



## PASTOR'S POST

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

Greetings,

Every January, I'm struck by how quiet the world feels for just a moment. The holiday bustle slows, the decorations come down, and everything looks a little bare, but also a little fresh. It's like creation has taken a deep breath and is waiting for us to the same.

We often talk about the new year as a blank page, and while that might be a cliché, it's not wrong. There's a sacredness to beginnings. God seems to enjoy them. "I am about to do a new thing," God says through Isaiah. "Now it springs forth—do you not perceive it?" (Isaiah 43:19, a, and b). The invitations isn't just to witness something new, but to pay attention to the subtle signs of grace breaking through in places we might have overlooked last year.

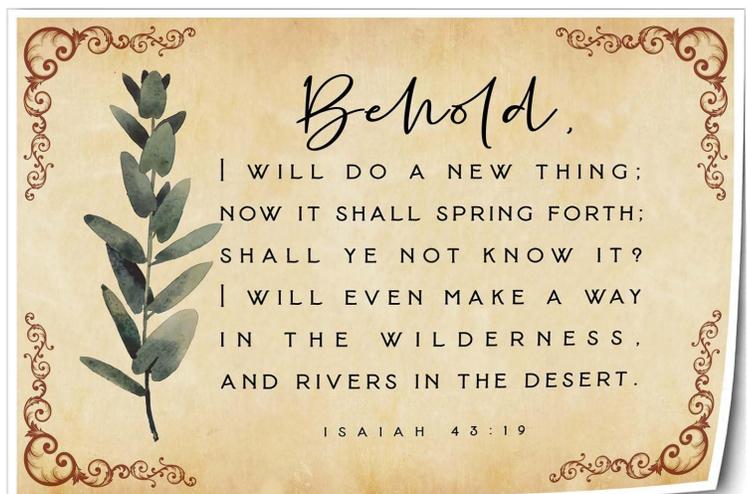
Freshness doesn't always come wrapped in grand resolutions or big, bold changes. Sometimes it comes in quieter ways: a renewed sense of gratitude, a relationship mended, a burden slowly melting, a new curiosity about where God may be leading next. It might come through forgiveness extended or received. It might arrive as a whisper rather than a shout.

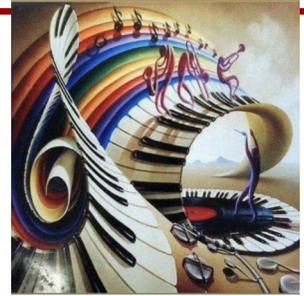
As a church, this is a time to look forward, to ask how God's newness might shape us and guide us. What new ministries might take root? What acts of generosity might blossom? What unexpected joys might break through in our daily routines.

As 2026 begins, I invite you to notice the newness God is offering. God is still speaking, still creating, and still inviting us two join in the work of fresh beginnings. I look forward to it all with you!

Peace,

*Pastor Brady*





*Happy New Year from everyone in our Music Ministry!*

Didn't our choir, Praise Team, Beverly Fletcher, and Floyd Ellison provide absolutely stunningly beautiful, worshipful performances throughout the Advent services, our Christmas Cantata, and a very moving Christmas Eve service ?!?

I am thrilled, blessed, and humbled to work with so many generous and talented Christian musicians: Mark Dickinson, Andrea Dixon, Kira Kadel-Funk, Boni Locke, Dwight Brown, Michael Nanney, Kris Purtle, Ginger Dawson, Linda Zimmerman, Elizabeth Burke, Elyn Mae Ullman, Greg Yagi, Lester Atkinson, Floyd Ellison and Beverly Fletcher. And to Greg Yagi, Lester Atkinson and Robin Lemkuil for their constant and professional attention to details regarding all of our microphones and other audiovisual equipment.

I hope that all of you enjoyed the beautiful Cantata accompaniment provided by members of the Phoenix Symphony. It is always so special for us to sing with such marvelous instrumentalists.

