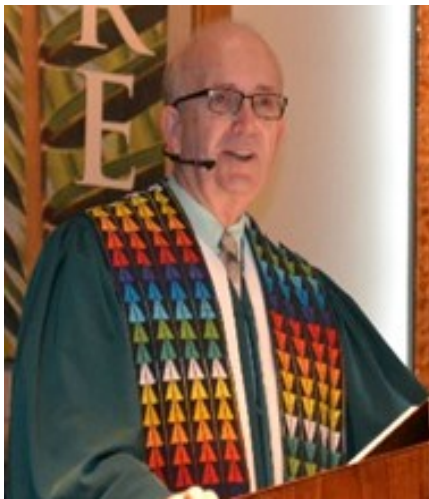




# Those Wilderness Times



**From Pastor Len...**  
*Interim Pastor*

“Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness...” —*Matthew 4:1*

Barely have we put away the Christmas decorations, and already we are hurtling toward the season of Lent. For forty days and nights (not including Sundays) we reflect on the time Jesus spent in the wilderness... without food, we are told!... wrestling with his identity, calling, and temptations to choose easier paths.

‘Wilderness’ is an evocative word. In this case, the Judean wilderness (like the Sonoran one) can be a harsh place to survive, never mind thrive. As usual, this account has several levels of understanding—the literal one for Jesus and a more symbolic one for us.

We may find ourselves pushed into wilderness times all of a sudden. If you are a person who likes things sure, secure and all-in-its-place, then these times will challenge you deeply. Whether we are driven into the wilderness by health, loss of a loved one (death or relationship), changes in capacity that tag along with aging, or social upheaval and injustice, we can become spiritually/emotionally

malnourished by things/people/ideas that once fed our souls.

Communities, like churches, also experience the wilderness. Interim time is wilderness time in many ways, especially if its arrival is unexpected. Just try to imagine the kind of wilderness in which our immigrant and unhoused neighbors find themselves.

Wilderness times, personal and communal, teem with dynamics; some are helpful, some aren’t. Seizing the opportunity for creative change is helpful; yielding to temptations for quick and easy-seeming solutions is not. Some yearning for when things were bigger/better/easier is normal. Anxiety may push us to try and exert unhealthy control.

There is God-infused hope on the other side of the wilderness! In Matthew’s account of Jesus’ wilderness time, once he had hungered long, struggling with easy answers to complex situations, “angels came and waited on him.” (*Matt. 4:11*) New realities, once accepted, offer unexpected opportunities to serve and make a difference.

The old hymn says ‘You must walk your lonesome valley; you must walk it by yourself.’ Yes, there is part of the wilderness time that cannot be shared... but not much. My advice is always to reach out, talk, seek community; it is certain that others around you are or have been there as well; their grace and presence may be exactly how angels work in real time.

Welcome to Lent. I am honored to share this time with UPC. We can’t yet imagine what awaits us when this wilderness time is finished! Onward>>> ■

*Len Silvester*

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

**the word...**

## Opportunity

In the biblical context, "opportunity" refers to a favorable moment or occasion that presents itself for a particular purpose or action. It is often seen as a divinely orchestrated moment where individuals are called to act in accordance with God's will. The Bible encourages believers to recognize and seize these moments for the advancement of God's kingdom and personal spiritual growth.

It's more than just a random event; it's a specific window of time or situation that aligns with your needs and desires, requiring you to recognize and act upon it to turn potential into reality.

# Love Is...

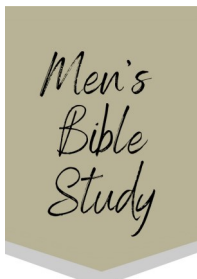
By HELEN ALDERSON



Love is sobbing with a child, broken hearted, upon being torn from parents.  
 Love is finding solace and peace after grief.  
 Love is “I love you, Mom”, or “I love you Grandma.”  
 Love is encouraging words and hugs from a good friend.  
 Love is romantic love leading to marriage.  
 Love is patching up a broken relationship.  
 Love is a beautiful flower, or a hummingbird.  
 Love is merriment and joy.  
 Love is sharing with the poor and oppressed.  
 Love is belonging to a family.  
 Love is from God. ■

*In loving memory, of Helen Alderson who passed away just shy of her 102nd birthday, on January 27, 2026*

## Men’s Breakfast, Fellowship, and Bible Study



By LARRY GARDNER

Please join us...as always, breakfast will be delicious because there’s coffee. We will be continuing the PW Bible Study: *Let Justice Roll Down*. All men are welcome. ■

**Saturday, February 14, 2026**  
**8:00 am—Meeting Room**

## Tempe Community Action Agency



Breakfast items  
 Travel snacks  
 Canned goods

Please drop off your donations in the Sanctuary Narthex.

