

The Fold

Monthly Newsletter



SUN 8:00AM
ZOOM SERVICE

SUN 9:30AM
LIVESTREAM



SMALL GROUPS
ZOOM LINK

"Putting God's Love for | the World Into Action!"

It's a new year! Join our hopes and dreams of putting God's love for the world into action by sharing compassion for one another, inspire hope, strength, and courage, nurture faith, celebrate diversity, and build community through connecting, collaborating, and creating new ways to transform the world as disciples of Jesus Christ.

This is our vision. This is who we are at Tempe First United Methodist Church. Join our community and make a difference!

Social Media →



480.967.3376

Dear Siblings in Christ,

Happy New Year! This is actually the 2nd of 5 calendar beginnings I celebrate throughout the year. The first came at Advent, the start of the Christian calendar. New Year's day is the beginning of the calendar year. The 3rd will be on January 22nd when the lunar calendar year begins. The 4th on July 1st, when the appointive year begins. And finally sometime in August, when the academic year begins. Among these, New Year's day is when I affirm the plans we have set for this calendar year. Allow me to refresh our minds.

WINTER/SPRING - We are implementing our congregational care ministries and restarting our meetings and gatherings as we return from the Holiday break. Valley Wesley reopens for a new semester under Director Heather Cordon. Ash Wednesday begins our season of lent earlier this year, on February 22.

SPRING/SUMMER - We are forming interest groups that meet the needs of our communities to assess how we can collaborate or create new experiences and encounters, in particular with the developmentally disabled community. The Easter Cantata and Easter Sunday begins the month of April while the Desert Southwest Conference leads a cultural competency workshop for Tempe First as we begin the first of five series. Pastor Paul begins his first season of renewal with the Lilly Endowment Clergy Program on May 17.

SUMMER/FALL - Visiting Pastors share their understanding of home, the communities that formed them, and their journey beyond as they responded to their call. Our annual Habitat for Humanity and Apache Missions programs are in affect. Pastor Paul returns from his visit home in August, as we begin our fall ministry plan.

FALL/WINTER - We formally launch new ministries focusing on forming communities discovered in the spring as we also reevaluate existing small groups to actively reach new people. Annual Stitch in Time Boutique and Cookie Walk continue, as we also host our second Thanksgiving Talent Show potluck with a twist!

There is more that will not fit in these columns which we will inform you monthly. It's going to be a banner year here at Tempe First. I am so excited that I am beginning the year with you.

As always, Do Good, Do No Harm, and Stay in Love with God!

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

1/17 Dinner & Dialogue (WIF)

Tuesday, Panera Bread - Tempe Market Place. 4:30pm-6:00pm

Dress warm (we'll try to eat outside)

Program: New Beginnings

Contact Becky Hasler, Darlene Nidever
RSVP, haslerr@gmail.com

MINISTRY FOCUS

2022 Cookie Walk

The Tempe First United Women in Faith were excited to return to a true Cookie Walk format this year - Just in time to celebrate our 45th anniversary!

The holiday cookie sale on Saturday, December 10th, resulted in over \$2,000 raised from the sale of more than 6,000 cookies and dozens of specialty items and included cookie orders delivered to residents at Friendship Village.

This, along with a generous donation from Stich in Time, allowed us to make donations to three local organizations - The Wesley Foundation at ASU, Justa Center, Pathway to Work - and a donation to the TFUMC Pastor's Discretionary Fund.

We are very grateful for the huge support for this event, and especially want to thank all the volunteers for their help before, during, and after the Cookie Walk.

