



## PASTOR'S POST

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

*"He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the  
Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness,  
and to walk humbly with your God." Micah 6:8, NRSV.*

Greetings,

With the approach of Christmas, I keep thinking about something that happened to me recently at a McDonald's drive-thru. I was sitting there, hungry for my Egg McMuffin I had just ordered, when I pulled up to the window and the employee said, "Your meal has been paid for by the gentleman ahead of you."

I just sat there for a second. That's the first time anything like that has ever happened to me. No announcement, no expectation, no angle, just a simple gift from a stranger who asked for nothing in return. And I've got to tell you, it hit me in a way I didn't expect. It felt like the gift of grace showing up in a paper bag.

Isn't that the heart of Christmas? A gift we didn't ask for, appearing unexpectedly, reshaping the way we see the world. God slips into our lives quietly, in a manger, in a moment, in the kindness of people, some we'll never meet or see again. And suddenly, the ordinary becomes extraordinary.

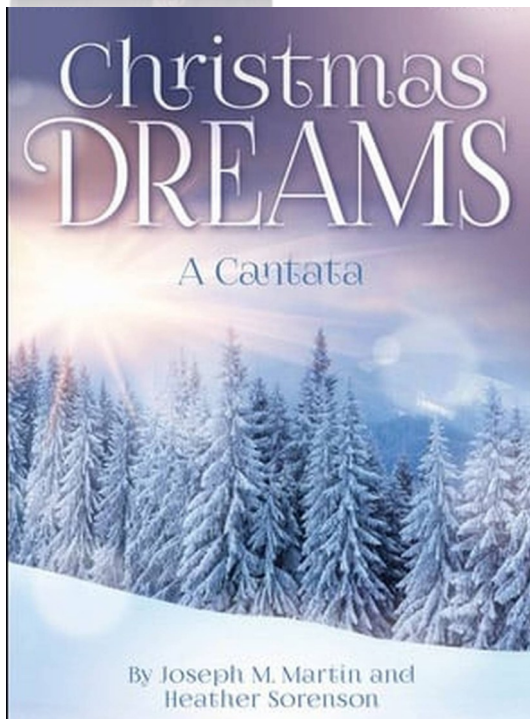
This season gets noisy and frantic, but that little act of drive-thru generosity reminded me that Christmas still happens in surprising places: at a fast-food window, in a kind word, in a gesture no one notices except the person who receives it. How holy it is when love makes itself known and joy reigns supreme, even for just a few minutes.

My prayer this December is that each of us has an experience like that, unearned, unexpected, and deeply needed. And even more, that we become people who create those sacred moments for others. I know I will the next time I am at McDonald's.

Blessings for Christmas and may grace catch you off guard.

*Pastor Brady*





**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21** our Music Ministry will be presenting our annual **Christmas Cantata** at our regular 10:00 am worship service. It is by two of our favorite composers, Joseph M. Martin and Heather Sorenson.

It's entitled *Christmas Dreams* and our Choir and Praise Team will be joined by other guest singers and members of the **Phoenix Symphony Orchestra!**

You and your family and friends can join us as we get in the Christmas Spirit!

Be sure to arrive early to get a good seat!

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11** is our annual **All-Church Christmas Potluck** party at 5:00 pm in our Friendship Center. This year, we will be blessed with Christmas music by two very familiar voices, Brenda Goodenberger and Andrea Dixon, singing lots of your Christmas favorites with their beautiful voices! **Bring some fun money for the craft sale and other AV fundraising events!**

**DECEMBER 24** is, of course, the date of our **Christmas Eve Service** at 5:00 pm. This is always a Sun City community favorite, and our musicians are preparing some very special music for that evening! Another great opportunity to invite friends or new neighbors to experience the worship and welcome at our church!

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY, JESUS!**

In His Service,  
*Alan Paulson*  
Minister of Music

### December 2025 Christmas all Month!

**All Church Christmas Potluck**  
Thursday, December 11 at 5:00 pm

**Christmas Cantata & Cookie Walk**  
Sunday, December 21 10:00 am

**Christmas Eve Candlelight Service**  
Wednesday, December 24 at 5:00 pm



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





## Greetings from your Parish Nurse....

I'm having a hard time wrapping my mind around the fact that it is December and the Christmas Season has come already! Anyone else feel that way?

