

# The Fold

## Monthly Newsletter



SUN 8:00AM  
ZOOM SERVICE

SUN 9:30AM  
LIVESTREAM

**Advent**

With the beginning of the new Christian calendar year, we are starting off with this change over from weekly to monthly newsletters.



BIBLE STUDY  
ZOOM LINK

### "Prepare the Way for the Lord"

Join the Adam Hamilton Advent Bible Study Series taking place now. Sun at 11am in-person, 1pm on Zoom. Tues at 10am at Friendship Village. Thurs at 10am at Mirabella.

Social Media



Dear Siblings in Christ,

This past year I have tried to release a weekly newsletter in hopes to better communicate with you all that is happening at Tempe First. I have learned a few things since then.

ONE. Quality of information is better than quantity. It seems to me that our readership is low and I think that is because often, we are reproducing the same information week to week. I imagine people like the idea of having the newsletter in their inbox as a resource, but do not find it worthwhile to read through it each week. It would be better to share higher quality content that readers find beneficial, even if it is less frequent.

TWO. Weekly newsletters are costly. It takes a quarter of our staffed hours to put one together, even when much of it stays the same. Putting this new one together, for example, has taken 32 hours when accounting for the new design and layout. It would be better to make use of that time on diversifying our communication strategies.

THREE. Reading is a necessity, but listening is easier, especially when using small electronic devices. I hope you see where I'm going!

Stay in Love with God, and stay tuned!

Rev. Paul Cho, Lead Pastor  
pastorpaul@tempefirstumc.org  
+1 480-806-8534

## 12/3 Red Cross Blood Drive

Saturday, Ross Hall. 8am - 1pm

Contact Sonia Burns

[bburns6@cox.net](mailto:bburns6@cox.net)

## 12/3 Cookie Bake Day

Saturday, Ross Hall. 9:30am

Contact Claire Nullmeyer

[cnullmeyer@icloud.com](mailto:cnullmeyer@icloud.com)

## 12/10 45th Cookie Walk

Saturday, Ross Hall. 9:00am

Contact Carmina Loreda

[carminaloredo@gmail.com](mailto:carminaloredo@gmail.com)

## 12/11 Christmas Cantata

Sunday, Sanctuary. 9:30am

"Darkness into Light"

Streaming available at:

[youtube.com/tempefirstumc/live](https://youtube.com/tempefirstumc/live)

## 12/21 Blue Christmas Service

Wednesday, Zoom. 6:00pm

No cameras or mics required.

ID: 932 0266 9738 Passcode: 9673376

or click below when viewing as pdf.



[CLICK HERE](#)

## 12/24 Christmas Eve Service

Saturday, Sanctuary. 6:00pm

A Candlelight Service

Streaming available. Visit online at -

[youtube.com/tempefirstumc/live](https://youtube.com/tempefirstumc/live)

# Ministry Focus

45th Annual  
**Cookie Walk**  
by the  
United Women in Faith

Dec. 10 (Sat)  
&  
Dec. 11 (Sun)

9am - Noon  
Ross Hall



# Fellowship, Discipleship, Servant Leadership

## WEEKLY GATHERINGS

- SUNDAYS

### **FELLOWSHIP ONLINE**

Weekly, immediately following the 8am Zoom service: [CLICK HERE 932 0266 9738 \(pw: 9673376\)](#)

- TUESDAYS

### **MEDITATIVE TAI CHI**

Weekly at 8:30am in the Parlor.  
For info: Jo Anne Roberts (480) 747-0994

### **MEN'S BIBLE STUDY ONLINE**

Weekly at 9am on Zoom [845 5131 7679 \(pw: 9673376\)](#)  
For Info: [bnullmeyer@cox.net](mailto:bnullmeyer@cox.net)

### **TEARS, MILK, AND HONEY**

Weekly at 9:30am in the Parlor.  
For info: [bburns6@cox.net](mailto:bburns6@cox.net)

### **HANDBELL CHOIR**

Weekly at 3:00pm in the Narthex  
For info: [kathhuck@aol.com](mailto:kathhuck@aol.com)

### **ANCHORED@VALLEY WESLEY**

Weekly at 6pm in Baker Center for ASU students.  
For info: Heather Cordon,  
[director@valleywesley.com](mailto:director@valleywesley.com)

If you would like to sponsor dinner for a dozen, contact Kathy Schock ([kathhuck@aol.com](mailto:kathhuck@aol.com))

### **FAITH FOCUSED SUPPORT FOR SPED EDUCATORS AND PARENTS**

Weekly at 6:30pm on Zoom [943 1485 6221](#)  
For Info: [stacia.duncan1@cst.edu](mailto:stacia.duncan1@cst.edu)

