

FINANCIAL UPDATE
August 31, 2026

GENERAL FUND

	Actual YTD		Budget YTD
Contributions	\$83,290.76	Pledge Budget to Date	\$64,157.36
Other Income	24,262.14	Other Income Budget	26,666.64
Transfer from Foundation	<u>69,000.00</u>	Transfer from Foundation	<u>92,413.36</u>
Total Income to Date	\$176,552.90	Budget to Date	\$183,237.36
Expenses to Date	\$177,326.67	Expense Budget YTD	\$183,237.36

(Note: Expenses do not include Capital Improvements)

FOUNDATION FUNDS are currently \$1,639,718.58

(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, Oct. 12th**.



First Presbyterian Church of Sun City, Arizona

Volume 58, October 2026

The Pastor's Corner

I had an opportunity to attend the wonderful gathering called "The Big Event" hosted by the Grand Canyon Presbytery, which is an educational opportunity for the churches in our region to explore issues of the day. Our guest speaker was local Pastor Caleb Campbell, who offered compelling insights related to his work as Pastor at Desert Springs Bible Church in Phoenix.

As the spiritual and cultural climate has changed the American landscape, he has challenged churches to consider the call of the gospel, especially as it relates to the rise of the Christian Nationalist movement. Having weathered sharp divisions that impacted his own congregation and pastoral ministry in recent years, Pastor Campbell offers a compassionate and wise approach for congregations and regional church bodies seeking guidance.

Another workshop leader, a pastor in the Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA), explored the topic of "Unity across the Divide," encouraging participants to enter into conversations with holy curiosity and, humility, and inviting greater listening skills with the phrase "Help me to understand" in the effort to build bridges of communication and connection in our world. **Want to learn more?** Educational guides and resource materials are available in Swain Hall, or speak with Pastor Ann.



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

Notes From the Deacons

The Deacons met in September to continue their caring activities for the congregation, including providing a special birthday cake for the Fellowship Time on the First Sunday of each month. Looking forward to 2027, the group anticipates vacancies for two of the Deacon positions. Please prayerfully consider joining this ministry of the church. Men and women alike are welcome to serve God in this way.

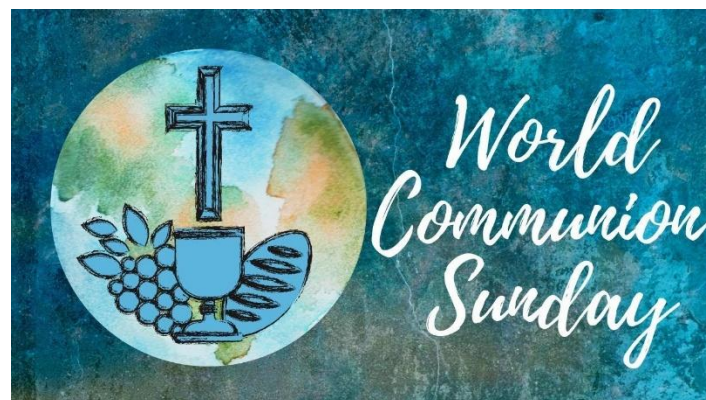
Session Highlights

The Elders met to review the needs and most recent issues facing the church. The Cleaning Company called "Bust a Bubble" has been maintaining the interior spaces of the church through their current schedule of twice a month, on a six-month trial basis. In addition, Lyle Tollefson continues to provide custodial tasks and building "check-ins" several times per week. The church bookkeeper, Sue Diaz, will be retiring and moving out of the area in 2027; she will provide training for her replacement as we prepare for this staff transition. Stewart Porter also shared his intention to step down from his position as Church Clerk. We heartily thank him for his tremendous dedication and skill for the past 5 years in this role!

Pastor's Vacation

Pastor Ann will be on vacation from October 14th- October 20th for a family wedding in the Midwest -- hopefully there won't be ice on the ground for the outdoor ceremony, but you never know! Please plan to welcome the Rev. Dr. Terry Palmer (PCUSA) to the pulpit on Sunday, October 18th as guest preacher. He served as Pastor at Gilbert Presbyterian Church from 2002 to 2019. Welcome, Terry!

Sunday, October 4th



Habitat for Humanity of Central Arizona (habitatcaz.org)



What Is Our No-cost Deconstruction Service?

