



First Presbyterian Church of Sun City, Arizona

Volume 58, April 2026

## *A Message from Pastor Ann*

Immediately following World War II, Protestant churches in the United States made appeals for relief and reconstruction in areas devastated by the war, primarily in Europe and Asia. The effort, called *One Great Hour of Sharing*, was broadcast over the radio and featured entertainment icons such as Gregory Peck and Ida Lupino, who spoke out in support of the cause. The program concluded with an invitation for listeners to attend their local church and make a sacrificial contribution toward this collective gesture of goodwill. In response, more than 75,000 churches participated.

Today, projects supported by One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) can be found in more than 100 countries across the globe—including right here in the United States. I remember, as a young person, how my home congregation encouraged us to participate in OGHS to help provide relief for those facing disasters, chronic hunger, and the lack of safe drinking water. Coming to understand that such desperate needs existed in the world profoundly shaped my worldview.

My understanding of faith was forever changed by the awareness that the OGHS offering brought. I could no longer justify apathy or allow myself to wallow in “first world” problems and priorities. Instead, OGHS became a shining witness to a faith that has substance—a faith that responds.

I am so thankful to be part of a church that stands in solidarity with people, especially when they find themselves at their most vulnerable. Whether our gifts are large or small, we become part of a much bigger story as we share tangible signs of God’s love. This is who the church has been for generations long before mine, and I pray that this spirit continues to grow among us.

Isn’t it amazing how the Spirit works? In giving, we help transform lives—and in turn, we allow the Holy One to continue transforming us. How is God calling you to belong to this wondrous love?

## *Holy Week*

April 1st (no fooling!) **Wednesday** at 10:00am -- Bible Study

We are studying the passage that will be the scripture focus for the week's sermon. Come and join in the discussion. All are welcome!

April 2nd **Maundy Thursday** -- Worship at United Church of Sun City at 5:00pm  
Gather with our faith neighbors as we share communion, observe a Tenebrae service with special music from United's praise team. Located at:

[11250 N. 107th Ave, Sun City, AZ 85351.](https://www.google.com/maps/place/11250+N+107th+Ave,+Sun+City,+AZ+85351)

April 3rd **Good Friday** -- Fish Bake and Tableside Devotions at 3:00pm.

Gather in Swain Hall for a fellowship meal followed by a devotional service with our table companions.

April 5th **Easter Sunday** — Worship in the Sanctuary at 9:30am with Communion, Choir and Handbell Music. We will also be celebrating April birthdays in Swain Hall following the service. Easter Lillies may be taken home after worship.

## *Notes from the Deacons — March, 2026*

Plans for the Meet Your Deacons lunch on March 19th were finalized. They expect approximately 35 members to attend. Easter Lillies were purchased. Request forms for memorial Easter lilies continue to be available on Sundays at the Sanctuary Welcome Desk and in Swain Hall. A funeral reception for Fran Kittredge was held at her care center.

## *Session Highlights — March, 2026*

There will be a Congregational Meeting right after the worship service on Sunday, April 26th, to create a Nominating Committee for the Deacons and Elders, and to form a Mission Study Committee. Terry Olthoff will be a consultant to the Mission Study Committee.

## *Counters Needed*

We are looking to expand the team responsible for counting the weekly offering. To ensure accuracy, accountability, and security, this is done in teams of two (unrelated) persons. Please see Pastor Ann or a member of the Session to volunteer.

## *Helping our PC(USA) Congregational Neighbors*

On April 19th, First Presbyterian will be hosting a neutral pulpit here in the Presbytery of Grand Canyon. What is a neutral pulpit? Basically, it will be an opportunity for a Pastoral Nominating Committee from two neighboring churches (this time, a combined group from Heritage Presbyterian Church -- Glendale and Westminster Presbyterian Church -- Phoenix) to be present in our congregational worship as their pastoral candidate offers a sermon and other worship leadership elements. Because of the confidentiality of the process, the name of the candidate will not be published. Pastor Ann will be present in worship that day to offer support. Please offer prayers for everyone who is participating in this important time of discernment!

## *First Presbyterian Youth Group*

The Youth Group plans active outings for members and friends of the church and offers the latest updates via email. Want to be on the email list (and in the know)? Please contact Christinia Huvelle at (602) 503-3497 or Debra Pruett at (623) 399-3993 and they will get you in the loop! Due to the nature of ticket purchases and other factors, events may be rescheduled to adapt to the group's needs.

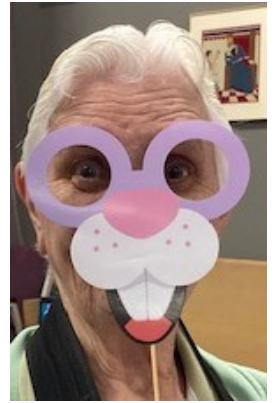
## *Creation Sunday, April 26th*



With Earth Day happening this month, we will be welcoming Rev. Dr. Terry Olthoff to the pulpit to offer the morning's sermon. After worship, our congregational meeting will be held to determine our congregational leadership through appointments to the Nominating Committee. Please plan to attend!

# “Meet Your Deacon” Luncheon

We want to thank everyone who attended the “Meet Your Deacon” luncheon, along with all the Deacons’ hard work to put this together. It was a great time!



Hello Church Family,

In April, **HART Pantry** will have their last Applebee's Pancake breakfast for this school year! We changed locations because the restaurant near Arrowhead Mall has been recently updated with new flooring, etc. Just a reminder that tickets cost \$10.00 and can be purchased from Board Members or at the Applebee's location on Saturday, April 11th at 8:00am to 9:30am. The address is: 8001 W. Bell Rd, Peoria, 85382, (623) 878-1410, so come and enjoy a fun breakfast with us serving you and you don't have to clean up afterwards!