- WEDNESDAYS

### **SANCTUARY CHOIR**

Weekly at 7pm in the Choir Room  
For info: [chwhdaz@cox.net](mailto:chwhdaz@cox.net)

- SATURDAYS

### **COFFEE TIME & FELLOWSHIP ONLINE**

Weekly at 8am on Zoom 879 3829 0704 (pw: 022767)  
For info: [laura.land@cst.edu](mailto:laura.land@cst.edu)



## **STEPHEN MINISTRY**

Tempe First is a Stephen Ministry church. Lay persons have gone through training to help when going through illness, grief, loss of job or any kind of crisis. They can visit you at your home or speak on the telephone and

are ready to listen in a caring, compassionate, and always confidential manner.

Any questions, contact the church office or, for more information, write to: [cris.bass@yahoo.com](mailto:cris.bass@yahoo.com)

## MONTHLY GATHERINGS

### **CONNECT**

Members and Friends of Tempe First Church break bread, share prayers, and visit with each other as we affirm the faith we have in Christ.

#### Friendship Village Connect

For info: Contact Joan Shacklock ([joanshacklock@yahoo.com](mailto:joanshacklock@yahoo.com))

#### Mirabella Connect

For info: contact Don Dotts ([dondotts@aol.com](mailto:dondotts@aol.com))

### **STITCH IN TIME**

9:30am every 1st Wednesdays in Ross Hall (2nd level Stitch Room).

This ministry uses stitching talent to provide support for ministries of the church and the community at large.

For Info: Contact Amiee Elson ([amiee.elson@gmail.com](mailto:amiee.elson@gmail.com))

### **LOVE KNOTS**

11am every 3rd Thursdays @ 10:00 am in Ross Hall. Help cut, tie, package, and pray for this blanket ministry.

For Info: Contact Candee Raper ([tandc121@gmail.com](mailto:tandc121@gmail.com))

### **UO2 -URBAN OUTREACH TO PITCHFORK PANTRY**

UO2 offers food, cleaning, hygiene products, clothes, and various donated items along side Pitchfork Pantry every 4TH SATURDAYS from 8am-9am. Volunteers are needed for purchasing, organizing, and distributing goods.

For Info: Contact Barbara Mishler ([bmishler2@cox.net](mailto:bmishler2@cox.net))

# Prepare the Way for the Lord



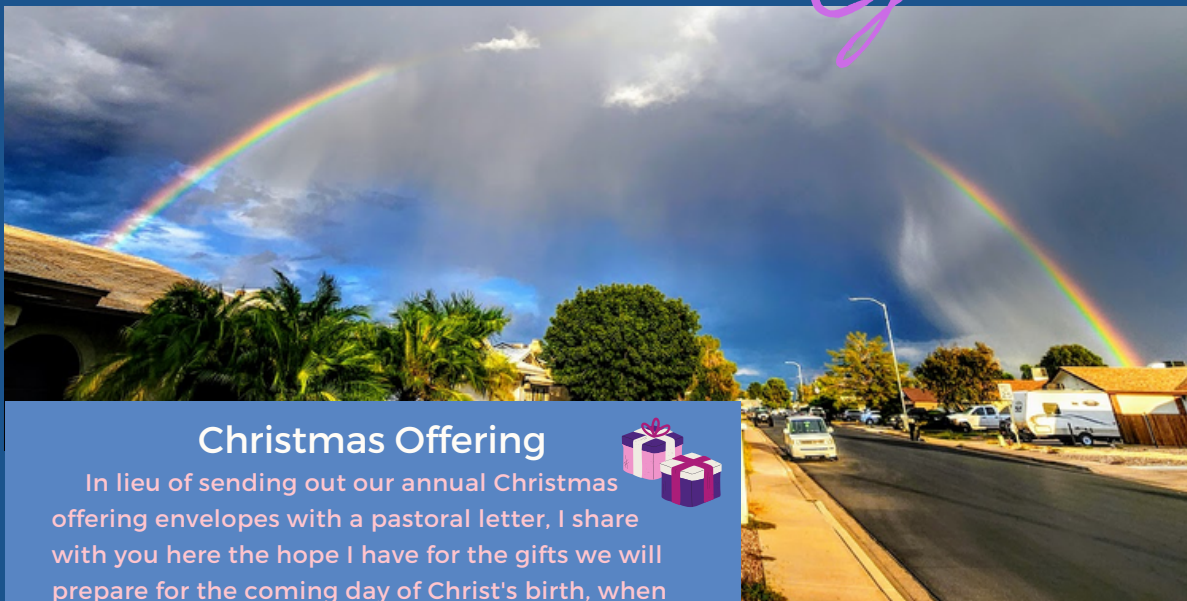
Members of Stitch In Time met on November 26th to decorate the church for Advent in preparation for Christ's arrival. With Victor's help and the beautiful poinsettias provided by Pastor Paul and Julie in honor of their grandparents, we transformed the sanctuary.

