

# Encanto Community Church

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

## The Pilgrim

### June Events

June 7	Pet Food Bagging Outreach Meeting
June 13	Yard Sale Sorting 10am-Noon
June 14	Deacons Meeting Flag Day
June 18	Nourish Phoenix 8am
June 19	Happy Juneteenth
June 21	Happy Father's Day! Donuts for Dad!
June 23	Trustees 6pm Council 7pm
June 27	Willow Lake Youth Trip 7am
June 30	Newsletter Deadline

### June 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, Ricki McTheny, Nick and Family, 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.

### Encanto Fellowship

This month was certainly a busy one with landmark birthdays, Mother's Day, Choir Appreciation, and the Start of Pentecost lining up with Memorial Day Weekend all packed into a few weeks. Thank you to all who provided delicious treats this month and a special thank you to all those who pitched in and provided food and refreshments to Corin's Service and Luncheon, it was greatly appreciated.

Thank you to Jaimie and Susan for being May's hosts! Now, you may be pleased (or maybe indifferent, I sure hope not angered) to see myself (Melanie) and Clinton as your hosts again in June.

We still have our Treat Calendar in Fellowship Hall that's just begging for people to sign up to provide treats in June and July. And remember, it doesn't always have to be cookies or other sweet treats, maybe you have a secret bread recipe none of us have ever tried or a jazzy new dip you want to try out, think about signing up and bringing it for Fellowship Hour! One thing about us at Encanto, we will eat just about anything.



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



# NEWS AND INFORMATION

## **Treasurer's Report.** (General Fund for April 2026)

**Beginning Balance: \$-15,131.86**  
**Received: \$15,898.00**  
**Disbursed: \$13,971.74**  
**Ending Balance: \$-13,205.60**  
**For a gain of: \$1,923.26**

### Total Offering Receipts for April 2026

4/5	4/12	4/19	4/26
\$2,716	\$975	\$425	\$3,240

There was no withdrawal from the Endowment Fund in April.

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



**Treasurer Report**

## **Birthdays To Remember** June

Todd Montague	2nd
Claudia Friscoe	3rd
Emily Morales	9th
Jonathan Campos	18th
Shawn Bauer	24th

**happy birthday to you!**

Happiest Anniversary wishes to Ed and Kathy Stock as well as Shawn and Vickie Bauer! Both couples celebrate their anniversary on June 15th!

*Flag Day*

June 14



## Happy Juneteenth!



### **Deacon on Duty**

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

**Michelle Lusania 602-783-7507**

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. All items can be placed in front of the sheds in the back parking lot. The only item that we no longer take since the recycling centers do not take it is cardboard. We certainly appreciate you thinking of us and probably remembering that cardboard used to be accepted. Don't shy away from bringing the other items on the list though! We are so grateful for them and the proceeds go to support various church activities. Thank you!!



# Summer Outreach Drive

Can ECC Make Things Better?

We all know the answer is “Yes” but how are we doing it this time?

Let’s travel to Nourish PHX, one of our very favorite food banks. We see a large number of people lined up, rain or shine or cold or hot, to pick up some necessities. It may be some clothes or a hygiene bag or a children’s book or a food box or, if you’re really lucky, some pet food (we all know about the petfood but that’s not what this story is about).

Some people come to Nourish in their car. Others get a ride from a neighbor. Some others ride their bicycle. And some people walk. For the walkers, a trip to Nourish means running a constant inventory of how many items they can carry. A walker may turn down a hygiene bag or opt out of some clothing because his or her family’s immediate need is food.

A food box at Nourish is 21 by 16 inches and, more often than not, it is heavy. A walker will take the food box outside and sort out the items of dearest need. What can be carried in the 2 or 3 bags brought from home? A gallon of milk is heavy but it’s worth the weight, A head of cabbage is heavy too but it might not make the cut if it means leaving the peanut butter or a bottle of juice.

It would be wonderful if the walkers didn’t need to make this Sophie’s choice two times a month. And that’s where we come in.

The noble ECC Deacons have voted to purchase 5 collapsible wagons to donate to some of our Nourish walkers. This is beautiful and generous. The cool cats of ECC Outreach admire this outreach (yes, outreach) of our Deacons and would like to challenge the rest of us at ECC to match this Diaconate heroism. Accordingly, we will place a marked plastic jar in both the sanctuary and Fellowship Hall. These jars are perfect for the spare change that accumulates throughout the week. We are asking you to deposit some, or all, of that change in one of these jars each week during three (June, July, August) of the 5.95 months of summer beginning June 7th.

