

PASTOR'S POST

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



Greetings,

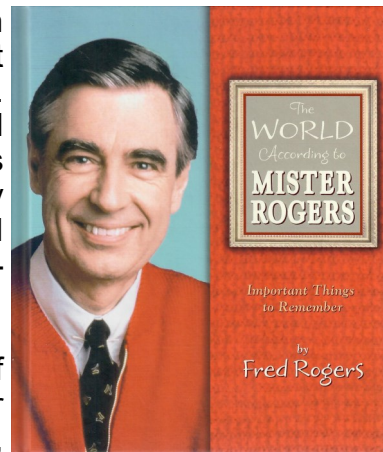
Over the New Year's holiday, I spent time on Sanibel Island, FL. It has been a habit of mine for the last several years to go to Sanibel and celebrate the new year with friends. It is a relaxing, fun, and beautiful place.

In September of 2022, Sanibel was devastated by Hurricane Ian. In fact, the place we always stay was completely washed away. I mean completely. So, this was the first time I had been back to Sanibel since the hurricane. There is still plenty of destruction evident and much rebuilding to happen. We were told by a resident of the island that it is only twenty five percent populated compared to before the hurricane. I give thanks for the people working hard to make the renovations happen. It will take time.

Like many, I have been utterly stunned looking at the videos of the ruin caused by the wildfires in the Los Angeles area. It sounds like the fires are getting contained. Still, I cannot imagine all that will go in to rebuilding neighborhoods including houses, businesses, schools, and places of worship. I am grateful for the firefighters and others who work continuously to try and bring this disaster to an end.

Dreadful things have happened throughout human history and they will again. However, it seems to me that recently, some of our disasters are even more extreme. Regardless, I am always reminded in the face of the bad stuff happening, what Mr. Rogers once said: "When I was a boy and I would see scary things in the news, my mother would say to me, 'Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping'" (The World According to Mister Rogers). Where is it you see people helping?

God knows that in all disasters there are a ton of people who help, thank God! Let us continue to look for them, pray for them, appreciate them, and when possible, be one of them.



Peace,

Pastor Brady





...from your Music Ministry! Happy February!

Or as my little brother used to call it because his birthday is on the 11th, "Featherberry."

I can't tell you how much we church musicians appreciate your kind words, texts, and emails after our varied musical offerings each Sunday! Don't I get to work with a lot of talented people?!? And of course, all of these people prepare at home, get up before the sun on Sundays, using their gas money and so much of their free time to share the talents that God has given them. United Church is truly blessed!

Right now, we are enjoying some of our "General" church year anthems as plans are being made to dive into our Lent and Easter music:

- ◇ **February 23** will be Gospel Music Sunday
- ◇ **March 2** we will have Lan Qui be our guest violinist!
- ◇ (**March 4** is "Fat Tuesday"...plan accordingly; calories don't count ☺)
- ◇ **March 5** is Ash Wednesday.
- ◇ **April 13**... our Palm Sunday/Easter CANTATA, accompanied by members of the Phoenix Symphony again!
- ◇ **April 20**...Easter Sunrise Service at the Sun Bowl, plus our 10 o'clock Brady Bunch service. (and No, he doesn't want to call it that ☹)

So much glorious, worshipful music coming our way 🎵🙏❤!!!



Blessings,

Alan Paulson, Minister of Music

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



Greetings from your Parish Nurse!

I grew up in Michigan, where February often meant snow, ice and cold! I remember one February when they reported we had only 4 hours of sunlight the whole month! I would often travel to work in the dark and would come home in the dusk of dark. The days were cloudy and dreary. It certainly affected my mood at that time!

Imagine how thrilled I am with the sunny skies of Arizona in February! Even when we have cold mornings, we have the sun warming up the temperature to a beautiful temperate degree. I feel I am so blessed by the warmth of the sun. The light and warmth have always reminded me of God's presence and love. When I sit in the sun for even a few minutes, I find myself thanking God for the blessings of the day, and imagining that His Spirit is entering and warming me from the inside out.



Brother Lawrence wrote a classic book many years ago about "Practicing the Presence of God". He was a monk that worked primarily in the kitchen, and made it a challenge to focus on God and His work even while carrying out the mundane tasks of preparing meals and washing dishes!

