

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 2 Maundy Thursday Soup Supper 6pm
Service 7pm
- April 4 Happy Easter!
Easter Egg Hunt After Service
- April 9 Choir 7pm
- April 11 Yard Sale Sorting 10am-12pm
- April 12 Deacons Meeting
Pet Memorial Service 11:30am
- April 14 Trustees 6pm
Council 7pm
- April 16 Nourish Phoenix 8am
Choir 7pm
- April 17 AKC Scent Dog Event 7am-3pm
- April 19 Church Picnic!
- April 21 Newsletter Deadline
- April 22 Late Last Supper 6:30pm
- April 23 Choir 7pm
S.W. Conference Annual Meeting
- April 30 Choir 7pm

April 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 April culinary adventure for the **Encanto Church Late Last Supper Club** will occur at **6:30 p.m., Wednesday, April 22, 2026, when we will join together for dinner at China Chili's located at 302 East Flower, Phoenix, Arizona.** If you've never been to China Chili's, you should know that it has been a local favorite for many years, consistently producing delicious Chinese food, including traditional fare, seafood, and vegetarian specialties. As usual, we'll order family style, giving us the opportunity to sample a much wider variety of tasty dishes. Of course, that also means that we'll share equally in the delicacies, and we'll share the bill equally, too. Please let Kathy V. know if you wish to join the party, and she will make the necessary reservations. Thanks!



Easter Worship Celebration
April 5th at 10:00 AM

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



NEWS AND INFORMATION

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

Beginning Balance: \$-15,612.79
Received: \$11,352.95
Disbursed: \$13,715.85
Ending Balance: \$-17,975.69
For a loss of: \$2,362.90

Total Offering Receipts for February 2026

2/1	2/8	2/15	2/22
\$2,378.67	\$2,789.28	\$1,270.00	\$2,025.00

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.



Treasurer
Report

PLEASE NOTE

Security Note: Just a reminder that if you are the last one to leave Fellowship Hall before church on Sunday morning, please be sure to lock all the outside doors except for the one on the west side of the Hall at the top of the ramp. Also, please lock the door between the office area and Fellowship Hall. If you are the last one to leave Fellowship Hall after Fellowship Hour or various meetings, please be sure to lock all outside doors to the building and turn off all the lights. If you don't have a key, just lock the bottom lock on the doors.



Deacons on Duty

The Deacons are available to assist the pastor.
The Deacons on Duty for April are:
Kathy Stock: 623-910-0972
and
John Hasenstab: 602-503-9817

Birthdays To Remember April

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

Please help us in celebrating Del Krietenstein on what will be his 90th birthday! What a remarkable milestone and a remarkable man. We love you Uncle Del!



Although we will not be having a "pre-church breakfast" on Easter, we will be having our traditional **Easter Egg Hunt after church during Fellowship Hour on Sunday, April 5, 2026**. 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.**



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.

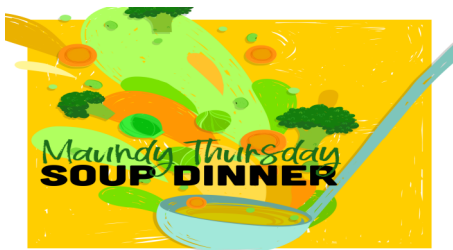
Encanto Fellowship

Thank you all who provided delicious treats this month, including Jan, Janet, Sandee, Christina & Margie, Ricki & Denae, and Tom, you were invaluable to helping sustain and refresh us in body and spirit! Thank you as well to Margie and Christine for being March's hosts! In April you will be pleased to see Craig, Emmy, Jazz, and Xyle as your hosts.

We have a brand new Treat Calendar in Fellowship Hall that's just begging for people to sign up provide treats in May and June. Also this month, Deacons will be hosting our annual church picnic on April 19th, so start thinking about what you want to bring for side dishes and desserts!



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.



It is time for our annual soup supper that is held on the evening of Maundy Thursday. It is held before the church service. That date is APRIL 2. We eat around 6 before the 7 PM service. You are encouraged to bring your favorite soup. It does need to be cooked and ready to serve when you bring it to the Fellowship Hall. between 5:30 and 6. If you need a crockpot, we do have a couple that are available as loaners.

We have people who are bringing bread/crackers to complement your soup. If your schedule doesn't work to bring a soup, but you wish to contribute, a dessert is always welcomed. As you know, Encanto folks really like desserts!

Please come join the fellowship before service!



Mark your calendar for Sunday, April 19th. We will be having our annual picnic after the church service. Due to the heat and maybe some bees, we will be dining indoors this year. Your deacons will be providing hamburgers and hot dogs along with the condiments to complement your choice. We do ask that those who attend bring a side dish or a dessert to share. And, our favorite BINGO caller, Cindy, will be here for your enjoyment.



What? A Yard Sale Workday??

