



PASTOR'S POST

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

Greetings,

I remember July of 1969. I was five years old when astronauts landed on the moon for the first time. I was at my great-grandparents' house watching the coverage with everyone else, until I ran outside, looked up at the moon, and ran back in to announce, "I don't see anybody up there!"

I was reminded of that moment as I watched coverage of the Artemis II mission carrying humans all the way around the moon and back home. Another first-of-its-kind adventure. And for a moment, I noticed something unusual. Everyone seemed to be watching. There was a shared sense of wonder, curiosity, and pride. It didn't matter who you voted for or what your background was, there was a collective "wow" with the lift-off and a collective sigh with splashdown. It felt like we were united in something bigger than ourselves.

There are few things left in our world that bring people together. Turn on the news, scroll through social media, or listen to just about any public conversation, and it doesn't take long to find division. We seem to disagree about almost everything - how we live, how we lead, and even how we understand one another.

But every once in a while, something different breaks through. The Artemis II mission had that kind of effect.

Of course, not everyone sees it that way. Some raise very fair questions about the cost. Why spend billions of dollars on space exploration when there is so much need here on Earth? It's a question worth asking, one that deserves thoughtful conversation.

However, perhaps it's not an either/or, but a both/and. Because moments like these, moments when we lift our eyes up and see more than just ourselves and our feet, matter more than we think. They remind us that we are capable of dreaming together. They invite us to imagine a future not defined by our opinions and our differences, but also by our shared humanity.

In a way, that feels spiritual. Scripture often calls us to "lift up your eyes" (Isaiah 40:26, for example). This isn't a command to ignore the struggles of the world, but to see beyond them, to remember that God's vision for creation is larger than our present moment. When we look up, whether at the night sky or toward the promise of something new, we are reminded that we are part of something vast, interconnected, and still unfolding.

Maybe that's part of what we have been witnessing. Not just a rocket in space, but a glimpse of what it looks like when people pause, even briefly, and share in awe rather than argument. We need more of this, more moments drawing us together instead of pushing us apart.

Because whether we are talking about space exploration or our life together as a community, hope often begins the same way, by lifting our eyes and looking toward the glory of God.

Peace,
Pastor Brady





*Happy May and Welcome Summer from your Music Ministry!
With delicious nutritious frozen treats
like Mom used to make!*

We hope your worship experiences were enhanced by our musical offerings during a very busy April! I was so impressed and proud of my team members' efforts, talents, and dedication through our Cantata Sunday, Easter morning services and our Holy Humor Sunday! (It's not easy to find funny church music!)



We even had an Italian opera singer, Tony Milioto direct from Italy!

May brings the end of our CHOIR's season, with church performances on May 3, and May 17. They are a small, but mighty group, with so much talent and dedication. They continue to impress me and bless all of us with their expressive singing every time they use their God-given talents in a church service!

Next time you see one of these faithful (and faith-filled) CHOIR members, please let them know that you appreciate their efforts:

Ellyn Mae Ullman, Elizabeth Burke, Kira Funk, Boni Locke, Linda Zimmerman, Marsha Peek, Ann Davis, Andrea Dixon, Brenda Goodenberger, Beth Vercooteren, Ginger Dawson, Michael Nanney, Lester Atkinson, Dwight Brown and Greg Yagi.



We are also very dependent upon, and very blessed to have our amazing accompanist, Beverly Fletcher, who can play any song in any key, even better than the composer wrote it! And Thank you to Floyd Ellison for providing flawless prayer response music every Sunday!

Fortunately, we also have our dedicated Praise Team to provide inspiring, uplifting music through the long, hot summer! We are grateful for those of you who will be staying with us! Any requests? Please let us know.



Praise Team

In His Glory,

Alan Paulson

Minister of Music

Photo Credits this page: Alan Paulson, Bob Allen, Robin Lemkuil

Suggestions? Requests? Text 602-427-7035 or alanpaulson1@gmail.com



Greetings from your Parish Nurse....

