

Encanto Community Church

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

The Pilgrim

March Events

- March 1 Fellowship Hour Outside
Pet Food Bagging
Yard Sale Prep
- March 2-4 Yard Sale Prep
- March 5 Yard Sale Set Up-All Day
Choir 7pm
- March 6 Yard Sale Day One
- March 7 Yard Sale Day Two
Girl Scout Cookie Sales
- March 8 Deacons Meeting
- March 11 Late Last Supper 6:30pm
- March 12 Choir 7pm
- March 15 Outreach Meeting
- March 17 Happy St. Patrick's Day
Trustees Meeting 6pm
Council Meeting 7pm
- March 19 Nourish Phoenix 8am
Choir 7pm
- March 24 Newsletter Deadline
Current Events Class 7pm
- March 26 Choir 7pm
- March 29 Palm Sunday

March 2026



Please Remember in Your Prayers:

Steve Barrett, Jody Betts, Diane Boudle, Bill Edens, Jane Gempeler, Lisa Herrmann, Debbye Jones and Rev. Gloria Smith, Joe, Carol Krietenstein, Rich Maxwell, Carl Madsen, Sandee Martinez, Mike Murray, Lillian Pain, George Penny, Nancy Studebaker, Shanti Sunderajan, Lewis Swarens and Family, Gavin V., Max Valentine, Linda Yates, Encanto Community Church, Our Community and Our World. May God's grace and healing touch be with you all.

Late Last Supper

The March culinary adventure for the Encanto Church Late Last Supper Club will occur at **6:30 p.m., Wednesday, March 11, 2026**. This month, we'll be dining together (probably outside) at **The Fry Bread House located at 4545 North Seventh Avenue, Phoenix**. As usual, we'll meet at the restaurant at 6:30 p.m. and we will each pay our own way. For those of you who have never been there, you will find that The Fry Bread House offers traditional Tohono O'odham Native American cuisine including delicious green chili and red chili stew, Indian tacos, chumuth (large hand-stretched tortillas), tamales, and burros. Most of the menu offerings have both a meat and vegetarian variety. Of course, they also serve fabulous fry bread that can be ordered with honey, powdered sugar, cinnamon, or chocolate. One final note: The Fry Bread House has won the James Beard award for "American Classics" - a highly prestigious honor that is only bestowed upon five restaurants in the country each year. Please let Kathy V. know if you wish to join the party. Thanks!



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



NEWS AND INFORMATION

Treasurer's Report. (General Fund for January 2026)

Beginning Balance: \$-10,076.52
Received: \$10,498.74
Disbursed: \$16,035.01
Ending Balance: \$-15,612.79
For a loss of: \$5,536.27

Total Offering Receipts for January 2026

| 1/4 | 1/11 | 1/18 | 1/25 |
|------------|----------|------------|------------|
| \$3,559.47 | \$347.00 | \$1,391.00 | \$2,280.00 |

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.



Treasurer Report

Birthdays To Remember March

| | |
|------------------|------|
| Cindy Walley | 6th |
| Loretta Mortimer | 7th |
| Xyle Jacalan | 9th |
| Marlen Morales | 14th |
| Lloyd Lo | 25th |
| Darwin Fisk | 31st |



Free Firewood

Now that it's getting colder, you may need some firewood to enjoy over the next couple of months. If so, we have a large pile of pine wood on the west side of the church property outside of the playground. Everyone in the church is welcome to take whatever wood you might need for your personal use, as long as you haul up and split it, as needed. If you're interested, please coordinate your pick-up with Tony, so that he knows you are coming by.



Our "Current Events" discussion group is back for at least one time this spring. We will meet in Fellowship Hall on Tuesday, March 24, 2026, at 7 p.m. Our topic will be determined as we get closer to the date. Everyone is welcome!



Deacons on Duty

The Deacons are available to assist the pastor.
The Deacons on Duty for March are:
Kathy Stock: 623-910-0972
and
Jamie Vice: 602-266-4602

Palm Sunday is March 29th

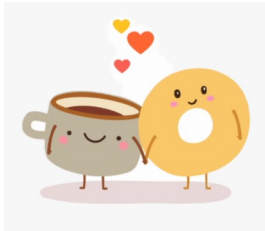


Jeff gives it up for Lent.

Encanto Fellowship

We want to thank our treat donors for bringing all the yummy goodies in February: Sandee, Jan, Margie and Christina. And thank you to this month's hosts, Melanie, Clinton and Jamie. We still have slots open on the cookie calendar for you to sign up. You can bring anything you like, it doesn't have to only be cookies. The calendar is hanging in Fellowship Hall.