Financial contributions may be sent to the office. Make checks out to “TCAA” and reference “Food Pantry”



139 E. Alameda Dr.  
 Tempe, Arizona 85282  
 (480) 966-6267  
[www.upctempe.org](http://www.upctempe.org)  
[www.facebook.com/upctempe](https://www.facebook.com/upctempe)

### Office Hours

Tue-Fri: 8:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.  
 (Virtual on Fridays)

### Ministry Staff

**Reverend Len Silvester**  
*Interim Pastor*  
[pastorlen@upctempe.org](mailto:pastorlen@upctempe.org)

### Jim Hershauer

*Clerk of Session*  
[james.hershauer@asu.edu](mailto:james.hershauer@asu.edu)

### Lori Saager

*Administrative Assistant*  
[upc@upctempe.org](mailto:upc@upctempe.org)

### Ted Gibson

*Director of Music & Christian Education*  
[tedgibson@upctempe.org](mailto:tedgibson@upctempe.org)

### Jon Sywassink

*Organist/Accompanist*  
[jonsywassink@upctempe.org](mailto:jonsywassink@upctempe.org)

### Carrie Miter

*Custodian*  
[carriemiter@upctempe.org](mailto:carriemiter@upctempe.org)

### Andrea White

*Treasurer*  
[treasurer@upctempe.org](mailto:treasurer@upctempe.org)

### Sharlan Pierce

**Jeanette Miller**  
*Attendance Secretaries*  
[attendance@upctempe.org](mailto:attendance@upctempe.org)

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](mailto:newsletter@upctempe.org)

# SRP Elections—April 7, 2026

SRP is the nonprofit provider of water and power to more than 2 million people in the Valley. It is regulated by the Salt River Valley Water Users' Association and the Salt River Project Agricultural Improvement and Power District. Each has a board and council. The boards work with SRP management on business affairs including setting utility rates and approving new investments.

SRP's board election process is complicated with only land-owning customers in certain "votable" districts eligible to vote. If you live in an area that is eligible to vote – **we need your voice!**

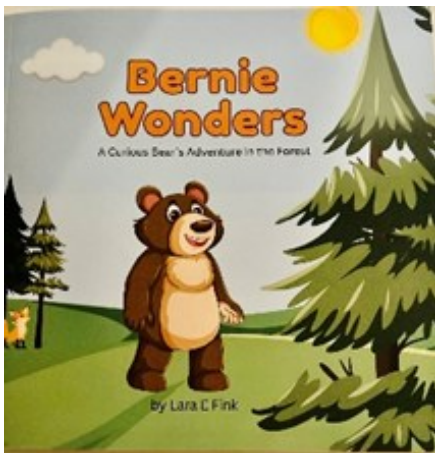
SRP will not automatically send eligible voters a ballot.

To request a ballot  
& find out your eligibility  
Call (602) 236-3048

This election is important as we need to support candidates who push for sustainable energy policies and will support a more democratic election process. Look for more information from Kathy Wagner and Marge Cawley who will have literature and petitions on the patio in February. ■

# A Very Special Visitor

By SUE SCHNEBEL



Lara C. Fink, Author

Our Children's Moment on January 4<sup>th</sup> was extra special as the children and congregation got to meet an author and UPC alum, Lara Fink. Miss Lara told the children how she attended UPC as a child and learned so much about faith. After sharing her book, *God is Like Ice Cream*, the children had the opportunity to meet with her during Fellowship Time and received an autographed book and, of course, ice cream with sprinkles!

We were delighted to learn that she has a new book, *Bernie Wonders*, a story that can spark discussion about our wonder-full world which will be in the Children's Corner. If you wish to purchase any of her books, they are available on Amazon. ■

## MORE THAN JUST COFFEE

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MEXICO

For sale Sundays after  
worship \$11 per 1 lb bag.

# Investing in the Future of Our Campus

The campus has become an increasingly vital part of our ministry, with more groups—and larger groups—making regular use of the facilities. At the same time, concerns about the condition of the campus, both its present state and its long-term sustainability, have surfaced repeatedly in Session meetings, “Lunch with Len” conversations, administrative discussions, and informal gatherings.

