



## PASTOR'S POST

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

Greetings,

This year, the first week of April offers a transition from Holy Week to the astonishing joy of Easter morning. That move takes us from the dark tomb to an empty one, from grief to amazement, and from tears to incredibly good news that was hard to believe.

And that's not all. The very next week in April brings Holy Humor Sunday!

Since 2013, we have celebrated Holy Humor Sunday at United Church. And that takes some getting used to for people who think of church as just serious business. Yet there is a long tradition in the Christian faith of laughter during the Easter season. Some early Christians even joked that the resurrection was God's ultimate prank on the forces of evil. The power of death thought it had won on Good Friday. The stone was set. The guards were posted. The story was thought to be complete.

But God gets the last word.

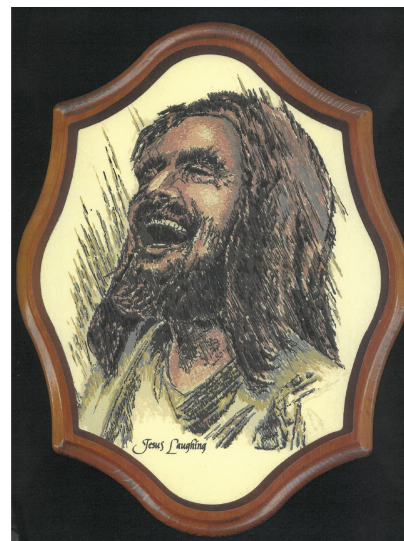
Easter morning revealed that death is not the end of the story. The tomb was empty. The guards were gone. New life had shown up when, and where, no one expected it.

That is why joy and laughter absolutely belong in the Easter season. They are not signs of taking faith lightly. Instead, they are signs that we believe in God's good news. Resurrection changes everything. It shows us that the story of life stretches beyond despair, that love is stronger than hate, and that God is always working in ways far beyond what we can see.

So, with Holy Humor Sunday, we allow ourselves to laugh more freely, celebrate with sacred silliness, and embrace the surprising, joy filled heart of the gospel. Because if Easter teaches us anything, it is this: the worst thing is never the last thing. God keeps our stories moving forward. And often, the next chapter, like April, will bring a chuckle.

Here's to a Hearty Laugh,

*Pastor Brady*





*Happy April! Happy Easter! From your Music Ministry!*

As your Minister of Music, may I say a huge THANK YOU and BLESS YOU to everyone who helped with our Cantata, *Come, Touch the Robe*, on Palm Sunday! Our hard-working and dedicated Choir, our Praise Team, soloists, narrators, Beverly, our accompanist, our Music Ministry Chair Boni Locke, our A/V Technicians, Craig Zimmerman's very professional Power-Point slides and bulletin, our sextons, hospitality team, and as always, Pastor Brady! Our Church Council, guest singers and of course, the members of the Phoenix Symphony!

What a blessing this Holy Week performance was to all who were in attendance, and those who continue to listen to it on our YouTube page, United Church of Sun City. Invite friends and relatives to enjoy it whenever they want!



If you are reading this before Easter Sunday, April 5, please join us for our Sunrise Service at the Sun Bowl at 7:00 am on Easter Sunday morning. We always get a huge crowd from the surrounding neighborhoods! And/or join our Praise Team and Pastor Brady for a Breakfast Brunch and brief message along with triumphant Easter music at our 10:00 am Friendship Center service. (What I like to call The Brady Brunch!)

