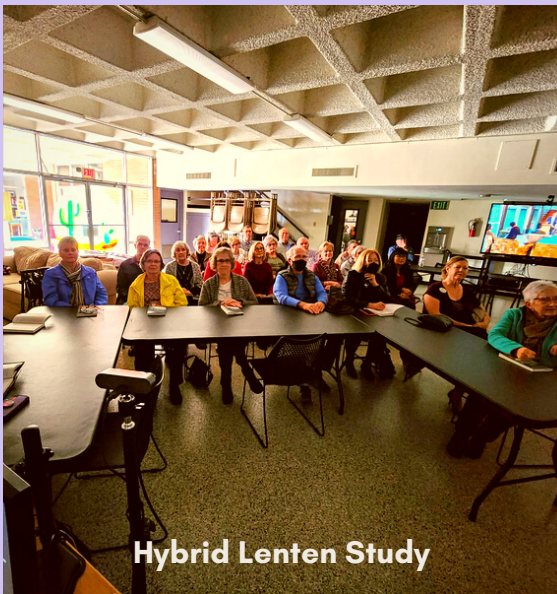


The Fold

Monthly Newsletter



Lent is...

A journey, a movement, the practice of walking toward the cross and join with Christ in our suffering so that we might also join in his triumphant resurrection.

SUN 8:00AM
ZOOM SERVICE

SUN 9:30AM
LIVESTREAM

SMALL GROUPS
ZOOM LINK

Social Media →



My Siblings in Christ,

I pray that this monthly newsletter finds you well. I understand that some of you have found recent communication changes challenging. First it was a change in our newsletter from weekly to monthly, and now it is the digitization of the Sunday bulletin.

Frankly, weekly creation of bulletins and newsletters requires a high level of personnel (ie: editors, photographers, graphic designers, article contributors, etc.) and maintenance of facilities (ie: printers, cameras, editing software, licenses, etc.) that we do not have. It would require a greater degree of financial support. However, it is my discernment that these are not our highest priority here at Tempe First. We, for instance, would rather have a professionally led music ministry program than a professionally staffed communications ministry. This is nothing new and should not surprise you.

What is new is that I have discerned that I also want to prioritize being a pastor of the people and not be the head editor/graphicdesigner/etc. While I have served these functions, this is not what I believe God has called me to do or be in ministry. I desire more time to visit with congregants, to be out in our vibrant community, and also to disengage at times for deeper contemplation. I believe these would enable me to be a better pastor. So, please receive my thanks. Thank you for understanding that we are doing the best we can to be good stewards of our human and financial resources. Thank you for allowing me to live more fully into my call.

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Staffing Announcement

With the vacancy of the associate pastor and the uncertainty of a new appointment, the Pastor Staff Parish Relations Committee has discerned to fill the role of Worship Coordinator whose task is to assist in the details of preparing and leading our services.

We are excited to share with you that Stacia Duncan, a certified candidate seeking ordination, has risen to satisfy this need effective March 1.

Please share your thanks and support for her call to ministry.

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, 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*



Easter Gifts

Truth with a capital T. It is what we believe in. It is what we seek to understand. It is what we hope to share with others. God is love and God's love is for all.

There is also truth, with a lower case t. The truth that ministry requires financial resources. Always? No. It does not cost anything to speak with love, to offer grace, to be merciful. But to have an environment to experience such love, to gracefully take up another's burden, to give mercy, these require our real sacrifice.

It is to forgo a vacation trip, so that a heartbroken soul might be gifted an opportunity to visit and grieve the loss of their loved one. It is to give up a night out to support a struggling mother feed her family. It is to clip coupons, to thrift shop, to settle for less than what is owed you, what is rightfully yours, so that those whom God seeks might come to know this Truth we already know. We know this extravagant love. And it is our resounding testimony that God's grace is more than enough for us.

As we prepare to join in the celebration of this love on Easter, I pray that you would remember your church. Your headquarters to our operation of putting God's love for the world into action, requires your caring, consistent, and at times, even courageous contributions in order to carry out our call. This year, as we address deferred maintenance while also accounting for inflation, our challenge is set before us.

Jesus said "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." I believe your heart for Tempe First as God's vessel of love is true. So may your Easter gift, no matter the amount, give witness to your faith, and enable us to continue giving our witness.

Easter Gifts will be matched and designated to UMOM.

Financial Snap Shot

as of 1/31

Contributions	\$43,102
Parking	\$16,862
Other Income	\$346
Total Income	\$60,310
Total Expense	\$51,663

*Your Gifts
Matter!*

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

- TUESDAYS

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY ONLINE

Weekly at 9am on Zoom [845 5131 7679 \(pw: 9673376\)](#)

For Info: bnullmeyer@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

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)

