

UNITED CHURCH OF SUN CITY
“Where Everyone Is Someone Special.”
*All may rise, in body or spirit.
Congregational response in bold
Third Sunday of Advent, December 15, 2024

PRELUDE “Mélodie Celeste” Thomas Koschat
Beverly Fletcher, organ

GREETING, CENTERING, and CANDLE LIGHTING

ADVENT WREATH – LOVE Heather and Kris Purtle

INTROIT “Candles of Advent” Don Besig
Praise Team with Boni Locke on flute

*UNISON PRAYER

God of Life and Love, your good news is available to all of us. Yet, sometimes it arrives in strange packages. Open our eyes, ears, and minds to the unexpected ways you reach us. Continue to teach us to share your gifts of hope, peace, and love with people all around us. We seek to be more faithfully committed to you and to embody your gifts and grace in all we do. This we pray. Amen.

*OPENING HYMN “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling” (words on the screen)

SILENT REFLECTION, PRAYER, THE LORD’S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

PRAYER
RESPONSE

“Mary, Did you Know?” arr. Greg Howlett
Floyd Ellison, piano

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 22:34-40 (NRSV)

SPECIAL MUSIC

“All the World Awaits (Hosanna)” Chris Tomlin
Cheryl Tucker, Soloist

SERMON

“It’s That Simple”
Rev. Brady Abel

ANTHEM

“Come to Us” Heather Sorensen
Praise Team

CLOSING ANNOUNCEMENTS and BENEDICTION

*CLOSING RESPONSE “To God Be the Glory” (words on the screen)
Congregation

POSTLUDE

“Hornpipe” G.F. Handel
Beverly Fletcher, organ



What's Happening This Week....

Weekly Word

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| December 15 8:00 am 8:40 am 10:00 am 11:00 am | SUNDAY – Love Offering♥♥♥ Praise Team Rehearsal Choir Rehearsal Worship Coffee Fellowship |
| December 16 10:00 am 1:00 pm | MONDAY Converse and Connect in the Beehive Walking Group Newsletter Deadline |
| December 17 1:00 pm | TUESDAY SilverSneakers Strength & Balance in the Beehive |
| December 18 12:00 pm 1:00 pm 7:00 pm | WEDNESDAY Power of the Pause – Stop and Pray Walking Group AA Meeting in the meeting room |
| December 19 11:00 am 1:00 pm | THURSDAY Bible Study, Pastor's office SilverSneakers Strength & Balance in the Beehive |
| December 20 | FRIDAY Office Closed |
| December 21 10:00 am | SATURDAY Office Closed Cantata Rehearsal |
| December 22 8:00 am 10:00 am 11:00 am | SUNDAY – Cantata / Cookie Walk / Angel Tree Gifts Cantata Rehearsal Worship Coffee Fellowship with Cookie Walk |

Welcome! Wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here! Our prayer is that you will feel United Church is your spiritual home.

Please do not hesitate to contact our pastor with questions. We hope you will return soon to worship at United Church!

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, Brenda Goodenberger, Cheryl Tucker
 Robin Lemkuil, Office Manager/Assistant to the Pastor
 Craig Zimmerman, Office Assistant
 Lisa Dunbar, Parish Nurse
 Karen Crawford, Finance Secretary
 Greg Yagi and Robin Lemkuil, Audio/Video Tech
 Dickie Duniver, Sexton
 Tracy McRoy, Assistant Sexton
 All Members & Friends of United Church, Ministers of the Good News.

UNITED CHURCH OF SUN CITY
 11250 N. 107th Ave, Suite 105, Sun City, AZ 85351-4062
 Church Office Phone: (623) 933-0058
 Email: office@uccsc.com Web Site: www.uccsc.com
 Facebook: United Church of Sun City
 Office Hours: 8:30 am – 1:30 pm Monday – Thursday



God is still speaking,
UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST



MONTHLY PARTICIPATION

Head Usher: Randy Skanes
Greeter: Bud Andreason, Mary Sue Andreason
Head Teller: Mary Sue Andreason
Tellers: Diane Gahm, Gerry Paul, Donna Bone

ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY: 113

DID YOU KNOW . . . God is calling you today . . . but not on your cell phone! Please silence yours. ☺

