



First Presbyterian Church of Sun City, Arizona



Volume 58, June 2026

The Pastor's Corner

Keeping our Digital Doorways Open

Rev. Brittany Harrold Porch, a Presbyterian pastor and mother of a toddler recalls a crucial time when her child was diagnosed with pediatric cancer. The medical team informed the family that they needed to stay away from places with high risks of infection, including playgrounds, grocery stores, and church. While the congregation helped to stay connected the best they could to Brittany's family, on-line access to worship and other gatherings was not yet an option. As electronic access became more widely utilized, she realized how important this new "digital door" has become for church members and friends. She observes, "We are all one accident, diagnosis, or life disruption away from needing online ministry."

We give thanks for the electronic connections that support our spiritual friendships here at First Presbyterian Church. It is wonderful to hear of winter residents keeping in touch via YouTube, made possible because of the commitment of our audio visual team: Stewart Porter, Jimmy Gaither, and Peter Kooy; and Laura Teadt in the office prepares the on-screen PowerPoint to display the hymns and readings. This summer, we hope to designate a "smile and wave" spot in the sanctuary for more folks to personally greet our online viewers.

As the church adapts and changes to meet the challenges of our day, we do well to keep the digital doors of our congregations open. These options will continue to be important in supporting our on-going ministry efforts. As Brittany so keenly reminds us: "For someone, somewhere, that screen is more than a convenience. It might be the only doorway they have left into the life of the church."

Notes from the Deacons

Carnations were given to honor all the women in the congregation on Mother's Day; thank you to the donor, who wishes to remain anonymous. Mary Jo Meyer has agreed to be the Moderator for the remainder of the year. The group is looking into artificial flowers to be used for Easter Sunday 2027 (and for possibly Christmas Poinsettias as well). Plans for the fall were discussed. Deacons will convene as needed for any Memorial Reception requests. Their next meeting will be September 13th after worship.

Session Highlights

Pastor Ann has been conducting interviews for the pianist position, along with Bill Gleason. For the summer months, the offering will be received in the Joash Box, which is placed in the sanctuary. Bob Meyer reported the completion of several projects, including painting in the parking lot and repair of the wood beams on the north side of the campus. In addition, the Session approved repairs and preventative maintenance for the HVAC systems, following their scheduled maintenance. Due to positive feedback, the current cleaning company, "Bust-a-Bubble" LLC (which began in March of 2026) will be expanding their scope of service on the church campus starting in June. This will include cleaning the Office suites, Clarke Annex, Swain Hall (and kitchen), as well as the Sanctuary twice per month. The next meeting of the Session will be September 15th at 4:30pm.



Senior Citizen Resources *Includes Residents of Sun City & Youngtown.* If you are interested in any of our programs, please call our office

Sun City CAN is the "Umbrella" that "Connects People with Resources"



FOOD STAMPS (NOW CALLED SNAP)

Requirements:

- Over 60 years old or disabled
- Monthly income less than 185% of Federal Poverty Level

Benefit:

- Participants receive a plastic card that works like a debit card.

UTILITY BILL DISCOUNTS

Requirements:

- Over 65 years of age
- Full-time Arizona resident
- Monthly income less than 200% of Federal Poverty Level

Benefit:

- Discount on your bills from APS, Southwest Gas, and EPCOR Water.

APS & SW GAS CRISIS ASSISTANCE

Requirements:

- Monthly income less than 200% of Federal Poverty Level
- Have an acceptable crisis, that is documented (loss of income, medical expenses, unexpected repairs, etc.)

Benefit:

- Up to \$1,000 payment on APS bill or \$400 in SWG during a 12-month period (funds permitting).

OTHER RESOURCES OFFERED IN OUR OFFICE

Maricopa County Assessor Programs:

- The Personal Exemption for Widowed, Disabled, and Disabled Veteran
- Senior Valuation Protection – "Senior Freeze"

AARP Taxes:

- Free Income Tax Preparation (Federal and State) by certified AARP Tax-Aide volunteers
- Some low-income homeowners & renters may be eligible for Arizona Property Tax Credit
- Arizona Increased Excise Tax Credit

RAMP – We partner with SCHOA:

- This program provides a yard clean-up one-time, if qualified

MEDICARE SAVINGS PROGRAM

Requirements:

- Monthly income less than 135% of Federal Poverty Level
- No Restrictions on ownership of a car, house or other resources

Benefit:

- Free Medicare! You receive Medicare without paying the monthly premium that is automatically deducted from most Social Security checks.

FIRE DEPARTMENT LOCK BOXES

Requirements:

- Full-time Sun City resident
- Monthly income less than 200% of Federal Poverty Level
- Review of income will include Savings and Investments, if applicable

Benefit:

- Installation of a Fire Department lock box at no charge. Normal cost is \$80.

PAINT THE TOWN

Requirements:

- Sun City homeowner living in a home in need of paint
- Monthly income less than 150% of Federal Poverty Level
- Review of income will include Savings and Investments, if applicable

Benefit:

- Exterior house painting by Habitat for Humanity at no charge.

EPCOR CONDO REBATE PROGRAM

Requirements:

- Condo or apartment resident in either Sun City or Youngtown
- Monthly income less than 200% of Federal Poverty Level

Benefit:

- A \$120 rebate check twice a year (issued in May & November).



Sun City CAN!

623-933-7530 | 10195 W. Coggins Drive | Sun City, AZ 85351
 UPDATED April 4, 2025. Requirements subject to change periodically.



ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Sunday, June 14th – Fellowship Hour

We're kicking things off with the universal language of joy: **ICE CREAM!**

Trade survival techniques with your summertime neighbors who will be braving the Arizona heat over scoops of frozen goodness.

