



## God's Economy and the Church

### A Practice of Gratitude, Generosity and Mutuality

By PASTOR ERIC O. LEDERMANN

In 1 Timothy 1.3-4, the author, who identifies himself as Paul, writes to his “true child,” Timothy: “I urge you, as I did when I was on my way to Macedonia, to remain in Ephesus so that you may instruct certain people not to teach different teachings and not to occupy themselves with myths and endless genealogies that promote speculations rather than the divine training that is known by faith” (NRSV).

The *Common English Bible* (CEB) translates the text similarly, but slightly nuanced: “When I left for Macedonia, I asked you to stay behind in Ephesus so that you could instruct certain individuals not to spread wrong teaching. They shouldn’t pay attention to myths and endless genealogies. Their teaching only causes useless guessing games instead of faithfulness to God’s way of doing things.”

Though the author is identified as Paul, some scholars question his authorship. However, the spirit of the letter seems for the most part in keeping with Paul’s teachings. Paul encouraging his young protégé, Timothy, to remain with the community in Ephesus as Paul’s emissary to keep the people focused and not distracted by “myths,” and, I might suggest, to be Paul’s eyes and ears on the ground.

Some years ago I read an article the focused on the last part of verse 4: “the divine training that is known by faith.” I’ve tried to find that article but haven’t been successful as of yet. The phrase is unusually translated from the Greek, which reads: “ἡ οἰκονομίαν θεοῦ τὴν ἐν πίστει.” A literal translation might read: “the economy/

household management of God in faithfulness.” The words “economy” and “ecology” derived from the Greek word for “house” or “household,” οἶκος (*oikos*)—the first mean the “management of” (*nomos*) and the second meaning the “study of” (*logia*). Economy is almost a direct transliteration of *oikonomian* from 1 Timothy 1.4. This one phrase as part of Paul’s introduction to his letter has sparked many-a-thought on what one could translate as “God’s economy.”

When it came to the economics of the early church, it was quite clear in its teachings that money was to be used for the benefit of the entire community, not to build individual wealth (Acts 2.45). Paul seems to be instructing Timothy to make sure the community in Ephesus is practicing “God’s economy” in their life together, rather than following the false teachings of the broader culture.

In a recent article in *Sojourners Magazine*, the Rev. José Humphreys III, pastor at Metro Hope Covenant Church in East Harlem, New York City, wrote a scathing indictment of the Church’s use of money: “For centuries, and particularly since the Protestant Reformation, the institutional church has more often contributed to ideologies and illusions that reinforce the American form of hypercapitalism” (Nov. 2023, 22). He declares that too often conversations about money within churches focus on personal finances, rather than “God’s economy” and doing things that benefit the broader community.

Alexie Torres is the executive director

See GOD’S ECONOMY on page 2

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This issue of the  
UPC NEWS & Current Events  
is brought to you by...  
**the word...**

Salvation

c.1200, *savacioun*, *saluatiun*, *sauvacioun*, etc., originally in the Christian sense, “the saving of the soul, deliverance from the power of sin and admission to eternal bliss,” from Late Latin *salvationem* (nominative *salvatio*, a translation of Greek *soteria*), noun of action from past-participle stem of *salvare* “to save.” A question for Christians might be: From what is Jesus be saving us? Some kind of hell? Could that hell be of our own making? Is it possible that Jesus is trying to save us from ourselves?

## GOD'S ECONOMY

Continued from page 1

of Jubilee Gift, a nonprofit organization that seeks to “reimagine money and protect the sacred.” Quoting the organization’s mission statement, Torres, a Roman Catholic, speaks of the sacramental nature of generosity, “connecting love and money to God’s gift-giving economy.” The mission statement reads: “Unless we ‘practice’ at love, to see beyond this mindset and culture, and then translate that from the personal to the institutional and systemic—we are likely to cause more of the same. We are called to an infinite loop of practice—sharing the Gifts of our unique destinies, and softening around money in ways that make it easier for others to give their Gifts too.”

I love that phrase, “we ‘practice’ at love.”

I have come to believe that God’s economy is very different from our own—much like the common understanding of “justice” is very different from the form of justice taught and practiced by Jesus (we had an entire Mission Month dedicated to the concepts of “retributive justice” versus “restorative justice”). God’s economy, or household management, considers concepts like “equity” over “equality.” Equality means every is the same. But we know not everyone is the same—some start their lives ahead of others by the mere fact of the families into which they are born. Equity means everyone is provided what they need to survive and thrive and judged according to their means

rather than on some arbitrary static scale that automatically puts certain groups of people at a disadvantage.

Paul is preaching what later Luke recorded in his second volume about the founding of the Christian Church: “All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need” (Acts. 2.44-45). The early Church was seeking to change the systems in which they lived. They were challenging the status quo of inequity, seeking to lift up those who had been beaten down and bring down those who had privilege by the mere lottery of their birth.

Though we can easily criticize places like India or South Africa (particularly during the apartheid regime) for their caste systems of citizenry, we might do well to pay attention to the growing disparities and castes here in the U.S. As Christians we are called to push against the culture of “greed is good” and “the one with the most toys wins.” We are called to pool our resources to even the playing field for those who were dealt a bad hand before the game had even started (pardon the mixed metaphor). People can call it what they want: socialist, communist, anti-American, etc. But “practicing at love” in the economy/household of God’s holy reign is fundamental to our faith. It may be an uphill battle (has been for thousands of years), but I, for one, would like to keep trying! ■

*Be of good courage  
and know that you are loved!*

## MONTHLY DRIVE ‘n’ DROP

**October 1, 2023 10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.**

*Normally First Sunday of each month! Drop off at church!*

Here are the items needed for TCAA and UPC Refugee Ministry



### TCAA needs

- breakfast items
- towels/washcloths
- baby wipes
- travel snacks
- canned goods

### REFUGEE needs

- laundry & dish soap
- shampoo
- conditioner
- body wash & lotion
- snack items

Financial contributions may be sent to the office. Make checks out to “TCAA” and reference “Food Pantry” or to UPC and reference “Refugee” in the memo



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(Virtual on most Fridays)

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UPC NEWS & Current Events is published monthly. Submissions of announcements, stories, op-eds, and reflections on recent events at UPC are welcomed.

