

# The Fold

## Monthly Newsletter



Fellowship Project - Film & Discussion



Valley Wesley Sunday

### Love is...

In February, as many turn their attention to love, may we look beyond the sweet treats and into the deep, compassionate, merciful heart of God pouring out for the world.

SUN 8:00AM  
ZOOM SERVICE

SUN 9:30AM  
LIVESTREAM

SMALL GROUPS  
ZOOM LINK

Social Media →





# FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Greetings to you my siblings in Christ!  
Oh, how I give thanks for you every time we worship together, serve together, connect with each other, even as I imagine you reading this humble letter. It is the great gift of God, proof of God's grace, that we have each other.

The winter rains had me thinking about the prophetic words in Isaiah 43. In 2015, when I was discerning where God was leading me next, this was the passage that spoke to me and gave me the conviction to move away from Los Angeles and serve God in the Desert Southwest Conference. Verses 18-19 reads: "Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up, do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland." At the time, the world felt to me like a parch dried desert wilderness. Even in own life, I felt something lacking, empty. But I believed God was going to do a new thing! And not just in my personal life, but also in God's church. I came to Arizona filled with the hope of meeting and creating a desert people, people who, like the wild desert animals, honored God for the water.

The rain had me dwelling on this imagery and passage. We Arizonans sure love the rain. We do not take it for granted. We are truly grateful for it!

And I am grateful for you, my desert people! Let us continue to honor God for the Living Water in Jesus Christ that quenches our thirst.

## Appointment Announcement

We regret to inform you that Pastor Joshua Warner has asked to yield his appointment to Tempe First UMC. Increased responsibilities as a therapeutic foster parent forced him to make this sudden and difficult decision.

Bishop Carlo Rapanut and his cabinet has approved this request effective February 1st, 2023 and will begin the search for another appointment to Tempe First UMC.

Please pray for Pastor Joshua and for us at Tempe First UMC during this transition.



Recipients of the United Women in Faith special recognition this year are Shelane Johnston, David Withey, and Shelby Hobart.

Shelane grew up in our church and regularly participated in Magic Pennies, KCs, Glory Sounds, and Youth Group (including mission trips to Mexico). As an adult, Shelane came back to church with the desire to continue to serve. She has always been willing to help whenever asked. For several years, Shelane has been a very dependable team member in the AV booth. She served on the Digital Ministry Team, is a member of PSPRC, and has helped to serve meals to the Wesley students. She faithfully serves quietly behind the scenes.

Shelby stepped into leadership through the Digital Ministry and has been a very strong leader of the Ministry Design Team. Shelby meets with residents at Mirabella regularly to help them connect with the church in various ways. He is leading us to better communication between the different ministry teams. In the past, Shelby has always been willing to be part of dramatic readings for Holy Week programs. He has been a faithful choir member for many years and will step up to solo and provide special music any time Warren calls on him. Always willing to help, he has moved furniture and helped to clear out the library space in Frye Lounge. Most recently, Shelby spent countless hours helping to prepare the Wesley parsonage for the new Bishop. And he is a consistent volunteer with our Habitat for Humanity teams.

As PSPRC chair, David Withey came on during Pastor Camille's time here and has served this congregation during several transitions and new hirings. His leadership has helped to strengthen our hiring practices and define positions and responsibilities. David has been generous in his support for the homeless and he is a faithful, longtime member of the choir. He also provides strong support of the college ministry, providing meals and actively serving on the Valley Wesley Board.

Please join us in thanking these three members for their tireless work in our church ministry. A Gift to Mission has been sent in each of their names.

# MINISTRY FOCUS

## UWF

*Mosaic of Faith: We Are All Part of God's Story*

A new United Women in Faith group is gathering for Bible study and exploration on the 4th Thursday of each month from 1:30-3:00 p.m. in the Parlor. All women are welcome to join us to get better acquainted and to look into the UWF Programs. February's gathering is entitled Reconnecting with Our Sacred Bodies. We will discuss 1 Corinthians 15:44 and Matthew 26:26 in the context of getting in touch with our senses. This gathering is open to all women who would like to attend. Contact Kathy Schock, [kathhuck@aol.com](mailto:kathhuck@aol.com), if you have any questions about joining us. We hope to see you February 23, 1:30, in the Church Parlor.

## Stitch in Time

Stitch In Time has taken on the task of creating a Book Nook. We have designated a space for art. We would love to feature pictures of the church's early history. If you have any pictures you would like to share, or that we can copy, we would love to hear from you.

*You can contact Amiee Elson at 602-881-1812*

# Stewardship Corner

*our deepest  
Gratitude*



## Fiscal Year End

From our Certified Public Accountant, Cynthia Reid:

**Tempe First UMC did very well in 2022.**

**Pledges and regular giving ended the year at \$316,638 or 120% of the budget.**

**Air Garage receipts totaled \$158,223 or 117% of the budget.**

**Overall operating income was \$501,543 or 102% of the budget. And this was without receiving funds from the Bailey Trust for the budget or having to advance funds from the investments as the budget called for.**

**Expenses were at 83% of the budget.**

**Income exceeded expenses in 2022 by \$22,409.**

## Financial Snap Shot for 2022

Contributions	\$316,638
Parking	\$158,223
Other Income	\$22,682
Total Income	\$501,543
Total Expense	\$479,134

*Your Gifts  
Matter!*

We thank you for your support in our church as we seek to put God's love for the world into action.

We offer a special thanksgiving to our volunteers who serve in various committees and ministry teams. Your work enables us to live into our dream!

Giving statements for 2022 have been sent. If you fail to receive yours, please notify the office for a replacement letter.

## Online Giving





# Fellowship, Discipleship, Servant Leadership

## WEEKLY GATHERINGS

### - SUNDAYS

#### FELLOWSHIP ONLINE

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

### - MONDAYS

#### STAFF MEETINGS

Weekly staff meetings at 10:30am in-person and on Facebook Live, open to all small group and ministry team leaders.

For an invitation to the Facebook group, write your request to [pastorpaul@tempefirstumc.org](mailto:pastorpaul@tempefirstumc.org)

### - TUESDAYS

#### MEDITATIVE TAICHI

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)

#### 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

9am-12pm every 3rd Thursdays 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))



FEBRUARY 2023

# UPCOMING EVENTS

FEB

4

DISTRICT  
LEADERSHIP  
CONFERENCE  
PHOENIX FUMC  
8:30A-1:30A

FEB

12

MINISTRY TEAM  
HUDDLE  
BAKER CENTER  
11A-12P

FEB

19

CONG. CARE  
WORKSHOP  
BAKER CENTER  
11A-12P

FEB

22

ASH  
WEDNESDAY  
SANCTUARY  
6:30PM

FEB

11

SWEET SONGS &  
SINGING  
SCOTT & MARTINA'S  
20331 E DOMINGO RD  
QUEEN CREEK  
4:00P-7:00P  
BRING YOUR FAVORITE  
DISH (FOOD THAT  
BEGINS W/AN INITIAL;  
EX: CHEESE - CHUCK /  
BREAD - BECKY)  
WEAR RED!!  
HASLERR@GMAIL.COM

FEB

21

DINNER & DIALOGUE -  
WOMEN IN FAITH  
PORTILLO'S  
65 S MCCLINTOCK DR  
TEMPE  
4:30P-6:00P  
BRING LEAST COIN &  
THANK OFFERING  
HASLERR@GMAIL.COM

VISIT THE ONLINE CALENDAR AT [TEMEPFIRSTUMC.ORG](http://TEMEPFIRSTUMC.ORG)