As the campus continues to age and demand on the facilities grows, this is an opportune moment to bring these conversations together into a cohesive, strategic plan. Such a plan will help us address immediate maintenance needs while also preparing responsibly for the future.

**To that end, at the December meeting, Session voted unanimously to establish a Campus Condition Task Force charged with:**

- Reviewing the current state of the campus.
- Identifying and prioritizing improvements needed for sustainability, safety, and usability.
- Providing recommendations with associated costs and priorities for Session’s consideration.

**Scope of Review:** The task force will examine the campus comprehensively, considering:

- Capital improvements: structural and cosmetic upgrades.
- Materials and maintainability: upgrading finishes and fixtures to reduce long-term maintenance.
- Facility right-sizing: reviewing classrooms now used for housing and adjusting (e.g., adult toilet seats).
- Governance processes: evaluating Trustee procedures related to campus

upkeep.

- Operations and outsourcing: considering scheduled cleaning services or other contracted support.

**Deliverables:**

A report to Session with recommendations for improvements, which may include capital projects, process changes, and outsourcing options.

Where appropriate, recommendations should include high-level cost estimates and priority rankings to guide decision-making.

Next steps: we are looking for volunteers to form a small, core group to gather info from various committee leaders (Trustees, Worship, MSJP, etc.) and put together the noted deliverables. If you would like additional info and/or are interested in being part of this group, please reach out to Dan Maloney ([dmaloney1717@gmail.com](mailto:dmaloney1717@gmail.com)). ■

POST CARD

THIS SPACE FOR WRITING MESSAGES.

Greetings from the PNC.

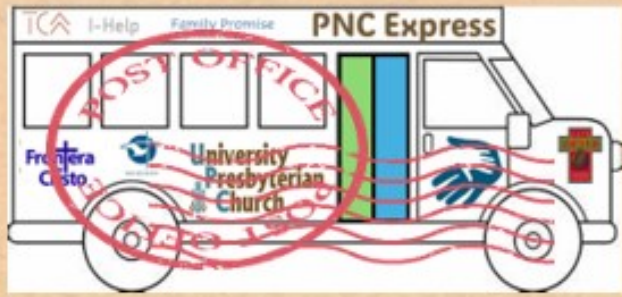
Things are moving right along. We have reviewed information from many candidates.

We are in the process of getting to know folks through mailed questions and Zoom.

The month is booked as we continue to search for the person God will reveal through discernment and prayer.

Keep praying for us.

Faithfully, Your PNC



THIS SPACE FOR ADDRESS ONLY.

UPC Friends and Family

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139 E Alameda

---

Tempe, AZ 85282

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Attn: Anyone Interested

---

# Senior Service Award 2025

By LAWN GRIFFITHS



Helen Griffin

The congregation of University Presbyterian Church is consistently witness to the deft and earnest works of Helen Griffin.

From the friendly, instructive words delivered on the chancel stairs in the Moment with Children on Sunday morning to her clear reading of scripture as worship liturgist to the tireless energy displayed in leading the transformation of the church's campus in the recent xeriscape project, Helen leaves her mark. She engages volunteers to be part of large projects such as creating reusable feminine hygiene kits for females in Haiti and moving us through a total landscape revision. Across years as UPC Christian education teacher, a ruling elder and trustee, Helen Griffin has displayed true voluntarism. Witty, grounded and profoundly skilled, she accomplishes what she sets out to do - - quick to say it took a team to make things happen. Always remember—WE.

The retired mathematics teacher is about to be recognized by the Presbytery of the Grand Canyon as the church's 2026 Older Adult Senior Service Award honoree. Each church is invited to select an individual or couple to be recognized at a luncheon. The 38th annual luncheon will be held at Mission del Sol Presbyterian Church in Tempe. Helen was chosen by UPC Congregational Involvement and

Outreach Committee and confirmed by Session.

Helen joined the church in October 1985. When their then 3-year-old son Grant began asking piercing questions, many about existence and God, "I just didn't know how to answer, so I said, 'We need to go to a church.'" She found UPC through the Yellow Pages. At the start, she said she was a "seat warmer," but when Jane Kantz delivered a strong appeal for church school teachers, Helen stepped forward. She would teach all levels of youth. That service opened up to many other areas of leadership.

