

FINANCIAL UPDATE

September 30, 2026

GENERAL FUND

	Actual YTD		Budget YTD
Contributions	\$91,577.76	Pledge Budget to Date	\$72,177.03
Other Income	27,218.51	Other Income Budget	29,999.97
Transfer from Foundation	<u>69,000.00</u>	Transfer from Foundation	<u>103,965.03</u>
Total Income to Date	\$187,796.27	Budget to Date	\$206,142.03
Expenses to Date	\$204,991.03	Expense Budget YTD	\$206,142.03

(Note: Expenses do not include Capital Improvements)

FOUNDATION FUNDS are currently \$1,591,825.73

(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:

9:30am Worship Services in the Sanctuary
10:30am Coffee and Fellowship in Swain Hall

Office Hours:

Tuesdays & Thursdays: 8:30am – 3:00pm, Wednesdays: 8:30am – Noon
Mondays & Fridays: Closed

CHURCH STAFF

Interim Pastor	Rev. Ann Utke	revannarizona@gmail.com cell phone (414) 708-7899 (Fridays emergencies only)
Office Manager	Laura Teadt	laurat@firstpressuncity.org
Finance Admin.	Sue Diaz	sued@firstpressuncity.org
Choir Director	Dr. William Gleason	drgasu@aol.com
Church Pianist	Dr. Moyi Liu	lmypianist@gmail.com
Custodian	Lyle Tollefson	(623) 734-4925

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, Dec. 14th**.



First Presbyterian Church of Sun City, Arizona

Volume 58, November 2026

First Presbyterian Church Mission Study

2026 Fall Mission Study packets are available in Swain Hall for the congregation. Our diligent group was guided by a resource which the Rev. Dr. Terry Olthoff provided by the Denver Presbytery, exploring these **Strategic Planning Questions** intended to clarify church life (see abbreviated list, below). These findings have been submitted to the Commission on Ministry (part of the Presbytery of Grand Canyon), which will review the hopes and needs described in the report.

- 1) What demographics describe the community you serve? How will this information shape the next five years of your ministry and shape the search for your next installed pastor.
- 2) Describe the culture of your congregation. How is your congregation different from churches or other denominations in your neighborhood?
- 3) What areas of outreach engage your church? Your community? What characteristics does your congregation have that can impact your community?
- 4) What is your new typical member like? How are they different or similar to the current membership? How are new members assimilated into church life?
- 5) Why do people join your congregation? What might be some reasons they don't join?
- 6) Which parts of your church life are calling cards for your congregation? Are there programs which need to change or end? What activities (classes, studies, ministries, etc.) would you like to explore as new opportunities for your church?
- 7) What do you anticipate will be areas of growth and challenge for your congregation in the next few years?

First Presbyterian Church Mission Study (Continued)

- 8) What issues of faith are important for your congregation? What excites people theologically? What are members of your congregation "tired" of? Why?
- 9) What has been your most energetic dispute and how was it handled?
- 10) What is the role of the pastor? How would you describe the strengths and weaknesses of your last called pastor? How did your last pastor divide time among things like worship, teaching, pastoral care, administration, and church growth? Can you describe the strengths of your ideal pastor? Have you considered diversity in your search?
- 11) Describe the relationship among current staff, session and congregation. How would you like these relationships to grow and/or change?
- 12) How is your congregation different from other Presbyterian churches?
- 13) What are your church's financial strengths and weaknesses? What does the financial profile of the last 3 years reveal? Is there any significant debt impacting the church?

Many thanks to the committee, who met via ZOOM throughout the summer to thoroughly explore these issues of church health and vitality: Mark Bakker, Don and Judy Fringer, Nancy Harwin, Christina Huvelle, Bonnie Kerr, and Diane Nestlebusch, along with Pastor Ann. Also, Terry Olthoff served as a consultant to the group. Thank you as well to those who submitted written feedback during this process.

Save The Date



Dr. Moyi Liu has established a Chamber Music Trio called "Iridescence Piano Trio," which includes piano, violin and cello. They will be presenting a Concert at 3:00pm on Sunday, November 22nd in Swain Hall. A free-will offering will be collected, which will be directed to the musicians. All are welcome to attend; consider inviting a friend!

Session Highlights

Rev. Ann passed out copies of the Fall 2026 Mission Study that was recently completed. Session commended the committee for their outstanding work on this project. The Mission Study has been sent to the Presbytery for their review.

As of September 30, 2026, we have 67 active members and 8 affiliate members for a total of 75.