The last few days, I've been thinking about gifts—both the giving of gifts and receiving. Often one of these areas is difficult for us. It may be giving a gift—will they like it? Have I kept my gifting equal? How will I get it to them? What if they don't like it?

But receiving gifts can be just as difficult. Did I express my thanks? I feel like I don't deserve this. This is more than the gift I gave to them, etc., etc. We certainly overthink our gifts don't we?

In thinking about it, I have just a few things to suggest. I was talking with a friend the other day who is temporarily in need of some extra emotional and physical support. She may just need to talk for a bit. Or may need a ride to the grocery store or an errand run for her. One of her other friends had called and offered to help her. As she talked to me about this, she said, "I don't want to lose a friendship because I ask too much right now." She was having a difficult time accepting this gift of friendship at this time. I reminded her that the friend had offered to help and others may offer too! I finally said "Please don't keep this other friend from the gift she receives by helping you. When we help others, our endorphins go up. It makes us feel good and gives us a purpose. So don't cheat her of that experience!"

I know it may be a convoluted way to think of it, but when you need help and someone offers that assistance, be willing to accept it!

It made me think about my gift giving as well. Instead of getting caught up in all the physical gifts, could I focus on giving myself to others in some way? And as I thought, there are lots of ways to do that! Some ideas are:

- ◇ Give a smile to a stranger! You never know what a difference it can make.
- ◇ Give a tip to someone in your world that you know is struggling—a little extra for a waitress, a tip for your groundskeeper, maybe a tip for your hairdresser. You can think of many others that don't have all the extras.
- ◇ Give time to someone who is lonely. Look around in your neighborhood or activities. There are always people that feel that they are on the "outside." Maybe invite a neighbor in for tea and cookies. Or take someone out for a Christmas Concert. Maybe just call someone, ask questions and listen. If they are lonely and need to talk, you may not have to say much if anything!
- ◇ How about telling your family a story from your past—of you growing up and experiences you had. If you have a picture to go along with it, even better!
- ◇ Invite some people over to play cards, or dominoes or some other simple game. Games are a great way to be able to talk and get to know each other without awkward silences.
- ◇ Give the gift of forgiveness. Is there someone in your life that you have been meaning to communicate with and forgive the past? Now is a great time to do it.
- ◇ Give the gift of encouragement. Instead of just signing your Christmas cards, how about if you put in 2-3 sentences about what that person means to you. What they have done for you, or maybe just saying how much you love them. As the commercial says, Christmas Card...\$2. Words of encouragement and love...Priceless!

I'm sure you can come up with many more ideas. But think about giving the gift of yourself this Christmas. And think about accepting gracefully the lovely gestures from others.

*Lisa Dunbar*, Parish Nurse

# Mission Board



Photo Credits: Brady Abel and Robert Allen

## HARVEST TABLE

Thanks to the many who have generously donated, even in these hard times, fresh veggies, fruits, and pantry items for the harvest Table. All items were given to Valley View Community Food Bank. Your kindness and compassion have brought relief and help to our community.

*Your Mission Board: Hedy Hall, Diane Gahm, Ginger Dawson, Shari Spishak-Spielberger and Mary Segers-Koscielny*



## It's time to THINK SOUP!

The 2026 Souper Bowl of Caring Campaign KICKS OFF on Sunday, January 4. Will United Church of Sun City keep the Silver Ladle? Will we be SOUP-erior over the competition?

All donations of non-perishable food items and checks (designate soup in the memo line) will be given to Valley View Food Bank. Every selfless gift helps tackle hunger for a child, senior or family.

**Go Team UCCSC!!!**

**Your generous support is always appreciated!**

For **CHURCH RECORDS**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Envelope # \_\_\_\_\_ (for office use)  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ beginning \_\_\_\_\_  
I plan to give \$ \_\_\_\_\_ each ☐ week ☐ month (date and year)  
for an annual total of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ by giving notice to the \_\_\_\_\_  
I understand that this commitment can be changed at any time by giving notice to the church officer.  
☐ I would like to talk with someone about including the church or church-related institution in my will. Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



**Dreaming God's Dream**  
NO GIFT TOO SMALL. NO DREAM TOO BIG.

For **CHURCH RECORDS**  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
With others in my congregation,  
I commit myself to give in proportion to  
what I am able for the ministries of the

***If you haven't already done so, please complete and return your 2026 Pledge Card***

Based on the pledges we receive, our 2026 budget will be finalized and approved by the Church Council.