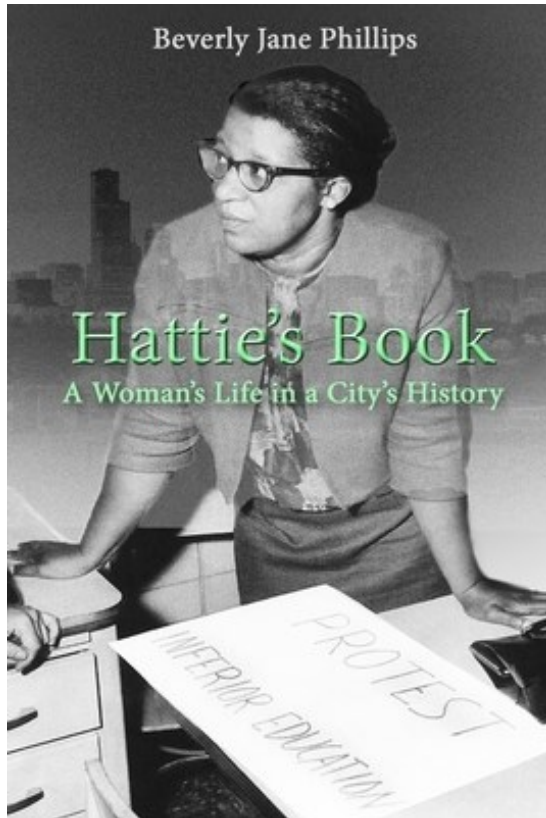
### Requirements:

Announcements: 500 words or less  
Articles/Reflections: 1200 words or less  
Letters to the Editor: 750 words or less  
Submissions may be edited for content, grammar, and space available.

**Send submissions  
by the 20th of each month to:  
newsletter@upctempe.org**

# ***Hattie's Book—Part XX***

## **A Woman's Life In a City's History**



By **BEVERLY PHILLIPS**

This is the last article about Hatty that I will write here. This closing will be made up of quotes from interviews that other people had with her. I don't have dates for them but you can readily tell what was going on in her neighborhood when she said these things. She probably said them more than once.

### ***About her school days***

"... living in that particular geographical area of Hyde Park we were exposed to a better quality of education than we might have gotten in other areas. I guess I was the only black kid in my class, during elementary school and high school. Jewish kids were there and if you know about Jewish people, upper income or, the Jewish people they really are the doctors, and the dentists and the business people. So if you're in a classroom setting like that you'll be motivated and

you'll be in competition. I do not find that to be true in the black school system the public school system. There is no competition and I think that accounts for the low achievement levels of the children in this day and age. I compare what I learned in elementary school and Hyde Park High School with what my kids and I'm the mother of six children, now—but I compare what I had as seventh grade junior high school student with what they learned in their senior year, just such things as literature. I got more than they!"

### ***About racism***

"We were very well accepted in the schools here. Although there were twelve of us children, we were very well accepted in the schools here. Along comes the baby girl who was kind of spoiled, you might say,

and she wouldn't take some of the insults that we had been conditioned to take even in these schools in an all-white setting. The books in first grade would read like this: 'Spot, I am little, I am black. What am I?' Well, this was Spot, a little dog, but you would have a black kid get up and read this. My sister, Azella, got off on the wrong foot in the same school that we all graduated from. When she hit first grade, she would not read, 'I am little. I am black. What am I? I am Spot.' You will see that it is a little black dog in the Dick and Jane textbook. But she threw her book down on the floor six years old and walked out. She was a precocious little brat as far as they were concerned. They kept her at Kenwood until she was ten and then my told my mother and father that she was incorrigible, and where did you get her from? My mother said, 'I got her the same place I got the rest of them.'"

### ***About persecution***

"Many times my life has been threatened. A tutorial project [she had used money from an Eleanor Roosevelt award to start the project] storefront was burned to the ground by a politician. People felt it a threat for us to get together. I also became aware that it was not a Christ center. That even though it was a good project, I would have to stay on my knees and pray about it. To do God's will instead of mine.

"I suffered persecution when I ran for the office of alderman So I learned a lot from it. I don't regret it, and I gave the alderman—the regular machine candidate—a really hard time but I learned from it that I was would never be active politically again. I thought I was doing a good thing because I was asked. I had sons and you see, politics is a dirty business. My husband had never been in jail. He was a man I tell you in civil service. He worked for the government but if he would walk the dog—we had a German Shepherd—if he would walk that dog, he would be stopped and searched by the police.

"I have a son who's never been in jail, Bernard Junior. And he was arrested the night before the election. It came out in the *Sun-Times* paper: 'Fourth Ward candidate's son arrested with live ammunition.' He was a soldier returning, he was in the Army for three years. And he had on this belt and it had bullets around it. And so that's why he was arrested. He didn't have a gun but live ammunition. See? So the thought came to me I am getting a double message. You don't deal in politics if you're not ready to stand the heat. I felt that while I couldn't be touched, my men folks would bear the repercussions of anything political that I was in, so I would never get in it again just because I had too many others to pay



## HATTIE'S BOOK

(Continued from page 3)

for what I could do. I had too many men folks to pay the price. They would be the ones that pay. So I left it alone. I just mentioned that to say that sometimes in your efforts to do good, you might make some mistakes.”

### About Surgeries

“My first brain surgery was on March 15, 1966. And the second one was five years ago, that would’ve been in March, 1981... At that time I was struggling to live and I was in a very bad situation. I started losing my lateral vision and didn’t know what was happening. It was pressure on the optic nerve. I lost the lateral vision, then I just lost my sight. I was very sick and I had this operation. I just prayed to the Lord at that time to let me live, because this area was the center of gang activity, like the Blackstone Rangers, the Devil’s Disciples, and it was a bloodbath among blacks at that time, very similar to what is happening to Hispanics in Humboldt Park. This was Blackstone territory and I had five boys, little fellows, and I wanted to live to see them grow up so I prayed and made vows to the Lord to serve him and serve my fellow man if he would let me live to raise the children.

“I had faith to believe so as I went

into surgery at Michael Reese Hospital I remember taking with me the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm. The part, ‘Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil.’ That was in my mind. I don’t remember anything until I came into the recovery room, and intensive care, I could finish that Psalm. I remember thanking the Lord. I had radiation for 30 days following the surgery because of the removal of tumors. This was prescribed and I remember that it would almost take my consciousness. It makes you kind of ill when you have a lot of x-ray beamed right on the brain. They cut off the legs of this chair in the therapy unit so that I was seated almost on the floor while they beamed this x-ray into my head and I remember thinking, Lord, I will serve you. I will go and serve you. Please, Lord, let me keep my right mind. Give me the activity of my limbs, let my tongue praise you. And when I got up from there, I had this purpose in my mind, who is my fellow man?”

