



## PASTOR'S POST

2024 Mantra: "Go to Church!"

...as church, we must keep doing what we do,  
serving and caring for others in the name of the Lord.

Greetings,

This month, a little about three timely subjects:

First, Easter is March 31, and we will once again lead the Sunrise Service at the Sun Bowl. This is always a meaningful worship service in a very beautiful, outdoor setting (7:00 am, bring your own chairs). Then we will gather at United Church for our Easter Brunch Worship in the Friendship Center at 10:00 am. Communion will be served at both services. Please plan to attend.



Our Palm Sunday Cantata (*Canticle of the Cross* by Joseph M. Martin) is at 10:00 am Sunday March 24 with performers from the Phoenix Symphony. It's sure to be a spectacular service. Again, please make plans to attend.

There are special worship events scheduled for each Sunday in March. Check out this newsletter for details.

Next, as I have said before, I am not an advocate for giving something up during Lent, but a proponent of doing something extra. However, I saw a post on Facebook that went something like this: If you want to fast this Lent, here are some suggestions. Fast from anger, fast from pessimism, fast from worry, fast from complaining, fast from bitterness, fast from selfishness, fast from always having to be right, and fast from judging. I might add that we could also fast from Facebook.



Finally, have you seen all the movies nominated for Best Picture? I have seen some of them, but not all. I especially like "The Holdovers." I recently watched "Killers of the Flower Moon." It is a tremendous story, seldom told in our American history lessons, but I am not picking it for Best Picture. I imagine "Oppenheimer" will win. It is good, or at least I thought two thirds of it was very good. We will know all the winners on Sunday, March 10 when the Academy Awards are announced.

Continued best wishes for your Lenten journeys. I look forward to seeing you in worship.

Peace,

*Pastor Brady*

*Worry is a conversation you have with yourself  
about things you cannot change.*

*Prayer is a conversation you have with God  
about things He can change.*



UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST  
God is still speaking,



## Greetings from your Music Ministry!

Don't you love the Lenten and Easter season! None of that commercialization of Christmas; none of that stress of how much to spend on each person's gift...just centering on the supreme gift that God gave us, through the suffering and death of His holy son Jesus.

Our praise and worship will be enhanced by beautiful Lenten music, and a wealth of special guests! On **March 3**, our soloist will be a favorite of United Church, Miss Kendra Goodenberger! We love it when people from our own congregational family step up to offer their God-given talents! On **March 10**, our own Rosanne Pruitt will play her ukulele with Floyd Ellison at the piano! On **March 17**, a wonderful new alto in our choir, and a longtime friend of mine, Andrea Dixon, will sing a solo!

Sunday, **March 24** (have I announced this enough already?) please invite your friends and neighbors to experience our Easter Cantata, entitled *Canticle of the Cross* with favorite hymns arranged by, and original music by one of our favorite composers, Joseph Martin. We will again be accompanied by members of the Phoenix Symphony Orchestra. Just be sure that people you invite realize it is on Palm Sunday (not Easter Sunday) at our regular 10:00 am service time.

Easter Sunday, **March 31**: Another wonderful opportunity to invite your relatives and neighbors, will be our 7:00 am Easter Service down the street at the Sun Bowl! We love that this has become a beloved United Church tradition with greater attendance than could possibly fit in our sanctuary. The Praise Team and the Choir will be providing glorious music in celebration of our risen Savior! At 10:00 am, we will also have an Easter gathering in our sanctuary, with some breakfast foods, music, and ministry. I suggested we call it "The Brady Bunch" but... 😊

Looking forward to **April**... you may remember that the Sunday after Easter is known as "Holy Humor Sunday" at United Church. Well, you're not going to want to miss this one because on Sunday, **April 7**, our special guest will be actress and Christian Comedian Terey Summers! Be prepared to laugh 'til you cry! Invite some friends!!