Can we match the noble Deacons and give at least 5 more Nourish walkers a stress free visit?

Wagons Ho!



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## Time for an Update!!

It’s time to update our church slide show presentations! You know, the ones that we run before and after Sunday service. Given that it’s summer, we thought it would be fun to **collect pictures from everyone that show something fun they have done (or are doing) this summer**. It will be similar to a “What I Did This Summer” photo essay. So, if you have any photos you would like to include, please e-mail the .jpg or .jpeg version of them to Kathy V. in the next few weeks with a description of the pictures. Her e-mail is [KVanEtten@aol.com](mailto:KVanEtten@aol.com). Then, the Tech Team will create something new and fun to watch on Sunday mornings. Thanks!!



# YARDSALE

**Come join the Yard Sale Sorting Squad!** Your help is needed! What does that entail, you might ask? It means that you would volunteer on any given Saturday to process the yard sale donations that have already been received. **Volunteers are needed to sort, price and clean donations of all types including collectibles.** Volunteers also have the first option to buy any of the treasures that they may find. This month, the **Yard Sale Sorting Squad will be working in the basement of Fellowship Hall on Saturday, June 13, 2026 from 10am until 12pm.** Please join us as, "many hands make light work." Also, please remember to enter Fellowship Hall via the rear kitchen door so as not to disturb the support group that meets every Saturday morning. Thank you.

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**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 the one in back at the top of the ramp.** Also, please lock the connecting door between Fellowship Hall and the Office.

**If you are the last one to leave Fellowship Hall after Fellowship Hour or various meetings, please be sure to lock all of the outside doors to the buildings as well as turn off all lights and fans.** If you do not have a key, please lock the bottom locks.

If someone needs a sack of food or other items, please get Michelle, Tony or a fellow Deacon to help them. Nobody from outside is allowed into the office area. Thank you!

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**PLEASE NOTE**

The July newsletter will be published one week later than usual. That means that the deadline for submissions of articles will be on June 30, 2026!

## Late Last Supper Fun at P.C.G!



## R.E. Outing

On Saturday, June 27, 2026, R.E. will be trekking to Willow Springs Lake for our annual outing. Anyone who would like to join us is welcome, provided there is space in the vehicles or you are driving yourself. We will meet in the church parking lot at 7:15am and we will leave by 7:30am. R.E. will provide the hot dogs, chips and drinks for lunch, but everyone should bring a side dish to share. You should also bring your own camping chair and any fishing gear and/or water toys you might like. We will stop at Danzeisen in Payson on the way home. Please let Kathy V. know if you are interested in joining us!



## Pastoral Ponderings

One of the first lessons the desert teaches newcomers is that life here moves to a different rhythm. While much of the world plants in spring, grows through summer, harvests in fall, and rests in winter, Arizona gently turns that cycle on its head. Here, we plant in the fall, nurture through winter, harvest in spring — and when summer arrives, we rest.

And so, it is with the life of Encanto.

We have entered our season of rest and recovery. The faithful rhythms of September through May have carried us far, and now the heat invites us to set down our calendars, loosen our grip on the clock, and simply *be* together. No agenda. No rush from one meeting to the next. Just the unhurried gift of one another's company — as friends, as family, as fellow travelers on this journey of faith.

The summer heat, for all its intensity, is a kind of grace. It slows us in ways we rarely allow ourselves to be slowed. I hope you will receive that gift willingly this year.

These quieter months are also when I find myself drawn more deeply into a single book of Scripture — sitting with it, listening to it, letting its textures and turning points speak to our shared life. This summer, that book is Isaiah — one of the longest, richest, and most theologically significant books in all of the Bible, cherished deeply by both our Jewish ancestors and the Christian tradition we have inherited.

We will not journey through every chapter, but we will linger at the pivotal moments — the places where Isaiah's world and our own seem to reach across the centuries and recognize each other. The circumstances may differ, but the root struggles, the longings, the failures, and the faithfulness? Those, I suspect, will feel remarkably familiar.

I look forward to exploring Isaiah alongside you this summer. May these months bring you true rest, genuine connection, and perhaps a few holy surprises along the way.