### About Black History Month

“The one thing that I would like to see happen out of this is for Black history to become part of American history. I don’t like it when there is Black History Month in February. ‘Okay let’s talk about the niggers this month.’ Now the rest of the time, say nothing and this is the attitude, in many of our situations. Work it



Beverly Jane Phillips

into regular history, you know, all of a sudden during the Civil Rights Movement we were told, oh we were to have Black History, so then they would give a quickie course to a white teacher, you know, and then this white teacher supposed to go back and teach Black History. A quickie course, you know? You can’t do it that way.”

There is so much more in the book about Hatty and the history of purposeful suppression of Black people. If you would like to read more, contact Bev at (480) 260-0639 and she will gladly provide you a copy. Her book is also available through [Changing Hands Bookstore in Tempe](#) or on [Amazon](#). ■

# A Lament for the People of Israel and Palestine

By REV. BEVERLY PHILLIPS

Written October 2023

*Oh, God of Love and Mercy and Justice,  
You must be crying!*

*Your beloved children,*

*Palestinians and Israelis,*

*Are killing each other.*

*Continuing to kill and brutalize each other.*

*It isn't anything new but it is so brutal.*

*What a word "brutal"*

*Synonym for brutal may be savage.*

*Why? Why? Why?*

*Oh, God of Love and Mercy and Justice,*

*You must be crying!*





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## Honor your family, friends, and those dear to you

By **NANCY MARTIN and  
ROANN MONSON**  
*Board of Deacons*

The Board of Deacons is happy to help you honor people close to your heart this time of the year. You may want to lift up a family member or friend whose memory is special to you at Christmas, for example. Or you may want to honor someone you know by giving them a lovely plant to show you care. This could be a great opportunity to show your gratitude or recognition to those whom you value for their hard work and/or help when you need it.

Think about someone who puts their heart into preparing for worship every week. Remember “it takes a village.”

Aren’t we thankful for so many people on staff or on the Worship Committee, as well as various board members. Remember the folks who lead caring missions... and the list goes on. It is an honor to be blessed with beautiful music, a clean campus, weekly bulletins, and monthly newsletters, keeping all of us aware of important news.

Can you believe it? Christmas is approaching on Dec. 25th! On December 3rd, 10th, and 17th, the Board of Deacons will have a table on the patio after worship to accept your donation of \$12.00 for a poinsettia plant in honor of or in memory of loved ones and/or someone “special” to you. Your plant will be placed in the sanctuary for the Christmas Eve service on Dec. 24th at 6:00 p.m.

You may pick up your plant after the Christmas Eve service, or, if you would like to donate it to a home-bound church member, please indicate that when you sign up.

You can give cash or a check (payable to “UPC Deacons” with “Poinsettia” in the memo line) when you sign up, drop off or mail your donation to the church office. You can also give online by clicking the “Donate” button in the upper right at [upctempe.org](http://upctempe.org)—contact Nancy Martin at (480) 241-9296 to let her know if you pay other than on Sunday morning.

The Deacons are grateful for your support and we pray that you have a blessed Christmas holiday. ■



**We are a Matthew 25 church**  
Building Congregational Vitality • Dismantling Racism • Eradicating Poverty

Learn more at:  
**[pcusa.org/matthew25](http://pcusa.org/matthew25)**

# Get Free Craft Supplies from the Christian Education Office

By JAN FELTON

For those who love to make art and work on craft projects, you know all too well that supplies can get very expensive.

Craft, stationery, fabric and hobby shops may be the place to easily find supplies, but this giveaway is definitely the most inexpensive place!

The Christian Education office and

storage room is sorted and reorganized. CE would like to share our abundance with all UPC ministries. Before you buy office or craft supplies, check this room first. Scissors, paper punches, staplers, rulers, poster board, origami paper, crepe paper, tissue paper, colored cardstock, scrapbook pages, scotch tape, duct tape, masking tape, brads, paper clips, staples, crayons, markers, colored pencils, and

sharpies. Watercolors, acrylic craft paint, tempera paint, spray paint and all kinds and sizes of paint brushes. Starch, stickers, stencils, bling and beads, feathers, stamp pads and stamps. Wood crafts, craft sticks, craft foam, bulletin board paper, boarders and letters. Storage file boxes, standing notification holders, etc. etc. Take what you need. Indulge in our abundance. ■



Image from iStock.com / RomoloTavini.

## Landscaping & Xeriscaping Update

By HELEN GRIFFIN

*Landscaping Trustee*

Let's first get to the landscaping—something we can all value and preserve. Unfortunately, the uncommonly hot, dry, and then windy summer damaged some trees. We lost two to the heat, one tree was downed by the wind and another had many broken limbs which we severely pruned. Fortunately, we have come upon an arborist who does great work at a very fair price.

With our greatly improved weather, the plants are rebounding. There is much to be pruned, lopped, chopped, ground, and generally tidied up. To this point, there is a very extensive list of landscaping tasks to be addressed during our fall work season, which begins Nov. 4th. When the list is posted online, be sure to choose one or one dozen tasks that sound fun. Nothing like landscaping for God!

Now on to xeriscaping—a process that is taking so much time because we are trying to do it right. Our landscape designer, PJ, has been in regular contact with me. Her draftsman was greatly delayed because not all the information from the city was online. He physically went to the records department and now has everything he needs, especially the water retention requirements. So, this plan, following our final feedback to PJ, will very soon go to the city for their approval. I will be talking with the city's senior planner to ask some questions about order of operations as well as the timeline the city's approval process is likely to take.

My ardent hope is that PJ will have a final plan in place very soon. Most importantly, I want as many people from the congregation to see it, understand it, and give feedback and suggestions. Any changes coming from this meeting will

be adjusted in the final plan that will be submitted. It is likely that I will hear one day that PJ has the plan done. We will announce a congregation-wide meeting in the *Weekly Update* email, the Sunday morning bulletin, and an announcement during worship. Hopefully, many can come on short notice. We are making progress! ■

**MARK YOUR  
CALENDARS:  
Congregational  
Workday  
Sat., Nov. 4, 2023  
9:00 am**



# A Blast Was Had at the 9th Annual UPC Fall Festival

## Lots of good food, laughs, and prizes!

By LAWN GRIFFITHS

The 9<sup>th</sup> annual UPC Fall Festival, Talent Show and Wacky Wild Elephant Giveaway on Sunday night, October 22, once again was a full night like no other congregation puts together. About 65 attended.