Bob Meyer was busy during the summer with various projects throughout the campus: plumbing repairs/upgrades, a new flag and keeping the courtyard clean after the windstorms are some of them. The kitchen dishwasher and stove/oven are being scheduled for needed repairs.

The Session discussed a proposal for a November concert coordinated by our church pianist, Dr. Moyi Liu. He is the founder of the Iridescence Piano trio, which features chamber music performed by piano, violin and cello. A Sunday afternoon at 3:00pm was suggested. Look for future announcements in upcoming bulletins.

Appreciation Award

Each year, the Board of Deacons expresses gratitude on behalf of the church family for those who make a difference for God's good works in the world. This fall's recipient is:

DEBRA PRUETT



Debra is active in the Women's Bible Study, Youth Group, Sunday Fellowship and the Congregational Care Commission. Debra hosts the annual High Tea with record attendance. She is hosting again this year. Thank you, Debra, for all your services to the church!



21st Annual Holiday Tea Saturday, December 5, 2026



Doors open at 1:00pm so guests may view the festively decorated tables. Attendees will enjoy tea service at thematically set tables hosted by the women of the congregation. Women of all ages are invited to attend and to wear their festive holiday attire. Once again, entertainment will be enjoyed as the "red-tie" crew of gentlemen of the church serve cookies, savory sandwiches, and hot tea. Three charitable causes will receive proceeds from ticket sales, including: Habitat for Humanity, Valley View Food Bank, and Eve's Place. Tickets are \$20 per seat and must be reserved by **November 30th**.

For tickets, contact Beth Mabee.

Here are some important dates to mark on your calendar:

Sunday, November 15th – Holiday Tea Planning Meeting at 10:45am in the Fireside Room

Saturday, November 21st – clean chairs and spot clean the carpet in Swain Hall starting at 9:00am; snacks will be provided

Saturday, November 28th – church decorated for the Advent Season starting at 9:00am in Swain Hall; lunch will be served afterwards

Friday, December 4th – 11:00am sandwich making and hostesses set up their tables

Saturday, December 5th – Swain Hall doors open for our Holiday Tea at 1:00pm



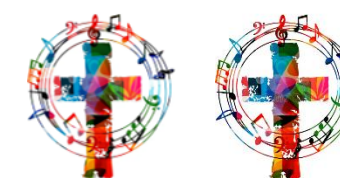
Come and enjoy decorating the church campus for the Advent and Christmas Season! Plan to arrive at 9:00am on Saturday, November 28th. A lunch will be served afterwards in Swain Hall.

Notes From the Deacons

The Deacons plan to supplement the Poinsettia Plants with a combination of both silk and live flowers for the Christmas Season.

The group has selected a recipient of the Appreciation Certificate, which will be awarded in October during worship.

Music Ministry



Bell Choir rehearsals are every Tuesday at 3:30pm in the Sanctuary, which is guided by volunteer director Beth Mabee. New ringers are always welcome! This group presents a musical selection once a month (usually on the third Sunday of the month) as well as special pieces for Christmas and Easter. **Vocal Choir** rehearsals have been moved to Tuesdays at 4:00pm (in the Choir Room/Westminster Room). This group enhances the worship service on most Sundays with a vocal anthem and does not perform on "Bell Choir" Sundays. Please see choir director Bill Gleason to learn more. This group is open to newcomers!

Do you know the benefits that music brings to life?

(reflections from Deborah Davis, Ph.D.)

***Music gives your brain a good workout.** Music has a mathematical structure based on relationships between one note and the next, including patterns, sequences, and harmonies. You may not be aware of it, but your brain has to do a lot of computing to make sense of it. So, not surprisingly, listening to music can improve learning, [memory](#), and mental alertness. It also boosts [concentration](#) and [mindfulness](#), as listening, playing, or moving to music keeps you focused in the present moment and even puts you "in the zone" where you experience the blissful state of "flow."

***Music can boost overall health.** Research has shown that listening to music can reduce [anxiety](#), blood pressure, and pain, as well as improve sleep quality, mood, well-being, and [happiness](#). And especially when you're moving to music, your brain gets washed in beneficial "feel-good" [hormones](#), such as [dopamine](#), serotonin, and endorphins. So not only does music potentially add more years to your life, it adds quality years.