All of us can benefit from taking a few minutes in our routine to reflect on God and His Presence with us, and to give thanks for the many blessings He provides. Take it as a challenge this year to spend more time focusing on God!

Sun Health is coming again on Tuesday February 11 at 10:30 am for a presentation about Advanced Directives. Put it on your calendar and bring your questions (and your friends)!

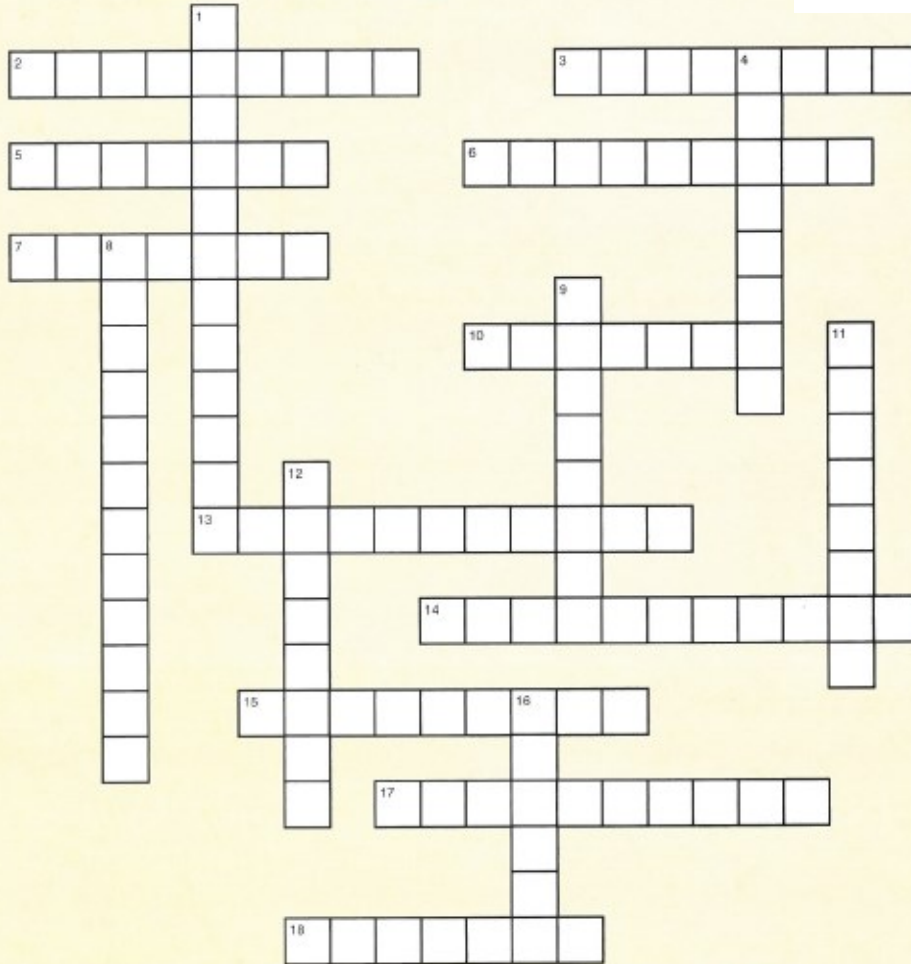
Enjoy the sun and the warmth of God,

Lisa Dunbar, Parish Nurse



Puzzle 1: Holidays

Solution on Mission Page



ACROSS

- 2 This animal starts on February 2
- 3 The second Monday in October honors this explorer
- 5 These women are honored on the second Sunday in May
- 6 December 25
- 7 They're honored on the third Sunday in June
- 10 Week-long African-American festival that begins on December 26

13 First Tuesday after the first Monday in November (2 words)

14 January 1 (3 words)

15 October 31

17 Third Monday in February is ___ Day

18 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day is in this month

DOWN

1 July 4th is also known as ___ Day

4 The last Monday in May is ___ Day

8 Fourth Thursday in November

9 This environmentally-friendly day is April 15. (2 words)

11 The first Monday in September (2 words)

12 Valentine's Day is ___ 14th

16 A Christian holiday celebrated on a Sunday in March or April



Photo Credits: Robin Lemkuil

Pastor Brady welcomes the newest members of our United Church family on January 26, 2025

Ellen Weber	Robert Allen
Anne Scrivner	Dave Blawn



Photo Credit: Brady Abel

To everyone at United Church of Sun City...

