

Encanto Community Church

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

The Pilgrim

July Events

July 4	Happy 250th Birthday America
July 5	Pet Food Bagging Outreach Meeting
July 11	Science Museum Youth Trip Yard Sale Sorting 10am-Noon
July 12	Eloise Barrick's 90th Birthday (Pastor Gloria's Mom)
July 15	Meal Prep/Serve for Justa Center 9:30am
July 16	Nourish Phoenix 8am
July 18	Bingo 10am in Fellowship Hall
July 19	Ice Cream Sundae Sunday
July 21	Newsletter Deadline
July 25	Yard Sale Sorting 10am-Noon



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

July 2026



Please Remember in Your Prayers:

Steve Barrett, Jody Betts, Diane Boudle, The Campos Family, Bill Edens, Jane Gempeler, 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.

Surprise! And Congratulations!!



Exciting news from Jenna Williams and her husband Justin! Welcome to the world precious Camden Kavan Stephens. He was born June 2, 2026, at 4:22 a.m., and he weighed 7lb 10oz.

Please join us in wishing not just Jenna and Justin but big siblings Brendan, Navy and Mila our heartfelt congratulations!!

On July 19th, 2026, the youth will be hosting our annual Ice Cream Sundae Sunday during Fellowship Hour! Please come to Fellowship Hall after church and join us for root beer floats or a delicious sundae!



NEWS AND INFORMATION

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

Beginning Balance: \$-13,205.60
Received: \$17,906.14
Disbursed: \$15,657.90
Ending Balance: \$-10,957.36
For a gain of: \$2,248.24

Total Offering Receipts for May 2026

5/3	5/10	5/17	5/24	5/31
\$3,818	\$441	\$2,220	\$5,364.98	\$2,277

There was no withdrawal from the Endowment Fund in May.

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



The Late Last Supper Club will continue it's summer hiatus . We will resume our usual culinary adventures in September. Enjoy the summer vacation.

On Saturday, July 11th, Religious Education will be coordinating a field trip to the Arizona Science Museum. Anyone who would like to join the adventure is most welcome provided that you pay for your own admission. Please contact Kathy V. for more details.



On Sunday, July 12, we will be celebrating Pastor Gloria's Mom's 90th birthday! Please plan on joining us for cake and drinks after church that day. It will be a wonderful event!

Deacon on Duty

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

John Hasenstab: 602-503-9817

Birthdays To Remember July

Kathy Stock	7th
Patty Arnold	9th
Eloise Barrick	12th
Steve Krienstein	13th
Elice Higginbotham	23rd
George Penny	26th
Debbye Jones	27th
John Hasenstab	29th



Happy 66th Wedding Anniversary to our very own Del and Carolyn Krienstein. They celebrate on July 31st! Congratulations!



What, Bingo Again?!?!?

ECC Social Gang Bingo is coming. Yes, since Jan and Clinton won all of the bingos at the church picnic, we're playing again to give others a chance. Therefore, mark your calendars on **Saturday, July 18 at 11 AM** because you will certainly want to head over to ECC for some daubing and winning. We will have snacks because we're ECC. The entry fee is a can or box or bag of cat or dog food. Keep your eyes peeled for more specifics as they become available. **Saturday, July 18**, in Fellowship Hall. Don't you dare miss it.



Wagons Ho Encanto

Hey ECC, how are you so amazing? In just one month, you dear, kind-hearted people have donated two wagons plus over \$250.00 to buy some more. That is jaw dropping generosity and you all should feel proud.

Our next ECC volunteer outing to Nourish PHX is Thursday, July 16. We will be taking the two wagons (donated by a major rockstar) with us to give away to a couple of our beloved Nourish walkers. We are excited about this and if anyone of you would like to go with us please let John or Cindy know. You don't even need to do anything, you can just enjoy the fun.

As promised by the Outreachers, the Wagons Ho containers will remain available for your donations until the end of August. Thank you all so much, you will make a difference in someone's life.



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. Then, the Tech Team will create something new and fun to watch on Sunday mornings. Thanks!!



An Opportunity to Make Things Better: Justa Center

Over at **1001 W. Jefferson Street**, there is a special place that can use some help. Justa Center is a resource and day center exclusively serving seniors experiencing homelessness. They provide support and services for unhoused people 55 years of age and older, including meals, benefits assistance, help finding permanent housing, and more.

The people on our Outreach Board would like to give Encanto an opportunity to make things better for these seniors in the form of something we do so well -- providing food. Each day Justa Center feeds upwards of 100 hungry people and we have the chance to prepare and serve two different lunches on two different days.