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS: Dean Stryker; Lorraine Crane; Donna Bone; Bill and Joyce Hill's son-in-law Mark Beschafeld; Mary Lynn Heyne's friends Susan Shumway and David Salvaggio; Bud and Mary Sue Andreason's niece Sue Armstrong, their Nephew Daryl Converse and his wife Patty; Randy Skane's friend Bill Block; Ellyn Mae Ullman's friend Sue; Mary Segers-Koscielny's brother Robert Schneider; Lisa Dunbar's brother-in-law Ron Coppess; Laurie Allen; Clayton Blom; Nancy Wohlhuter; Dana and Mike Annis; Philip Atem. Prayers of Peace for the people of Israel, Gaza, Ukraine and Syria.

WELCOME! Are you visiting with us today? Welcome to the United Church of Sun City! We are so glad to see you! We hope you are blessed today as we worship The Lord together. We invite you to stay for fellowship following our service. If you have any questions about our Church, feel free to ask the pastor, usher, or contact the church office. We are so glad you are here and hope to see you again.

BIBLE STUDY: In-person study will continue on Thursday, December 19 at 11:00 am in Pastor's office. An E-mail will be sent out early in the week. All are welcome!

LOVE OFFERING: Today, this Advent Sunday of LOVE, we are collecting the Love offering. These offerings provide emergency relief funds for members of United Church of Sun City. The Love offering is collected on any month containing five Sundays. Please consider making a Love offering to assist your fellow congregants in need. Special envelopes are located in the pews.

CHRISTMAS CANTATA – DECEMBER 22 at 10:00 am. Join us as our Music Ministry Team, led by Alan Paulson, and a subsection of instrumentalist from the Phoenix Symphony present *The Star Arising* by Joseph Martin.

SECOND ANNUAL COOKIE WALK: Find a decadent abundance of holiday treats on Sunday, December 22 at 11:00 am following the Christmas Cantata. Christmas Cookies will be on sale for you to purchase at \$5.00 per dozen.

CHRISTMAS ANGEL TREE – This year, the recipients of our Angel Tree Gifts will be going to foster children through an organization called A Mighty Change of Heart. Grab a tag(s) off the Angel tree, shop for the supplies listed (not child specific) and return your unwrapped items to Church no later than December 22. Include a small toy, soft blanket or stuffed animal to warm the heart of a foster child and make this Christmas special in the hearts of the giver and the receiver. If you have any questions, please contact Kristi Geiger at 260-705-0537 or the Church office.

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE: Tuesday, December 24 at 5:00 pm. A traditional service of lessons and carols and Christmas Music! All are welcome!

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: Newsletter articles for the January newsletter are due Monday, December 16 to Robin at office@uccsc.com.

A MESSAGE FROM THE OFFICE: Giving statements for the tax year 2024 will be mailed out in January. *All contributions for 2024 should be received in the office by Sunday, December 29.* Please remember that we cannot send you a statement if we don't have your current mailing address. If you have moved or changed your address during the year, please verify your address with Robin in the church office at office@uccsc.com or 623-933-0058. Thank you!

AA MEETINGS are held in the church meeting room by the breezeway on Wednesday evenings from 7:00 – 8:00 pm.

SUICIDE & CRISIS LIFELINE – Dial 988 if you or someone you know is struggling or in crisis, help is available. Call or text 988 or chat 988lifeline.org. The Lifeline provides 24/7, confidential and free emotional support for people in suicidal crisis or mental health-related distress.

THE NATIONAL FRIENDSHIP LINE: A phone number for seniors (60 years of age and older) who can call if they would like social interaction or to ask health questions. Trained volunteers are available. The Friendship Line is FREE and is sponsored by the Institute of Aging (IOA). Call 1-800-971-0016.

BIBLES are located on a rack near the door in the back of the Sanctuary if you would like to use one during today's service. You are also welcome to follow along using the YouVersion Bible App or BibleGateway.com on your silenced phone.

PRAYER REQUEST: you are welcome to share your prayer requests with us at any time. You can contact us at the office, leave a message, send an e-mail, let us know on Sunday morning or fill out a prayer request slip (on the Welcome table in the back of church) and leave it in the collection plate.