

# Encanto Community Church

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

## The Pilgrim

### April Events

- April 1 April Fool's Day  
Choir 6:45pm  
Civics Class 7pm
- April 5 Yard Sale Sorting 10am
- April 6 Trustees Meeting  
Deacons Meeting  
Outreach Meeting  
Pet Food Bagging
- April 8 Choir 6:45pm
- April 13 Palm Sunday  
Council Meeting  
Easter Egg Stuffing
- April 15 Choir 6:45pm  
Civics Class 7pm
- April 17 Maundy Thursday  
Soup Supper 5:30pm  
Service 7pm
- April 18 Good Friday
- April 20 Happy Easter!  
Easter Egg Hunt
- April 22 Newsletter Deadline  
Choir 6:45pm  
Civics Class 7pm
- April 23 Late Last Supper 6:30pm
- April 27 Church Picnic!
- April 29 Choir 6:45pm  
Civics Class 7pm

### April 2024



#### Please Remember in Your Prayers:

Steve Barrett, Diane Boudle, Bill Edens, Tammy Hughes, Jane Gempeler, Debbye Jones and Rev. Gloria Smith, 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 April culinary adventure for the **Encanto Church Late Last Supper Club** will take place at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 23d, 2025, when we will join together for dinner at the **George and Dragon** located at 4240 North Central, Phoenix - that's on the west side of Central, a couple blocks north of Indian School Road. If you have never been to George and Dragon, you are in for a trip "across the pond" to your favorite pub in Merry Olde England. The George and Dragon has been in operation for 30 years, and it is a favorite local venue for watching both European and American football. True to their motto, the restaurant promises "Delicious Food. Proper Pints. Good Times." The menu includes typical English pub fare such as Fish & Chips, Bangers & Mash, Shepherd's Pie, and Cornish Pasties as well as burgers, salads, and numerous appetizers – not to mention a plethora of fascinating ales and drinks! Come join us for a fun night out! Please let Kathy V. know if you'll be attending, so she can make the necessary arrangements.



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



# NEWS AND INFORMATION

## Treasurer's Report. (General Fund for February 2025)

Beginning Balance: \$-7,966.10  
Received: \$11,307.95  
Disbursed: \$14,952.81  
Ending Balance: \$-11,610.96  
For a loss of: \$3,644.86

### Total Offering Receipts for February 2025

2/2	2/9	2/16	2/23
\$3,190	\$2,062	\$1,170	\$1,773

There was no withdrawal from the Endowment Fund in February.

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



Thanks to everyone who came out to help during the recent yard sale! What an amazing turnout! All of your donations of time, energy, money, and goods were greatly appreciated!

This round, we made \$5,406.50 during the sale plus we had \$210 in pre-sale proceeds. After the sale, we donated 4,149 pounds of goods to Goodwill for which we will receive ten cents per pound, netting us an additional \$414.90. Add it all up, and you will see that our total earnings for the sale were \$6,031.40.

Good job, Encanto! As always, the funds will be used for various church and youth activities! Don't forget to mark your calendars for the fall sale which will take place on October 24th and 25th, 2025. Thanks again!



### Deacons on Duty

The Deacons are available to assist the pastor.  
The Deacons on Duty for April are:

**Paul Petrasek—317-430-6677**  
and  
**John Hasenstab—602-503-9817**

## Birthdays To Remember April

Del Krietenstein	15th
Tony Lusania	16th
Paul Petrasek	16th
Zoe Robinson	17th
Sabrina Anderson	24th
Melanie Herrmann	27th
Bernie Perez	27th



Mitchell Nasser sends his greetings to all of Encanto! He is doing great at Ft. Benning and will be home this summer.

We miss you Mitchell and are so proud of you!



Although we will not be having our usual "pre-church breakfast" on Easter, we will still be having our traditional Easter Egg Hunt after church during Fellowship Hour on Sunday, April 20, 2025. All children and adults are welcome to participate either by hunting or hiding plastic candy-filled eggs. If you want to help hide eggs, please be in Fellowship Hall by 9:15 a.m. on Easter morning; and if you want to hunt eggs, please gather on the front porch of Fellowship Hall immediately following the church service. Those who wish to donate non-chocolate candy to the cause should bring their donations to church by Sunday, April 13, 2025, as we will be filling the eggs prior to Easter.



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.