Planning a home remodel? Consider Habitat for Humanity! The deconstruction process, sometimes known as green demolition, is a very methodical system as workers attempt to salvage everything from the worksite that can be recycled or reused. This **FREE** labor and removal of materials can save homeowners and businesses \$\$\$ and help make a difference for persons needing shelter. Contact: (623) 551-6000 Option 3. Their hours: 7:00am-3:00pm Monday-Friday or email: decon@habitatcaz.org

ProMusica Arizona Presents:

HEART OF AMERICA



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2026 | 3:30 PM

All Saints Lutheran Church, Phoenix

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2026 | 3:30 PM

American Lutheran Church, Sun City

From patriotic favorites and beloved folk songs to the world premiere of the *Route 66 Suite* by our own Clark Drinkall, this inspiring concert honors America's rich heritage and commemorates the 100th anniversary of the opening of Route 66, the legendary highway that helped define the American journey.



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, October 18th – planning meeting in the Fireside Room at 10:45am

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 afterward

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

October All-Church Potluck and Music Night with Red Rock Crossing

Come to an all-church potluck on **Thursday, October 29th at 5:00pm**. We will be gathering in Swain Hall, and enjoying the music of local trio, **Red Rock Crossing**.

Bring a dish to share; volunteers to help set up and clean up are most appreciated. Look for sign-up sheets at Fellowship Hour -- participants to provide entrees/sides/ desserts. Breaded fish, tartar sauce, ice cream, tableware, water, and decaf coffee will be provided. Feel free to bring your own beverage and invite a friend! A freewill offering will be received to cover the cost and help bolster the event fund.



Debra Pruett's – Watermelon Salsa Recipe

Ingredients: 2 ½ cups of seedless watermelon, diced finely (I used mini seedless watermelon and I had more than 2 ½ cups)
1 small red bell pepper, seeded and diced finely (about ¾ of a cup) (you can use any color pepper you want)
½ cup chopped cilantro
¼ cup red onion, finely diced
1 jalapeno pepper, seeded and diced finely
1 lime, juiced – add lime juice to get the taste you like
½ teaspoon salt – add salt to get the taste you like



Instructions: Add all ingredients into a bowl and toss together.
Chill until serving. Serve with tortilla chips!



Birthday/Anniversary Celebrations

We are celebrating you! Please join the Birthday Celebration on Sunday, October 4th, in Swain Hall following the worship service:

10/04 *Christina Huvelle*
 10/15 *Bob Cummings*
 10/18 *Marge Hagerman*
 10/21 *Diane Nestlebusch*
 10/21 *Bob Meyer*



Bob & Mary Jo Meyer (October 4th)
Jeff & Julia Whiteman (October 16th)
Jim & Janet MacDonald (October 17th)
Zane & Martha Porter (October 20th)
Bob & Fran Cummings (October 22nd)

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



Church Triumphant

Earl R. Kittredge

August 11, 1921 – September 1, 2026



Earl R. Kittredge was born on August 11, 1921 in North Adams, Massachusetts. He affiliated with the Congregational Church until 1960, then transferred his Church Membership to the Presbyterian Church, where he was ordained as a Deacon in 1969. Earl was very active in church life, serving as a member of the Endowment Fund Committee, Church Auditor, Member of the Strategic Planning Committee, Member of the first committee for the Academy for Exceptional Living; as well as participating as an usher, greeter, and communion deacon.

He served in the U.S. Army in both World War II and the Korean War, holding all enlisted grades from Private to Master Sergeant. From March 1945 to January 1946, he was overseas in what was at the time the Territory of Hawaii. His vocational career ranged from being an Accountant with the Federal Land Bank, to rising in responsibility with the Farm Credit Administration in Washington D.C. One of Earl's cherished photos documented his trip to Argentina with a delegation representing the U.S. interests abroad. He and his beloved wife Fran arrived in Sun City in 1994. Earl enjoyed golf, card games, email and computer operations, reading financial and historical books, and publications. When asked "What other items" he'd like to include in his personal history (back in 2002), he said, "None. Have enough to do at my age!" Earl reached the remarkable age of 105, and entered eternal life on September 1, 2026 at his Sierra Winds residence. He was always welcoming with a word of prayer and an opportunity to reminisce. May God give comfort to his family and friends, as we honor his memory with gratitude.

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>).*