Congregational Involvement and Outreach Committee again staged the autumn event that sent families home on full stomachs from a Mexican meal, plus memories from the variety of on-stage, grass-roots entertainment and taking home free pass-it-on merchandise from members' home.

Five long tables of quality items were donated. Attendees were given 30 tickets

on which they put their names, then walked past the tables, dropping as many of their tickets as they wished into cups beside their preferred items. More premium items elicited more tickets. The tables were cleared as Faye and Larry Gardner called out names and turned over the merchandise from puzzles to jewelry to books to Halloween decorations to wall-hangings to paintings to a stunning locomotive and a "Nixon's the One" T-shirt.

The crowd in Fellowship Hall heard from 12 acts featuring 17 entertainers, including eight young people.

Instrumentalists included Ramtin Nejad, playing a dulcimer; pianist Jon Sywassink playing Gershwin's "Rhapsody in Blue"; Farshid Moradi in a

violin solo; Jey Young doing several pieces on trumpet. Suzanne Niemann was back with a standup skit titled "Another Brain Dump." Shelly Moe did a "Two Prayers" liturgical dance; and Josie and Corrine Silcox performed an artful, original dance skit. Three girls, Maieka, Pameyan and Weezha Mushtari sang school songs they learned while living in Japan. Margaret Branson shared some poignant childhood memories. Paul Green did an original reading on "What is Happening to my Church?", while Ken Moe told about the major music introduce in 1923. The trio Ted, Ella and Theo Gibson sang camp songs.

Thank you to all who contributed in some way to this fun annual event. ■





# September 2023 Session Updates



By **BRIGITTA KUIPER**  
*Clerk of Session*

The September Session meeting was held on Sep. 26, 2023, via Zoom, as Pastor Eric was feeling ill. The meeting began with prayer. Highlights from the meeting include:

- Approved a request from the Board of Trustees to replace the HVAC unit for Room 9, at a cost not to exceed \$7,000.
- Approved a request from the Board of Trustees to hire a tree removal company to prune trees and remove dead

trees on campus.

- Received the monthly finance summary for August: year-to-date revenues exceed expenses. Finance policies were discussed for UPC financial and investment accounts.
- Received a Stewardship Committee update: As of Consecration Sunday, 60 pledges have been received. The Committee will follow up with individuals who have not yet submitted a pledge.
- Discussed the Mission, Social Justice and Peacemaking (MSJP) Committee's plan to house our new guests, Andalib

Mushtari and his family, and their request for asylum in the U.S. MSJP also presented a plan and policy for future refugee housing at UPC.

Any questions? Please feel free to contact Pastor Eric or a member of Session. ■

## 2023 Session Members

RE Paul Green, *Administration Ctte/  
Nominating Ctte/*

RE Joan Grey, *Worship Ctte*

RE Lawn Griffiths, *Congregational  
Involvement and Outreach Ctte*

RE Vicki Jacobs, *Christian Education  
Ctte*

RE Catherine May, *Mission, Social  
Justice and Peacemaking Ctte*

RE Katie Ranes, *Stewardship Ctte*

RE Alan Sweeney, *Administration Ctte/  
Personnel Ctte*

RE Sara Trower, *Worship Ctte*

RE Molly Winkler, *Finance Ctte*

TE Eric Ledermann, *Moderator*

# MORE THAN JUST COFFEE

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For sale Sundays  
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\$10 per 1 lb. bag

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# A Saturday for PW Mission Work



By SUE SCHNEBEL

On Saturday, Oct. 7th, members of the UPC PW attended the Annual Fall Gathering of the Presbytery of Grand Canyon PW at First Presbyterian Church in Mesa, themed "Mission Possible."

After a brief business segment, the almost 90 participants were fortunate to be entertained by the VahKi Presbyterian Church O'odham Choir who shared two popular hymns in their native language.

The keynote speaker, the Rev. Angie Wuysang, shared her perspective on peace during talk entitled, "Inter-religious Dialogue & Peace Building: Outlook from Indonesia."

With the theme of mission work, many PW groups shared their mission projects which enabled everyone to see what is possible!

We are delighted to share that two UPC members were workshop presenters: Holly Herman and Chris Casanova. Holly represented the work done with the "Hands-on Mission Projects" for USAME, specifically hygiene kits for the Welcome Center and Sonoyta Refugee Center. Chris led a discussion group on our new PW bible study, "Shared Encounters."

The afternoon ended with a

worship service with 50% of the offering collected during the service directed to Lutheran Social Services.

This inspirational event reinforced PW's commitment to the mission work we do and fostered fellowship with our PW sisters. ■



Chris Casanova and Holly Herman

## 2023 PW Thank Offering



### It's Time to Give Thanks:

When November comes our minds focus on family, food, and, of course, giving thanks. Presbyterian Women have been heeding the call to give thanks to God and "to do good to one another and to all" (1 Th 5.15) since the early 1700's. Today PW PC(USA) continues the tradition of generosity and care through the **Thank Offering**, which has given close to \$27 million to 1,600 different projects in the U.S. and abroad since 1998. In 2023, PW PC(USA) received twenty-eight **Thank Offering** applications and selected seven projects for funding. Six of the projects serve people in the United

States and one is international. In accordance with bylaws, more than forty percent (40%) of the selected projects are related to health ministries. Here are just a few:

- In Delaware, the Summer Arts Camp may now offer tuition-free access to provide children of households that struggle financially with the opportunity to explore and develop creativity skills, build confidence, and find healing through artistic expression.
- The Gainesville Community Counseling Center, Inc. will use their grant funding to provide mental health support, community education, and camping to address the challenges facing LGBTQIA+ youth who have little or no access to these services.
- In Florida, a housing alliance will provide safe and affordable housing for agricultural workers and other families who have suffered from Hurricane Irma.

- Internationally, a health center in Zambia will provide maternal services including prenatal, delivery, and postnatal care as well as primary care for children with life threatening illnesses to reduce the high rate of mortality and morbidity in women and children.