And a huge THANK YOU to Andrea Dixon and Brenda Goodenberger for planning and performing holiday music at our Church Christmas Party on December 11th. I heard lots of appreciative compliments.

What a blessed Merry Christmas it was! Your words of encouragement and kind compliments are always appreciated.

Happy New Year!

*Alan Paulson*

Minister of Music



Photo Credit: Brady Abel

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



## Greetings from your Parish Nurse....

It's the beginning of a brand New Year. I have talked about making goals, making lifestyle changes and establishing new habits at this time of year. But this year, my experiences are taking me in a different direction

I think of all the New Year's resolutions I have made in the past. All the personal and professional goals I have set. Honestly, a few of them I was able to follow through on, but most went by the wayside as the year and "real life" went on.

This year, I am very aware that there is so much out of our control. An illness no one expected, a fall that resulted in injuries, a loss of a friend or family member that was not anticipated have all affected the people I care about and me over this year. It's a little scary to look forward to a new year not knowing what is beyond tomorrow.

But we do have resources to get through anything that comes our way. It is part of our personal resiliency, or the ability to bounce back after adversity. Some factors that help our resiliency are having past experiences that help us get through the new ones. We also have a social support system of family, friends, and church family that encourage and help us through the hard times. I hope that each one of us can also say that we have a spiritual foundation that gives us comfort and helps us as we face each day.

I read Psalm 25 the other day from the New Living Translation. It began with these two statements! "O LORD, I give my life to you. I trust in you, my God." Powerful words aren't they? To be able to say "I give my life to you" no matter the circumstances. I don't know what is ahead, but YOU do! And then the affirmation of trust! "I trust in You, my God." not to make my way free of all difficulty, but to be with me!

So—maybe it isn't a matter of setting goals, although I still have a list of things I would love to accomplish! Maybe it is trusting God and supporting each other through the days of 2026.

I'll end with the words of an old hymn my Dad used to sing:

*I don't know about tomorrow, I just live from day to day.  
I don't borrow from its sunshine, for its skies may turn gray.  
I don't worry o'er the future, for I know what Jesus said.  
And today I'll walk beside Him for He know what is ahead.*

*Many things about tomorrow, I don't seem to understand  
But I know who holds tomorrow, and I know who holds my hand.*

My best advice for 2026? Walk forward day by day holding his hand!

*Lisa Dunbar*, Parish Nurse

# Mission Board

## Mission Board Fourth Quarter Report October—December 2025

### Donations to the following organizations:

Sun City Fire & Medical Auxiliary	\$500
Soldiers Best Friend	300
Sun City Meals on Wheels	300
Sleep in Heavenly Peace	500
American Service Animals	400
Sun City Posse	350
Eve's Place	300
Sun City 4 Paws Cat Rescue	300
Veterans Furniture Center	300
Advanced Independent Charity	300

**Total** \$3,550

### Out-Reach Projects

	Est. Value
Sun Valley Animal Shelter	
Pet Blessing	\$10
Pet toys and supplies	Priceless
Valley View Food Bank	
On-going non-perishable items	Priceless
Harvest Table—Thanksgiving (VVFB no longer weighs donations)	Priceless
A Mighty Change of Heart (Foster Children)	
Christmas Angel Tree	
Toys, diapers, blankets, misc. items	Priceless

We are truly grateful that you are a part of our Mission. Thank you for your dedicated support and commitment! *Your Mission Board*



## MISSION COMPLETE

**Thank you**

**United Church Congregation,  
YOU make what we do possible!**

**Mission Board:**

Hedy Hall

Diane Gahm

Shari Spishak-Spielberger

Ginger Dawson

Mary Segers-Koscielny



Eve's Place  
Community Services.  
EMPOWERING VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC, SERIAL & TEEN DATING ABUSE





On Tuesday, **January 13th, 2026** at 10:30 am a representative from Sun Health Speaker Series will talk about ***Living Well with Diabetes*** in the Beehive. Join Sun Health's Nutritionist Sarah Fagus for a presentation on diabetes. Come learn about the basics of diabetes, the impact it can have on overall health, and practical strategies to help manage the condition.