*Dedicate a poinsettia in time for Christmas Sunday.  
Send requests to : [office@tempfirstumc.org](mailto:office@tempfirstumc.org) (\$20 per)*



# Stewardship Corner

*our deepest  
Gratitude*



## Christmas Offering



In lieu of sending out our annual Christmas offering envelopes with a pastoral letter, I share with you here the hope I have for the gifts we will prepare for the coming day of Christ's birth, when the light of our Savior shall illumine our hearts anew.

Did you know 38% of U.S. pastors have thought of quitting full-time ministry last year? [\(Read here\)](#) The pandemic certainly contributed to this notion. When I look upon my colleagues today, it seems to be me that even though we have moved out of the pandemic, pastors are still quite exhausted. I am blessed by all of you to have been granted leave, but this is an exception, not the norm.



My colleagues are, by and large, hard working, sacrificial kind of folk, often the sole lighthouse in their communities. They deserve some affirmation. I wish I could share with them a taste of the transformational love you have all shown me.



Here's my idea. Each year, the clergy meets together for their annual meeting of the orders. It is three days of worship, meetings, and mandatory trainings. You can probably guess, it can be rather bland. I want to add some sweetness to it, literally!



Your gifts this Christmas will be used to cater [Amy's Donut](#), a specialty gourmet donut house in Tucson where The Gathering will take place. It's something small, simple, and sweet, to say, "You Shine!" from the faithful at Tempe First. So, join me in offering a sweet treat to the many who shine the light of Christ brightest in their communities.



## Financial Snap Shot as of Oct

Contributions	\$243,908.94
Parking	\$129,239.72
Other Income	\$18,929.02
Total Income	\$392,077.68
Total Expense	\$384,870.08

*Your Gifts  
Matter!*

## Online Giving



# God's Love

# In Action



## Habitat for Humanity

Since 1997, Tempe First has been partnering with Habitat for Humanity as we live out our call of "Putting God's Love for the World Into Action." Many of you have volunteered your time & talents in past builds & others have supported our partnership with financial gifts. Plans are underway for the next build, which will commence in the Spring of 2023, & funds are needed to make that build happen. The State of Arizona Charitable Tax Credit still allows a dollar-for-dollar credit of up to \$400.00 for individuals & up to \$800.00 for those filing jointly for donations to charities such as Habitat for Humanity Central Arizona. If you can leave your check in the offering plate or church office, payable to "Habitat for Humanity", I will make sure it gets delivered by the end of December.

You may also make your contributions online through the website [habitatcaz.org/donate-online](https://habitatcaz.org/donate-online)

When you do, choose "support families in need with my church" & designate Tempe First UMC when asked if the gift is for a specific church build. Stay tuned for further information regarding specific build dates in the Spring. If you have any problems making online contributions or you have any other questions, please contact myself, Charlie Schock at (480)688-4175 or [schockckkd@aol.com](mailto:schockckkd@aol.com).

Shelby Hobart, Horst Spielberg  
Habitat Build 2022

## Scales Technology Academy

Tempe First is called to support our local schools. We have partnered with Scales Technology Academy in providing for their food pantry and their senior pen-pals program. Consider donating a portion of your tax credit to Scales Technology Academy. (Dollar-for-dollar up to \$200 for individuals/\$400 for those filing jointly).

Your tax credits will fund field trips, tutoring, clubs, and more. Visit online at

[www.tempeschools.org/taxcredit](https://www.tempeschools.org/taxcredit)

## Volunteer Sign Up



*Share yourself  
Feel great!*

# CONGREGATIONAL CARE

Celebration of Life  
for  
Betty Doty

Scottsdale Christian Church  
2334 N. Scottsdale Rd., Ste. B106  
Sat, Dec 3rd at 10:00am  
All friends are welcome

In loving memory of Carol Mann,  
we inform you of her passing on 11/27.  
Graveside service is on 12/8 at  
Restheaven Cemetery at noon.  
Please keep her family in prayer.

Interment Service  
for  
Alicia Ann Merriam

Memorial Garden  
Sun, Dec 18th at 10:45am

In loving memory of Betty Volyes,  
we inform you of her passing on 11/30  
at the Friendship Village Health Center.  
Please keep her family in prayer.



Prayers for a  
safe Journey

Frank & Donna Pepper are  
moving to Ohio to be  
closer to family. We wish  
them all the best!