Greetings from **COLD** Iowa, but thankful we did not get the snow and ice that went to the southern states!! I want to say a big, big thank you to everyone for their friendship, kindness, and hospitality shown to me during my visit in December. I enjoyed every minute of my visit and every minute that I was at the church for the various activities.

I hope 2025 is going as good as possible for all of you. Thanks again for the wonderful memories, I think about them very often. May God Bless each and every one of you! Your friend, *Betty Abel.*

PS. I'm still quite partial to your pastor, also!!



Photo Credit: Robin Lemkuil

In January, our **"Grateful Tree"** turned into a tree of appreciation for our employees! On Sunday, January 19, we celebrated Employee Appreciation Sunday! Attendees were asked to express their appreciation for our employees on a HEART and those hearts were hung on our "Grateful Tree."

Thank you United Church Staff and Contracted Workers!

A few quotes from the Grateful Tree

"Thank you for your service in taking care of the Lord's House and for taking care of His children."

"We appreciate everyone on staff! They all are always so helpful. Always greeted with a smile or a hug!"

"You are all awesome! Thank You!"

"Thank you for all the volunteers and hard workers—everything runs so smoothly."

"Thank you for a spotless well-organized safe & joyful place to worship."



Photo Credit: Brady Abel

Pictured front: Cheryl Tucker, Tracy McRoy, Kira Funk, Brenda Goodenberger
 Featured back: Bill Zimmer, Robin Lemkuil, Beverly Fletcher, Dickie Duniver, Pastor Brady Abel, Greg Yagi, Greg Bradley, Lester Atkinson, Alan Paulson, Lisa Dunbar (not pictured: Craig Zimmerman and Karen Crawford)

Employee Appreciation Sunday at United Church!

Sunday, January 19, employees and contracted workers were celebrated during worship and during Fellowship with special treats. The group totals over 61 years of dedication to United Church.

Thank you to this great group of individuals for their servant hearts!

Mission Board

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.

Last quarter, United Church has earned \$27.11 shopping rewards from Kroger!



Community Rewards Program

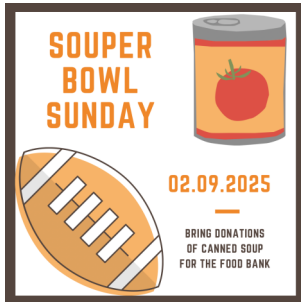
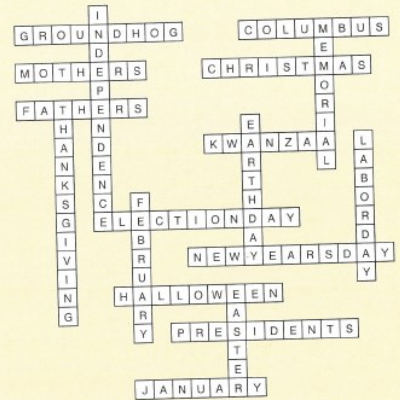


Photo Credits: Hedy Hall

Puzzle 1: Crossword



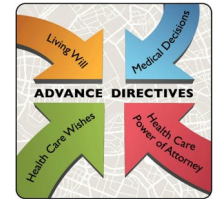
Continues through February 9, 2025

Each year the congregations of the Church of the Palms and United Church of Sun City donate the collected soup to Valley View Food Bank.

Last year, the Soup Campaign generated more than 7,134 packages and cans of soup. Let's keep the "Silver Ladle" and break last year's record!

Hedy Hall, Mission Board





Join us on Tuesday, **February 11 at 10:30 am** in the Beehive, as Sun Health welcomes guest speaker Carla Sutter, MSW, of the Arizona Healthcare Directives Registry.

Advance care planning is a facilitated process of planning for future health and personal care. Advance care planning conversations help to ensure that a person's beliefs, values, and preferences are understood, and then documented, so that they are in place to guide future decision-making at a time when a person is unable to make their wishes known to their healthcare team. Carla will help you design a plan that honors our end-of-life healthcare wishes.

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

The Importance of Advance Directives

Why is an Advance Directive important? An advance directive is important when you're badly hurt or have a serious illness that keeps you from making medical decisions for yourself. It tells your doctors and other health care workers what type of care you would like to have.