Thank you to Melanie for stepping up to chair Hospitality and to all new and returning volunteers. We wouldn't have coffee and treats without you.



Once again, it's tax time. Accordingly, if anyone needs a receipt for items you donated to the 2025 Encanto Church yard sales, please let Kathy Van Etten know, and she will provide you with one. Thank you.



If you are able and willing, our pantry that helps those in need is running very low on men's socks. They can be ankle, tube or calf. Please no dress socks, we have quite an abundance of those and they need something a bit more warm and protective on their feet. Also, any ball caps would be welcome and appreciated. We are so thankful for your help in keeping our pantry always so well supplied. Thank you!



Girl Scout Cookies

On March 7, during the yard sale, our neighborhood Girl Scout will be selling those yummy cookies that we all look forward to all year long. They will have their own tent set up out front. The cookies are \$6 per box this year unless you do gluten free, in which case those are \$7. Payment methods accepted include: cash, Venmo, PayPal and credit cards. So make sure you come shop the sale first and then pick up some yummy cookies as a reward for supporting our church!

Cookie Role Call! 2026 Season Lineup

Little's Biscuits



Beauty Tips From Audrey Hepburn:

- **For attractive lips, speak words of kindness.
- **For lovely eyes, seek out the good in people.
- **For a slim figure, share your food with the hungry.
- **For beautiful hair, let a child run his/her fingers through it once a day.
- **For poise, walk with the knowledge that you never walk alone.
- **People, even more than things, have to be restored, renewed, revived, reclaimed, and redeemed; never throw out anyone.
- **Remember, if you ever need a helping hand, you will find one at the end of each of your arms.
- **As you grow older, you will discover that you have two hands; one for helping yourself, and the other for helping others.



YARDSALE

The Spring Yard Sale will be held on Friday, March 6, **AND** Saturday, March 7, 2026. Yes, you read that correctly, this season's yard sale will again span two days instead of one! On Friday, we will open as early as possible and stay open until sunset. Then, on Saturday, we will be open from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. As usual, the sale will feature all kinds of items including furniture, appliances, artwork, clothes, dolls, holiday items, collectibles, and tech equipment!

On Thursday, March 5, 2026, the day before the sale, we will meet early in the morning to sort, price, and move items outside to the parking lot. We'll be grilling hamburgers and hot dogs for lunch, but we hope to be done by dinner. Then, on Friday and Saturday, March 6 and 7, we'll meet at 6:00 a.m. to set-up and get things ready for a 7 a.m. opening. We will also be forming an assembly line to move items up from the basement at 10 a.m. on Saturday, February 28, 2026, so that we can all work on the preliminary sorting, pricing, and cleaning throughout the week preceding the yard sale. Hopefully, everyone will be available to help with those aspects as well.



Please donate any items to the sale earlier rather than later. Please let Kathy V. know if you need help getting your donations to church. All donations should be left in the Oak Room. Please feel free to peruse and purchase any of the pre-sale furniture that is periodically displayed in the Fellowship Hall.

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 the Church General Fund and Youth Activities. Hope to see you there!



YARD SALE

WORD SEARCH PUZZLE

ADDRESS
ARRANGE
CASH
CLOTHES
COLLECT
DATE
DEALS
FAMILY
FRIENDS
ITEMS
NEWSPAPER
ORGANIZE
PEOPLE
PLAN
PRICE
PROFIT
SATURDAY
SELL
SHOES
SIGNS
SUNDAY
TAGS
TIME
TOOLS
TRAFFIC
TREASURES
VINTAGE

R L O E G N A R R A T U F E M
E T R A F F I C T R X P Y M V
P E G B X U F I E P C A O I E
A L A J T I F A R V D A N T T
P P N O D O S I S R S T S C Y
S O I B R U C Y U S A E E H A
W E Z P R E N T S G E L L O D
E P E E N Y A S E M L R R L N
N R S P L S R H L O E S D V U
I V T I L M G O C A S T R D S
Y R M A M A A E S H E N I L A
D A T E G B N S E D T D G G X
F T O O L S S D N E I R F I W
B M I S E H T O L C P B O J S

The words appear UP, DOWN, BACKWARDS, and DIAGONALLY.
Find and circle each word.