By giving to the **Thank Offering**, you can help promote and celebrate the projects chosen this year. Last year, the congregation generously contributed \$1,000 to the **Thank Offering**. We look forward to your continued support and thank you in advance.

On Nov. 12th during worship, Suzanne Niemann, our PW UPC Mission Coordinator, will provide specifics on contributing to this special offering. You may also give online at [www.upctempe.org/donate](http://www.upctempe.org/donate), choose "Presbyterian Women" from the list of funds, and include "Thank Offering" in the memo. ■

# World Market is Back!

## Sunday, Nov. 19



Image from Wikimedia Commons / PHOTO: kallerna, wheat field in Vampula, Finland (Creative Commons License)

### **The WHEAT World Market is returning to UPC! Hurray!**

A full array of the items you love will be on display, plus new products.

Nativities from Peru, greeting cards from Vietnam, baskets galore, free trade chocolate, Christmas ornaments, scarves, jewelry, toys, and more cool hand-made items from around the globe.

### *Why shop at the World Market?*

You are giving a gift that gives twice | All gift items are FAIR TRADE | Craftspeople are paid a fair price for their products

A way out of poverty for families | Because that's what we do at UPC.

*Your purchase helps the people who make these wonder gifts to afford health care, school for their children.*

Add a bag from *Just Coffee* or a bottle of **free-trade** Palestinian olive oil to someone's Christmas stocking.

**Join us on the patio on Nov. 19th, 8:30 to 11:00 a.m.**

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## **Deacon Honorary Plant Program**

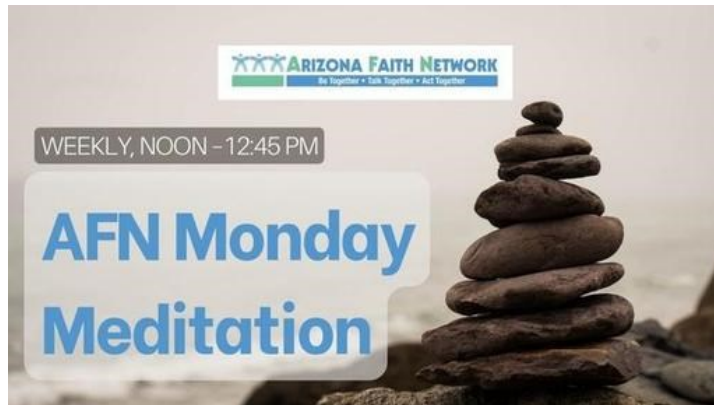
Would you like a flower or plant displayed during worship to recognize a special person, a wedding anniversary, someone who passed away, or a special occasion?

Contact Deacon Jey Young at [JeyYoung@cox.net](mailto:JeyYoung@cox.net), and let him know who you would like to honor or memorialize. Be sure to include:

- the Sunday you prefer for your recognition;
- whether you want to keep the flower or plant, or have it given away; and
- send a check for \$15 paid to the UPC Deacons with "honorary plant fund" in the memo line. You can also pay online at [www.upctempe.org/donate](http://www.upctempe.org/donate) (let Jay know if you plan to pay online)—choose "Deacon Honorary Plants" from the fund options. ■







### Monday Meditation with Vasu Bandhu

Mondays 12:00 pm—12:45 pm, Virtual on Zoom

Start your week with some guided meditation led by Vasu Bandhu, AFN's Interfaith Manager. He serves the Buddhist community as Bhikkhu (monk) in the Dhammapada Sangha (Zen Buddhism), assisting in the practice and teaching of the principles, ceremonies and rituals. RSVP: <https://form-usa.keela.co/monday-meditation>

### Election Protection AZ Interest Form



Every voter who wants to cast their ballot, should be able to do so. That means our community members need to feel safe enough to make their voices heard at the polls, in a state that has historically ignored them. So join the Election Protection AZ team, and play an integral part in holding your community in strength and compassion this voting season. There are multiple ways you can protect the vote and you don't need to have any specific education or be from any particular zip code to work with us. We'll give you all the training and materials you'll need to make a difference! You can become a poll monitor, poll worker, social media monitor, or de-escalator! Once we start trainings for these opportunities for the General Election, our Election Protection Director will reach out to you.

[Sign up here](#)

### INTERFAITH PRAYER VIGIL FOR SECURE, FAIR, AND SAFE DEMOCRACY

Join the people of faith throughout Arizona to pray and call for a peaceful democracy one year before the 2024 election.

Sunday, November 5th at 4 pm

#### Interfaith Prayer Vigil

Sunday, November 5, 2023, 4:00 pm

First Institutional Baptist Church

1141 E Jefferson St, Phoenix or Zoom

Join the people of faith throughout Arizona to pray and call for a peaceful democracy one year before the 2024 election. [RSVP](#) for In-person or Zoom.



### Come pray with us at Oak Flat on Nov. 4th from 8am-4pm!

On November 4, Apache Stronghold will amplify these intercessions into a prayer-rising for the preservation of Oak Flat. Indigenous people will gather at Oak Flat to pray according to their ways. People of other faiths will also gather to encounter the Holy and to confront, through prayer, the forces of destruction brought by Resolution Copper. [Click here](#) to find out more and to RSVP.

Learn more about the Arizona Faith Network by subscribing to the newsletter at:

[www.arizonafaithnetwork.org/subscribe](http://www.arizonafaithnetwork.org/subscribe)

# Dinner for Six to Eight

## Begin Meeting in January 2024



By MARGARET BRANSON

Would you like to get better acquainted with others from UPC? Join the next group of "Dinner for Eight," beginning in January of 2024.

**What is Dinner for Eight?** Dinner for Eight is a great way to meet folks from church that you may not already know. It's also a good way to get to know your church family better. Groups plan their own meals and get together once a month for four consecutive months. You share meals at participants' homes, at local restaurants, the church, or wherever the

host or group decides. The emphasis is on fun and fellowship, so you don't have to be a gourmet cook to participate.

**How does it work?** To participate in this wonderful way of getting to know each other better, visit the signup table in the courtyard after worship the next couple of Sundays, or contact Margaret Branson at [mlherbst90@gmail.com](mailto:mlherbst90@gmail.com) or (224) 406-1507. Dinner groups are encouraged to be creative in the meals they enjoy together.

**Who cooks the meals?** The host is responsible for providing the meal. Consider picking a dinner "theme night" (e.g.

Italian night, backyard barbeque, soup night, etc.). Some groups may also choose to visit local restaurants or other venues.