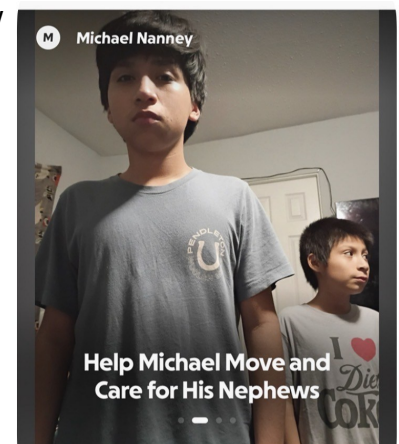
And now I would like to call on your Christian compassion and generosity for our newest Praise Team member, Michael Nanney. We all know that young school teachers don't make a lot of money, but Michael stepped up when his family was in urgent need for a new home for his two nephews, Michael (15) and Larry (9). Michael now needs to be able to provide food and clothing for these two young boys along with all of the after school experiences that kids want and need. I encouraged him to set up a [GoFundMe](#) page because people would want to help out. I would be thrilled if our congregation could step up to be the change in these two boys' lives as they make this huge adjustment in moving to Arizona and help ease Michael's stress and financial burdens on this new adventure! Thank you in advance!

Give any amount online at: [gofundme/michael-wish-10feb](https://gofundme.com/michael-wish-10feb)

God Bless You,

*Alan Paulson*

Minister of Music



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



## Greetings from your Parish Nurse....

I love to read the Psalms! You may already know that about me. To me, the Psalms give me words to read and feel no matter what I am experiencing. They have reminders of God's goodness, calls to praise Him, but the Psalms also has a lot of whining in it!

I read Psalm 42 the other day, and it starts out great talking about how "hungry" I am for the Lord and how I long for Him day and night. That sounds really spiritual and makes me feel like the author is in a good space. But the next verses – 3 and 4 – are nothing but whining! "I have only tears for food," "my enemies are taunting me," and "my heart is breaking as I remember how it used to be."

You get the picture! I've been there! Maybe you have too! Those days when nothing seems right! When I have no control over what is happening to me or to those I love! When I must sit and watch the suffering of others because there is nothing I can do to make it better! I just want things how they used to be – when I could walk without the fear of falling and when I had purpose and strength. For goodness' sake, I might settle for being able to get out of a chair without groaning a bit!

I want to go back sometimes – when I had "the answer" to all life's problems and was willing to share it with everyone – whether they wanted it or not! But then verse 5 hits the stage! "Why am I discouraged? Why is my heart so sad? I will put my hope in God! I will praise Him again."

To me, this is self-talk at its best! It's asking the tough questions – Why am I whining? Why am I afraid? Why am I upset? And the answer is to put our hope in God and praise Him! Does it take away the situation – no! But does it give me a reality check and peace – YES!

What kind of self-talk do you indulge in? Is it all the regrets you have – "if only" I had done this or that." "If only they had been different." "If only..." Or are you more of a "blamer?" "They never should have done it like that!" "I can't believe he/she did that to me!" "Who did this and what were you thinking?"

Do you worry about the "what ifs?" "What if he/she does this! Then I'll..." "What if I can't stay in my home?" "What if the stock market crumbles?" "What if this war spreads?" "What if my situation gets worse?" Or are you caught in putting yourself down? "I know I'm not good enough." "Of course I was treated badly because I deserved it." "I'm not smart/strong/pretty/lovable..."

We all get caught up in the self-talk. So what do we do about it? The first thing to do is to recognize it. If you don't recognize it in yourself, ask a trusted friend or family member help you to see what you are going over and over in your mind.

Then break the cycle! Sounds easy doesn't it? But the truth is it takes hard work to change some of our thought patterns. But turning our thoughts to gratefulness to God and others, praising God and others, and looking for the little ways during the day that God gives you something beautiful help. Something beautiful may be a majestic view, or a hummingbird, or a smile. It may be something you hear – the laughter of a child, a songbird, the wind in the trees, or a special song. Maybe God will even give you something to laugh about! That's a special gift! Whatever it is, practice focusing on the new thoughts. You can also ask yourself the question from Psalm 42:5 "Why am I so discouraged?" and then go on to say "I will" put my hope in God. It takes a choice and a commitment to change our negative thinking but you can do it with practice.

Spoiler alert: The author of Psalm 42 did go back to whining in verses 9 and 10! But ended the whole Psalm with verse 11 which is a repeat of verse 4 – the more positive self-talk. No, we won't get it right every time. We may fall back into bad thought habits. But by recognizing it and breaking the cycle, we can change with God's help from the inside out!

