

The Pastor's Corner



Who are you? This cartoon captures some of the struggles Simon (Peter) faced as a disciple of Jesus, as his identity morphed into new territory. Likewise, we also experience our own identity shifting in different ages and stages in life. This is true not only as individuals, it is also shared by all who respond to Jesus' calling in our lives, especially as a collective spiritual community. In this interim season, First Presbyterian Church of Sun City is re-discovering who God is shaping you to become for a new day, to equip yourselves for emerging priorities, to consider how the church of the future might look different from previous incarnations. The GOD NEWS (and good news) is that the Holy Spirit is ever present, giving guidance, encouragement, courage, and wisdom for such a time as this.

In the Greatest of Hope,
Rev. Ann Utke, Interim Minister

MISSION STUDY UPDATE

The Mission Study focus group is meeting every other week on Monday afternoons via ZOOM. We are currently utilizing a resource from the Denver Presbytery which is serving as a guide for our congregational assessment. We will be sharing the questions from this resource with the congregation from time to time -- look for posts in upcoming Sunday bulletins or contact the church office for the complete list. If you have feedback for the group or would like to join the ZOOM meeting, please reach out to Pastor Ann.

WELCOME NEW MEMBER – RUTH LANGFORD

First Presbyterian Church is blessed to have Ruth Langford join our membership with this church through a letter of transfer from a neighboring Presbyterian congregation. Ruth lives in Peoria and has been married to her husband, Dick for 64 years. They are originally from upstate New York and are the proud parents of two wonderful daughters; one of whom lives here in Arizona. Many of you may know of Ruth's leadership role in founding HART Pantry with a small group of concerned members of First Presbyterian Church in Peoria. She is very proud of the work that she has done to launch this much-needed outreach to teens, which is now expanded to three school districts in the west valley, with many volunteers and community partners helping. As important as the food pantry and programs are to Ruth, having a church home here at First Presbyterian allows her to take off her "HART Pantry Hat" for an hour during the week, which is a welcome respite for her mind, heart, and spirit. We heartily welcome Ruth and look forward to becoming better acquainted with both her and Dick.

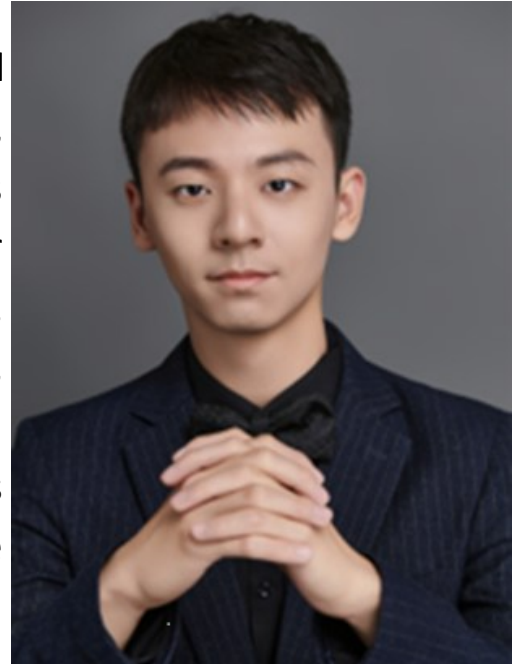
FREE WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY RESOURCES

Through the generous gifts to the Presbyterian Women fund throughout the years, participants in the 2026 - 2027 Women's Bible Study group can receive their choice of: 1) a FREE subscription to Horizons Magazine (which includes a Bible Study Guide for the upcoming year), **OR** 2) a large print Bible study guide (also for the upcoming year). The group plans to meet October through May, typically meeting on the 2nd Tuesday of the month (1:00pm-2:15pm). New or returning participants are always welcome; consider inviting a friend!

Welcome

Dr. Moyi Liu

After reviewing the profiles of 6 candidates and conducting both telephone and in-person interviews, we are pleased to announce that Dr. Moyi Liu has accepted the position of church pianist and choir accompanist here at First Presbyterian Church. As a recent graduate of Arizona State University, Dr. Liu brings a wide range of experiences and tremendous talent. He is held in high esteem by his colleagues as a kind, hardworking, and humble individual, very dedicated to his work and art.



Moyi shares that when he was just 4 years old, his grandmother, a kindergarten teacher, taught him the notes on a small electronic keyboard. Recalling her guidance, he says, “She played simple tunes and encouraged me to imitate them, nurturing both my curiosity and my confidence to make sounds.” At age 11, he officially began his professional training as a pianist at the Xi’an Conservatory of Music Affiliated High School. He earned a Bachelor of Music in piano performance from the Shanghai Conservatory of Music and a Master of Music in piano performance from the Manhattan School of Music. He currently serves as a piano instructor at Hammer and Strings Conservatory in Gilbert, and hopes to continue to “teach students of different ages and backgrounds, helping them discover their own relationship with music — whether as a lifelong passion or a meaningful part of their daily lives . . . Through meaningful musical encounters, I believe we can help people reconnect with themselves, rediscover hope and see a more beautiful and compassionate world.” Please offer Dr. Liu a warm welcome as he begins offering worship music starting Sunday, July 5th.



WILL YOU PLEASE PICK UP ALL YOUR CLOTHES?

Notes from the Deacons

The next meeting of the Deacons will be September 13th after worship.

Session Highlights

The next meeting of the Session will be September 15th at 4:30pm.

A colorful graphic for 'Watermelon Palooza' featuring various watermelon slices and faces. The watermelons are anthropomorphized with faces, some wearing hats or having accessories. The background is light pink with a white border.