In His Holy Name,

*Alan Paulson*

Minister of Music

*"We come to church together to  
multiply our Joy and divide our Sorrow."*

Alan Paulson

11/5/23

Suggestions? Requests? Text 602-427-7035 or [alanpaulson1@gmail.com](mailto:alanpaulson1@gmail.com)



## Greetings from your Parish Nurse!

March is here and so is the weather we have been waiting for! Be sure to get outside and enjoy it—by taking a hike, walking in your neighborhood, or just sitting in your patio area! The sunshine certainly helps to push aside the feelings associated with the cold, rain and staying inside. It also helps to boost the Vitamin D that our body works to produce.

Coming up in March, we have a couple of opportunities to share with you. On Tuesday, **March 12** at 10:30 am, Sun Health Presents will be introducing Dr. Romanita Nica of the National Kidney Foundation of Arizona and Renee Hynds, Director of Patient Programs as they help to raise awareness of the risk factors for kidney disease and the steps to take to keep your kidneys healthy. As we grow older, we become more and more at risk for kidney disease and may not even be aware of it. So, join us for “You and Your Kidneys” to see how we can prevent this pervading disease.



On a lighter note, on Tuesday, **March 19** from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm we will be offering another “Paint and Sip” class. Julie Larson will once again guide us step-by-step in creating our masterpieces! All supplies of acrylic paints, brushes and canvas will be supplied. Be sure to sign-up (at the Welcome Table or call the office) as the class will be limited to 20 participants. This is a chance to try something new and stimulate some creative areas of our brain. No past experience with painting is required. Just come and have fun!



Journeying to health,

*Lisa Dunbar,*  
Parish Nurse



# Mission Board

United Church of Sun City  
3,782

7,134 Meals!

Church of the Palms  
3,352

Souper Bowl of Caring 2024

The “Silver Ladle” was welcomed back from the Church of the Palms. Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Souper Bowl of Caring 2024 Campaign. Together we help turn the nation’s largest weekend of football (NFL Souper Bowl) into the largest weekend of caring. Valley View Food Bank is the hometown winner. A very special THANK YOU to Hedy Hall and Diane Gahm for all their time shopping, counting and delivering the soup! 😊



65 cans soup!



100 jars peanut butter!



Rev. Brady Abel accepting the **Silver Ladle** from Rev. Paul Whitlock and Rev. Jim Alexander of Church of the Palms

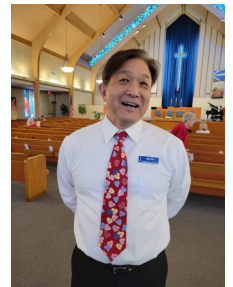


Photo Credits: Rev. Brady Abel, Hedy Hall and Robin Lemkuil



# RED SUNDAY

February 11, 2024





## **Rev. Dr. Floyd Ellison Celebrates his 60th anniversary of Ordination**

The Reverend Floyd Ellison, will be recognized and honored by United Church of Sun City following church services on **Sunday, March 17**.

Floyd was born in Moline, IL and raised in Erie, IL and completed elementary and high school in Erie and received graduate and post-graduation degrees from Augusta College, Rock Island, IL, American Baptist Seminary, Berkeley CA, Berkeley School of Theology, Berkeley CA, and the Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley CA.

Upon completion of his seminary studies, Floyd was ordained on March 8, 1964, at Erie Baptist Church. Among those participating in the ceremony were Floyd's uncle, Rev. L.E. Ellison, his father, Rev. J.B. Ellison (both deceased) and his sister, Mary Francis, of Morrison.

For ten years, Floyd served three churches in the San Francisco Bay area prior to being called to active duty in 1972 as a Chaplain in the United States Navy. He served 13 tours of duty before retiring in 1997, after twenty-five years of service, retiring with the rank of Captain.

Upon retiring from the Chaplain Corps, he began a dual Pastoral and Music Ministry, serving as organist/pianist and frequent preacher at First Congregational Church of Ramona CA, serving for twenty-two years. Simultaneously, he provided care for three young grandchildren and became their legal guardian upon the death of their mother in 2006, when the children were in elementary school.

In 2018 he moved to a Christian Independent Living Center in Surprise AZ, where he began providing frequent piano recitals for the residents. For the last five years he has graced United Church of Christ of Sun City, AZ with his talents as a preacher and a pianist.