March 2026

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|-------------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|--|---|---|
| 1 Pet Food Bagging Fellowship Outside Yard Sale Prep | 2 Yard Sale Prep | 3 Yard Sale Prep | 4 Yard Sale Prep | 5 Yard Sale Set Up Choir 7pm | 6 Yard Sale Day 1 7am-6pm Happy Birthday Cindy Walley | 7 Yard Sale Day 2 7am-3pm Happy Birthday Loretta Mortimer |
| 8 Deacons Meeting | 9 Happy Birthday Xyle Jacalan | 10 | 11 Late Last Supper 6:30pm | 12 Choir 7pm | 13 | 14 Happy Birthday Marten Morales |
| 15 Outreach Meeting | 16 | 17 St. Patrick's Day Trustees Meeting 6pm Council Meeting 7pm | 18 | 19 Nourish Phoenix 8am Choir 7pm | 20 | 21 |
| 22 | 23 | 24 Newsletter Deadline Current Events Class 7pm | 25 Happy Birthday Lloyd Lo | 26 Choir 7pm | 27 | 28 |
| 29 Palm Sunday | 30 | 31 Happy Birthday Darwin Fisk | | | | |

Pastoral Ponderings

Lent invites us on a 40-day trek into the spiritual wilderness alongside Jesus. Unlike a manicured park with paved paths and handrails, this terrain is rugged, raw and often unpredictable. It is a journey we choose to take, even when the urge to "phone a friend" for a ride back to our comfort zone becomes overwhelming. Yet, to retreat is to miss the destination: a profound, life-altering intimacy with God and the fulfillment of our deepest, lifelong yearnings.

This season, our community will navigate this landscape through the theme "Remember, Reflect, and Renew." We will be guided by the enduring wisdom of Rev. Dr. Howard Thurman. A towering figure of the 20th century, Thurman was a scholar, a pivotal civil rights leader, and a Christian mystic whose poetic insights bridge the gap between the internal soul and external justice. Through his writings, we will challenge ourselves to reach new depths, finding the renewal and blessings that only a journey through the wilderness can provide.

I invite you to venture alongside me as we follow Jesus into the depths of the wilderness. Together, we can navigate this rugged terrain, supporting one another as we seek the transformation that waits beyond our comfort zones.

Blessings, Rev. Gloria



Council Meeting: February 3, 2026

Attendees: Marilyn Hall, Rev. Gloria Smith, John Hasenstab, Melanie Herrmann Soll, Steve Holloway, Todd Montague, Kathy Stock, Kathy Van Etten, and Cindy Walley.

Meeting called to order at 7:13 p.m. by Marilyn Hall, Moderator.

Treasurer's Report for January distributed by Kathy Van Etten and reviewed. Donations were down for January. After negotiations, the bill for the Sanctuary heater repair has been paid. We are lucky that our liability insurance premium didn't go up.

Trustees' meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m. Prayer led by Marilyn Hall.

The Minutes from the January 13, 2026, meeting were reviewed and accepted.

Trustees' report given by Steve Holloway. A hand-dryer has been installed in the Sanctuary's outdoor restroom by K.J. Kinder. He will also install a motion-sensor overhead light. Martin is back, and he will start working on a new shed. He will also do projects around the campus, and we are very grateful. Tony will begin trimming the rose bushes. K.J. will ask his partner to look at them and make recommendations regarding pest control. The job posting for a new Organist will be done on February 4. We will be purchasing a used copier for the Church Office. Security Task Force: Marilyn said they will meet soon. Possible grants for this year: Fire House/AED opens on April 2. State grants at the S.W. Conference: We can apply for medical trauma kits. APS Grant: Trees for the Parsonage, two trees per site. Ideas for new trees in front of the Sanctuary were discussed.

Financial Secretary's report given by John Hasenstab. Offerings and other contributions are deposited weekly.

Memorial Fund Report distributed by Kathy Stock and reviewed.

Religious Education report given by Kathy Van Etten. They will begin a new section on The Twelve Disciples.

Outreach report given by Cindy Walley. Cindy is determining the best way to communicate with members and will hold a meeting soon, either in person or online.

Hospitality report given by Melanie Herrmann-Soll. The new committee members are working on the monthly assignments.

Deacons report given by John Hasenstab. They will be meeting on February 8.

Pastor's report given by Rev. Gloria Smith. Lent begins in two weeks.

Moderator's report given by Marilyn Hall. She asked for feedback, new ideas and goals for the coming year.

Calendar updates were made for February, March, and April. Future Council meetings will be held on the 3rd Tuesday of each month.

Old Business: None.

New Business: Consider new goals and projects for the year.

Meeting adjourned at 8:49 p.m. by Marilyn Hall, Moderator.



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, Secretary

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