Grace and peace,

Rev. Gloria



# June 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 Happy Birthday Todd Montague	3 Happy Birthday Claudia Friscoe	4	5	6
7 Pet Food Bagging Outreach Meeting	8	9 Happy Birthday Emily Morales	10	11	12	13 Yard Sale Sorting 10am-12pm
14 Deacons Meeting Flag Day	15 Happy Anniversary Ed & Kathy Stock And Shawn & Vickie Bauer	16	17	18 Nourish Phx. 8am Happy Birthday Jonathan Campos	19 Juneteenth	20
21 Father's Day	22	23 Trustees 6pm Council 7pm	24 Happy Birthday Shawn Bauer	25	26	27 Willow Springs Lake Trip 7:15am
28	29	30 Newsletter Deadline				

## Council Meeting: May 12, 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 7:28 p.m. by Marilyn Hall, Moderator. Opening prayer led by Marilyn Hall.

Treasurer's Report for April distributed by Kathy Van Etten and reviewed. Proceeds from the Yard Sales and PayPal donations are helping to cover our bills. Weekly donations are down. The Endowment Fund is slowly going up.

April 14, 2026, Meeting Minutes reviewed and accepted.

Discussion was held regarding ways to increase donations of money and people's time. Ideas included: Having yard sale prep on a few Sundays after church; holding donations upstairs so they can be cleaned before going to the basement; and using an assembly line of people more often to take donations down to the basement.

Trustees' Report given by Steve Holloway. Thanks again to K.J. for installing the new A/C window units in the Narthex! They are working well. Work continues on the Pet Memorial Garden and Rose Garden. Tony will be planting Bermuda grass soon. Arrangements are being made to replace the outdoor carpeting in front of Fellowship Hall and the Sanctuary. The PVC pipes for the parsonage lawn sprinklers will need to be replaced soon. Our palm trees will need to be trimmed in the fall. The Organist position continues to be offered. Discussion held regarding the security grants that are available and which ones we might apply for. The handheld radios are being labelled and placed strategically throughout the campus for use in case of emergency.

Financial Secretary's Report given by John Hasenstab. Offerings and contributions are deposited weekly. We received a \$1,000 grant from some special friends of the church. It is greatly appreciated!

Memorial Fund Report distributed by Kathy Stock and reviewed.

Hospitality Report given by Melanie Hermann Soll. People have signed up to bring treats though Father's Day when the Deacons will host. Committee Hosts are scheduled until fall.

Religious Education Report given by Kathy Van Etten. The Bibles stored upstairs have been sorted. Summer activities are being planned. R.E. will host the annual Willow Springs Lake picnic trip on Saturday, June 27, 2026. Everyone is welcome!

Outreach Report given by Cindy Walley. Work is in progress to purchase wagons for use by customers at Nourish Phoenix. The committee will start meeting on the first Sunday of each month.

Deacons' Report given by John Hasenstab. Feedback given regarding the Church Picnic. The Deacons' Fund will be used to purchase five wagons for Nourish Phoenix. As we prepare for summer, food items and bottled water are needed for the Church Pantry.

Pastor's Report given by Rev. Gloria Smith. The Annual Meeting went well. Janet and Joyce enjoyed attending the services and workshops. Discussion held regarding a new branding campaign for UCC Churches: "Not that kind of church. No Hierarchy, No Judgment, No Kidding!"

Moderator's Report given by Marilyn Hall. Discussion was held about the Arizona State Security Grant and Firehouse Subs Grant programs. As yard sale donations are made, we will watch for any tools or equipment that can be used to replace the ones we have. Jill is working on establishing an eBay account and using other platforms to increase sales of donated items.

Calendar updates were made for June and July.

Old Business: Discussion held regarding the sale of the double crypt at Greenwood Memorial Park (in Phoenix) that was donated to the church by the late Dr. John and Jackie Glass. If interested, contact Steve H.

New Business: Marilyn Hall is working on possible bottled water donations for summer.

Meeting adjourned at 9:14 p.m. by Marilyn Hall, Moderator.