Floyd's spiritual gifts are music, preaching and friendship. As he reaches this sixty-year milestone, he requests no gifts, but asks for your prayers and hugs. Well-wishes can be sent to him at: 16477 W. Bell Road, Apt. 110, Surprise AZ 85374-6604.

**Join us for a special Fellowship after worship on Sunday, March 17 to celebrate.**

# Art Auction

## The Second Annual Silent Art Auction!

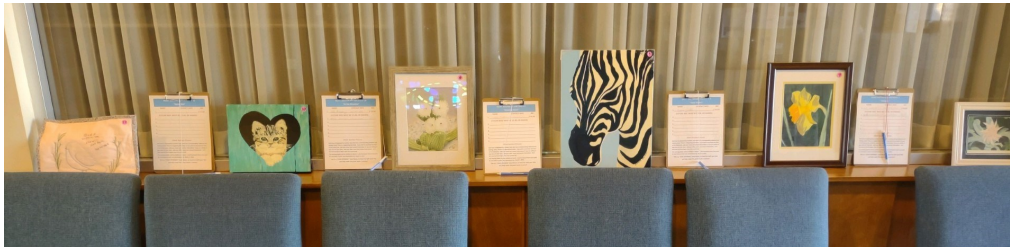
The art was donated to United Church with 100% of each sale supporting the church "Love Offering" which is used in our community offering a helping hand of assistance.

Art was on display during the month of February with four artists being represented:

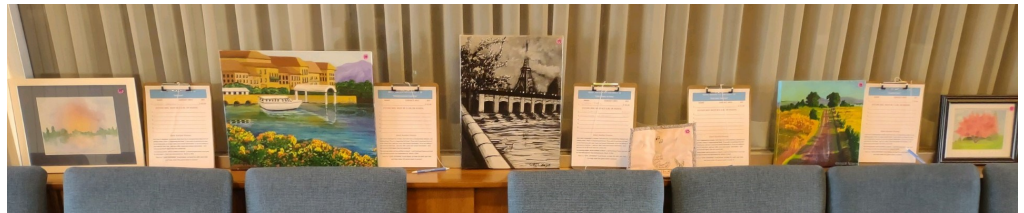
**Ginger Dawson, Barb Kolacki, Ruth Little and Barb Norton.**

On Tuesday, February 20, a special "Meet & Greet the Artists" was held in the Beehive.

Thank you to everyone who helped make this great event a success!



silent  
Auction



Our  
Church  
Mission



# February Happenings



On **Monday, February 5**, United Church hosted LP Health Directions as they provided a 3-hour CPR class in the Beehive. Eleven attendees successfully completed the basic life support curriculum including CPR, AED training and First Aid for adults, children and infants.  
Thank you to all who attended!



Photo Credits: Alan Paulson



**GRANDCHILD SCAMS ARE BECOMING MORE SOPHISTICATED** - Grandparents often have a hard time saying no to their grandchildren, which is something scam artists know all too well. And now, bad actors can use artificial intelligence technology “to mimic voices, convincing people, often the elderly, that their loved ones are in distress,” according to a recent Washington Post article. Always use caution if you are being pressured for information or to send money quickly. Scammers often try to bully victims into transferring money through a mobile payment app, by wiring money, or by purchasing gift cards or money orders. Some may even request to meet to receive money in person. If you get a call like this, hang up and report it immediately to local law enforcement. To ease your mind, you can call or text your family members directly to make sure they are not in trouble. **Beware of Scams!**



# February Happenings

## ANNUAL MEETING



Photo Credits: Robin Lemkuil



Sunday, February 11, 2024, the Annual Meeting of the Congregation was held immediately following Worship. Our quorum requirements of 43 members was met with 63 members and associate members plus guests in attendance to conduct church business for the year.

The 2024 budget was approved as well as the Slate of Officers for 2024. Moderator Bill Zimmer reviewed changes to the current Constitution and By-laws. All business was approved by the voters.

After 3 years, Bill Zimmer is stepping down from his Moderator position to Past Moderator and Greg Bradley, Vice Moderator, is elected as the new Moderator.

Thank you to Bill for his past and current years of service and to Greg for his new role as Moderator of United Church. Thank you to the members and guests that attended the meeting. Every vote counts!!