**I don't have room to host a dinner, or I really can't cook!** The purpose is for you to spend time together getting to know each other and include everyone. Your group may choose to repeat a host home or eat out. We want everyone to feel that they can participate.

**How are the groups formed?** As Dinner for Eight groups are formed, we try to put people together so that each group has, at most, eight adults. Groups may be comprised of all couples, two couples and four singles, one couple and six singles, etc. It all depends on who signs up. The mystery is part of the excitement!

**What happens after our last gathering?** Hopefully, you will have had a rewarding experience and look forward to similar experiences. After the last gathering, you may decide to sign up for another round of Dinner for Eight with a different group, or your group may wish to stay intact and continue as a small group. Through Dinner for Eight, many have built lasting connections with siblings in Christ that they might not have been likely to meet otherwise. ■



Rise & Shine Bread  
Baking things better.

*Thanks to all our UPC bakers!  
Please invite your friends to become a baker  
for the food insecure in our area.*

Contact Andrea White at  
[info@riseshinebread.org](mailto:info@riseshinebread.org) or (480) 580-3021.



# Worship Volunteer Schedule

Below is the schedule of worship volunteers for the next month. If you are listed and have a conflict, you are asked to please find a replacement and then contact Ruling Elder Sada Reed, co-chair of the Worship Committee.

To volunteer or get on one of the rotations, contact Joan Grey! Thank you!

## November 2023

Sanctuary Readiness Team.....Larry Seubert

### Nov 5—31st Sunday in Ordinary Time

Liturgist ..... Shelly Moe  
Children's Moment ..... Shelly Moe  
Worship Tech ..... Sada Reed, Chris Trella

### Nov 12—32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Liturgist ..... Nancy Franz  
Children's Moment ..... Sue Schnebel  
Worship Tech ..... Jim Niemann, Sada Reed

### Nov 19—33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Liturgist ..... Vicki Jacobs  
Children's Moment ..... Suzanne Niemann  
Worship Tech ..... Chris Trella, Bianca Osorio

### Nov 26—Reign of Christ

Liturgist ..... Chris Casanova  
Children's Moment ..... Chris Casanova  
Worship Tech ..... Sada Reed, Jim Niemann

**WANTED:** Those interested in learning about audio and video production and serving as worship techs. Contact Chris Trella at [ctrella1@gmail.com](mailto:ctrella1@gmail.com) or Jim Niemann at [jim.niemann@cox.net](mailto:jim.niemann@cox.net).

## December 2023

Sanctuary Readiness Team.....Larry Seubert

### Dec 3—1st Sunday of Advent

Liturgist ..... VACANT  
Children's Moment ..... VACANT  
Worship Tech ..... Sada Reed, Chris Trella

### Dec 10—2nd Sunday of Advent

Liturgist ..... VACANT  
Children's Moment ..... VACANT  
Worship Tech ..... Jim Niemann, Sada Reed

### Dec 17—3rd Sunday of Advent

Liturgist ..... VACANT  
Children's Moment ..... VACANT  
Worship Tech ..... Chris Trella, Bianca Osorio

### Dec 24—4th Sunday of Advent

Liturgist ..... VACANT  
Children's Moment ..... VACANT  
Worship Tech ..... Sada Reed, Jim Niemann

### Dec 24—Christmas Eve

Liturgist ..... VACANT  
Children's Moment ..... VACANT  
Worship Tech ..... VACANT, Chris Trella

## UPC Book Club — Nov. 17 at 7pm

### *The Book of Two Ways* by Jodi Picoult

Everything changes in a single moment for Dawn Edelstein. She's on a plane when the flight attendant makes an announcement: "Prepare for a crash landing." She braces herself as thoughts flash through her mind. The shocking thing is, the thoughts are not of her husband, but of a man she last saw fifteen years ago: Wyatt Armstrong.

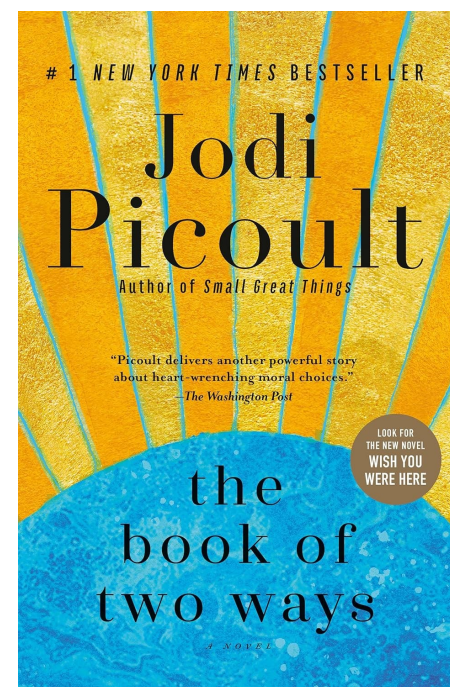
Dawn, miraculously, survives the crash, but so do all the doubts that have suddenly been raised. She has led a good life. Back in Boston, there is her husband, Brian, their beloved daughter, and her work as a death doula, in which she helps ease the transition between life and death for her clients.

Somewhere in Egypt is Wyatt Armstrong, working as an archaeologist unearthing ancient burial sites—a career

Dawn once studied for but was forced to abandon when life suddenly intervened.

After the crash landing, the airline ensures that the survivors are seen by a doctor and then offers transportation to wherever they want to go. The obvious destination is home. But she could take another path: return to the archaeological site she left years before, reconnect with Wyatt and their unresolved history, and maybe even complete her research on *The Book of Two Ways*—the first known map of the afterlife.