***Music connects you to your culture and connects people across cultures.** Music is a vital element of culture, and every culture has specific genres of music that are created, produced, and enjoyed by its people. In the U.S. alone, there are dozens of popular genres, including Afro-beat, bluegrass, classical, country, electronic, folk, hip hop/rap, jazz, latin, pop, rhythm and blues, soul, rock, and theatrical. All of these types of music have different origins and are associated with different subcultures, but they can be enjoyed by anyone, leading to mutual cross-cultural appreciation and communication.



Birthday/Anniversary Celebrations

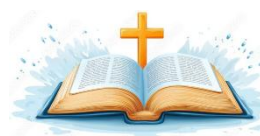
We are celebrating you! Please join the Birthday Celebration on Sunday, November 1st, in Swain Hall following the worship service:

11/07	Joyce Heuett
11/14	Shellie Kooy
11/19	Bonnie Kerr
11/21	Sharyl Moen
11/21	John Oliver
11/24	Nancy Harwin
11/24	Mary Lou Klatte (Pancy)

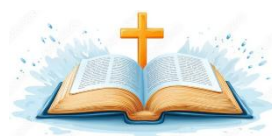


William and La Nae Penfold (November 8th)

(For any additions/corrections to these birthday/anniversary lists, please contact Laura in the Church office.)



Wednesday Morning Bible Study Resumes 10:00am in Office Conference Room

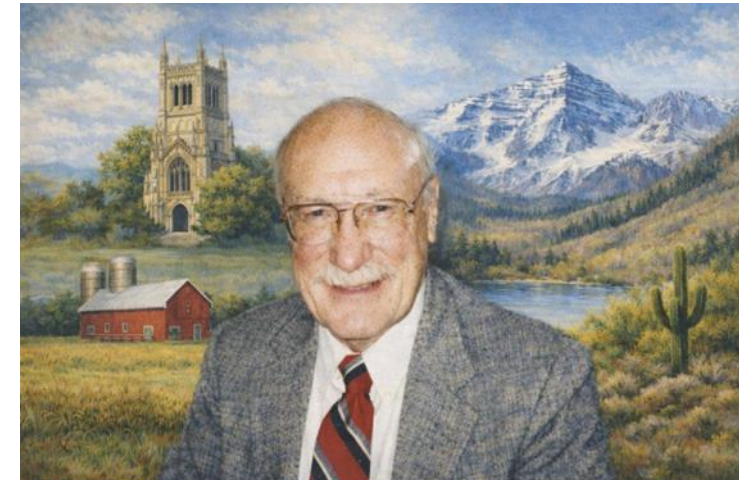


The Fall Session for this group starts on November 4th and continues through December 16th. Our study focuses on the scripture readings that will be shared in worship on the following Sunday. BYOB (Bring Your Own Bible) or use a copy here at church (we have Large Print versions). Feel free to attend as your schedule allows. Consider inviting a friend! A friend for this opportunity to grow in understanding of the scriptures and of the life of faith. Questions allowed (and are very welcome!). See Pastor Ann for more information.

A Service of Thanksgiving to God for the life of
The Rev. Dr. David Glenn Walker

will be held at 10:00am on Saturday, November 14th
in the Sanctuary, with hospitality to follow in Swain Hall.

The worship service will also be livestreamed/recorded on the church's
YouTube channel (www.youtube.com/@FirstPresSunCity.) Menke Funeral Home
in Sun City is assisting the family (<https://www.menkefuneralhome.com>).



For many years, the Rev. Dr. David Glenn Walker has been a beloved part of the church family here in Sun City. As a cradle Presbyterian, he became an exemplary leader in the PC(USA). He traveled extensively with his family throughout the globe. Beyond opportunities here in the U.S., he also experienced cross-cultural insights from visits to England, Scotland, Switzerland, East Africa, South Africa, Hong Kong, New Zealand, and the People's Republic of China. His service as an exchange pastor in Ireland was especially pivotal, vocationally and personally. His training in economics equipped him with the ability to master financial complexities, and his theological education gave him both wisdom and vision in sorting through the issues of the day.

First Presbyterian was fortunate to have him serve as an interim minister, as well as offering the program called "University of Life." His most recent gift to the church was teaching a weekly "Joy of Learning" class, which he offered well into his 98th year. In his personal life, he was an avid photographer and woodworker, and constructed a dream home in the mountains of Colorado. Here in Arizona, he tended a thriving backyard garden under the blazing desert sun. He was a devoted husband, a loving father, and a cherished grandfather. His personal warmth, dedication to the church, and ever-learning spirit will be greatly missed. We continue to hold his surviving son, Jeffrey, in our prayers.