We look forward to receiving your pledge prior to Loyalty Sunday, **December 14, 2025**. Pastor Brady will bless our pledges on that day.

The annual budget will be mailed to the church membership in January for review. The finalized budget will be presented for approval at the *Annual Meeting* on Sunday, **February 8, 2026**.





Photo Credit: Brady Abel

On Tuesday, November 11, Hospice of the Valley spoke about ***Coping with Grief During the Holidays*** and developing strategies for moving through the Holiday seasons.

The next Sun Health Speaker Series will be on January 13, 2026 at 10:30 am in the Beehive. **NUTRITION in 2026** will be the topic of conversation. Sign up near the Welcome Table.

**A MATTER OF BALANCE CLASS:** A.T. Still University will be discussing practical strategies for managing fall risks including balance, flexibility, and strength exercise to enable increased activity. This Free class will be held on Fridays, January 16 through March 6, 2026 from 9:30 to 11:30 in the Beehive. Please register in advance on the sign-up sheet near the Welcome Table. This class has been well attended in the past, bring your friend or neighbor!

A.T. Still University presents



**A MATTER OF  
BALANCE**

MANAGING CONCERNS ABOUT FALLS

**Who should attend:**

- Anyone concerned about falls.
- Anyone interested in improving balance, flexibility, and strength.
- Anyone who has fallen in the past.
- Anyone who has restricted activities because of falling concerns.



## "A MIGHTY CHANGE OF HEART"

Let's come together to make this Christmas magical for kids in our community. Take an Angel from the holiday tree. Always needed: diapers, pull ups, baby wipes, shampoo, toothbrushes, toothpaste, NEW shoes (all sizes) hygiene products. **"A Mighty Change of Heart"** a non-profit helping foster children and families. Please bring your supplies by **Sunday, December 21.**

May this Christmas be filled with special moments.

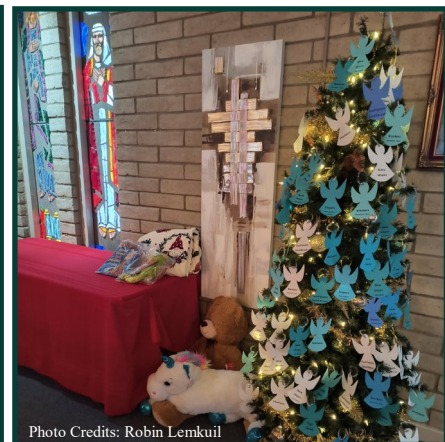


Photo Credits: Robin Lemkuil



**Join us for this exciting new event!**

On **December 7 and 14** after worship and on **December 11** at our Christmas Pot Luck Party, we will be holding a **Craft Fair!**

Our congregation has so many talented people who have donated their crafts to be purchased by YOU! All proceeds will go towards our AV Fundraiser! (see article in this newsletter).

What an excellent way to get started on your Christmas shopping! Find that perfect gift for that "special someone" on your list! THANK YOU to all our "crafters" who have donated their craft items!

Bring your **\$\$ cash \$\$** and shop 'till you drop! (credit purchases are not available)



## Sunday, November 9, 2025

United Church welcomed four new members:

Linda Martin, Carol Durocher, Kevin Danzey,  
Kim Hopkin along with Pastor Brady



On Tuesday, November 18, several of our newest members from 2025 joined us for a delicious New Member Dinner at George's Lakeview Café. It was a very special time of fellowship and getting to know one another.

Pictured L to R: Hedy Hall, Linda Martin, Dorothy Murray, Joan Paulsen, Diane Gahm, Lisa Dunbar, Laura Hamrick, Carol Durocher, Steve Gahm, Robin Lemkuil and Pastor Brady.

## Paint Tutorial

On **Monday, January 12** from 10:00 - 11:30 am, we will be offering another "Paint Tutorial" class. Julie Larsson will once again guide us step-by-step in creating our master-pieces! All supplies of acrylic paints, brushes and canvas will be supplied.