Born in Glen Ellyn, Illinois, Helen was one of six children in a family where her father was a finance attorney for the Rock Island Railroad. At the end of his career, he was tasked with navigating the rail line through bankruptcy. "That literally killed him," she said.

From the outset, Helen was a fierce competitor in sports and in the classroom. "I was the first one done, the one getting the highest grades," she said." She was a springboard diver and speed skater. She trained in judo and karate. She jokes that her quest for straight A's was stymied because "we were graded on our handwriting." Ugh.

At age 8, Helen got to go to summer camp in Wisconsin called Phantom Lake. She proceeded from a camper to a junior counselor, full counselor, swimming instructor, waterfront director and program director. She met her husband John at Phantom. The camp was integral to shaping Helen's faith.

After high school, she enrolled in Denison University in Granville, Ohio. She designed her own major, "Social Studies Interpersonal and Intellectual Communications," a broad study of religion, languages, history, economics, political science, anthropology and more. After graduation, she earned teacher certification at ASU. She took those communication skills into the classroom. For five years, Helen taught fifth grade at Holmes Elementary School in Mesa. Af-

ter that, she gave up her own group of 30 students in favor of teaching math at the 7-9<sup>th</sup> grade level. She took advantage of a program of the National Math and Science Foundation to better equip her for teaching high level math. Helen's work teaching middle school math in Mesa led to her delivering professional development classes for other teachers, largely "Visual Math." She was honored by Arizona Curriculum Development for her Algebra Aerobics lessons. After 29 years teaching at three Mesa schools, she retired.

A lifelong member of the YMCA, Helen remembers as an 8-year-old how thrilled she was when a Y was established in her community. "We begged my father, 'We've got to join the Y.'" Soon she was learning to dive, then became a lifeguard and then a swim instructor. When Helen was 49 and taking an aerobics class at the Y, a former teacher of her son told her, "The way you work out, you really need to be rowing."

Helen signed up with the Tempe rowing program. "I was horrible at the beginning, but I stuck with it, even though it was painful." She ended up rowing competitively with Rio Salado Rowing Club, the city of Tempe, and a composite national team. She rowed for 10 years. "I have won gold medals at local, regional, national and international regattas," she said. Then at a racing camp in preparation for nationals, a heart issue became a problem. The coach told her she could not be in a national composite boat any longer because of the risk of her having a health incident while the team was competing. "So one day, I decided that I could not practice with a team knowing that I could not compete. I took a razor scraper removed all the rowing decals off my car windows, with tears rolling down my face."

Yet she continued her workouts on rowing machines. For years, Helen was been part of the Rio Can Do Crew, a Par-

(Continued on page 6)

## SENIOR SERVICE AWARD 2026 (Continued from page 5)

olympics Adaptive Sports rowing program where she helped those with disabilities gain health, fitness and social rewards despite their challenges. She currently coaches rowing groups at the Tempe Y three days a week.

While serving as a UPC trustee, Helen contacted city water staff about getting a free water analysis in wake of high water bills. The inspection showed major underground leakage –thousands of gallons. So began a four-year undertaking to convert the campus into desert xeriscape. New irrigation was installed, pavers created areas for walking and gathering on campus, gravel was spread, desert plants, shrubbery and trees were planted, a pergola was erected and benches were installed. Grants and rebates from the city totaling \$137,000 combined with generous UPC donations and endowment funds covered the costs. Helen enlisted a landscape designer and architect, stood her ground in issues with the city along the way and regularly kept the congregation aware of the process.

For almost a decade, Helen has partnered with PW and led UPC in supporting the Haiti Feminine Hygiene Project. Volunteers took donated fabric to sew hygiene kits that are shipped to Haiti and distributed to girls in the impoverished areas. Helen was compelled to lead this project as “Girls in Haiti have a right to an education, but they start falling out in junior high because they would be missing school because they did not have sanitation items for their monthly periods.” Working with a Haitian pastor and his wife, they have shipped the kits to them amid gangs and chaos. “As an educator, I knew that if someone was missing my class for a whole week every month, they wouldn’t be doing well. So that was my method to keep girls educated and women working.” Hundreds of kits have made their way to Haiti.

Helen lost John, her husband of 48 years, last January. Their son Grant does data analysis for United Health Care and son Drew manages the seafood department for Fry’s, his employer since he was 16.

Grandchildren are a new delight! In

2021, Presbyterian Women named Helen a Lifetime Achievement “Woman of the Year” honoree.