Lisa Dunbar, Parish Nurse





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

Join us on **May 14** at 10:30 am for another Sun Health presentation. Watch the May newsletter and church bulletin for more information on the guest speaker for May!



**Sunday,  
April 12, at  
10:00 am**



**DICKIE AND HOLLY** were at it again... working hard behind the scenes to keep United Church looking Beautiful!

A **HUGE THANK YOU** for going the extra mile to repair and finish the half wall in the Sanctuary behind the organ.

They replaced drywall, taped and finished it. Then sanded it and painted it. Dickie built a wood case around electrical cords to keep them protected and looking nice. Holly painted everything and Dickie also laid carpeting to finish it off.

Now, we have useable space for music equipment and storage for seasonal items.

**THANK YOU BOTH** for your dedication to United Church!

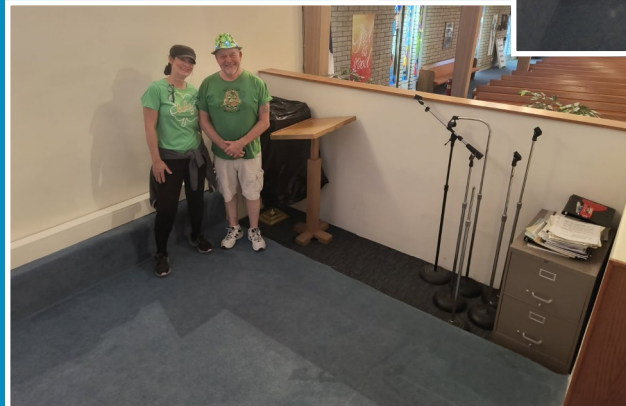


Photo Credits: Robin Lemkuil

# Welcome,

## New Members



Photo Credit: Robin Lemkuil

Sunday, March 8, United Church of Sun City welcomed four new members to our church family:

**Please welcome:**

Ann Davis

Patty and Lewis Montgomery  
and Rick Fenimore!



Photo Credit: Robin Lemkuil

Almost a record crowd at Ladies Lunch on March 12! Seventeen Ladies enjoyed great food, conversation and door prizes making for a fun afternoon!

**L to R:** Martha Copeland, Laurie Allen, Cathy Machala, Diane Gahm, Joan Paulsen, Linda Martin, Terri Behl, Mary Lynn Heyne, Heather Purtle, Jeanne Roecker, Kris Purtle, Robin Lemkuil, Mary Segers-Koscielny, Barb Norton, Jean Cross, Hedy Hall, and Patti Montgomery.

## HOLY WEEK AND EASTER

### Maundy Thursday Worship, April 2

Community Worship Service at  
United Church of Sun City 5:00 pm

April 5

### Easter Sunrise Worship

Sun Bowl 7:00 am with Holy Communion  
(10220 N 107th Ave., Sun City)

### Easter Brunch Service

United Church 10:00 am with Holy Communion

April 12

Holy Humor Sunday 10:00 am

*For God so Loved the World that He  
Gave His Only Son that Whoever  
Believes in Him Shall Not Perish but  
Have Eternal Life. John 3:16*

# Mission Board



Mission Board	
Quarterly Report	
January - March 2026	
<b>Donations to the following organizations:</b>	
Sun Valley Animal Shelter	\$500
Habitat for Humanity	\$500
Benevilla	\$300
Soldiers Best Friend	\$500
Sun City Foundation	\$500
Recorded Reading for the Blind	\$400
Sun City Community Assistance Network	\$1,000
Youngtown Community Fund	
Recorded Recreational Reading for the Blind	\$400
<b>Out-Reach Projects</b>	
Valley View Food Bank—Souper Bowl of Caring (Soup/pantry items 4199)	
On-going non-perishable items	

On February 22, 2026, Pastor Brady, Diane Gahm and Hedy Hall took a tour of the facility at the “A Mighty Change of Heart” warehouse with its founder Darin Moss. This is our Christmas Angel Tree donations recipient!