WATERMELON PALOOZA

Sunday, August 30th

Yes, you read that right. We're closing out the summer season with an ode to the juiciest fruit of them all. Expect a variety of eatables featuring this versatile (and hydrating!) summer classic during fellowship time in Swain Hall (after worship).

VACATION DATES

Pastor Ann will be out of town July 15th - 20th, visiting family. Guest Pastor will be the Rev. Suzanne Citron, a member of the Grand Canyon Presbytery. An emergency contact will be available for any urgent Pastoral Care needs.

CELEBRATIONS AND UPDATES

THIS MONTH'S BIRTHDAYS

We are celebrating you! Please join the Birthday Celebration on Sunday, July 5th (for the July Birthdays) and Sunday, August 2nd (for the August Birthdays), in Swain Hall following the worship service:

JULY

6th Barbara Oliver
 13th Carolyn Lopez
 16th Gail Bickel
 16th Mary Jo Meyer
 16th Norma Sechrist
 19th Fran Cummings
 28th Betty Carr
 28th Don Fringer

AUGUST

5th Paul Cahoun
 8th Barbara Lynch (Gleason)
 10th Tammy Gathier
 10th Lorelei Macrow
 11th Earl Kittredge
 13th Tomy May
 14th Cheryl Moore
 21st Bill Gleason
 24th Eileen Clarke
 26th Beth Mabee
 28th Vi Patterson
 29th Glenda Crofford
 30th Lloyd Baumgartner



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Don & Joan Knafels (July 10th)

Don & Judy Fringer (July 27th)

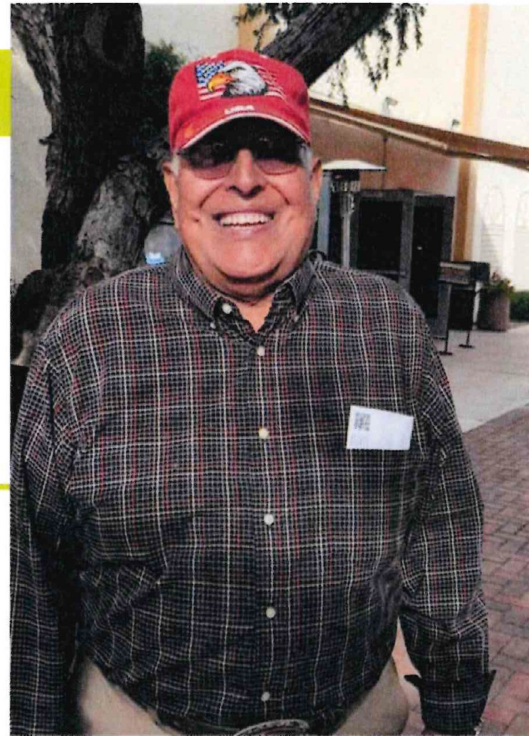




Meet Richard!



Aging in Place Program



Richard Ocano, an 83-year-old disabled combat veteran, dedicated 17 years of his life serving in the United States military. He comes from a deeply rooted military family. Growing up, Richard watched as two of his brothers served in the Navy, two served in the Air Force, and one brother served in the Army. They proudly served in WWII, Korea, and one brother was stationed in England for most of his career. Richard was proud of his brothers and knew he wanted to follow in their footsteps. Richard eventually surpassed his brothers by serving in the Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps!

After retiring, Richard and his wife Rosemary decided to buy a manufactured home and settled in the West Valley. They have lived in their home for 15 years. They are well known in the community for their kindness and beautiful garden. Rosemary often delivers plates of food to the elderly, single residents in the community, and does not shy away from offering a helping hand, no matter how big or small.

In 2025, Richard and Rosemary started having some plumbing issues. They tried a couple of handymen to save some money, but nobody was able to fix the issue. Rosemary saw a flyer for Habitat for Humanity's repair program and decided to give us a call. Through Habitat for Humanity's Aging in Place Program and their partners, Richard and Rosemary have had plumbing repairs, roof repairs, and a fresh coat of paint on the exterior of their home.

"Habitat took care of us when we needed it the most. Now we have a fully functioning shower, a fresh-painted home, and a toilet that doesn't need a screwdriver to flush!"

- Richard & Rosemary



COME JOIN OUR CLASS!



EXERCISE CLASS

Ginger Dawson, a Certified SilverSneaker Fitness Instructor will be holding classes in Swain Hall. This is a “Classic” workout which will be held three days a week, Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9:00 am to 10:00 am.



It’s a low impact class that helps you improve flexibility and build strong muscles. Strength exercises may include hand weights, resistance bands or doing body-weight exercises. Standing or seated.

Wear comfortable clothing and shoes. No flip flops please. People with walkers or wheelchairs are welcome and you may bring a friend.

There’s no cost to SilverSneakers fitness program members.

Check with your health insurance provider to see if it’s included in your benefits!

Alternatively, Just \$2.00 per session if your insurance doesn’t include SilverSneakers in your benefit package.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

May 31, 2026

GENERAL FUND

	<i>Actual YTD</i>		<i>Budget YTD</i>
Contributions	\$40,193.00	Pledge Budget to Date	\$40,098.35
Other Income	15,517.03	Other Income Budget	16,666.65
Transfer from Foundation	<u>34,000.00</u>	Transfer from Foundation	<u>57,758.35</u>
<i>Total Income to Date</i>	\$89,710.03	<i>Budget to Date</i>	\$114,523.35
Expenses to Date	\$116,009.85	Expense Budget YTD	\$114,523.35

(Note: Expenses do not include Capital Improvements)

FOUNDATION FUNDS are currently \$1,634,786.72

(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

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