We are still in need of a Vice Moderator to complete our Council per the Constitution. If you are interested in filling this position, please contact the Church office.



**“SPECIAL MISSION FUNDS”** such as Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas (ETC) are extraordinary support you can give. Donations can be put in the **“SPECIAL”** envelopes placed in the pews.

**“ETC”** offerings placed in special offering envelopes for Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas are kept in the **ETC Fund** which is used by our Church Mission Board to send to groups and organizations the Board feels will benefit most from our support. The Easter offering will be received on Palm Sunday, **March 24**. Special envelopes will be in the pews.

# February Happenings



**Sun Health**®

On Tuesday, February 13 at 10:30 am, Sun Health visited United Church and guests to do a cooking demonstration with some ideas for healthier eating. They learned about good nutrition for diabetics and other chronic illnesses that require restrictive diets along with just generally eating healthier.

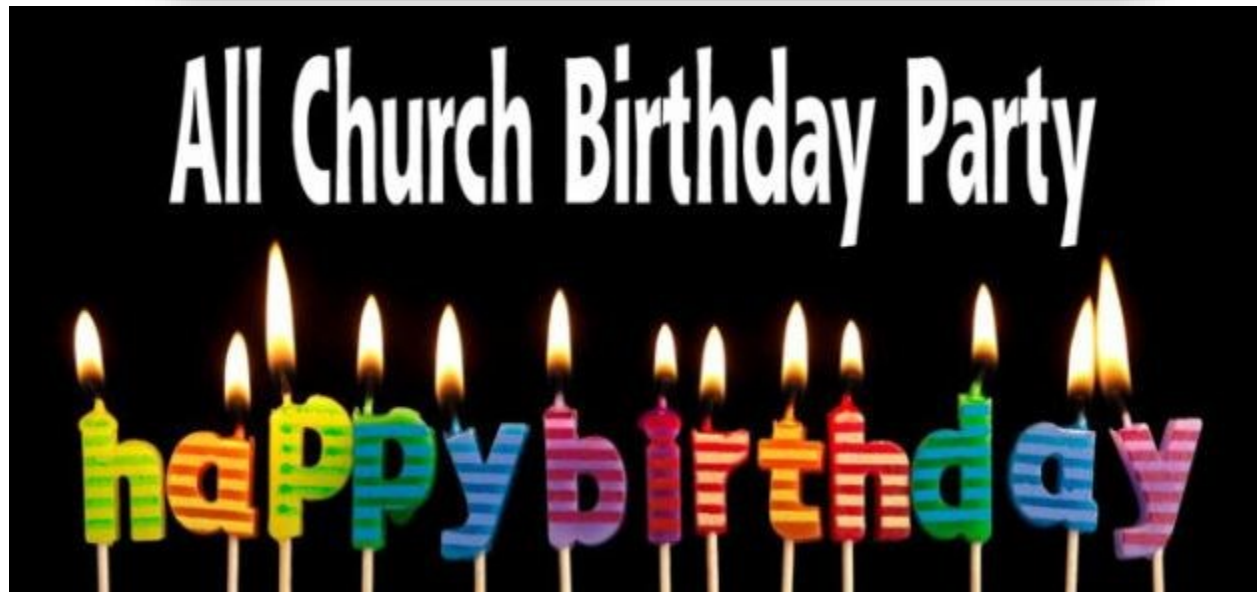
They not only got to learn about healthy eating, they also got to sample a delicious strawberry cream cheese treat with a recipe for them to take home and enjoy.

Sun Health Foundation is a 501(c)(3) Arizona nonprofit organization supporting the health and wellbeing of the West Valley. Learn more at: [SunHealthFoundation.org](http://SunHealthFoundation.org)



Photo Credits: Robin Lemkuil

# February Happenings



On Sunday, February 18, 67 guests attend the All Church Birthday Party! Delicious cupcakes, Gospel music and plenty of fellowship encompassed the celebration of birthdays for 2024.

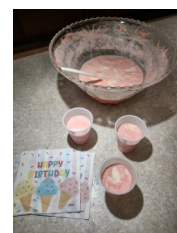
Joe Ford and his guitar provided live Gospel music along with some familiar sing-along tunes!