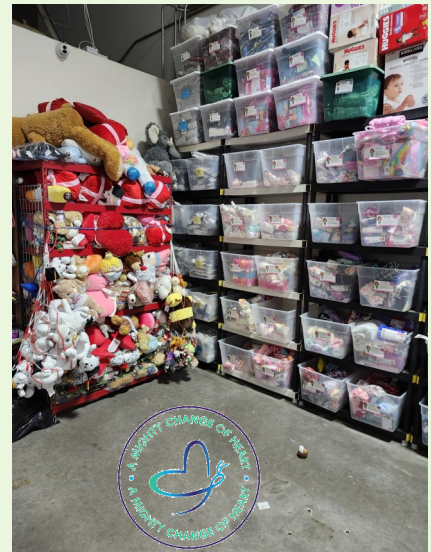
A Mighty Change of Heart’s mission is to make a profound difference in the lives of foster children and kinship children in the state of Arizona. With over 15,500 children currently in the foster care system and more joining every day, the need for support and resources has never been greater. While many foster parents open their hearts and homes to these children, the challenges they face due to limited state resources can be overwhelming. Often, when a child enters the system, they carry with them very little, in terms of worldly possessions, placing a heavy financial burden on foster families. This is where A Mighty Change of Heart steps in to provide hope and assistance.

A Mighty Change of Heart bridges the gap between limited state support and the needs of foster and kinship children. They provide essential resources, including clothing, school supplies, personal items and hygiene products, ensuring that every child has the opportunity to start anew with dignity and hope.

Thank You from your Mission Board:  
 Hedy Hall, Diane Gahm, Ginger Dawson,  
 Mary Segers-Koscielny and Shari Spishak-Spielberger



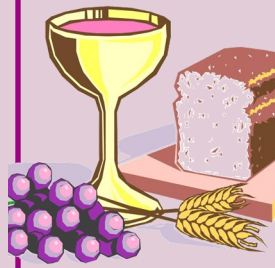
Photo Credits: Hedy Hall



## COMMUNION at United Church

Please join us on  
Easter Sunday, April 5,  
at 7:00 am at the Sun  
Bowl and/or at  
10:00 am for the  
Easter Brunch Service.

All are Welcome!



## Are you in need of

# Pastoral Care

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

# TACOS &



FREE

# BINGO

With Prizes!

Join us on April 12 at 2:00 pm, Holy Humor Sunday,  
as we continue the laughter having  
Tacos with a side of Bingo!

An afternoon of fun playing **FREE Bingo!**

Please purchase a ticket if you would like to join us  
for tacos! Tickets are available for \$10 per person  
in the church office or see Robin on  
Sunday morning near the A/V Booth.

All proceeds will go to the A/V Upgrades!

➤ **NO TICKET NECESSARY FOR BINGO—IT'S FREE** ✨

The deadline for the  
**May** Newsletter:  
**Monday, April 20.**

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).

## 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!

(March location was on this page,  
on Brady's Ash Wednesday stole.)

# Thank you!

TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

## Sunday, March 22 was Volunteer Appreciation Sunday

Pastor Brady had some very  
special words about volunteers  
especially within our church family.

Special treats were shared during  
fellowship time. This church and  
our surrounding community is built  
on Volunteers and we love you  
and THANK YOU!!



Photo Credit: Robin Lemkuil



April

**BIRTHDAYS**  
THIS MONTH

Dolores Belevich	4/01
Gregg Ochoa	4/07
Jean Smithback	4/07
Pat Graham	4/08
Daryl Zimmerman	4/08
Tom Leander	4/09
Vicki Bradley	4/11
Larry Brownlee	4/16
Rosanne Pruitt	4/19
Wince Sheets	4/19
Susan Aurich	4/22
Sara Shryock	4/22
Lester Atkinson	4/30



Dean & Sue Stryker	4/17
Arlen & Rozanne Freeman	4/22

Photo Credit: Bob Allen



Thank you, Boni Locke and Judy Chastain, for sharing your musical talents with us!