I'm writing this as I am recovering slowly (too slowly for me!) from a sinus infection. Of course it has been complicated by air quality, allergies and all that goes with it. But it has forced me to stop for a moment and think about my attitude.

I found myself complaining this week, not only about how I felt, but about how long I had to wait in an Urgent Care waiting room, about being prescribed a liquid antibiotic rather than capsules, and about any other irritating thing I encountered.

I was then reminded of my friend who is undergoing treatment for cancer and the difference in her attitude. She finds so many things to be grateful for each day. She is grateful for the caretakers in the cancer center that provide her treatment. She is thankful for the friend that goes with her to the treatments to help pass the time more quickly. She looks forward to the "little surprises" that happen every day and greets each one as a gift from God – even the things that irritate or upset me.

She is living out the scripture from I Thessalonians 5:18 "Give thanks in all circumstances: for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

Giving thanks has not changed her circumstances – at least not yet – but has given her peace and joy in the midst of what most of us would consider a "fiery trial."

So, my self-talk is "Lisa, stop the whining and be thankful!" And here I go:

I'm thankful for a caring practitioner who diagnosed and treated my illness.

I'm thankful for the pharmacist who made sure I received the medication before the pharmacy closed.

I'm thankful for friends and family who have checked in with me to make sure I am okay and offered to bring me whatever I might need.

I'm thankful for caring people who stepped up and took care of some of the tasks I am usually responsible for.

I'm thankful for my home and comfortable bed – there when I need it!

I'm thankful for a God who loves me and designed my body to heal itself!

OK, that really didn't take long. And I feel better about saying it. Will you join me? What things can you be thankful for today? Even amid circumstances that are not ideal. I challenge all of us to begin our day thinking of 5 things to be thankful for. Can you do it?

Lisa Dunbar, Parish Nurse

LIFE GETS EASIER when you stop fighting it.
The rain will fall whether you complain or not.
Traffic will exist whether you stress or not.
People will act how they want whether you worry or not.
Focus on what you can change.
Let go of what you can't.

Cantata Sunday with the Phoenix Symphony



Over 200 members and guests attended this incredible Cantata including guest singers and the Phoenix Symphony!

Maundy Thursday Community Worship

Pastor Brady joined by guest Pastors: Bill Utke from Desert Garden UCC, Rev. Brett Winters from First Christian (DOC), Rev. Paul Whitlock and Rev. Mark Makowski from Church of the Palms UCC and Rev. Ann Utke from First Presbyterian (USA).

Our own Praise Team, along with Beverly Fletcher, provided dramatic music for this very meaningful service including Holy Communion for 102 attendees.



Pictured L to R: Rev. Bill Utke, Rev. Mark Makowski, Rev. Ann Utke, Rev. Brett Winters, Rev. Paul Whitlock, and Rev. Brady Abel.

April 5, 2026 Easter Sunrise Service at the Sun Bowl

Thank you to Pastor Brady, Alan Paulson, the Music Ministry, Praise Team and Choir and all the Volunteers who helped make this a very special morning!



Over 450 people in attendance!



Rev. Brady Abel and Hedy Hall, Mission Chair presenting Jesse Ramirez from Valley View Food Bank with a check for \$2,902; donations from the Easter Sunrise Service at the Sun Bowl.



Photo credits this page:
Bob Allen, Greg Yagi, and Robin Lemkuil



April 5, 2026
Easter Brunch
service at
United Church
Thank you to Vicki Bradley and many
volunteers who made this brunch extra special!