On **Wednesday, July 15** we will be serving a spaghetti meal to the Justa folks. Lucky for us, there are several ways to participate:

Spaghettis chefs – we will need spaghetti for about 100 so about 10 crockpots of spaghetti (pasta with sauce).

Garlic bread preparers – garlic bread is a favorite so we will need many foil wrapped loaves.

Servers – if cooking is not your thing, come to Justa Center that day to help serve the food and/or just hang and chat.

Lunch is served at **10:30 AM** (these are senior citizens after all) so we will probably need to leave ECC with all of our food around **9:30 AM**.

On **Saturday, August 1**, we're doing it all again. We'd like to provide a different meal, maybe chili, but we're open to suggestions. See Cindy, Joyce, Carolyn M., Margie, Craig, Rev, Gloria, Sabrina, or Megan to ask questions or offer menu suggestions.

Most of us feel the pull to help others but don't always know how. This might be the need you've been looking to fill.



YARDSALE

Come join the Yard Sale Sorting Squad! Your help is needed. What does this entail? Good question! It means that you would come on a given Saturday to help process the newest donations that we have received (clean, price and sort). **It also means that you get first dibs** on the treasures at hand. The Sorting Squad will be working in the basement of Fellowship Hall on Saturday, July 11th and July 25th from 10am until 12pm. Please join us as “many hands make light work.” Also, please remember to enter through the rear kitchen door so as not to disturb the support group that meets on Saturday mornings. Thank you!

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.

From the Treasurer's Desk:

Often, you would see my pseudo-annual “Take Jesus to Dinner” article this time of year. However, I thought this year, I would just remind everyone that we all need to consider “putting a little extra in the church offering plate” during the next few months. As we all know, summer in Phoenix brings with it higher bills and lower attendance, and basic costs are on the rise. Obviously, that creates a “double hit” for our financial situation. Less money in, more money out. So, in an effort to avoid drawing down on our endowment, please prayerfully consider giving a bit more to the church this season. “It takes a village” to keep our church operating successfully. Thank you!



The Aroma on Roma by Jan Russell

Today is the first in what I hope to be a series of articles about food and cooking and recipes. I hope to share recipes, tips, shortcuts, and general info. I will share at least one recipe every month. I will make it and test it and include a picture. I also would like to invite you to submit recipes you might like to share, or request recipes you would like to have. I would make them, test them and include a picture. My first recipe is the one I made for the luncheon after Lisa's service. I found this in an email I receive daily. It's called “Just a Pinch Recipes.”

Deli-style Pasta Salad

- 1 package tricolor spiral salad
- 2 medium plum tomatoes, seeded and julienned
- 8 oz sliced provolone, julienned
- 8 oz sliced salami, julienned
- 1 small red onion, thinly sliced separated rings
- 1 small can sliced black olives
- 1/4 cup grated Parmesan cheese
- 1 jar stuffed green olives drained and sliced
- 1 bottle Kraft Zesty Italian salad dressing 8 oz

Cook pasta according to package instructions. Drain and rinse in cold water. In a large bowl, combine all ingredients, add dressing and toss.

This is a really good summertime salad and so easy to make.



Pastoral Ponderings

Religion and the Founding of America: Different Views, Shared Values

As America's Constitution and Bill of Rights were being written, the nation's founders agreed on one important point: religion played a vital role in shaping the moral character of citizens. However, they had different ideas about how religious freedom should be protected and what role the new federal government should have in matters of faith.

The Anti-Federalists' View

The Anti-Federalists were wary of giving too much power to a national government. They believed one of government's greatest responsibilities was protecting individual freedoms, including religious liberty. One of their concerns was Article VI of the Constitution, which prohibited religious tests for federal office. Some feared that without such tests, people who did not share Christian beliefs—or who held beliefs they considered dangerous—could gain positions of leadership. They also believed that each state should remain free to support its own religious traditions. At the time, several states had established churches or provided public support for Christian denominations, and many Anti-Federalists wanted those arrangements to continue. Perhaps most importantly, they insisted that freedom of religion and conscience should be clearly stated in a Bill of Rights. Leaders such as George Mason argued that these protections needed to be written into the Constitution so that the federal government could never interfere with religious belief or practice.

The Federalists' View

Federalists such as Alexander Hamilton and James Madison favored a stronger national government, but they believed religion was primarily a matter for individuals, churches, and state governments—not the federal government. They argued that the Constitution did not give the national government any authority over religion, so there was little danger that it could establish or restrict faith. In their view, silence on religion in the Constitution was itself a protection. Federalists also opposed religious tests for public office. Madison believed that such tests would not prevent dishonest leaders from serving. Instead, they would unfairly exclude qualified people and create unnecessary divisions among Americans. In Federalist No. 10, Madison offered another important argument. He believed that the new nation would include many different Christian denominations and other religious groups. Because no single group would be large enough to dominate the others, this religious diversity would actually help protect everyone's freedom of worship.