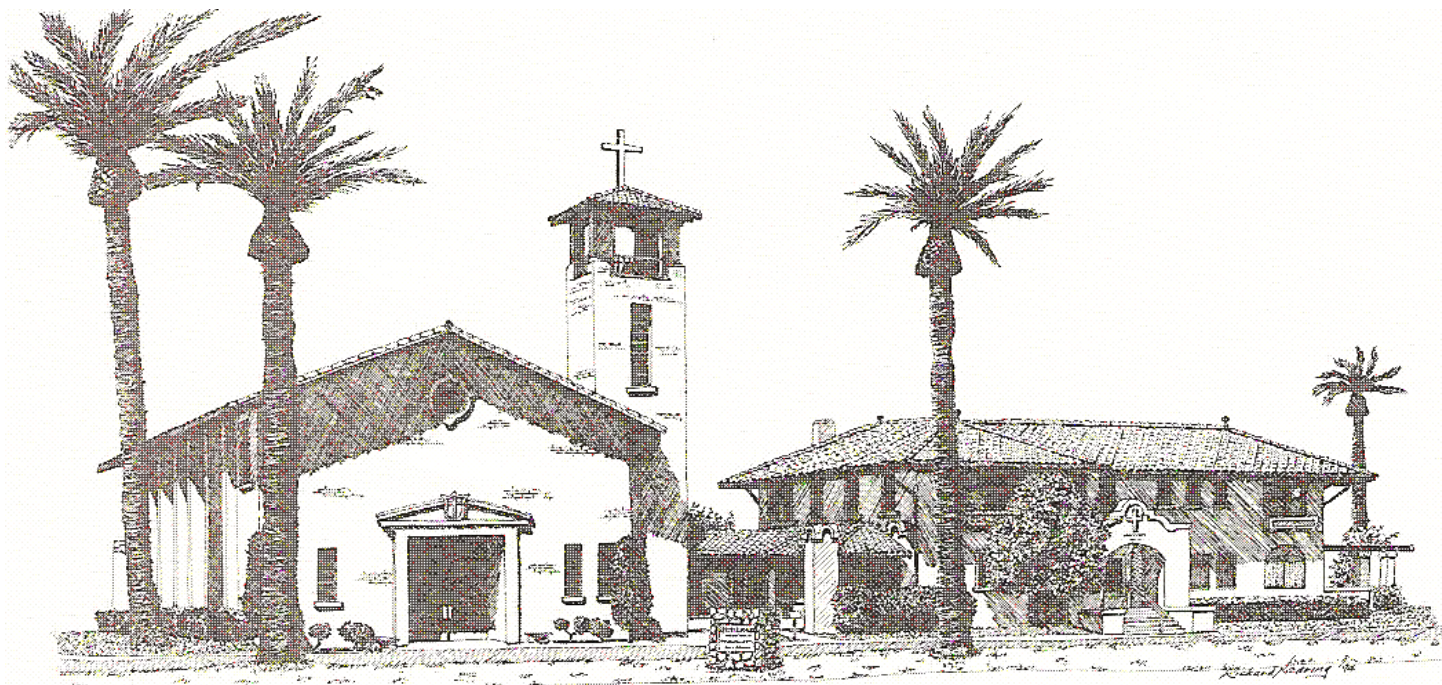


**Encanto Community Church**  
United Church of Christ  
2710 North 7th Avenue  
Phoenix, AZ 85007



**Rev. Dr. Gloria Smith**, Minister  
**Lisa Herrmann**, Moderator  
**Jill Mahoney**, Choir Director  
**Genevieve Benham**, Organist  
**Tony Lusania**, Caretaker  
**Michelle Lusania**, Secretary

**Encanto Community Church**  
**United Church of Christ**  
**Phone: 602-266-4602**  
**[www.EncantoCommunityChurch.org](http://www.EncantoCommunityChurch.org)**



# Now Hiring: Executive Assistant to the Conference Minister Southwest Conference, United Church of Christ

The Southwest Conference (SWC) is seeking a highly capable and mission-aligned **Executive Assistant to the Conference Minister**, a trusted partner who will help advance the ministry and leadership of the Conference through exceptional administrative and relational support.

This is more than an administrative role. It is an opportunity to serve the wider church by supporting the daily work, priorities, and communications of the Conference Minister. The ideal candidate brings both professional excellence and a deep respect for the values, relationships, and rhythms of faith-based leadership.

## What You'll Do

- \*Steward and manage the Conference Minister's calendar, travel, and priorities
- \*Serve as a key point of contact for clergy, congregations, and Conference leadership
- \*Coordinate meetings, prepare materials, and monitor and track follow-up actions
- \*Support communication efforts, including drafting correspondence and presentations
- \*Provide operational and project coordination to advance Conference initiatives
- \*Exercise sound judgment in prioritizing requests and managing sensitive matters

## Who We're Looking For

- \***Associate's degree required (minimum qualification)**
- \***2–3 years of experience** supporting senior leadership (nonprofit or ministry context preferred)
- \*Strong organizational, communication, and problem-solving skills
- \*Demonstrated discretion, professionalism, and emotional intelligence
- \*Ability to manage multiple priorities while maintaining organization, attention to detail, and confidentiality
- \*Alignment with the mission and values of the United Church of Christ