Carmina Loreda and the United Women in Faith Leadership Team





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

- 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: bnulmeyer@cox.net

TEARS, MILK, AND HONEY

Weekly at 9:30am in the Parlor.
For info: bburns6@cox.net

HANDBELL CHOIR

Weekly at 3:00pm in the Narthex
For info: 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

- WEDNESDAYS

SANCTUARY CHOIR

Weekly at 7pm in the Choir Room
For info: chwhdaz@cox.net

- SATURDAYS

COFFEE TIME & FELLOWSHIP ONLINE

Weekly at 8am on Zoom 879 3829 0704 (pw: 022767)

For info: 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

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)

Mirabella Connect

For info: contact Don Dotts (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)

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)

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)

Stewardship Corner

*our deepest
Gratitude*



Christmas Offering

This Christmas season, we had asked for your support in two ways. The first was for the clergy of the Desert Southwest Conference. As announced in the last Fold, many clergy experience burn out or even worse, drop out, especially during the pandemic years. The hope was to offer a small sweet token of gratitude at the annual clergy gathering (in the form of specialty donuts), so as to affirm their faithful commitments in shining the light of Christ brightly in their communities. The second was to support our efforts in hosting Pitchfork Pantry. As announced at the Christmas Cantata, Pitchfork Pantry aims to provide direct services to students in need as well as educational opportunities that help combat food insecurity. Tempe First hosts Pitchfork Pantry free of charge, yet incur costs to facilitate their program. Your Christmas gifts were to support our efforts to host Pitchfork Pantry on our campus. Notably, these gifts were matched dollar for dollar in aiding ASU students in need. These matched funds will be directed to Pitchfork Pantry directly. This past season, you raised \$722 and \$782 respectively. However, the maximum funds needed for the first cause is \$400. Therefore, the remaining will be added to support Pitchfork Pantry, bringing our total for Pitchfork to \$1,104. That's \$1,104 for direct services, and \$1,104 for hosting their program at Tempe First. Thank you for your support in Putting God's Love for the World into Action!



Financial Snap Shot

as of Nov

Contributions	\$273,864.95
Parking	\$149,891.69
Other Income	\$18,944.02
Total Income	\$442,700.66
Total Expense	\$430,229.48

*Your Gifts
Matter!*

Online Giving



New Year



As the new year approaches, it's a good time to reflect on our goals and priorities. Many people choose to focus on physical health, spiritual wellness, and mending relationships as they enter the new year. These areas can bring great joy and fulfillment, but they can also be challenging to work on. However, with determination and a positive attitude, we can make progress and start the new year off on the right foot.

To prioritize physical health, it's helpful to set specific, achievable goals. For example, rather than resolving to "exercise more," we might aim to go to the gym three times a week or to take a daily walk. By setting specific goals, it's easier to track progress and stay motivated. It's also helpful to have a plan in place for how to achieve these goals, such as scheduling workouts in advance or enlisting the help of a friend or personal trainer.