Dawn's two possible futures unspool side by side, as do the secrets and doubts long buried with them. She must confront the questions she's never truly asked: What does a life well lived look like? When we leave this earth, what do we leave behind? Do we make choices or do our choices make us? ■





- |                  |                          |
|------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 Holly Silcox   | 15 Lori Saager           |
| 6 Jean Luce      | 16 Sam Ledermann         |
| 7 Andrea White   | 19 Pastor Eric Ledermann |
| 8 Elaine Hayes   | 21 Jon Winkler           |
| 10 Pat Gallagher | 22 Becky Bannister       |
| 12 Jo Lewis      | Jim Phillips             |
| Kara Asher       | 23 Braden Kemp           |
| 13 Nan Beams     | Roann Monson             |
| Catherine May    | 29 Molly Winkler         |
| 14 Jim Hershauer | Courtney Kemp            |
| Allison Youngs   |                          |

*If you see a birthday is missing or we have the wrong date, please let the office know as soon as possible.*

## Stay Informed on All-Things-Presby!

### PC(USA) News

Available in a daily or weekly digest format. [www.pcusa.org/newsupdates](http://www.pcusa.org/newsupdates)

### Presbytery of Grand Canyon Weekly E-focus Newsletter

News and views from our presbytery. [pbygrandcanyon.org/subscribe-to-efocus](http://pbygrandcanyon.org/subscribe-to-efocus).

### PC(USA) Office of Public Witness

Housed across the street from the U.S. Supreme Court in what is referred to as "the God Box," the OPW is the PC (USA)'s advocacy and information center in Washington, D.C. Sign up for OPW Alerts and be an advocate! [www.votervoice.net/pcusa/home](http://www.votervoice.net/pcusa/home). Learn

more about the OPW at:

[www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/compassion-peace-justice/washington](http://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/compassion-peace-justice/washington).

### Presbyterian Historical Society

Organized in 1852, the PHS is the oldest denominational archives in the U.S. and serves as the national archives for the PC (USA) and its predecessor denominations. PHS exists to collect, preserve, and share the story of the American Presbyterian and Reformed experience. [www.history.pcusa.org](http://www.history.pcusa.org).

### The Presbyterian Outlook

An independent magazine covering all things Presbyterian — \$19.95/year, 18 issues ([pres-outlook.org](http://pres-outlook.org)).

### Presbyterians Today

Award-winning denominational magazine published by the PC(USA). Also available in a free twice monthly e-newsletter. Get a free 1 year subscription!

[www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/today](http://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/today)



## Monthly prayer guide...

- ✱ All of creation, and for the strength of our leaders to stand up for environmental conservation.
- ✱ Those affected by natural disasters around the world.
- ✱ Communities bearing the weight of poverty, prejudice, and violence in their streets and neighborhoods.
- ✱ Those struggling with mental and physical illness.
- ✱ Migrants, especially those separated from families and those dying in the desert in a desperate search for a better way of life.
- ✱ LGBTQIA+ persons who continue to

- suffer from prejudice, marginalization, and discrimination.
- ✱ Elected & community leaders, that they can bring peace to our nation and world.
- ✱ The people of Ukraine.
- ✱ The people of Israel and Palestine, that peace make break out instead of war, that hostilities may end and understanding begin, that people and leaders may see one another as fellow creations of God rather than enemies.
- ✱ Religious leaders of all kinds, that they may have the courage to preach and teach love, compassion, and restorative

justice.

- ✱ UPC Officers: elders, deacons, trustees (see a full list at [www.upctempe.org/leadership](http://www.upctempe.org/leadership)).

*Prayer requests may be sent to your neighborhood deacon or Pastor Eric at [pastoreric@upctempe.org](mailto:pastoreric@upctempe.org).*

*If you have a prayer request you would like shared during Sunday worship, text it to (480) 256-8216 on Sunday morning.*



# UPC Calendar

Submit corrections, additions, or deletions to the church office at  
(480) 966-6267 or [upc@upctempe.org](mailto:upc@upctempe.org).

Check online for updates or to subscribe on your computer or device:

[www.upctempe.org/calendar](http://www.upctempe.org/calendar)

## November 2023

### Wed, Nov 1

9:00 am Lectio Divina Bible Study (ZU)  
10:15 am Office Calendaring Mtg (CR)  
3:45 pm Worship Planning Team (ZU)

### Thu, Nov 2

8:00 am TOPS (MR, COR)  
7:00 pm CE Committee (ZU)

### Fri, Nov 3

3:00 pm I-HELP (FH, K)  
8:30 pm AA Meeting (Rm 7)

### Sat, Nov 4

7:00 am I-HELP Departs  
9:00 am Congregational Workday

### Sun, Nov 5

*All Saints Day Observed*

*Family Promise (MR, K, L, Rm 2-3)*

9:30 am Worship Service (S, ZU, YouTube)  
11:00 am Children's Bible Time (Rm 3)  
11:00 am Youth Fellowship (Rm 9)  
11:00 am Adult Christian Education (Z)  
11:00 am Membership Inquiry (CR)  
4:00 pm TIF Interfaith Prayer Vigil (1st International Baptist Church)

### Mon, Nov 6

*Family Promise (MR, K, L, Rm 2-3)*

4:30 pm ACE Team (ZP)  
7:00 pm Administration Committee (ZU)  
8:30 pm AA Meeting (Rm 7)

### Tue, Nov 7

*Family Promise (MR, K, L, Rm 2-3)*

### Wed, Nov 8

*Family Promise (MR, K, L, Rm 2-3)*

9:00 am Lectio Divina Bible Study (ZU)  
3:45 pm Worship Planning Team (ZU)  
5:15 pm Wednesday Night Dinner (FH)  
6:00 pm Bell Choir Practice (S)  
7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal (S)

### Thu, Nov 9

*Family Promise (MR, K, L, Rm 2-3)*

8:00 am TOPS (MR, COR)  
7:00 pm MSJP Committee (Z)

### Fri, Nov 10

*Family Promise (MR, K, L, Rm 2-3)*

12:30 pm Vow Renewal—Rental (S)  
3:00 pm I-HELP (FH, K)  
8:30 pm AA Meeting (Rm 7)

### Sat, Nov 11

*Family Promise (MR, K, L, Rm 2-3)*

7:00 am I-HELP Departs  
10:30 am Interment: Evelyn Gilmartin (Memorial Garden)  
11:00 am Memorial: Evelyn Gilmartin (Reception to follow S, FH, K)

### Sun, Nov 12

*Family Promise Departs (MR, K, L, Rm 2-3)*

9:30 am Worship Service (S, ZU, YouTube)  
11:00 am Children's Bible Time (Rm 3)  
11:00 am Youth Fellowship (Rm 9)  
11:00 am Adult Christian Education (Z)

### Mon, Nov 13

8:30 pm AA Meeting (Rm 7)

### Tue, Nov 14

7:00 pm Finance Committee (ZU)  
7:00 pm Worship Committee (ZP)