What is an Advance Directive: **Part 1: Living Will**—a form that states the type of medical treatment you want to receive as you near the end of your life and if you can no longer speak for yourself. **Part 2: Health Care Power of Attorney (POA)** - allows you to name a person to make treatment decisions for you when you can't speak for yourself. This person can be a spouse, partner, parent, friend, or someone you trust to make health decisions for you.

FEBRUARY 9, 2025
11:00 AM

ANNUAL
MEMBERSHIP
MEETING

The United Church of Sun City Annual Membership Meeting will be held after our 10:00 am worship service on **Sunday, February 9.**

There are several items that will be discussed for a vote including the 2025 budget and slate of officers for 2025.

A quorum of 25% membership is required. Your vote counts!

Please plan on attending this important, meeting and make a difference in the life of your Church.

(Guests are welcome to attend without vote.)

Qualified Charitable Distribution

If you are planning to make a contribution to the Church, you might want to consider making a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD). Anyone 70.5 years of age or older can give up to \$100,000 as a tax-free gift, in the form of a QCD, from their traditional IRA account.

The funds will come from your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) calculated amount and must be transferred directly from the IRA to an eligible charity/church by the IRA custodian in order to qualify for the tax break. The QCD should be the first distribution from the IRA account each year if you want it to be fully tax deductible (so you don't exceed your RMD amount). The donated QCD is EXCLUDED from your taxable income.

Your stockbroker or banker will have the required paperwork to file for information on the charity and will make the check out in the charity's name. You can also talk to your tax preparer.

** 2025 Tax Deadline: Tuesday, April 15, 2025 **

Electronic Giving

Did you know we offer electronic giving? You can contribute anywhere, anytime right from your computer, smartphone or tablet. We are partnered with VANCO on-line giving. VANCO has more than 40,000 organizations and has more than 30 years of helping people grow with software and solutions and securely processing payments and donations every day.



- ◆ Give online by visiting our website at www.uccsc.com and click on the blue button "Click here to give your offering and contributions online" on the Home page.
- ◆ Download our free VANCO Mobile app from the App Store or Google Play.

Get started today! Download our mobile app or visit the online donations page to set up your online contribution. Contact Robin in the Church office for more information.

We want to thank all of you who pledged funds for 2025 during our pledge campaign. If you have not yet made your pledge, it is not too late to do so. Your generosity is very helpful in fulfilling the Church budget. Additional pledge cards are located at the Welcome Table near the collection plate. Thank you for your support of United Church!

<p>For CHURCH RECORDS Envelope # _____ (for office use)</p> <p>Name _____</p> <p>Address _____</p> <p>City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____</p> <p>I plan to give \$ _____ each <input type="checkbox"/> week <input type="checkbox"/> month beginning _____ for an annual total of \$ _____ (date and year)</p> <p>I understand that this commitment can be changed at any time by giving notice to the church officer.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I would like to talk with someone about including the church or church-related institution in my will.</p> <p>Signed: _____ Date: _____</p> <p>Imagine Together</p>	<p>For YOUR RECORDS</p> <p>Date: _____</p> <p>With others in my congregation, I commit myself to give in proportion to what I have for the ministries of the church and the proclamation of the good news of Jesus Christ.</p> <p>I plan to give \$ _____ beginning _____ (date and year)</p> <p>Each <input type="checkbox"/> week <input type="checkbox"/> month</p> <p>Annual Total \$ _____</p>
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COMMUNION at United Church

Please join us on
Sunday, February 2
at 10:00 am.

All are Welcome!



Are you in need of pastoral care?

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



SILVERSNEAKERS CLASSES Tuesdays and Thursdays

Strength & Balance Class (1:00 pm)



SilverSneakers
Strength and Balance
continues in February.
Join us in the Beehive
and invite others to
join with you.

Contact Ginger Dawson
at 623-695-6489

SilverSneakers may be moving
to two classes in March:
Strength & Balance and Classic Class.
Watch here for more information next month!

The deadline for the
March Newsletter:
Monday, February 17.

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.

TAI CHI CLASSES MONDAY AFTERNOONS AT 2:00 PM IN THE BEEHIVE

As an exercise, Tai Chi is performed as gentle,
low-impact movement in which practitioners
perform a series of deliberate, flowing motions
while focusing on deep, slow breaths.

If you are interested in Tai Chi, please contact
Bill Zimmer at 480-492-5364
for more information.



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!