Men and women, be sure to sign-up (near the Welcome Table or call the office) as the class will be limited to 16 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!***



## United Church of Sun City Annual Blessing of the Pets Saturday, October 25

Creatures great and small and their beloved owners attended the annual pet blessing on October 25, 2025. Twelve creatures were blessed at the annual "Blessing of the Pets." Pastor Brady blessed all animals, present and virtually.

Thank you for the pet supplies and cash donations that were given. Sun Valley Animal Shelter relies on donations 100%.







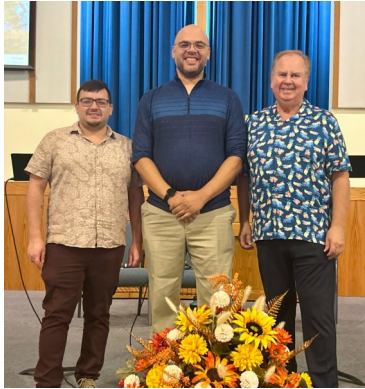
## Veterans Day 2025

Veterans were honored and given a special medallion on Sunday, November 9 representing our Armed Forces:

Army, Navy, Air Force,  
Marines and Coast Guard

Veterans, you are an elite  
representation of patriotism in our Country!

*Thank You For Your Service!*



In case you missed it... October 26 was a special Sunday with guest Soloist Miguel Jackson. Miguel joined Alan Paulson and Michael Nanney singing several renditions by Mark Hayes along with a special solo *Great is thy Faithfulness*. Check out our YouTube page "United Church of Sun City" for October 26 and enjoy their music again!

Bud and Mary Sue Andreason also celebrated their 62nd Wedding Anniversary! Their son Jerry and Katie joined them in their celebration and they shared delicious cupcakes with all of us during Fellowship! Congratulations Bud and Mary Sue!



To everyone at United Church of Sun City! I am sending my heartfelt thanks with lots and lots of love for all your caring acts that you expressed to me in so many ways!!

Each and every one of them helped me get through the 68 days that I spent in the hospital! You can never ever know how much it meant to me!! My recovery is going slow, but my doctors and all the medical staff are so pleased with the progress I have made! My problem is "I need lots of patience!"

Again, thanks to all you awesome people there! And how great that Pastor Brady could be with me a couple of different times! He offered so much love, support, and encouragement, especially with his famous words, "Mom you can do it!" Thank you for understanding his absence!

I send my love to all of you, and wish God's Blessings to you forever!

Your Friend, Betty Abel



## COMMUNION at United Church

Please join us on  
Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup>  
at 10:00 am.

Advent ~ PEACE

All are Welcome!



## Are you in need of

# Pastoral Care

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

## SILVERSNEAKERS CLASSES

Led by Ginger Dawson, Certified Instructor

**Tuesday/Thursday**

**Strength & Balance Class  
at 1:00 pm and 2:30 pm!**



SilverSneakers is  
adding a second  
Strength & Balance Class  
beginning on  
**December 2 at 2:30 pm  
on Tuesdays/Thursdays.**

Join us in the Beehive  
and invite others to  
join with you.

Contact Ginger Dawson  
at 623-695-6489

The deadline for the  
**January** Newsletter:  
**Monday, December 15.**

# 2026

Please submit your  
articles to Robin at:  
[office@uccsc.com](mailto: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](mailto:office@uccsc.com).

## CONVERSE AND CONNECT

with Lisa Dunbar, Parish Nurse

**Wednesdays at 10:00 am in the Beehive**

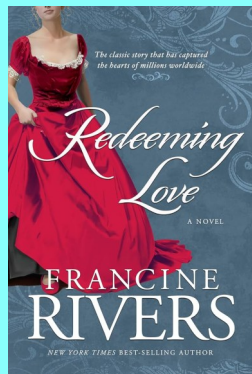
Join the Wednesday morning study group  
at 10:00 am in the Beehive.

This group has begun a new book:

**REDEEMING LOVE**  
by Francine Rivers

A fictional book that reflects the  
Book of Hosea in the Bible

Contact Lisa Dunbar  
for more information  
about joining this group  
231-557-0131



## 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!

(November location was mixed in with all the  
crosses on the cross picture.)