PREVIOUS Senior Service UPC winners: 1983 – Irvin Lawler, J.J. Lamberts; 1985 – Kathleen Fite; 1989 –Marion Nie-meier; John Wilson, Bobbie Overby, George Overby; 1991 – Bill and Betty English; 1992 – Louise Lamberts; 1993 – Frank Armstrong; 1994 – Catherine Rubush; 1995 – Ruth Trimble; 1997 – John Bell; 1998 – Dot Maple; 1999 – Gerry Edson; 2000 – Jim Hillyard; 2001 –Helen Alderson; 2002 – Jeannette Wilson; 2003 – Hans and Trudy Hebert; 2004 – Jim West; 2005 – Ede Yarter; 2006 – Barbara Harden; 2007 – Betty English; 2008 – Don Morton; 2009 – Ruth McHenry; 2010 – Evelyn Colby; 2011 – Jim and Barbara Hillyard; 2013 – Jeanette Miller; 2014 – Betty Dumond; 2015 – Jim and Sara Hershauer; 2016 – Doyle Burke; 2017 – Junior Meier; 2018 – Pat and Mikki Gallagher; 2019- Joyce and Pete Godfrey; 2020 – Chet and Bonny Henry; 2023 -- Patty and Lawn Griffiths—2024 Catherine May and Dan Abbott. ■

# PW News...

By SUE SCHNEBEL

We are delighted to announce that Chris Casanova will be traveling to NYC to attend the United Nations 70<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission on the Status of Women from March 5-14. For twenty years Presbyterian Women have provided advocacy, faithful witness and a prophetic voice at the **United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)**. Presbyterian Women work in partnership and collaboration with the Presbyterian Ministry at the UN (PMUN) to provide advocacy for gender justice and equity, while enhancing the PC(USA)’s visibility at the United Nations. Together PW and PMUN embody the witness of a church striving to confront systemic injustices and proclaim Christ’s peace on the global stage. This year, Chris Casanova has been asked to join with other Presbyterian Women delegates from across

the country to advocate for legal systems that protect every body, honor every story, and uphold God’s vision of justice. Further, Chris has been asked to be Presbyterian Women’s representative during the Opening Session of UN CSW70. Chris is humbled and honored to hold this responsibility.

Chris will be traveling to NYC for 10 days of advocacy training and participation in this event. The priority theme for the Commission is: **Ensuring and Strengthening Access to Justice for all Women and girls by Promoting Inclusive and Equitable Legal Systems**. The advocacy work is to empower delegates to speak more boldly and act more faithfully while urging the global community to imagine and create more equitable egal systems.

Chris has worked diligently for years promoting the purpose of Presbyterian Women on the local, regional, national

and now, international level. The recognition of her work and the enormous responsibility of being a delegate is one that she takes very seriously. However, it comes with no financial support. Ten days in NYC along with lodging and meals is rather expensive. UPC PW will be helping to defray some of the costs. If you wish to join us in reducing expenses, PW is collecting donations. There will be a basket in the narthex. Checks should be made payable to UPC PW with Chris on the memo line.

Please pray for Chris, and other Presbyterian delegates, as they engage with world leaders to improve legal systems for women and girls around the world. ■

# Celebrate the Birth of Christ

## With UPC's Youth and Children



# LEADERSHIP

By LEN SILVESTER

The "new" Session had its first meeting on January 27th with all 10 elders present. In addition to routine matters, they:

- Created an endowment distribution task force to recommend allocating the \$9,600 of 2025 proceeds.
- Approved the members of our committees for 2026.
- Discussed the need to completely redo our website; Pastor Len will work with interested others to explore our options.
- Had an update on the Aris Foundation Tuesday events, and what our role as good neighbors might entail.
- Approved the updated UPC no-weapons-on-campus policy.
- Received the report of the recent annual meeting of the Presbytery of the Grand Canyon, attended by commissioners Jim Hershauer, Lawn Griffiths, and Molly Winkler as well as Pastor Len.

Detailed minutes will be available once they are approved. ■

## UPC Meets the Neighborhood

By LEN SILVESTER

Recently some facebook posts raised neighborhood concerns (as well as support) for our hosting of the Aris Foundation on Tuesday evenings. In response, a retired attorney who lives nearby helped us call a meeting of all interested neighbors. Some 85 folks

showed up on Saturday, January 17th, at 2 p.m.