On Sunday, March 22, Boni and Judy did two duets during worship and we hope we'll be hearing a lot more from them in the future!



**Ladies Lunch**  
Thursday, April 9, 2026 at 1:00 pm  
George's Lakeview Café.  
10502 W. Thunderbird Blvd., Sun City



Wear your earth colors:  
Green, Blue & Brown!  
**EARTH DAY**

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

Meets Tuesday,  
April 7 at 8:00 am

**MEN'S  
BREAKFAST**

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

# April 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <p><b>MAUNDY THURSDAY</b> Thursday, April 2 at 5:00 pm FROM TABLE TO TRIAL SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER  United Church of Sun City</p>			<p>1 10:00 Converse and Connect 12:00 Power of the Pause 1:00 pm Walking group</p>	<p>2 <b>Maundy Thursday</b> 11:00 am Bible study Pastor's study 1:00 pm SilverSneakers Exercise Class in Beehive <b>Maundy Thursday Community Worship at United Church at 5:00 pm</b></p>	<p>3 <b>Good Friday</b> OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p>4 OFFICE CLOSED</p>
<p>5 <b>EASTER</b> 7:00 am Sunrise Service at the Sun Bowl 10:00 am Worship with Easter Brunch in the Friendship Center Worship online</p>	<p>6 <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b> 1:00 pm Walking group 2:00 pm TAI CHI in the Beehive</p>	<p>7 8:00 am Men's Breakfast George's Lakeview Cafe 1:00 pm SilverSneakers Exercise Class in the Beehive</p>	<p>8 10:00 Converse and Connect 12:00 Power of the Pause 1:00 pm Walking group</p>	<p>9 9:00 Finance Meeting 9:00 Mission Meeting 10:00 Council Meeting 11:00 am Bible study Pastor's study 1:00 pm SilverSneakers Exercise Class in Beehive 1:00 pm Ladie's Lunch at George's Cafe</p>	<p>10 OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p>11 OFFICE CLOSED</p>
<p>12 <b>Holy Humor</b> 8:00 Praise Team 8:40 Choir Practice 10:00 am Worship with Sacred Silliness 11:00 am Fellowship Worship online 2:00 Tacos and Bingo!</p>	<p>13 1:00 pm Walking group 2:00 pm TAI CHI in the Beehive 2:00 Activities Board Meeting</p>	<p>14 1:00 pm SilverSneakers Exercise Class in the Beehive</p>	<p>15 10:00 Converse and Connect 12:00 Power of the Pause 1:00 pm Walking group</p>	<p>16 11:00 am Bible study Pastor's study 1:00 pm SilverSneakers Exercise Class in Beehive</p>	<p>17 OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p>18 OFFICE CLOSED</p>
<p>19 8:00 Praise Team 8:40 Choir Practice 10:00 am Worship with Volunteer Appreciation 11:00 am Fellowship Worship online</p>	<p>20 <b>Newsletter Deadline</b> 1:00 pm Walking group 2:00 pm TAI CHI in the Friendship Center</p>	<p>21 1:00 pm SilverSneakers Exercise Class in the Beehive</p>	<p>22 10:00 Converse and Connect 12:00 Power of the Pause 1:00 pm Walking group</p>	<p>23 11:00 am Bible study Pastor's study 1:00 pm SilverSneakers Exercise Class in Beehive</p>	<p>24 OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p>25 OFFICE CLOSED</p>
Southwest Conference Annual Meeting						
<p>26 8:00 Praise Team 8:40 Choir Practice 10:00 am Worship 11:00 am Fellowship Worship online</p>	<p>27 1:00 pm Walking group 2:00 pm TAI CHI in the Beehive</p>	<p>28 1:00 pm SilverSneakers Exercise Class in the Beehive</p>	<p>29 10:00 Converse and Connect 12:00 Power of the Pause 1:00 pm Walking group</p>	<p>30 11:00 am Bible study Pastor's study 1:00 pm SilverSneakers Exercise Class in Beehive</p>		

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



**April 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**

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**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  
YouTube: United Church of Sun City**