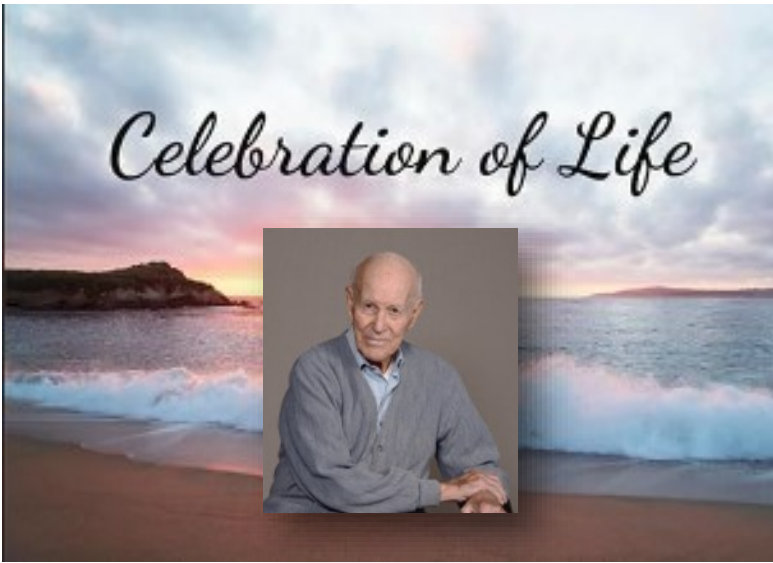
Hedy Hall presented two door prizes from the Sun City Fire Department. Shari Spishak-Spielberger was the recipient of a kitchen fire extinguisher and Cathy Machala won a certificate for an emergency medical lock box. Thank you to Hedy and the Sun City Fire Department for these great door prizes!

A special thank you to the Activities and Fellowship Committee members for organizing this event!!



Photo Credits: Robin Lemkuil





# Celebration of Life

A Celebration of Life was held on January 22, 2024 in Grace Chapel for over 50 relatives and friends gathered to celebrate the life of Eldon Flessner.  
7/30/24—1/6/24



**Find the Cross ☩**

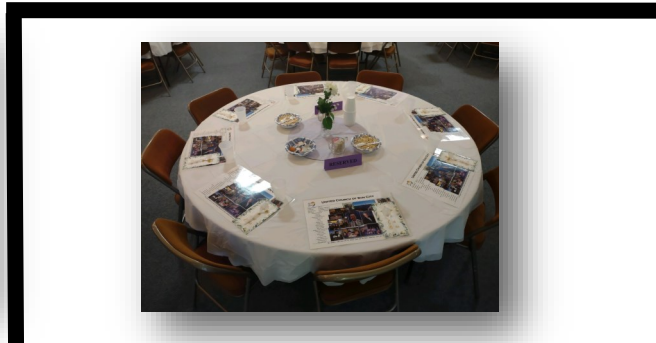
Each month we will hide a cross somewhere in the Newsletter. Either in the writing, in a picture, it could be anywhere! Enjoy trying to find it but don't tell your friends.. they will have to find it on their own!

(February location was in the Communion Chalice)

Join us on Sunday, March 10 as Rev. Dr. Toni Hawkins, Southwest Conference Transitional Conference Minister joins our worship service.

Dr. Toni will be delivering the message that Sunday and there will be a special Fellowship/Meet and Greet after worship.

Plan to attend and help us welcome Dr. Toni on her inaugural visit to United Church!



**Town Hall Gathering with Soup!**

On January 28, sixty-four participants gathered for chili and chicken-noodle soup during our Souper-Bowl of Caring Campaign.

This was In conjunction with our Town Hall Gathering and Open Forum informational gathering before the upcoming Annual Meeting on February 11.

Attendees were encouraged to ask questions regarding the status of Witt Hall, the proposed 2024 budget, slate of officers for 2024 and slight changes to our Constitution and By-Laws.

The gathering was well attended and many good questions were asked and answered.

Thank you to everyone who attended and to those that organized the event, helped serve and clean-up! We appreciate you!

**COMMUNION  
at United Church**

Please join us on  
Sunday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>  
at 10:00 am.