Concerns expressed included loitering outside the church grounds and crowding and behavior at the nearby bus stop. Many supportive comments were also offered. One person offered that we are doing good work but he wishes we were doing it elsewhere.

As a result, Aris has committed to increasing its volunteer security presence on Alameda and College Avenues. A follow-up meeting will be scheduled in about 60 days.

If you haven't stopped by to see Aris in action, we urge you to do so any Tuesday after 4:30 and before 6. ■



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

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

# A Way Through the Wilderness

## Isaiah 43:19

By JO LEWIS

Mission Month 2026 is planned to provide resources, support and self-care during a time of division, violence and unrest. We will explore how music, individuals, and coalitions effected change and how we may learn from what was successful to strengthen our faith, our joy and our purpose.

### Mission Month PURPOSE:

To empower... "BUILDING (personal & collective) POWER, WITH NOT OVER"

To study ... "FAITH-FULL PRESENCE"

To celebrate ... Our joy and strength in faith: THE INFLUENCES OF MUSIC/ART/

To seek... CIVILITY; RESILIENCE (COLLECTIVE AND INDIVIDUAL)

To advocate... "WHAT'S NEXT?" Reenergize... "skin in the game"

Our Pulpit will be served by Pastor Shelly Moe, Pastor Ken Moe, Pastor Reginald Ragland, from South Minster Presbyterian Church and Pastor Kimberly Murman, Chaplin.

Sue Schnebel and the Christian Education Committee lead the children's moment and will recognize the power and influence youth have in communities.

### February 1-22, 2026

#### Week 1 Compassion (Turning chaos into compassion)

Pastor Shelly Moe, Pastor Ken Moe

Adult Christian Education: Jon Sywassink Theology and History of Organ Music

#### Week 2 Communication (music as a healing power through a biblical context, and protest songs - "We sing what we cannot say")

Pastor Ken Moe

Adult Christian Education: Pastor Ken Moe Protest Songs Opportunities:

- Letter writing in protest and/or in support of current issues and events
- Saturday, February 14, 2026 Making Protest / Demonstration signs

#### Week 3 Collaboration/Coalition Formation (People Together)

Pastor Reginald Ragland

Adult Christian Education: Panel Building Coalition Opportunities:

- Participating in a Demonstration TBD
- Saturday, January 21, 2026 Book Study Led by Kimberly Merman: *God's Hotel* (books are available – ask a Mission Month Committee Member for yours)

#### Week 4 Care / Common Good / Conflict Resolution

Pastor Kimberly Merman

Adult Christian Education: Self Care Kimberly Merman Opportunities:

- Saturday February 21, 2026 Making Prayer Flags for Display through March
- February 20-23 Tempe Empty Bowls

We look forward to sharing, learning and growing in faith with you.

### Mission Month Planning Committee

Jo Lewis, Mission Social Justice Peace Making Committee Chairperson

Catherine May, Congregational Involvement & Outreach Committee Chairperson

Sue Schnebel, Christian Education Committee Chairperson

Cheri Hardy, MSJP Committee Trustee, Presbyterian Women

Diane Hillyard, MSJP Committee, Deacons

Dan Abbott, MSJP Committee I-Help, Café Justo, Humane Borders

Gloria Ortiz, MSJP Committee I Help Chair

Holly Herman, MSJP Committee Refugee Chair, Paz de Cristo

Jon Sywassink, Worship Committee, Music Ministry

Larry Gardner, MSJP Committee Advocacy, CIO Committee,

Larry Seubert, Worship Committee, Sanctuary Readiness

Linda Ritland, MSJP Committee Rise and Shine Bread

Linda Risseeuw, MSJP Committee Alternative Giving, Environment

Ted Gibson, Worship Committee, Music Ministry ■





- |                    |                     |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| 2 Rick Casanova    | 21 Phil Witherspoon |
| 4 Lawn Griffiths   | 24 Mikki Gallagher  |
| 6 Betsy Gephart    | 26 Joan Grey        |
| 13 Doyle Burke     | Chet Henry          |
| Al Gephart         | 27 Pete Godfrey     |
| Kendric Knorr      | Pat Armstrong       |
| 18 Barbara Hawkins | 28 Sharlan Pierce   |
| 19 Kathy Wagner    |                     |

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

# Worship Volunteer Schedule

Below is the schedule of worship volunteers for the coming months. If you are listed and have a conflict, you are asked to please find a replacement and then contact Joan Grey.