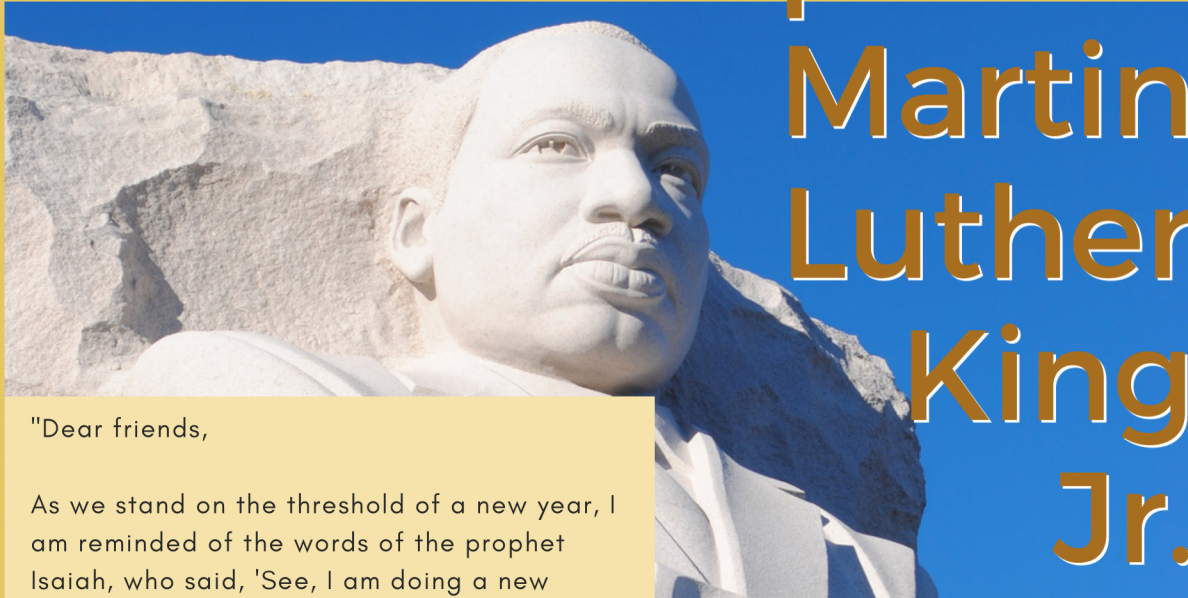
Spiritual wellness is another important aspect of overall well-being. It can take many different forms, such as contemplative meditation, scripture reading, or prayer walks. Whatever form it takes, cultivating a sense of spiritual connection to God can bring peace and purpose to our lives. To focus on spiritual wellness, we can set aside dedicated time for spiritual practices and find a supportive community (or begin a new one!).

Mending relationships is another area to focus on as the new year approaches. Whether it's a strained relationship with a family member, friend, or colleague, taking steps to repair and strengthen these connections can bring great joy. We can take the initiative to reach out and make amends, or make an effort to connect with others on a deeper level by spending quality time together, engaging in activities we both enjoy, or having open and honest conversations. By doing these things, we can build strong, lasting relationships.

In conclusion, as the new year approaches, it's natural to feel excited and full of possibility. By focusing on good health, spiritual wellness, and reconciled relationships, we can set ourselves up for a fulfilling and meaningful year ahead. With determination and a positive attitude, we can make progress in these areas and start the new year off on the right foot.

- Fold Contributor

In the Spirit of Martin Luther King Jr.



"Dear friends,

As we stand on the threshold of a new year, I am reminded of the words of the prophet Isaiah, who said, '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.'

This new year is a time of hope and possibility, a time to look forward with optimism and determination to the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. It is a time to rededicate ourselves to the work of justice and righteousness, to the struggle for a more fair and equal world.

In these difficult and uncertain times, it is easy to lose sight of our hopes and dreams, to become discouraged by the obstacles that stand in our way. But I want to remind you today that we serve a God who is faithful and loving, a God who is always with us and who never forsakes us.

We serve a God who is the God of the new thing, the God who makes a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland. No matter how difficult our circumstances may be, no matter how great the challenges we face, we can trust that God is with us, leading us and guiding us forward.

So let us enter this new year with courage and hope, knowing that we are not alone and that God is always with us, working in and through us to bring about good and to bring about change.

Let us pray together:

Dear God,

As we begin this new year, we ask for your guidance and your strength. Help us to trust in your love and your faithfulness, even when things are difficult.

Give us the courage to stand up for what is right and to work for justice and equality.

Help us to be determined for the work ahead, vigilant in seeking justice and righteousness, trusting in your guidance.

May we be children of light.
We pray in the name of Jesus.

Amen

- Al. Martin Luther King Jr

SAVE THE DATE

**1/15 Marathon Sunday
Street Access Closure**

**Joint Zoom Worship
Sun 9:30am**

**1/29 Valley Wesley
Sunday**

Sunday 9:30am

**Trustees Jan 9th, 7pm
Finance Jan 10th, 6pm
PSPRC Jan 17th, 6:30pm
Council Jan 17th, 7:45pm**

**1/29 Fellowship
Project
Film & Discussion**

**"Crip Camp: A
Disability Revolution"**

**Sunday, 11:00am
Baker Center**