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## Fellowship Hour

March was a busy month for Fellowship Hour. Thank you to Lisa for kicking us off with the King Cake and special treats to go with it. We also celebrated St. Patrick's Day with lots of green this month. Susan, Geneva, Rickie, and Marilyn supported the month of food since we had five Sundays. Thank you to Michelle and Marilyn for stepping in when Kathy seemed overwhelmed during serving. Your April hostesses will be Margie and Jamie.

Planning ahead: the church picnic is scheduled for April 27th. So, you all may begin thinking of a side dish or dessert to bring to share. Cindy has said she will be calling those Bingo numbers again, and we do have a pickle ball court so there will be fun for all.



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## HELP

The hospitality committee is looking for people to help serve during Fellowship Hour. Kathy S and Todd will continue to set up and clean up. This is a perfect opportunity to engage with your fellow Encanto worshippers. You would need to leave the church service during the last hymn and serve the refreshments for about 30 minutes. We do have people scheduled for some months, but we are looking for people to work with Clinton in May, Craig in June, and Santiago in August. Please let Todd or Kathy S know if you can work a month or even some Sundays during those months. Your assistance will be appreciated.

During April, our Spring Civics class will meet at 7 p.m. in Fellowship Hall on April 1, 15, 22, and 29th. We will not meet on April 8th. Everyone is welcome. Our discussions are always interesting and informative!



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## Last Last Supper at Chula Seafood Uptown



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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, April 5, 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.

# April 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 April Fool's Day Choir 6:45pm Civics Class 7pm	2	3	4	5 Yard Sale Sort 10am
6 Trustees Meeting Deacons Meeting Outreach Meeting Pet Food Bagging	7	8	9	10	11	12
13 Palm Sunday Council Meeting	14	15 Choir 6:45pm Civics Class 7pm Happy Birthday Del Krietenstein	16 Happy Birthday Tony Lusania Paul Petrasek	17 Nourish Phx. 8am Maundy Thursday Soup Supper 5:30pm Service 7pm Happy Birthday Zoe Robinson	18	19
20 Happy Easter Egg Hunt!	21	22 Choir 6:45pm Civics Class 7pm Newsletter Deadline	23 Late Last Supper 6:30pm	24 Happy Birthday Sabrina Anderson	25	26
27 Church Picnic Happy Birthday Melanie Herrmann Bernie Perez	28	29 Choir 6:45pm Civics Class 7pm	30			

# Pastoral Ponderings

As we move into the month of April and the depth of spring, we will witness nature coming back to full life following a peaceful rest during fall and winter. We can also experience this same rebirth or resurrection as we experience more light from the sun, warmer temperatures, the bloom of colors in our plants, and foliage reappearing on the trees. We know that this sense of rebirth promotes better physical health, emotional health, and spiritual health.

Better emotional, spiritual and physical health is also achieved from the focus of our thoughts. Some people are naturally more optimists than others but for those who are not, adopting a positive mindset will help improve mental health. "People tasked with writing letters expressing gratitude reported better mental health than those who wrote about their feelings and thoughts about stressful experiences, according to a study involving almost 300 psychotherapy clients reported in Psychotherapy Research in 2016."

One method for adopting a positive mindset is to go complaint free for a day. As they say in AA, accept this challenge one day at a time.

When this challenge becomes more difficult than expected, when you hear yourself voicing complaints or criticisms replace those words with an expression of appreciation. Do not punish yourself or chastise yourself, but be gentle, notice the slip and shift your focus. You will realize how deeply embedded criticism and complaining is in our psyche. Also, encourage the grateful, appreciative and positive thoughts by engaging in fun conversations with friends, listen to uplifting music, exercise or whatever makes you feel good

Let us finish our 40-day journey through Lent more insightful and joyful in life and our relationship with God and all creation.

Lenten and Easter Blessings,

Rev. Gloria

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Maundy Thursday means Commandment Thursday ... During the last meal Jesus shared with his disciples prior to his death, he celebrated the sharing of bread and cup with them. (We later began calling this communion.) Jesus told his disciples to do this in remembrance of him. So, during Maundy Thursday Service we "Remember" the holiness and gift of this meal. In addition, we continue in our service to remember the events of Good Friday.

A community meal takes place prior to the service. It is an informal meal and participants arrive as they are able after work. Individuals and families are asked to bring soup, bread, dessert to share with others. We will start preparing the table at 5:30 PM. If you are able to come a little early to assist in preparing the table prior to the meal your assistance will be greatly appreciated. Those who can assist after the Maundy Thursday Service in cleaning up, your assistance will be greatly appreciated also.