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

## February 2026—March 2026

**Sanctuary Readiness Team**..... Larry Seubert

**Sanctuary Readiness Team** ..... Larry Seubert

**Feb 1—4th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**Feb 22—1st Sunday in Lent**

Liturgist ..... Shelly Moe  
 Children’s Moment..... Sue Schnebel  
 Worship Tech ..... Gil Urias, Bianca Osorio

Liturgist.....Shelly Moe  
 Children’s Moment.....Sue Schnebel  
 Worship Tech..... Geoff Beams, Bianca Osorio

**Feb 8—5th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**Mar 1—2nd Sunday in Lent**

Liturgist ..... Kathy Wagner  
 Children’s Moment..... Sue Schnebel  
 Worship Tech .....Brigitta Kuiper, Chris Trella

Liturgist.....Barkley Butler  
 Children’s Moment.....Barkley Butler  
 Worship Tech..... VACANT, VACANT

**Feb 15—Transfiguration Sunday**

**Mar 8—3rd Sunday in Lent**

Liturgist ..... Dan Abbott  
 Children’s Moment..... Vicki Jacobs  
 Worship Tech ..... Jim Niemann, Sada Reed

Liturgist..... Sommer Decker  
 Children’s Moment..... Sommer Decker  
 Worship Tech..... VACANT, VACANT

**Feb 18—ASH Wednesday**

**Mar 15—4th Sunday in Lent**

Liturgist ..... Ken Moe  
 Children’s Moment.....None  
 Worship Tech .....Bianca Osorio, Chris Trella

Liturgist.....Joyce Godfrey  
 Children’s Moment.....Joyce Godfrey  
 Worship Tech..... VACANT, VACANT

# 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 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 may 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.upcetempe.org/leadership](http://www.upcetempe.org/leadership)).

*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)

## February 2026

<b>Sun, Feb 1</b>	the patio 11:00 am Youth Fellowship (Rm 9) 11:00 am Adult Sunday School (S)	11:00 am Fat Sunday Brunch (FH) 11:00 am Youth Fellowship (Rm 9)
9:30 am Worship Service (S, ZU, YouTube)		
10:30 am 'UPC Café' fellowship time on the patio	<b>Mon, Feb 9</b>	<b>Mon, Feb 16</b>
11:00 am Youth Fellowship (Rm 9)	8:00 pm Stewardship Committee (Z)	7:00 pm Board of Deacons (Z)
11:00 am Adult Sunday School (S)	8:30 pm AA Meeting (Rm 7)	8:30 pm AA Meeting (Rm 7)
<b>Mon, Feb 2</b>	<b>Tue, Feb 10</b>	<b>Tue, Feb 17</b>
4:30 pm Adult Christian Education (Z)	9:00 am Sort Day (FH)	4:00 pm Aris Foundation (FH)
7:00 pm Administration Committee (Z)	1:00 pm PW Coast2Coast Circle (Z)	4:00 pm Violin Lessons (Rm 2)
8:30 pm AA Meeting (Rm 7)	4:00 pm Aris Foundation (FH)	7:00 pm Phoenician Choral Group (S)
<b>Tue, Feb 3</b>	4:00 pm Violin Lessons (Rm 2)	7:00 pm Board of Trustees (Z)
4:00 pm Aris Foundation (FH)	7:00 pm Phoenician Choral Group (S)	
4:00 pm Violin Lessons (Rm 2)	7:00 pm Finance Committee (Z)	<b>Wed, Feb 18</b>
7:00 pm Phoenician Choral Group (S)	7:00 pm Worship Committee (Z)	<i>Ash Wednesday</i>
<b>Wed, Feb 4</b>	<b>Wed, Feb 11</b>	9:00 am Lectio Divina Bible Study (Z)
9:00 am Lectio Divina Bible Study (Z)	9:00 am Lectio Divina Bible Study (Z)	12:30 pm PW Chinle Circle (MR)
3:45 pm Worship Planning Team (Z)	3:45 pm Worship Planning Team (Z)	3:45 pm Worship Planning Team (Z)
5:15 pm Wednesday Night Dinner (FH)	5:15 pm Wednesday Night Dinner (FH)	7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service (S)
6:00 pm Bell Choir Practice (S)	6:00 pm Bell Choir Practice (S)	
7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal (CH)	7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal (CH)	<b>Thu, Feb 19</b>
<b>Thu, Feb 5</b>	<b>Thu, Feb 12</b>	8:00 am TOPS (MR)
8:00 am TOPS (MR)	8:00 am TOPS (MR)	11:00 am Tempe Interfaith Fellowship (Z)
12:30 pm PNC Meeting (CR, Z)	12:30 pm PNC Meeting (CR, Z)	12:30 am PNC Meeting (CR, Z)
7:00 pm CE Committee (Z)	7:00 pm MSJP Committee (Z)	<b>Fri, Feb 20</b>
<b>Fri, Feb 6</b>	<b>Fri, Feb 13</b>	3:00 pm I-HELP Arrives
3:00 pm I-HELP Arrives	3:00 pm I-HELP Arrives	7:00 pm Friday Night Book Club (Z)
8:30 pm AA Meeting (Rm 7)	8:30 pm AA Meeting (Rm 7)	8:30 pm AA Meeting (Rm 7)
<b>Sat, Feb 7</b>	<b>Sat, Feb 14</b>	<b>Sat, Feb 21</b>
7:00 am I-HELP Guests Depart	7:00 am I-HELP Guests Depart	7:00 am I-HELP Guests Depart
7:15 am Baseball Card Show (FH)	8:00 am Men's Breakfast (MR)	8:30 am PW Presbytery Grand Canyon (CR, Z)
<b>Sun, Feb 8</b>	12:00 pm Fat Sunday Set-Up (K, FH)	<b>Sun, Feb 22</b>
9:30 am Worship Service (S, ZU, YouTube)	<b>Sun, Feb 15</b>	9:30 am Worship Service (S, ZU, YouTube)
10:00 am Children's Bible Time (Rm 2)	9:30 am Worship Service (S, ZU, YouTube)	10:00 am Children's Bible Time (Rm 2)
10:30 am 'UPC Café' fellowship time on the patio	10:00 am Children's Bible Time (Rm 2)	10:30 am 'UPC Café' fellowship time on the patio
	10:30 am 'UPC Café' fellowship time on the patio	11:00 am Youth Fellowship (Rm 9)
		11:00 am Adult Sunday School (S)