All are Welcome!



**Are you in need of  
pastoral care?**

**Please contact the  
Church office at  
623-933-0058.**



**HOLY WEEK  
WORSHIP  
SCHEDULE**

**Sunday, March 24: Palm Sunday Worship**

10:00 am Easter Cantata

**Thursday, March 27: Maundy Thursday**

5:00 pm Community Service at  
Desert Garden United Church of Christ  
18818 N 128th Ave., Sun City West

**Sunday, March 31: Easter Sunday Worship**

Sunrise Service, 7:00 am at the Sun Bowl  
(10220 N 107th Ave., Sun City)

10:00 am Continental Breakfast at UCCSC  
in the Fellowship Center



The deadline for the  
April Newsletter:  
**Monday, March 18.**

Please submit your  
articles to Robin at:  
office@uccsc.com.

*Remember to check the  
calendar for special events.*

If you would like to have an article  
submitted in the Sun City Newspaper  
*The Independent*, please forward your  
articles to Mary Sue Andreason the  
Monday of the week before you want it  
published.

Send your information to Mary Sue at  
msbandreason@q.com.

**Ash Wednesday  
February 14, 2024**

Three Sun City area churches joined  
together for an Ash Wednesday  
Ecumenical Service at  
United Church of Sun City

73 attendees took part in the  
Sacrament of Holy Communion  
and the Imposition of Ashes.  
Departure to this meaningful service was  
in silence to begin this season of Lent.

United Church of Sun City  
Church of the Palms UCC, SC  
Desert Garden UCC, SCW



Rev. Jim Alexander, Church of the Palms, Rev. Brady Abel, United  
Church of Sun City, Rev. Bill Utke, Desert Garden UCC and  
Rev. Paul Whitlock, Church of the Palms  
gather after Ash Wednesday Service at United Church





Barb Grant	3/01
Carol Archer	3/06
Sandy Gettle	3/06
Mary Mcinnes	3/08
Sue Johnson	3/12
Ron Stoops	3/12
Jerry Walter	3/13
Pat Koopmans	3/21
Sharon Wachs	3/21
Marian Gilbert	3/23
Millie Carlson	3/25
Floyd Ellison	3/28
Ann Mordt	3/29
Jim Gray	3/31



Ron & Kayla Wiebold	3/02
David & Line Wirth	3/28

valley view community  
**foodbank**

10771 W. Peoria Ave.  
Sun City, AZ 85351  
www.feedingAZ.org

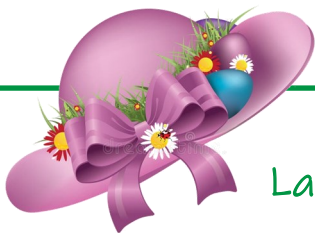
**How to Help**  
Fill the Pantry



**Provided 7,134 meals!**

**Volunteer**

Volunteers are needed in the pantry and the thrift shops on a regular basis. Organize a food drive or collect items for Thanksgiving or Christmas. For information on how to get started, contact Jesse Jr. at: [vwfoodassistance@yahoo.com](mailto:vwfoodassistance@yahoo.com)



**Ladies Lunch Bunch**

**Thursday, March 14, 2024 at 1:00 pm**

George's Lakeview Café.  
10502 W. Thunderbird Blvd., Sun City

*"Think Spring"*  
Wear your Easter Bonnet  
(if you have one)