Photo Credits: Robin Lemkuil

April 12, 2026 Holy Humor Sunday

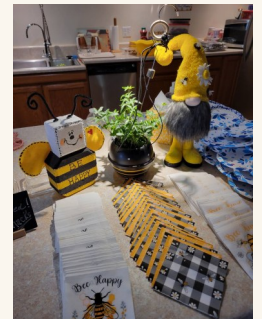
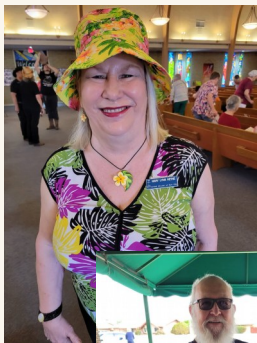


Photo credits this page:
Brady Abel and Robin Lemkuil





Thirty-seven friends and family members gathered for a memorial service for Mary Ann Fairbanks on March 30, 2026. Mary Ann, a member of United Church since 2001, passed away on September 1, 2025.

Mary Ann was remembered during a beloved service in Grace Chapel. Her ashes were committed near her husband Lloyd, in our Memorial Garden. Family and friends joined for a reception afterwards.



Photo credits this page: Robin Lemkuil

Memorial Garden

Thank you, Bill Zimmer,
for keeping the roses in the
Memorial Garden looking Beautiful!
Take time to stop and smell the roses
in this beautiful garden!





Photo Credits: Robin Lemkuil



Tacos and Bingo was a great success! Thank you to everyone to organized the event and those of you (37) who came and played Bingo and ate Tacos!

This fundraiser for the A/V upgrades raised \$460!!



Photo Credit: Bob Allen

Just in case you missed it... on Sunday, April 19 we had a guest soloist, Tony Milioto all the way from taly!

Tony's voice resonated through the sanctuary as he gave his rendition of *O Sole Mio* by Eduardo di Capra and his captivating performance of Giacomo Puccini's *Nessun Dorma*!

It was a real treat and it felt like we should be floating on a gondola in Italy!



Thank you!

Thank you to those that donated artwork to our most recent **Silent Art Auction!**

And **THANK YOU** to those of you who bid on the artwork! We hope you had fun playing along and outbidding each other!

The Art Auction raised **\$790** towards the **AV Upgrades** (see thermometers posted in the Sanctuary for more totals)!

It was a successful event and we appreciate the volunteers who organized the auction and the winners of the artwork!





On Tuesday, **March 10**, Sun Health along with eleven guests welcomed Matt Burlend with ComForCare. Matt discussed the types of personal and medical care services offered by professional caregivers that come to your home. With the right kind of support and home safety guidelines, older adults can comfortably age in place.



Photo Credit: Robin Lemkuil

Sun Health for May presents “Stay Strong, Stay Steady: Mobility & Fall Prevention. On Tuesday, May 12 beginning at 10:30 am in the Beehive, discover how to stay active, confident, and independent as you age. This presentation will provide you with the latest research on aging and mobility, highlighting the key factors that most influence balance, strength, and overall health. Learn practical strategies to reduce your risk of falls and maintain your independence for years to come.

Watch the church bulletin and future newsletters for more information for our Sun Health Speaker Series and other events happening this summer!

Paint and Sip with Julie Larsson on Tuesday, June 16

Take Care of Your Feet: A Guide to Diabetic Foot Care on Tuesday, July 14

Nutrition and Heart Health on Tuesday, August 11

There will be sign-up sheets near the Welcome Table as the dates draw near.

WHAT FOOTPRINTS WILL YOU LEAVE?



We all leave footprints through the positive impressions our lives make on others. A legacy gift to United Church of Sun City Endowment Fund is a way to make a thoughtful footprint: that reflects your deepest values. It tells future generations, “This place, this faith, and this community mattered to me.” Start your legacy journey today by reaching out to the church office for more details.

Did you know?

Gifts to the Endowment Fund may be made in any amount and in any manner. The most usual methods are as follows:

- Direct gifts of money or securities.
- Designation of Endowment Fund as beneficiary under a life insurance policy.
- Devise of real estate.
- Bequest or devise under donor’s last will.

What is the UCCSC Endowment Fund?

The Endowment fund was established by resolution of the congregation in 1986. Its long-range objective is to continue building over time, the income from which, will help to insure the ability to perpetuate our function as a church into the future.