## Position Details

- \***Full-time, Exempt (40 hours/week)**
- \***Salary:** \$43,500 – \$49,920 annually
- \***Reports to:** Conference Minister
- \***Work Arrangement:** This is an **on-site position**. After six months, a **hybrid schedule may be considered**, including at least one remote workday per week, based on performance and organizational needs

## How to Apply

Please submit a **resume and cover letter** (including three references) by May 20, 2026 to:

Email: [conference.secureoffice@gmail.com](mailto:conference.secureoffice@gmail.com)

If you know someone who brings both **competence and a strong commitment to service**, we invite you to share this opportunity and help us welcome the right person into this meaningful work.



Southwest Conference  
United Church of Christ

## Annual Meeting Report From ECC's Delegates

The Southwest Conference Annual Meeting was held April 23rd through April 25th at the Good Shepherd UCC in Sahuarita, Arizona. It was centered on the theme "A New Heart: Crossing the Threshold". Two members of Encanto Community UCC participated this year--one in person and the other on Zoom. Pastor Gloria had a very large part in planning, organizing and implementing the conference. It is always an enjoyable and educational event and an opportunity to renew old friendships and to make new ones.

The weekend began on Thursday with excursions to migrant support programs and services. Delegates had the opportunity to select one of three experiences. The choices were: a visit to LaCasa de la Misericordia, a migrant refuge in Nogales Mexico; travel to re-supply water drop stations in the surrounding desert; and, a humanitarian search in the desert to provide aide to migrants struggling to survive on their trek through the desert. Janet elected to go to La Casa de la Misericordia in Nogales, Mexico. This is a migrant refugee camp supported largely by the Southwest Conference and overseen by Sister Lika. The migrants themselves are in charge and she keeps everyone in line. They have a tortilla factory, ukelele factory, do embroidery projects, have a school, community dining hall, gardens, dormitories, and even have some cats and dogs who are in residence. They have the opportunity to become certified in occupations like electricians, etc. The dormitories are only for mothers and children, no single men. They used to be there for asylum, awaiting their hearings, but there is no asylum right now. The other two excursions were to a desert watering station and searching for migrants in the desert.

Thursday evening there was a documentary on the Good Samaritan program, featuring Pastor Randy Mayer. This documentary was produced and narrated by David Damian Figueroa, a native of Buckeye. This organization is doing so much good, I wish everyone had an opportunity to view the documentary, however, this is not possible at this time.

On Friday several workshops were offered. They were: 1) Samaritans at the Border, Immigrants Among Us; 2) Discovering God in the Quiet Places: Contemplative Prayer Practices for Busy People; 3) Church Resources and Loan Fund Ministries: Church Resources for Living God's Call. 4) Telling God's Story at the Threshold; 5) History of San Xavier Indian Reservation and Our Water Challenges; 6) The Church in Times of War and Anxiety; and 7) Awakening Awareness to Implicit Bias in the Church. All workshops were enlightening and informative. Unfortunately time allotted participation in only two! Following the workshops, an opportunity was made available to tour the Sahuarita Food Bank and Culinary Program. All food provided during the conference was prepared by members of The Culinary Program.

Delegates attended a wonderful banquet and awards program Friday evening. The delicious meal was prepared by members of the Culinary program. The awards presented were well deserved. Encanto received the 7 out of 7 award for giving.

Saturday was "business day". The business meeting followed the morning worship and communion service. A new Conference Logo was presented and explained (see attached). A new advertising campaign is also being implemented. There were no new resolutions to be voted on this year. Much discussion and many questions were raised regarding the budget. Unfortunately, some questions went unanswered as the budget manager was absent due to a death in the family. In addition to the many budget questions, a proposal was made from the floor followed by a lengthy discussion to create and financially support, at the conference level, personnel and funds to implement programs for youth in all the UCC churches. This floor proposal was unexpected and lacked detail for implementation and finance. Due to time constraints the motion was brought to a vote and passed. A final topic included a brief discussion to expand campus ministries

After the adjournment of the business meeting, delegates were invited to pick up bag lunches prepared by the culinary program for their journey home. Thank you to the host church, The Good Shepherd UCC and to All the Conference staff for a wonderful weekend experience. Pastor Gloria had a very large part in organizing the conference and did a great job.

We now have a new logo as per the following and we are working on a new ad campaign.

Respectfully submitted,  
Janet Maxwell, Delegate in Person  
Joyce Suggs, Delegate on Zoom