**Don't forget to sign up for the All Church  
Christmas Potluck on Sunday, December 11!**

Celebrate Christmas with your church family on  
Thursday, **December 11** at 5:00 pm.

Bring your dish to pass and enjoy  
entertainment and door prizes!

See you there!!

Bring some fun money for the craft  
sale and AV fundraising events!







Alan Paulson	12/04
Marris Warmath	12/04
Beverly Fletcher	12/05
Gail Warmath	12/07
Fran Flick	12/10
Doug Eichorn	12/11
Todd Jendrick	12/12
Dorothy Murray	12/16
Pamela Bridges	12/21
Brenda Harbula	12/22
Diane Gahm	12/26
Nancy Bain	12/29
Donna Walter	12/31



Dan & Michelle Wruck	12/02
Heather & Kris Purtle	12/14
Steve & Joanie Halasz	12/30



**United Church of Sun City**  
**Third Annual Cookie Walk!**  
**December 21, 2025—Cantata Sunday**  
**from 11:00 am to Noon in the Beehive**

JOIN US AS WE CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS WITH COOKIES!  
 Christmas Cookies will be on sale for you to purchase  
 at \$5.00 per dozen



### **We Need Cookies to Sell!**

Please sign up (near the Welcome Table) to bring  
 2 or 3 dozen of your favorite home baked Christmas Cookies.

For those who donate 2 or 3 dozen or more cookies,  
 you will receive \$1.00 off per dozen of cookies that you purchase!

If you are not a baker, contact Vicki Bradley (217-433-2075) for  
 no-bake treat ideas so you can still participate in donating for the sale.

**Deadline for signing up to bake cookies is December 14.**  
 Cookies should be brought to the church on **Sunday, December 21.**

**MERRY &  
 BRIGHT**

**Ladies Luncheon**  
**Thursday, December 4 at 1:00 pm**  
**George's Lakeview Café.**  
 10502 W. Thunderbird Blvd., Sun City



**Be sure you get on  
 Santa's good list! RSVP!**

*A "Special Guest" will be joining  
 us for a Merry and Bright  
 holiday celebration*

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

**Meets Tuesday,  
 December 2 at 8:00 am**

**MEN'S  
 BREAKFAST**

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



United Church of Sun City has an outstanding Music Ministry! So many factors come together to make a Sunday morning church service a success... our staff, volunteers, technology, production crew and YOU!!

The "Video Village" is where slides are projected on the screen, church service recordings are generated, and sound volumes for the Praise Team, Choir and pulpit are controlled each week. A minimum of two technicians are needed to ensure all of these things run smoothly without fault. However, technology has a mind of its own where sometimes, things do not go as planned. Our goal is to create the best worship quality of sound and video for our in-house guests and on-line viewers.

Much of the equipment we use is old. Some of it is original equipment from when the church was built back in the 1960s! It has become increasingly difficult to stay current with new equipment while maintaining the old equipment. Sunday morning services have become challenging, to say the least; controlling volume, feedback from microphones, salvaging older equipment to "make things work" all the while trying to provide the best sound and visual quality for you and our on-line viewers.

In the past five years, we have received grant funds of \$8,000 for upgrades to our sound and video equipment. We have purchased a new video recording camera, two new computers and programs for the PowerPoint slides and video recordings, new choir mics, and expanded work space for our production crew.

In July of this past year, AV Experts (Audio Visual Experts out of Phoenix, AZ) spent some time in our Sanctuary analyzing our equipment and providing us with suggestions on how to improve quality without sacrificing our existing equipment. It has been a learning experience. AV Experts has provided us with several estimates providing upgrades to our AV equipment bringing us up to current technology standards. It is our goal, in 2026, to implement this new technology and provide Sunday morning worship at United Church with an even more enhanced worship experience. And lets not forget concerts, special events and our Christmas and Easter Cantatas with the Phoenix Symphony!