**All are welcome!**  
Please RSVP Hedy Hall  
or the Church office



**Men's Breakfast**

Join the guys as they meet on  
**Tuesday, March 5 at 8:00 am**

George's  
Lakeview Café.  
10502 W. Thunderbird Blvd.  
Sun City

**All are welcome!**



# March 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>  10:00 am A Matter of Balance	2 <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>
3  8:40 Praise Team and Choir Rehearsal  10:00 am Worship with Holy Communion and New Member Reception  11:00 am Coffee Hour  Worship online	4  7:30 am TAI CHI in the Beehive  1:00 pm Walking group	5  8:00 am Men's Breakfast: George's Lakeview Café  1:00 & 2:30 pm SilverSneakers in the Beehive	6  10:00 am Converse and Connect  1:00 pm Walking group  7-8 pm AA in the meeting rm	7  11:00 am Bible study Pastor's study  1:00 & 2:30 pm SilverSneakers in the Beehive	8  <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>  10:00 am A Matter of Balance	9  <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>
10  8:40 Praise Team and Choir Rehearsal  10:00 am Worship with Rev. Dr. Toni Hawkins  11:00 am Special Coffee Hour  Worship online	11  7:30 am TAI CHI in the Beehive  1:00 pm Walking group  2:00 Activities & Fellowship Board	12  <b>10:30 am Sun Health Speaker Series— "You and Your Kidneys"</b>  1:00 & 2:30 pm SilverSneakers in the Beehive	13  10:00 am Converse and Connect  1:00 pm Walking group  7-8 pm AA in the meeting rm	14  9:00 am Board Meetings  10:00 am Council Mtg.  11:00 am Bible study Pastor's study  1:00 pm Ladies Lunch George's Lakeview Café  1:00 & 2:30 pm SilverSneakers in the Beehive	15  <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	16  <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>
17 <b>St. Patrick's Day</b>  8:40 Praise Team and Choir Rehearsal  10:00 am Worship  11:00 Floyd Ellison Ordination Celebration and Coffee Hour  Worship online	18 <b>Newsletter Deadline</b>  7:30 am TAI CHI in the Beehive  1:00 pm Walking group	19  <b>10:00 am Paint N Sip in the Beehive</b>  1:00 & 2:30 pm SilverSneakers in the Beehive	20  10:00 am Converse and Connect  1:00 pm Walking group  7-8 pm AA in the meeting rm	21  11:00 am Bible study Pastor's study  1:00 & 2:30 pm SilverSneakers in the Beehive	22  <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	23  <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>  10:00 am Easter Cantata Practice
24 <b>Easter Cantata!</b>  8:00 Rehearsal  10:00 am Palm Sunday with Easter Cantata  11:00 am Coffee Hour  11:15 Baptismal Service in Grace Chapel  Worship online	25  7:30 am TAI CHI in the Beehive  1:00 pm Walking group	26  1:00 & 2:30 pm SilverSneakers in the Beehive	27  10:00 am Converse and Connect  1:00 pm Walking group  7-8 pm AA in the meeting rm	28 <b>Maundy Thursday</b>  11:00 am Bible Study Pastor's study  1:00 & 2:30 pm SilverSneakers in the Beehive  <b>5:00 pm Worship at Desert Garden UCC, Sun City West</b>	29  <b>Good Friday</b>  <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	30  <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>
31 <b>Easter Sunday!</b>  <b>7:00 am Sunrise Service at the Sun Bowl</b>  <b>10:00 am Easter Worship with Continental Breakfast</b>  Worship online						

*United Church of Sun City  
11250 N. 107th Ave., Ste. 105  
Sun City, AZ 85351*



**March 2024**

**STAFF:**

**Rev. Brady Abel, Senior Pastor  
Greg Bradley, Moderator  
Bill Zimmer, Past Moderator  
Alan Paulson, Minister of Music  
Beverly Fletcher, Organist  
Praise Team: Kira Kadel-Funk, Cheryl Tucker, Brenda Goodenberger  
Robin Lemkuil Office Manager/ Asst. to the Pastor  
Lisa Dunbar, Parish Nurse  
Dickie Duniver, Custodian  
Roger Cole and Tracy McRoy Asst. Custodians  
Greg Yagi and Robin Lemkuil, Audio/Video Tech**

**All Members & Friends of United Church, Ministers of the Good News  
\*\*\*\*\***

**Office Hours 8:30a.m. to 1:30 pm —Monday through Thursday  
The office is closed on Friday and Major Holidays  
Sunday Worship Service 10 am in the Sanctuary and also online.  
Coffee Fellowship—After Worship  
Communion the 1st Sunday of each Month  
Bible Study—Thursday 11:00 am each week  
Phone: 623-933-0058  
Email: [Office@uccsc.com](mailto:Office@uccsc.com)  
Website: [uccsc.com](http://uccsc.com)  
Facebook: United Church of Sun City**