(January location was in Christmas Undecorating
graphic just below this clip)

Pray before you go to sleep...

*Dear Lord, the challenges before me make me feel
overwhelmed. Please guide me and help me face and
overcome these difficulties. Grant me the peace that
only you can provide. I know I can trust You. Help
me sleep soundly tonight and wake up refreshed to
embrace a beautiful new day.*

In Jesus' name, Amen.

February 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Last Day for Soup Donations is Sunday, February 9!						1 OFFICE CLOSED
2 8:00 Praise Team 8:40 Choir Rehearsal 10:00 am Worship Holy Communion 11:00 Coffee Fellowship with SOUP! Worship online	3 1:00 pm Walking group 2:00 pm TAI CHI in the Beehive	4 8:00 am Men's Breakfast, George's Lakeview Café 1:00 pm Silver Sneakers in the Beehive	5 10:00 am Converse and Connect 12:00 Power of the Pause 1:00 pm Walking group 7-8 pm AA in the meeting rm	6 11:00 am Bible study Pastor's study 1:00 pm Silver Sneakers-Beehive	7 OFFICE CLOSED 9:30 am It's A Matter of Balance in the Beehive	8 OFFICE CLOSED
9 Souper Bowl Sunday 8:00 Praise Team 8:40 Choir Rehearsal 10:00 am Worship First Sunday after Epiphany 11:00 Annual Meeting 11:00 Coffee Fellowship Worship online	10 1:00 pm Walking group 2:00 Activities & Fellowship 2:00 pm TAI CHI in the Beehive	11 10:30 Sun Health: Advanced Directives—Beehive 1:00 pm Silver Sneakers in the Beehive	12 10:00 am Converse and Connect 12:00 Power of the Pause 1:00 pm Walking group 7-8 pm AA Mtg.	13 9:00 am Board Meetings 10:00 am Council Meeting 11:00 am Bible study Pastor's study 1:00 pm Ladies Lunch George's Lakeview Café 1:00 pm Silver Sneakers in the Beehive	14 OFFICE CLOSED 9:30 am It's A Matter of Balance in the Beehive <div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 10px;"></div>	15 OFFICE CLOSED
16 8:00 Praise Team Rehearsal 8:40 Choir Rehearsal 10:00 am Worship 11:00 am Coffee Fellowship Worship online	17 Newsletter Deadline Office Closed in observance of Presidents Day 1:00 pm Walking group 2:00 pm TAI CHI in the Beehive	18 1:00 pm Silver Sneakers in the Beehive	19 10:00 am Converse and Connect 12:00 Power of the Pause 1:00 pm Walking group 7-8 pm AA Mtg.	20 11:00 am Bible study Pastor's study 1:00 pm Silver Sneakers in the Beehive	21 OFFICE CLOSED 9:30 am It's A Matter of Balance in the Beehive	22 OFFICE CLOSED
23 Gospel Sunday! 8:00 Praise Team 8:40 Choir Rehearsal 10:00 am Worship 11:00 Coffee Fellowship Worship online	24 1:00 pm Walking group 2:00 pm TAI CHI in the Beehive	25 1:00 pm Silver Sneakers in the Beehive	26 10:00 am Converse and Connect 12:00 Power of the Pause 1:00 pm Walking group 7-8 pm AA Mtg.	27 11:00 am Bible study Pastor's study 1:00 pm Silver Sneakers in the Beehive	28 OFFICE CLOSED 9:30 am It's A Matter of Balance in the Beehive	

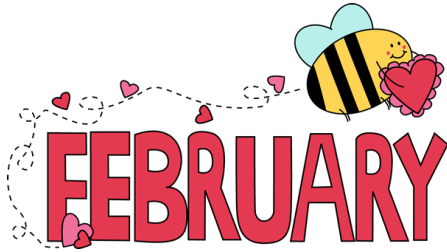
H A P P Y
Valentine's Day



MARCH EVENTS

MARCH 2: ALL CHURCH BIRTHDAY PARTY
 MARCH 5: ASH WEDNESDAY, LENT BEGINS
 MARCH 16: HEALING SERVICE
 MARCH 30: VOLUNTEER SUNDAY

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



February 2025

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
Craig Zimmerman, Office Assistant
Lisa Dunbar, Parish Nurse
Dickie Duniver, Custodian
Tracy McRoy Assistant Custodian
Greg Yagi 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