**We need your help!** In the coming year, we will be having fundraisers, selling tickets, having craft fairs, special Valentine's dinners, auctions, and many other little ways we can engage you in our fundraising efforts. Of course, generous donations are always accepted. United Church prides itself on functioning without debt and it is our intent to keep it that way. Currently, there are funds set aside to kickstart our AV Project, but we need YOUR help to carry us the rest of the way. Please prayerfully consider joining us in our fundraising activities, donations and getting enthused about improving our sound and visual quality every Sunday morning for years to come.

***This is all for YOU, our United Church family, and we want you to become a part of it's success!***

### AV Experts Estimates:

Replace and upgrade wireless mics and mic systems along with recharging stations, labor and installation (L & I)	\$15,500
Replace and upgrade the digital sound board and stage monitors and New Sound System processor, (L & I)	\$18,300
Additional Point and Zoom Cameras and updated camera program (L & I)	\$15,700
Replace and upgrade Video Projector to Laser projector to improve visual quality (L& I)	\$ 4,800
Project Total	<b>\$54,300</b>

(Detailed estimates are available for review upon request)



# December 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 1:00 pm Walking group 2:00 pm TAI CHI in the Beehive	2 8:00 am Men's Breakfast George's Lakeview Cafe 1:00 pm & 2:30 pm SilverSneakers Exercise Class in Beehive	3 10:00 Converse and Connect 12:00 Power of the Pause 1:00 pm Walking group	4 11:00 am Bible study Pastor's study 1:00 pm Ladies Lunch George's Lakeview Café 1:00 pm & 2:30 pm SilverSneakers Exercise Class in Beehive	5 OFFICE CLOSED	6 OFFICE CLOSED
7 <b>Second Sunday of Advent ~ Peace</b> 8:00 Praise Team 8:40 Choir Practice 10:00 am Worship Holy Communion Worship online 	8 1:00 pm Walking group 2:00 pm TAI CHI in the Beehive	9 1:00 pm & 2:30 pm SilverSneakers Exercise Class in Beehive	10 10:00 Converse and Connect 12:00 Power of the Pause 1:00 pm Walking group	11 9:00 Finance Meeting 9:00 Mission Meeting 10:00 Council Meeting 11:00 am Bible study Pastor's study 1:00 pm & 2:30 pm SilverSneakers Exercise Class in Beehive 5:00 pm All Church Christmas Pot Luck Party! and Craft Fair!	12 OFFICE CLOSED	13 OFFICE CLOSED
14 <b>Third Sunday of Advent ~ Love</b> 8:00 Praise Team 8:40 Choir Practice 10:00 am Worship Loyalty Sunday Worship online 	15 <b>Newsletter Deadline</b> 1:00 pm Walking group 2:00 pm TAI CHI in the Beehive	16 1:00 pm & 2:30 pm SilverSneakers Exercise Class in Beehive	17 10:00 Converse and Connect 12:00 Power of the Pause 1:00 pm Walking group	18 11:00 am Bible study Pastor's study 1:00 pm & 2:30 pm SilverSneakers Exercise Class in Beehive	19 OFFICE CLOSED	20 OFFICE CLOSED 10:00 am Cantata Practice
21 <b>Fourth Sunday of Advent ~ Joy</b> 7:30 Symphony Practice 8:30 Choir Practice 10:00 am Worship Christmas Cantata with the Phoenix Symphony! 11:00 Cookie Walk! Angel Gifts are Due! Worship online	22 1:00 pm Walking group 2:00 pm TAI CHI in the Beehive	23 1:00 pm & 2:30 pm SilverSneakers Exercise Class in Beehive	24 12:00 Power of the Pause 5:00 pm Christmas Eve Worship	25 OFFICE CLOSED 	26 OFFICE CLOSED	27 OFFICE CLOSED
28 8:00 Praise Team 8:40 Choir Practice 10:00 am Worship with Worship online	29 1:00 pm Walking group 2:00 pm TAI CHI in the Beehive	30 1:00 pm & 2:30 pm SilverSneakers Exercise Class in Beehive	31 <b>NYE</b> 10:00 Converse and Connect 12:00 Power of the Pause 1:00 pm Walking group	1 <b>New Year's Day</b> OFFICE CLOSED 		

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



**December 2025**

**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](mailto:Office@uccsc.com)**

**Website: [uccsc.com](http://uccsc.com)**

**Facebook: United Church of Sun City**