Didn't we just have a Church Yard Sale a couple weeks ago? Why are we having a Yard Sale Workday on April 11th? Yep! We did just have a Church Yard Sale a couple weeks ago! The Yard Sale Workdays are what prepare us for those successful yard sales!

Fortunately, ECC has people who make donations all year 'round. The Oak Room the last couple of weeks is a testament to our ECC friends and families generosity! During Yard Sale Workdays, Susan & Marilyn head up a team who sorts, folds and boxes clothes. Jill heads up a team who cleans and sorts items and measures, rolls, and marks linens, and Kathy V. heads up a team who prices collectibles.

If you are free on April 11th from 10 a.m. until noon, please consider volunteering! As Kathy frequently says, "Many hands make light work."



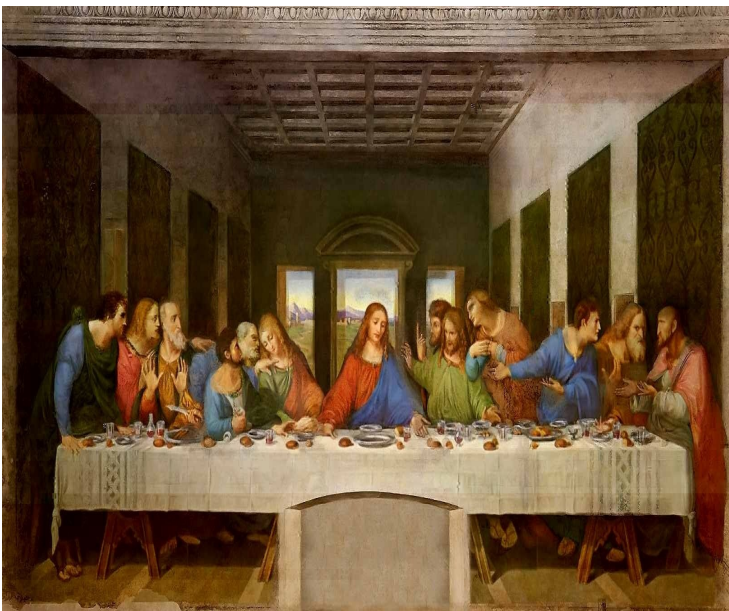
YARDSALE

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 netted \$12,961.00 over both days of the sale. After the sale, we donated 1,631 pounds Goodwill for which we received 15 cents per pound, bringing in an additional \$244.65, and we had an additional \$235 in post-sale sales. Add it all up, and you will see that our total earnings for the sale were \$13,440.65. Good job, Encanto! What a marvelous village we have here at ECC!



While we are on the subject, please mark your calendars for the fall sale which will take place on November 6th and 7th, 2026. "Haul-up" from the basement will be the morning of Saturday, October 31st, and the "Haul-around" pick-up will occur on Friday, October 30th. As always, all funds will be used for various church and youth activities!



Encanto Community Church is excited to welcome the local AKC Scent Dog Club to our campus. On April 17th, we will host the trials for the Scent Dog Club. Further information forthcoming in the Encanto Weekly after Easter.

Fascinating fact: Dogs have a sense of smell that's between 10,000 and 100,000 times more acute than ours! The sport of Scent Work celebrates the joy of sniffing, and asks a dog to sniff to their heart's content; turning your dog's favorite activity into a rewarding game. It is a terrific sport for all kinds of dogs, and is a wonderful way to build confidence in a shy dog.

In so many dog sports the handler is in control but this isn't true in Scent Work. Neither the dog nor handler knows where the target odor is hidden. The handler has to rely on the dog, and follow the dog's nose to success. In Scent Work, it is the canine who is the star of the show.

The sport of Scent Work is based on the work of professional detection dogs (such as drug dogs), employed by humans to detect a wide variety of scents and substances. In AKC Scent Work, dogs search for cotton swabs saturated with the essential oils of Birch, Anise, Clove, and Cypress. The cotton swabs are hidden out of sight in a pre-determined search area, and the dog has to find them. Teamwork is necessary: when the dog finds the scent, he has to communicate the find to the handler, who calls it out to the judge.



April 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 April Fool's Day	2 Maundy Thursday Soup Supper 6pm Service 7pm	3 Good Friday	4
5 Easter Sunday Easter Egg Hunt	6	7	8	9 Choir 7pm	10	11 Yard Sale Sort 10am
12 Deacons Meeting Pet Memorial Service 11:30am	13	14 Trustees 6pm Council 7pm	15 Happy 90th Birthday Del Krietenstein	16 Nourish Phx. 8am Choir 7pm Happy Birthday Tony Lusania Paul Petrasek	17 Scent Dog Event 7am- 3pm	18
19 Church Picnic	20	21 Newsletter Deadline	22 Late Last Supper 6:30pm	23 Choir 7pm S.W. Conference Annual Meeting	24 S.W. Conference Annual Meeting Happy Birthday Sabrina Anderson	25 S.W. Conference Annual Meeting
26	27 Happy Birthday Melanie Herrmann Soll Bernie Perez	28	29	30 Choir 7pm		

Pastoral Ponderings

We have spent the last several weeks walking through the quiet, reflective shadows of Lent. We have remembered, reflected and we've followed the heavy steps of Jesus toward the cross. But now, the air has shifted. Hopefully, your reflection has led to sense of renewal. Ready to burst forth in the same manner spring flowers do.