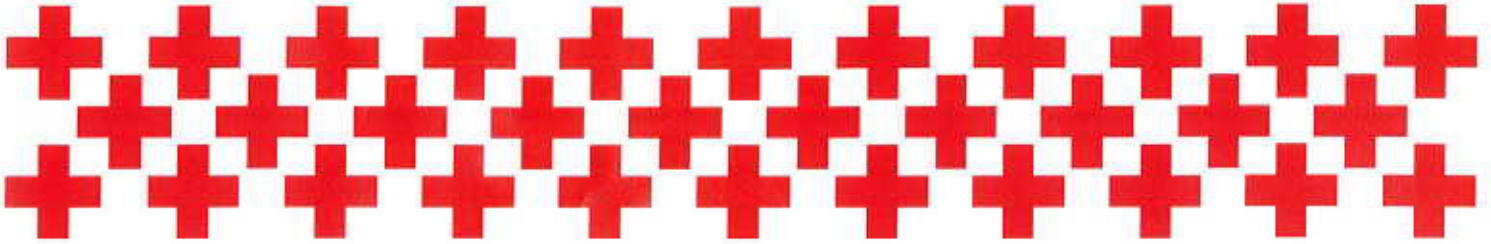
UO2 -URBAN OUTREACH TO PITCHFORK PANTRY

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)

American Red Cross

Give blood. Help save lives.



Blood Drive **Tempe First United Methodist Church**

Ross Hall
215 E. University Dr.
Tempe, AZ 85281

Saturday, April 1, 2023
8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

To schedule your appointment or for more information,
please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767)
or visit redcrossblood.org and use Sponsor Code: `tempefirstumc`



Scan to be directed to
RapidPass®



Be cool. Give blood. Come give April 1-23 for an exclusive American Red Cross and PEANUTS T-shirt featuring Snoopy as the coolest beagle in town, Joe Cool! Get yours, while supplies last – then show off your cool, kind spirit.



Scan to schedule
an appointment.

1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767 | redcrossblood.org | Download the Blood Donor App

Stitch in Time

STITCH IN TIME IS CONTINUING TO SUPPORT THE MISSION OF UMOM BY REBUILDING LIVES, RESTORING HOPE AND ENDING HOMELESSNESS. AS IN THE PAST WE HAVE MADE A CALL TO OUR CONGREGATION TO ASSIST US BY SUPPLYING GENTLY USED PURSES TO THE WOMEN AT UMOM. WE EXTEND OUR CALL ONCE AGAIN. WE'LL BE COLLECTING PURSES ALL THROUGH MARCH AND APRIL. A LARGE BOX WILL BE PLACED IN THE NARTHEX FOR YOUR VISIT ON SUNDAYS AND AS ALWAYS YOU MAY DROP OFF TO THE CHURCH OFFICE. WE ARE ON CALL IF YOU WANT A PICKUP AT YOUR HOME. LINDA DENNIS AND LINDA KIEFER, 480 839-8304. MANY THANKS AND LET'S MAKE OUR ANNUAL EVENT VERY SPECIAL FOR THESE WOMEN IN NEED.

UMOM



The poster features the UMOM logo with a house icon and the text 'umom.org/walk'. It includes a large illustration of a brown leather boot with white laces. The text is arranged in a clear, hierarchical layout, starting with the event title and registration call, followed by the date and location, and ending with a call to action.

umom
NEW DAY CENTERS
umom.org/walk

Walk for Families
Experiencing Homelessness
Founded by the Women's Auxiliary

Register Now!

Join us for UMOM New Day Centers' 14th Annual
WALK TO END HOMELESSNESS!

A family-friendly event aimed at ending family homelessness in our community by restoring hope, rebuilding lives.

MAY 6, 2023
6-9AM • THE PHOENIX ZOO
Includes **FREE** Day Pass to the Zoo

Visit umom.org/walk to learn more

UPCOMING EVENTS

WEEKLY HYBRID STAFF MEETINGS
MONDAYS AT 10:30A (OFFICE & FACEBOOK PAGE)

MARCH

2 UMW Leadership 10am

13 Trustees - Zoom 7pm

14 Finance - Zoom 6:30pm

16 Love Knots 6:30pm

21 UWF - DDC Monthly Meeting
Genghis Grill - 4pm,
2000 E Rio Salado Pkwy
Program: Racial Justice
(bring Least coin & thank offering)

PSPRC - Zoom 6:30pm

Church Council - Zoom 7:45pm

23 Scales Food Pantry 10am
Volunteers needed to pack food
bags at Scales School
contact: Mary Beth Spielberg
thespielbergs@msn.com / (480)415-1501

UWF 1:30pm Ross Hall

24 Scales Food Pantry 8:30am
Volunteers needed to
distribute food bags

25 Cultural Competency
Training by CCORR
Tempe First UMC 9am-2pm

APRIL

2 Joint Palm Sunday, Easter
Cantata Service 9:30am

7 Good Friday Service 6:30pm

9 Valley Wesley Day Break Service
@ A Mountain & Easter Service

MAY

3 Stitch in Time 9:30am

8 Trustees - Zoom 7pm

9 Finance - Zoom 6:30pm

11 Scales Food Pantry 10am
Volunteers needed to pack food
bags at Scales School
contact: Mary Beth Spielberg
thespielbergs@msn.com / (480)415-1501

12 Scales Food Pantry 8:30am
Volunteers needed to
distribute food bags

14 Ministry Team Huddle 11am

16 PSPRC - Zoom 6:30pm

Church Council 7:45pm

17 Lilly Renewal
Pastor Paul on leave (until Aug 9)