, Chili, Chili and Happy 90th Birthday were the words on the 19th as we enjoyed the Chili Contest along with the food and cake provided by Betty's family. The annual meeting meant donuts and donut holes. Thank you to Michelle and Marilyn for helping to host this past month. We are eagerly looking forward to what February will bring.



# Pastoral Ponderings

*Please note: This pondering concerns some of the members of Encanto Community Church UCC and not others. If you are not experiencing these stresses, I pray that you continue to find peace and comfort in your lives. I am not choosing one group of congregants over the others but am concerned about all of you and need to address those in pain.*

My heartbroken congregation, I have learned over January of the stresses and despair you have felt as the inauguration was pending. Today, as I sit here writing, I am waiting for the inauguration to start. I am planning on watching the inauguration out of respect for the peaceful transfer of power. We were uncertain four years ago, whether we had seen the last days of the peaceful transfer of power.

Now, we are living during the days of a new administration. We all have our own opinions regarding the current administration as we have had about prior administrations. I am not interested in comparing this administration to any form of character analysis or acceptable civil standards but to listen and speak to the Christian values we confirm and are seeing challenged or dismissed. The Christian values of love, justice and peace are the center of our character and the foundation upon the actions of the church as displayed in the life, ministry and mission of Jesus. *(Short Pause)*

Well, the inauguration speech is over and my heart breaks to see the number of God's beloved children who have been demeaned and treated as if they have no value to America, or the earth and portrayed as a threat to God's world. It breaks my heart to see all of God's creation treated as a commodity for monetary gain and with no concern for the future existence of creation as a whole. Even in heartbreak, I cannot live in fear! Seeing the next four years through the lens of fear will destroy each person spiritually, emotionally and mentally. When we destroy our spiritual, emotional and mental health, our physical bodies will break down. We will eventually destroy ourselves. That is not God's plan for us!

The administration's list of Executive Orders is just that – Executive Orders. Yet, some Executive Orders are not the final word. You can (to name a few agencies) follow the ACLU (nationally and locally) to see the actions they are taking against certain Executive Orders, the Southern Poverty Law Center, The Human Rights Campaign, Asian Law Caucus, State Democracy Defenders Fund, and Legal Defense Fund and more. All of these agencies and more will continue to follow the administration's actions closely and respond as necessary.

One specific administrative action being taken that is causing harm with our corporation, regards DEI which violates the basic principles of faith communities. If you are troubled by these actions, you can fight these actions in a non-violent way. If corporations end DEI programming it does not mean the Church has to accept corporations' decisions and new policies. You can evaluate how you want to spend your resources and decide which companies your will or will not support. We each have to decide if our values and beliefs will guide us or convenience. Individuals cannot stop all administrative actions by themselves or collectively, especially those that might be view as unconstitutional. Issues of unconstitutionality have to be decided by the courts and we have to rely on those who have the talents and skills to fight on the legal side for the constitution. An administration may to increase their power beyond those assigned to each position but it is a very long road and desiring is not fulfilment. Christian values challenge and the societal structure viewed as God's realm will stand strong against challenges.

The ability to live abundantly and not in fear begins by focusing on our values in everyday choices and behaviors. A life abundant means we continue to serve God by upholding our values in personal and community actions and serving those who are marginalized and harmed by governmental actions. We can do this. We can be strong. We can focus on the good and TRUST that God is working in areas we cannot work and working in each person. If anything, this is a test only a test! Remember also that many things done can be undone in 2 or 4 years. This administration if not for eternity – only God is for eternity.

If needed, Encanto Community Church can develop support groups within the church to discuss our concerns, to help us focus on what we can change, to correct misinformation, to practice self-care techniques, to practice civil discourse and to refocus our attention off of fear and back to God. I only need to know your wants and needs. We can hold prayer groups, but I pray with the intent of seeking inner peace and the strength to get off my knees and do my part in creating God's realm.

I hold all of you in my prayers and concerns during this time of uncertainty and chaos some may be experiencing. Please be loving to yourself and faithful to God through Jesus. Look for the Spirit – who is extremely powerful.

Blessings,  
Rev. Gloria

## Council Meeting: January 19, 2025

Attendees: Lisa Herrmann, Melanie Herrmann, Steve Holloway, Steve Barrett, John Hasenstab, Kathy Van Etten, Todd Montague, Cindy Walley, and Kathy Stock. Group Prayer was led by Lisa Herrmann, submitted by Kathy Stock.

The minutes from the previous meeting were reviewed, voted upon and accepted into the Church records. Treasurers report was given by Kathy Van Etten; the endowment has not completed bounced back. The receipts for December were varied weekly. We still have tried to catch up on our yearly expenses, but being in the new year, the costs are now higher, and we now begin the cycle again. A complete review of the budget was given to all in attendance.

Trustees Report was given by Steve Holloway; the stove for the Parsonage was delivered and installed. The replacement plant\trees for the front area of the sanctuary are still being explored.

Security Team report given by Lisa Herrmann; a review of the proposed lighting options for the grant was reviewed with the council, team members will be attending a training session with the State of Arizona on using the State Procurement System for obtaining grant items.

Tech Report was given by Steve Holloway; new HDMI cords were ordered, and will be installed when received, the power source beneath the choir stage area is being explored for replacement to solve the outage problem at times.

Stewardship Report- None.

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

Memorial Fund report, given by Kathy Stock, printed copies were given to all in attendance.

Religious Education Report given by Kathy Van Etten; we are delighted to welcome new youth to our Sunday youth services. The very first Civics Class went very well, and we had a very good turnout and keen interest in upcoming classes.

Outreach Report given by Melanie Herrmann; The Super bowl /Soup drive has begun, thank you for all of your donations.

The hospitality report was given by Todd Montague and Kathy Stock; the volunteers for the Chili Cook-off and the hospitality events on Sundays really did a great job and thank you for all of your help.

Deacons report given by John Hasenstab; the Deacons met and have completed the annual assignments, and we received positive feedback from the numerous services in December. The services this coming year for Ash Wednesday and Maundy services will be held jointly with our fellow UCC area churches.

Pastor's Report- None this month.

Moderator's Report given by Lisa Herrmann; None.

Nominating Committee Report: given by John Hasenstab; we are contacting members to explore their interest in the various committees and positions of the church and the offices.

The calendar was reviewed and updated for February and March, follow the upcoming happenings and events in the weekly bulletin and ECC Monthly publication.

Old Business: Please send content and recurring reminders to the [Office@encantocommunity.org](mailto:Office@encantocommunity.org) for Sunday announcements. A reminder about signing up for the grocery points program offered at Fry's/Kroger grocery stores to benefit ECC will also be placed in the Sunday announcements, bulletins, and monthly newsletter.

New Business: the New Directory for the church is still being worked on, and we need council members to sign up to lead the meeting's prayers.

The January Council meeting was adjourned at 3:43 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**  
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