COMMUNION at United Church

Please join us on
Sunday, May 3,
At the 10:00 am
Worship Service.

All are Welcome!



Are you in need of

Pastoral Care

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

Walking offers numerous health benefits, including improved heart health, weight management, boosted mood, and reduced risk of chronic diseases. It is a low-impact exercise that strengthens bones and muscles, while also benefiting cognitive function and immune system strength.



Join the United Church Walkers every Monday and Wednesday at 1:00 pm in the Beehive.

Lisa Dunbar, our Parish Nurse, monitors your heart rate, checks your blood pressure and provides valuable health information.

As the hot days of summer approach, join them as they walk in a cool, controlled, safe environment to stay fit and healthy!

Make sure to join us after worship on Sunday, May 17 for a very special Fellowship as we recognize the United Church Choir for all their musical efforts throughout the year!

This will also be the last Sunday Fellowship until September!

The deadline for the **June** Newsletter:
Monday, May 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 Robin in the Church office the Monday of the week before you want it published.

Send your information to Robin at
office@uccsc.com.

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!

(April location was in the cartoon character tool box by Dickie and Holly's article.)

Fry's Community Rewards

Did you know you could partner with Fry's and provide income for your church with every dollar you spend at the grocery store?

Once you link your Fry's card to our church, all you have to do is shop at Fry's and swipe your Shopper's Card.

Visit <http://www.frysfood.com/> or call them at 623-907-4965.

This quarter, United Church has earned \$39.63 shopping rewards from Kroger!



Community Rewards Program



May

BIRTHDAYS
THIS MONTH

Gerald Ferguson	05/07
Dana Annis	05/08
Ellyn Mae Ullman	05/09
Sue Stryker	05/10
Steve Halasz	05/12
Bill Zimmer	05/12
Ron Wiebold	05/16
Cheryl Tucker	05/17
Debbie Still	05/19
Brenda Gunther	05/20
Martha McBroom	05/21
Lori Sheets	05/22
Cathy Machala	05/30



Stephen & Barbara-Ann Cox	05/14
Greg & Vicki Bradley	05/18
Gregg & Mindy Ochoa	05/20
Bob & Boni Locke	05/27
Art & Leslie Chrissan	05/30

Ladies Lunch
Thursday, May 14, 2026 at 1:00 pm
 George's Lakeview Café.
 10502 W. Thunderbird Blvd., Sun City

Wear your Patriotic Colors Red, White & Blue

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



This stunning photograph was taken on Easter morning, April 5, at the Sun Bowl as our Easter Sunrise Service was about to start. Thank you, Ann Davis, for capturing this incredible sunrise!

DO NOT FEAR THE ROAD AHEAD, FOR GOD WALKS WITH YOU. HIS HAND WILL GUIDE YOU, AND HIS GRACE WILL SUSTAIN YOU THROUGH EVERY TRIAL. AMEN! DEUTERONOMY 31:6



MEMORIAL DAY
CELEBRATE - REMEMBER - HONOR
OUR HEROES WHO MADE THE
ULTIMATE SACRIFICE



Meets Tuesday,
 May 5 at 8:00 am

MEN'S BREAKFAST
 George's Lakeview Café
 10502 W. Thunderbird Blvd. Sun City
 All are Welcome!