See CALENDAR on page 12

### 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) - February 2026

Published monthly by University Presbyterian Church • 139 E Alameda Dr, Tempe, AZ 85282 • (480) 966-6267 • www.upctempe.org • Email: upc@upctempe.org  
Periodicals Postage paid at Tempe, Arizona.

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**CALENDAR**

Continued from page 11

**Mon, Feb 23**

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

**Tue, Feb 24**

- 9:00 am Sort Day (FH)
- 4:00 pm Aris Foundation (FH)
- 4:00 pm Violin Lessons (Rm 2)
- 7:00 pm Phoenician Choral Group (S)
- 7:00 pm Stated Session (CR, Z)

**Wed, Feb 25**

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

**Thu, Feb 26**

- 8:00 am TOPS (MR)
- 12:30 am PNC Meeting (CR, Z)

**Fri, Feb 27**

- 3:00 pm I-HELP Arrives
- 4:00 pm Calvary Fellowship Church (MR)
- 8:30 pm AA Meeting (Rm 7)

**Sat, Feb 28**

- 7:00 am I-HELP Guests Depart

**March 2026****Sun, Mar 1**

- 9:30 am Worship Service (S, ZU, YouTube)
- 10:30 am 'UPC Café' fellowship time on the patio
- 11:00 am Youth Fellowship (Rm 9)
- 11:00 am Adult Sunday School (S)

**Mon, Mar 2**

- 4:30 pm Adult Christian Education (Z)
- 7:00 pm Administration Committee (Z)
- 8:30 pm AA Meeting (Rm 7)

**Tue, Mar 3**

- 4:00 pm Aris Foundation (FH)
- 4:00 pm Violin Lessons (Rm 2)
- 7:00 pm Phoenician Choral Group (S)

**Wed, Mar 4**

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

**Thu, Mar 5**

- 8:00 am TOPS (MR)
- 12:30 am PNC Meeting (CR, Z)
- 7:00 pm CE Committee (Z)

**Fri, Mar 6**

- 3:00 pm I-HELP Arrives
- 8:30 pm AA Meeting (Rm 7)

**Sat, Mar 7**

- 7:00 am I-HELP Guests Depart
- 7:15 am Baseball Card Show (FH)