**JOINT HOLY WEEK SERVICE**  
Encanto, & First Church UCC

**Thursday April 17th**

5:30 pm Community Meal  
Bring soup, bread or a side to share

Service at Encanto  
2710 7th Ave



## Council Meeting: March 23, 2025

The ECC Council Meeting on March 23, 2025, was called to order by Moderator Lisa Herrmann at 11:40 A.M. Prayer was led by Cindy Walley. Attendees: Lisa Herrmann, Steve Holloway, Melanie Herrmann; Steve Barrett, John Hasenstab, K. J. Kinder, Cindy Walley, Rev. Gloria Smith, Kathy Van Etten, Todd Montague and Kathy Stock.

The ECC Council Minutes for the February 23, 2025, meeting were reviewed, voted upon, and accepted into the church records.

The Treasurer's Report was given by Kathy Van Etten: the receipts received for February were again in the red, thankfully, there were no extra or unusual expenses or expenditures for February. We are now into the month of March, and we are struggling to meet obligations and the needed income marks, the semi-annual yard sale was a much-needed timely boost. Thank you to all who worked, contributed, and shopped.

Trustees Report given by Steve Holloway; the plaques have been ordered, the parsonage's washing machine has been purchased and installed, but due to defects it will be replaced, and we received a discount for the total purchase, inconvenience and installation. The roses have been trimmed, and the new bushes have been planted. There are problems with some of our ECC Campus trees, there are termites and diseases present so we need to now begin replacements research and replant them with food producing trees. Chris, our ECC Tech donation friend, has and is donating much needed lighting and tech items to our Tech Pool, and all are much needed items; so, a Big Thank you to Chris.

The Security Task Force report given by Lisa Herrmann, the grant funds for the Security Grant Program have been approved and some of the items ordered have been received. The fire and safety maps are needing to be mounted on Campus.

Financial Secretary's Report given by John Hasenstab; the monies are in the bank. The new software system progress is going well, with access, setup, and training.

The Memorial Fund report was given by Kathy Stock; and printed copies were given to all in attendance.

The Religious Education report was given by Kathy Van Etten; Our youth group will become more active in Sunday Services in the upcoming weeks, we began Tenebrae lessons today. We are working on upcoming projects and summer activities.

Outreach Report was given by Melanie Herrmann; we are working on the upcoming One Great Hour of Sharing, and other presentations for our upcoming seasonal activities including our guest speakers for our fall programs.

Hospitality report given by Todd Montague: We are in need of Host/Hostess to assist for the upcoming months during the Fellowship Hour, the signup sheet is posted in the Fellowship Hall, or please let either Kathy Stock or me/Todd Montague, know of the Sunday you would like to assist in hosting.

Deacon's Report given by John Hasenstab; the newly ordered communion cups are faulty and leaky, so we will look into returning for replacement. We will have communion three times in April for upcoming seasonal services. The Life Celebration held earlier this month went well. The Deacons are scheduled to clean the upstairs storage area later this month. The Church annual picnic has been scheduled so look for the date and updates in coming weekly and monthly bulletins.

Pastor's Report given by Rev. Gloria Smith; Shadow Rock is now hiring a new minister; the succession plan is being worked on to ensure best practices and seamless transitions. The series that is being presented now will be concluding on Palm Sunday. I will be attending the Annual Southwest UCC conference soon and I am pleased to announce that Janet Maxwell is also attending.

Moderator report given by Lisa Herrmann; the APS Grant was not given to ECC this round.

Calendar updates were made for April and May

Old business: the directory updates are being worked on by Cindy Walley and Michelle.

New Business: a request was received for a plaque in the rose garden in recognition of the ECC Long-term Choir director. The possibility of expanding the timeframe of the fall yard sale is now being explored, so watch the weekly bulletins and monthly newsletters for updates.

The ECC March Council Meeting was adjourned at 1:50 P.M., by moderator Lisa Herrmann.

# Casino Arizona Adventures



Howdy ECC earth savers, how's the recycling? In my opinion, pretty doggone good. So far this year you have recycled:

\$53.60 of plastic beverage bottles

\$58.55 of aluminum cans

\$139.00 of metal.

By my cyphering that looks like \$251.1!

Good work everyone, at this rate we should earn about \$1,000.00 in 2025. Let's keep it up!

Thank you!



Don't think  
I've forgotten  
about April  
fool's day.  
I'm watching  
you people!



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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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