There will be 2 raffle baskets available, one with chocolates/candy, and the other gift cards. It could be your lucky day if you have the winning ticket!

We have been blessed with several food drives lately, and the Pantry is pretty well stocked, since we only have April and May before schools are out for the summer. So our wish list is as follows: Jif-to-go (please no jars of peanut butter), Protein bars (3 grams or more protein), Breakfast bars, Ramen type noodle packs.

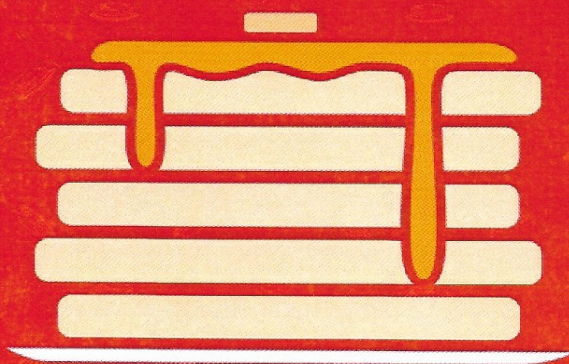
**HAPPY EASTER TO EVERYONE!**

**Mickey Foster, Fundraising/Board Member**

**(623) 521-9668**

**mickeyfayefoster@yahoo.com**

  
Applebee's  
GRILL + BAR



*Short Stacks*  
*for a* **TALL**  
**CAUSE**

**YOU'RE INVITED TO A FLAPJACK FUNDRAISER TO SUPPORT**

# CELEBRATIONS AND UPDATES

## THIS MONTH'S BIRTHDAYS

We are celebrating you! Please join the Birthday Celebration on Easter Sunday, April 5th, in Swain Hall following the worship service.

- 04/13 Fred Stainbrook
- 04/16 David Glenn Walker
- 04/16 Joan Knafels
- 04/19 Doris Nehrbass
- 04/26 Dawn Nolen
- 04/29 Lisa Jones



For any additions/corrections to this birthday list, please let Laura know in the church office!



## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

- Lloyd and Ruth Baumgartner (April 9th)
- Jimmy and Tammy Gaither (April 20th)



## ADDRESS, PHONE & EMAIL CHANGES

The following people have had changes to their personal information:

### Maggie Hummer — Email Address

Please call the church office at (623) 974-3605 if you would like her new information.



## *Synod Job Opening*

Synod Interim Executive/Stated Clerk (FT). The Synod of the Southwest is searching for an interim executive. Candidates must be an ordained ruling elder or teaching elder within the PCUSA. Successful candidates will have experience or knowledge in organizational vision and development, conflict mediation, communication, and/or finance. Email resumes to [bradmunroe1963@gmail.com](mailto:bradmunroe1963@gmail.com).

## *YOUTH GROUP OUTING*

The next Youth Group Outing will be on Saturday, April 18th, at 2:00pm at The Phoenix Theatre for Rosemary Clooney's Play —

### **Tenderly: The Rosemary Clooney Musical**

Prices range from \$71 to \$100/ticket; however, if we can get a group of at least 10, we could get a discount of up to 60% off. Please reply ASAP!

**Contact Christinia Huvelle at (602) 503-3497 or  
Debra Pruett at (623) 399-3993 for more information.**

A heartfelt tribute to one of America's most beloved voices. This intimate and powerful musical takes audiences beyond the spotlight, revealing Clooney's meteoric rise to fame, her struggles behind the scenes and her triumphant comeback.



# FINANCIAL UPDATE

February 2026

## GENERAL FUND

	<i>Actual YTD</i>		<i>Budget YTD</i>
Contributions	\$20,409.00	Pledge Budget to Date	\$16,039.34
Other Income	5,926.92	Other Income Budget	6,666.66
Transfer from Foundation	<u>.00</u>	Transfer from Foundation	23,103.34
<i>Total Income to Date</i>	<i>\$26,335.92</i>	<i>Budget to Date</i>	<i>\$45,809.34</i>
Expenses to Date	\$46,829.89	Expense Budget YTD	\$45,809.34

*(Note: Expenses do not include Capital Improvements)*

FOUNDATION FUNDS are currently \$1,585,833.89

(Interested in knowing more? Full reports are available in the church office. Volunteers are always welcome to serve on the financial leadership teams.)

### *Sunday Schedule:*

9:30 am Worship Services in the Sanctuary, Rev. Ann Utke preaching.  
 10:30 am Coffee and Fellowship in Swain Hall.

### *Office Hours:*

Tuesdays & Thursdays: 8:30am-3:00pm, Wednesdays: 8:30am-noon,  
 Mondays & Fridays: Closed



## *Church Staff*

<b>Pastor</b>	Rev. Ann Utke	revannarizona@gmail.com Cell Phone (414) 708-7899 <b>(Fridays Emergency only)</b>
<b>Office Manager</b>	Laura Teadt	laurat@firstpressuncity.org
<b>Finance Admin.</b>	Sue Diaz	sued@firstpressuncity.org
<b>Choir Director</b>	Dr. William Gleason	billg@firstpressuncity.org
<b>Pianist</b>	Mary Jo Meyer	Bjsshop@ncn.net

*The SPIRE* is published monthly by First Presbyterian Church of Sun City, AZ. Please call the church office at (623) 974-3605 to be added to our mailing list. Items to be included in the next edition of *The SPIRE* should be submitted to the church office or by email at [laurat@firstpressuncity.org](mailto:laurat@firstpressuncity.org) by **Monday, April 20, 2026**.