### Wed, Nov 15

9:00 am Lectio Divina Bible Study (ZU)  
12:30 pm Chinle Circle (MR)  
3:45 pm Worship Planning Team (ZU)  
5:15 pm Wednesday Night Dinner (FH)  
6:00 pm Bell Choir Practice (S)  
7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal (S)

### Thu, Nov 16

8:00 am TOPS (MR, COR)  
11:00 am Tempe Interfaith Fellowship (Z)  
7:00 pm Board of Trustees (ZU)

### Fri, Nov 17

3:00 pm I-HELP (FH, K)  
7:00 pm Friday Night Book Club (Z)  
8:30 pm AA Meeting (Rm 7)

### Sat, Nov 18

7:00 am I-HELP Departs  
8:30 am Officer Training (FH)

### Sun, Nov 19

9:30 am Worship Service (S, ZU, YouTube)  
10:30 am Congregational Meeting (S)  
10:45 am Christmas Global Market

(Patio)

### Mon, Nov 20

5:15 pm Wednesday Night Dinner (FH)  
6:00 pm Bell Choir Practice (S)  
7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal (S)  
7:00 pm Board of Deacons (ZU)  
8:30 pm AA Meeting (Rm 7)

### Tue, Nov 21

6:00 pm Interfaith Thanksgiving Choir Practice (St. Augustine Episcopal Parish, 1735 S. College Ave., Tempe)  
6:30 pm CIO Committee (ZP)  
7:00 pm Tempe Interfaith Fellowship Thanksgiving Service (St. Augustine Episcopal Parish, 1735 S. College Ave., Tempe)

### Wed, Nov 22

9:00 am Lectio Divina Bible Study (ZU)  
3:45 pm Worship Planning Team (ZU)

### Thu, Nov 23

*Office Closed—Staff Holiday*

8:00 am TOPS (MR, COR)  
1:00 pm PW Online Bible Study (Z)

### Fri, Nov 24

*Office Closed—Staff Holiday*

3:00 pm I-HELP (FH, K)  
8:30 pm AA Meeting (Rm 7)

### Sun, Nov 26

9:30 am Worship Service (S, ZU, YouTube)  
11:00 am Children's Bible Time (Rm 3)  
11:00 am Youth Fellowship (Rm 9)  
11:00 am Adult Christian Education (Z)

### Mon, Nov 27

6:30 pm PW Kayenta Circle (MR)  
8:30 pm AA Meeting (Rm 7)

### Tue, Nov 28

7:00 pm Stated Session (S, ZU)

### Wed, Nov 29

9:00 am Lectio Divina Bible Study (ZU)  
3:45 pm Worship Planning Team (ZU)  
5:15 pm Wednesday Night Dinner (FH)  
6:00 pm Bell Choir Practice (S)  
7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal (S)

See CALENDAR on page 16

#### Location/Room References:

(CH)-Choir Room (CR)-Conference Room/Office (COR/Rm7)-Community Room (FH)-Fellowship Hall (HSR)-High School Room (MSR)-Middle School Room (K)-Fellowship Hall Kitchen (L)-Lounge (MG)-Memorial Garden (MR)-Meeting Room (N)-Nursery (PO)-Pastor's Office (Rm#)-Room Number Indicated (S)-Sanctuary (Z)-On Zoom

# UPC NEWS & *Current Events*

University Presbyterian Church  
139 E Alameda Drive  
Tempe, AZ 85282

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UPC NEWS & *Current Events* (USPS 652-720) - November 2023

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POSTMASTER: Send change of address to *UPC NEWS & Current Events*, University Presbyterian Church, 139 E Alameda Dr, Tempe AZ 85282.

## CALENDAR

Continued from page 15

### Thu, Nov 30

8:00 am TOPS (MR, COR)

## December 2023

### Fri, Dec 1

3:00 pm I-HELP (FH, K)  
8:30 pm AA Meeting (Rm 7)

### Sat, Dec 2

9:00 am Baseball Card Show (FH)

### Sun, Dec 3

9:30 am Worship Service (S, ZU,  
YouTube)  
11:00 am Children's Bible Time (Rm 3)  
11:00 am Youth Fellowship (Rm 9)  
11:00 am Adult Christian Education (Z)  
6:30 pm Choir Christmas Dessert (FH)

### Mon, Dec 4

4:30 pm ACE Team (ZP)  
7:00 pm Administration Committee (ZU)  
8:30 pm AA Meeting (Rm 7)

### Tue, Dec 5

7:00 pm PW Christmas Tea (FH)

### Wed, Dec 6

9:00 am Lectio Divina Bible Study (ZU)  
10:15 am Office Calendaring Meeting  
(CR)  
3:45 pm Worship Planning Team (ZU)  
5:15 pm Wednesday Night Dinner (FH)  
6:00 pm Bell Choir Practice (S)  
7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal (S)

### Thu, Dec 7

8:00 am TOPS (MR, COR)  
7:00 pm CE Committee (ZU)

### Fri, Dec 8

3:00 pm I-HELP (FH, K)  
8:30 pm AA Meeting (Rm 7)

### Sun, Dec 10

9:30 am Worship Service (S, ZU,  
YouTube)  
11:00 am Children's Bible Time (Rm 3)  
11:00 am Youth Fellowship (Rm 9)  
11:00 am Adult Christian Education (Z)

### Mon, Dec 11

8:30 pm AA Meeting (Rm 7)

### Tue, Dec 12

7:00 pm Finance Committee (ZU)  
7:00 pm Worship Committee (ZP)

### Wed, Dec 13

9:00 am Lectio Divina Bible Study (ZU)  
3:45 pm Worship Planning Team (ZU)  
5:15 pm Wednesday Night Dinner (FH)  
6:00 pm Bell Choir Practice (S)  
7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal (S)

### Thu, Dec 14

8:00 am TOPS (MR, COR)  
7:00 pm MSJP Committee (Z)

### Fri, Dec 15

3:00 pm I-HELP (FH, K)  
7:00 pm Friday Night Book Club (Z)  
8:30 pm AA Meeting (Rm 7)

### Sat, Dec 16

3:00 pm Peruvian Group (FH)

### Sun, Dec 17

*PC(USA) Christmas Joy Offering*

9:30 am Worship Service (S, ZU,  
YouTube)  
11:00 am Children's Bible Time (Rm 3)  
11:00 am Youth Fellowship (Rm 9)  
11:00 am Adult Christian Education (Z)