NEW MEMBER INQUIRY SESSION JUNE 14TH

(after Worship, during Fellowship)

Are you interested in learning more about membership at First Presbyterian Church? We'll plan for our conversation to be fueled by the day's Ice Cream treats as we meet in Swain Hall. See Pastor Ann for more information.

JULY 4TH

INDOOR INDEPENDENCE DAY PICNIC!

Saturday, July 4th at Noon in Swain Hall

No need to shoo away birds or swat at the ants -- our Fourth of July celebration will be comfortably indoors in Swain Hall. Beginning at noon, we'll enjoy picnic faves and catching up with one another. Sign-up sheets for volunteers and diners will be available ahead of time. A freewill offering to offset the cost of the meal will be received tableside. By all means, feel free to wear your red, white and blue. Invite a friend!

CELEBRATIONS AND UPDATES

THIS MONTH'S BIRTHDAYS

We are celebrating you! Please join the Birthday Celebration June 7th, in Swain Hall following the worship service.

06/03	Karen Markwardt-Blakewell
06/06	Renee Olthoff
06/12	Nancy Davidson
06/13	Lee Carlson
06/27	Peter Kooy
06/28	Judy Goss
06/28	Pastor Ann Utke
06/29	Zane Porter
06/30	David McMartin



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



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY
Peter and Shellie Kooy (June 25th)



UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, June 14th – Ice Cream Social (*Fellowship Hour*)

Saturday, July 4th – Indoor Independence Day Picnic (*Noon*)

Sunday, August 30th – Watermelonpalooza! (*Fellowship Hour*)



What is the General Assembly?

The General Assembly is a council of the church, a discernment event and a worshipping body which is assembled every two years. Delegates are selected in advance to form committees and participate in plenary sessions in order to discern the direction of the church and make decisions that are implemented throughout the life of the PC(USA).

Who can attend the General Assembly?

Anyone! The General Assembly embraces an open meeting policy so that all who are interested in the work of the Assembly may observe the Assembly's proceedings and participate in public Assembly events. For those unable to travel to Milwaukee, the Assembly will be livestreamed.

When is the General Assembly Happening?

Committees begin meeting online from June 22nd–24th, and will be traveling to the host site in Milwaukee by the Community Day on June 27th. Between June 25th and 26th, attendees will travel to Milwaukee. Finally, the on-site plenary sessions will take place in Milwaukee from June 28th–July 2nd. Want to know more? Check out this link:

[227th General Assembly \(2026\) | Presbyterian Church \(U.S.A.\)](#)

KEN JOHNSON AGRICULTURAL SCHOLARSHIP

Pastor Jim Rausch and the First Presbyterian Church of Peoria's congregation has established a scholarship fund in Honor of Ken Johnson, a longtime Peoria resident, farmer, FFA champion, and Presbyterian (Clerk of Session for 56 years!) and still going strong at 93 as an active member.

**FUNDRAISING EVENT
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17th
At Barro's Pizza on
Cactus & 83rd Avenue
All day 10:30am to 10:00pm**



Mention the Ken Johnson Fundraiser when ordering (Dine-in or Carryout only), and management will donate 25% of its proceeds to the scholarship fund.

BENEVILLA CAREGIVER CONNECT

PLEASE JOIN US



AGING WELL: YOUR JOURNEY, YOUR WAY

JUNE 11th, 2026

Whether you're caring for a loved one or focusing on your own well-being, join Benevilla, over 30 trusted partners including our Enriching Lives Network, and featured guest speaker for a day of valuable information, resources, and connections.

Scan the QR code to explore 30+ trusted Benevilla Enriching Lives Network partners you can visit with at the event.



- **Community Education Session**
In recognition of National Brain Health Month, June is the perfect time to spotlight cognitive wellness. Our guest speaker **Maribeth Gallagher, DNP, PMHNP-BC, FAAN**, *Dementia Program Director, Hospice of the Valley* presents: **From Clarity to Confusion: Healthy Age-related Brain Changes vs. MCI and Dementia**
- **Health & Wellness Resources**
- **Benefitness Adaptive Gym Demos**
- **Caregiver Resources**
- **Door Prizes**

SPECIAL PERK FOR PRE-REGISTERING!

Receive a drawing entry for a chance to win a \$50 Fry's Gift Card when you register in advance and attend!

TO REGISTER SCAN THE QR CODE OR VISIT:
Benevilla.org/Caregiver-Connect
For more information call (623) 584-4999



- 📅 **Thursday, June 11th**
- 🕒 **9 AM - 12 PM**
- 📍 **Sun City Christian Church**
9745 W Palmeras Dr, Sun City, AZ 85373



FINANCIAL UPDATE

April 30, 2026

GENERAL FUND

	<i>Actual YTD</i>		<i>Budget YTD</i>
Contributions	\$34,989.00	Pledge Budget to Date	\$32,078.68
Other Income	12,560.66	Other Income Budget	13,333.32
Transfer from Foundation	<u>34,000.00</u>	Transfer from Foundation	<u>46,206.68</u>
<i>Total Income to Date</i>	\$81,549.66	<i>Budget to Date</i>	\$91,618.68
Expenses to Date	\$94,796.09	Expense Budget YTD	\$91,618.68

(Note: Expenses do not include Capital Improvements)

FOUNDATION FUNDS are currently \$1,595,414.57

(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
 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

Pastor	Rev. Ann Utke	revannarizona@gmail.com Cell Phone (414) 708-7899 (Fridays Emergency only)
Office Manager	Laura Teadt	laurat@firstpressuncity.org
Finance Admin.	Sue Diaz	sued@firstpressuncity.org
Choir Director	Dr. William Gleason	drgasu@aol.com
Pianist	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 by **Monday, June 15, 2026**.