Easter is more than a beautiful Sunday service or a historical event we mark once a year. It is the definitive proof that hope has the final word.

In the garden that first Easter morning, the disciples were bracing for an ending. Realistically, they expected a tomb, a body, and a closed chapter on a powerful ministry. Instead, they found that some ministries live beyond the grave. The remembrance of the resurrection tells us that with God, even the most "final" situations—our failures, our grief, and our deepest fears—are subject to change.

The same power is at work in us today. It is a power that:

- Restores what we thought was lost.
- Redeems and move us beyond our past mistakes.

Renews our understanding of our self as a holy child of God and given the strength to permit that understanding to guide us forward.

As the flowers begin to poke through the soil this spring, let them be a visual sermon for you. Every bloom is a reminder that life wins. We aren't just people who celebrate the resurrection; we are people who live it. Let's carry that Easter joy into our neighborhoods, our workplaces, and our homes this month.

Blessings, Rev. Gloria



Council Meeting: March 17, 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 February distributed by Kathy Van Etten and reviewed. The Endowment was in good shape for the month. We were still in the red, but not as much as January. We are very grateful for the yard sales! As Kathy V. says, "They are keeping the lights on and paying the bills."

Trustees' report given by Steve Holloway. The Organist position continues to be offered. K.J. installed an electric hand dryer and motion-sensitive light in the outdoor bathroom. Both worked very well during the yard sale. Tony has trimmed the existing rose bushes in the Memorial Garden, and additional bushes are being purchased. K.J. will purchase two new AC units for the bathroom and the choir room in the Narthex. We have a new (pre-owned) office copier that is working well. Thank you to Kathy & Ed Stock for the donation! The stove at the parsonage stopped working just three months after the warranty expired, and a replacement is being purchased from Costco. The AKC Scent Group will be here on April 17. Perky's Celebration of Life went very well. Irrigation for the property has resumed after the canal dry-up. Discussion was held regarding placement of the walkie-talkies and megaphones during church services. The submission period for the Fire House/AED grants opens on April 22. APS Grant: Marilyn will submit a proposal for the Parsonage and Caretaker's Cottage. Discussion held regarding the double crypt that we will offer for sale at Greenwood Memorial Cemetery.

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

Deacon's Report given by John Hasenstab. Melanie demonstrated how to use the walkie-talkies. Plans for Lent and Easter were discussed including whether to hold the Maundy Thursday service in Fellowship Hall or the Sanctuary. Service will be held in the Sanctuary due to concerns about space, Tech requirements, and the ability to live stream from Fellowship Hall. The Deacons will set up the Sanctuary for Easter on Good Friday. Martin is working on building racks for the banners. The storage boxes in the Sanctuary Loft will be replaced with plastic bins.

Memorial Fund Report distributed by Kathy Stock and reviewed.

Religious Education Report given by Kathy Van Etten. The youth are excited to be back upstairs again. The series on the Twelve Disciples continues. The purple chairs that were in Room 4 have been moved to the purple room upstairs. There is a lot of organizing and cleaning work to do in the upstairs rooms. Occasional workdays on Tuesdays will begin soon. Ideas for summer activities are being considered.

Outreach Report given by Cindy Walley. Outreach is going to start working on the garden again. A workday will be held on Saturday, March 28, at 7:00 a.m. to turn the garden and prepare it for spring planting. Compost in two of our bins are ready for use, and two more are in progress. The plan is to plant cucumbers and cantaloupe for the season. Plans for the Church Library and the "Little Library" were discussed. One Great Hour of Sharing will be held on Palm Sunday. Carolyn Mitchell will give the Moment for Mission on March 22, 2026.

Hospitality Report given by Melanie Herrmann-Soll. Cookies are in the bank. The new Cookie Calendar will be put up directly.

Pastor's Report given by Rev. Gloria Smith. The spring Pet Memorial Service will be held after church on Sunday, April 12. UCC Conference Ministers are creating an online Good Friday Service. Dr. Toni will represent the Southwest Conference, and the ECC Choir will contribute a number to be included as well. Rev. Gloria is spearheading the application for a Lilly Foundation grant for the development of new and traditional spiritual practices for younger parishioners.

Moderator's Report given by Marilyn Hall. Discussion held regarding the replacement of church tools and equipment.

Calendar Updates were made for April and May.

Old Business: See above.

New Business: See above.

Meeting adjourned at 9:50 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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