A Lasting Legacy

Although the Federalists and Anti-Federalists disagreed about the best way to safeguard religious liberty, both recognized the importance of faith in public life and sought to preserve freedom of conscience. Their debates ultimately contributed to the adoption of the First Amendment, which begins with these familiar words:

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof..."

These protections have remained a cornerstone of American religious liberty, allowing people of faith to worship according to their convictions while limiting the federal government's role in matters of religion.

In gratitude we thank our founding fathers for taking the matter of religious liberty seriously.

Blessings,

Rev. Gloria

July 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4 Happy 4th of July
5 Pet Food Bagging Outreach Meeting	6	7 Happy Birthday Kathy Stock	8	9 Happy Birthday Patty Arnold	10	11 R.E. Science Center Yard Sale Sort 10am
12 Happy 90th Birthday Eloise Barrick	13 Happy Birthday Steve Krietenstein	14	15 Meal Prep/Serve for Justa Center 9:30am	16 Nourish Phx. 8am	17	18 Bingo 10am
19 Ice Cream Sundae Sunday!	20	21 Newsletter Deadline	22	23 Happy Birthday Elice Higginbotham	24	25 Yard Sale Sort 10am
26 Happy Birthday George Penny	27 Happy Birthday Debbie Jones	28	29 Happy Birthday John Hasenstab	30	31 Happy Anniversary Del & Carolyn K.	

Council Meeting: June 23 , 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 7:19 p.m. by Marilyn Hall, Moderator. Opening prayer led by Marilyn Hall.

Treasurer's Report for May distributed by Kathy Van Etten and reviewed. Donations for the month were about the same as the previous month. We are still selling Yard Sale items thanks to Jill's efforts. The APS bills are going up, which is expected for summer.

May 12, 2026, Meeting Minutes reviewed and accepted.

Trustees' Report given by Steve Holloway. We are still working on getting the carpet in front of the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall replaced. Work continues on the Pet Memorial Garden and Rose Garden. We will develop a reservation system for the Memorial Wall. A work day will be scheduled in the fall to work on the parsonage lawn sprinklers. Approval was given for Jill to expand the search for an organist to include pianists.

Financial Secretary's Report given by John Hasenstab. Offerings and contributions are deposited weekly. John will explore the possibility of changing to yearly billing for ChurchTrac.

Stewardship Report given by Cindy Walley. We are now selling items on eBay! We will also try using Facebook Marketplace.

Memorial Fund Report distributed by Kathy Stock and reviewed.

Deacons' Report given by John Hasenstab. Plans are in place for Lisa's Memorial Service. Donuts for Dad was a success. New UV-resistant banners for the front of the church have been ordered. Thank you to Kathy Stock for organizing the Deacon's Room! The Deacons will not be meeting in July.

Religious Education Report given by Kathy Van Etten. Thank you to Melanie for covering while Kathy & Steve were on vacation! The summer Willow Springs Lake trip is being postponed, possibly to fall. However, the youth will still be visiting the Arizona Science Museum on Saturday, July 11.

Outreach Report given by Cindy Walley. The change drive for the Wagons Ho project for Nourish Phoenix is going well! The committee is coordinating two volunteer days in July and August to prepare and serve a meal at Justa Center. Anyone who would like to help is welcome! A date for Christmas in August has yet to be determined.

Hospitality Report given by Melanie Hermann Soll. The Cookie Bank is full with donations. Thank you! People have also signed up to bring treats for Fellowship Hour, which is appreciated!

Pastor's Report given by Rev. Gloria Smith. The Memorial Service for Lisa will be this Saturday, and there will be 4 speakers. The choir will be singing as well. In August, we may have another guest speaker.

Moderator's Report given by Marilyn Hall. We did not apply for this year's State DHS grant, as we did not complete the suggested items from the last security assessment. We will apply for the Fire House Grant, and the application period opens on July 7. The hand-held radios will be placed each Sunday morning in their assigned areas. A deacon will collect them after the service. Non-cash alternatives are being explored for the next yard sale.

Calendar updates were made for July and August. Trustees and Council will not be meeting in July.

Old Business: None.

New Business: The City of Phoenix Heat Response Plan is up and running. Information is available on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall.

Meeting adjourned at 9:23 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
Tony Lusania, Caretaker
Michelle Lusania, Secretary

Encanto Community Church
United Church of Christ
Phone: 602-266-4602
www.EncantoCommunityChurch.org