May 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <div style="border: 1px solid green; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> <p style="color: green; font-style: italic;">May Greeters: Bob Allen and Joan Paulsen</p> </div>					1 OFFICE CLOSED	2 OFFICE CLOSED
<p>3</p> <p>8:00 Praise Team 8:40 Choir Practice 10:00 am Worship with Holy Communion 11:00 am Fellowship Worship online</p>	<p>4</p> <p>1:00 pm Walking group 2:00 pm TAI CHI in the Beehive</p>	<p>5</p> <p>8:00 am Men's Breakfast George's Lakeview Cafe 1:00 pm SilverSneakers Exercise Class in the Beehive</p>	<p>6</p> <p>10:00 Converse and Connect 12:00 Power of the Pause 1:00 pm Walking group</p>	<p>7</p> <p>NO BIBLE STUDY TODAY 1:00 pm SilverSneakers Exercise Class in Beehive</p>	8 OFFICE CLOSED	9 OFFICE CLOSED
<p>10 Mother's Day</p> <p>8:00 Praise Team 8:40 Choir Practice 10:00 am Worship 11:00 am Fellowship Worship online</p>	<p>11</p> <p>1:00 pm Walking group 2:00 pm TAI CHI in the Beehive</p>	<p>12</p> <p>10:30 am Sun Health: Mobility & Fall Prevention in the Beehive 1:00 pm SilverSneakers Exercise Class in the Beehive</p>	<p>13</p> <p>10:00 Converse and Connect 12:00 Power of the Pause 1:00 pm Walking group</p>	<p>14</p> <p>9:00 Finance Meeting 9:00 Mission Meeting 10:00 Council Meeting 11:00 am Bible study Pastor's study 1:00 pm Ladie's Lunch at George's Cafe 1:00 pm SilverSneakers Exercise Class in Beehive</p>	15 OFFICE CLOSED	16 OFFICE CLOSED
<p>17</p> <p>8:00 Praise Team 8:40 Choir Practice 10:00 am Worship 11:00 am Last Sunday Fellowship with Choir Recognition Worship online</p>	<p>18 Newsletter Deadline</p> <p>1:00 pm Walking group 2:00 pm TAI CHI in the Friendship Center</p>	<p>19</p> <p>1:00 pm SilverSneakers Exercise Class in the Beehive</p>	<p>20</p> <p>10:00 Converse and Connect 12:00 Power of the Pause 1:00 pm Walking group</p>	<p>21</p> <p>11:00 am Bible study Pastor's study 1:00 pm SilverSneakers Exercise Class in Beehive</p>	22 OFFICE CLOSED	23 OFFICE CLOSED
<p>24 Pentecost Sunday</p> <p>8:00 Praise Team 10:00 am Worship Worship online</p> <p style="color: red; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">Wear RED!</p>	<p>25 Memorial Day</p> <p style="color: blue;">Office Closed</p> <p>1:00 pm Walking group 2:00 pm TAI CHI in the Beehive</p>	<p>26</p> <p>1:00 pm SilverSneakers Exercise Class in the Beehive</p>	<p>27</p> <p>10:00 Converse and Connect 12:00 Power of the Pause 1:00 pm Walking group</p>	<p>28</p> <p>11:00 am Bible study Pastor's study 1:00 pm SilverSneakers Exercise Class in Beehive</p>	29 OFFICE CLOSED	30 OFFICE CLOSED
<p>31</p> <p>8:00 Praise Team 10:00 am Worship Worship online</p>	<p>Sunday, May 24 is PENTECOST SUNDAY! We will also be celebrating Memorial Day with patriotic music and hymns! Remember to wear your RED (white and blue...)</p>					

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



May 2026

STAFF:

**Rev. Brady Abel, Senior Pastor
Greg Bradley, Moderator
Heather Purtle, Vice Moderator
Bill Zimmer, Past Moderator
Alan Paulson, Minister of Music
Beverly Fletcher, Organist**

**Praise Team: Kira Kadel-Funk, Brenda Goodenberger, Michael Nanney
Robin Lemkuil Office Manager/Asst. to the Pastor
Craig Zimmerman & Boni Locke, Office Assistants
Lisa Dunbar, Parish Nurse
Dickie Duniver, Custodian
Holly Lentini, Assistant Custodian
Greg Yagi, Lester Atkinson and Robin Lemkuil, Audio/Video Tech**

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

**Office Hours 8:30 am 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

Website: uccsc.com

**Facebook: United Church of Sun City
YouTube: United Church of Sun City**