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**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.



Join us on **Sunday, January 25** after worship and during Fellowship Coffee time. There will be an open forum for questions and answers to the packet of information that will be sent out to members and associate members in January (watch your mailbox). Please plan to attend for a better understanding of the items you will be asked to approve at the **February 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting**.

**Q&A  
Open Forum**

**ANNUAL  
MEMBERSHIP  
MEETING**

**FEBRUARY 8, 2026 11:00 AM**



# All About December.....



With December brought Advent: Peace, Hope, Love and Joy in preparation for the coming of our Lord!



December 11 was our All Church Christmas Pot Luck. Delicious food, craft sale, raffle prizes and Awesome Entertainment by Brenda Goodenberger and Andrea Dixon!



First Ever Craft Fair!  
Proceeds going to the A/V Upgrade project!



Ladies Christmas Lunch with special Guest Santa Brady!

# All About December.....



Christmas Cantata  
and Third Annual  
Cookie Walk on  
Sunday,  
December 21st

Thank you to all who helped with the cookie walk:  
Brenda Gunther, Korby and Shari Spishak-  
Spielberger, Laura Rice, Cynthia Kolada,  
Pam Bridges, Gerry Paul, Greg and Vicki Bradley  
and all who donated cookies!



Christmas Eve, December  
24 celebrating the Birth of  
our Lord and Savior with  
beautiful music and The  
Christmas Story.



MERRY  
CHRISTMAS

A Mighty Change of Heart  
Christmas collection in hopes  
of making a very special  
Christmas for many foster  
children in AZ



Pastor Brenda  
Goodenberger  
sharing her  
spiritual wisdom  
with us on  
December 28.



Craig Zimmerman joining our  
Praise Team once again!



## It's time to THINK SOUP!

The 2026 Souper Bowl of Caring Campaign KICKED 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!

Join us for a special soup luncheon after worship on Sunday, January 25 during our Town Hall Gathering!

(see more information in this newsletter)



### 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!***



THANK YOU to all the Christmas Elves who helped un-decorate our Sanctuary on January 5!

We are blessed to have so many willing volunteers respond to help out when needed!

Thank you!!!

## CHRISTMAS UNDECORATING



## COMMUNION at United Church

Please join us on  
Sunday, January 11<sup>th</sup>  
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

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  
**February** Newsletter:  
**Monday, January 19.**

# 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

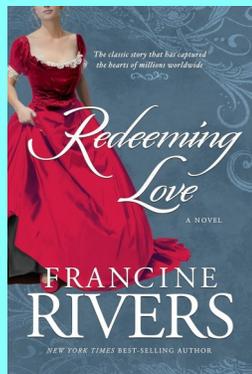
Join the Wednesday morning study group  
at 10:00 am in the Beehive.

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!

(December location was in the Christmas bulb on  
the bottom of Alan Paulson's page.)

Mark your calendars for the Soup  
Luncheon and Town Hall  
Gathering on Sunday,  
January 25, 2026 at 11 am





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 E†perts 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
<b>Project Total</b>	<b>\$54,300</b>

(Detailed estimates are available for review upon request)

# January 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 OFFICE CLOSED  HAPPY NEW YEAR!	2 OFFICE CLOSED  Karen Handy's Birthday	3 OFFICE CLOSED  Carol McDade's Birthday
4 8:00 Praise Team 8:40 Choir Practice 10:00 am Worship Worship online  Soup Collection for Souper Bowl of Caring	5 10:00 am Christ- mas Undecorating 1:00 pm Walk- ing group 2:00 pm TAI CHI in the Beehive	6 1:00 pm & 2:30 pm SilverSneakers Exercise Class in the Beehive  8:00 am Men's Break- fast George's Lake- view Cafe	7 10:00 Converse and Connect 12:00 Power of the Pause 1:00 pm Walking group	8 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 1:00 pm Ladie's Lunch at George's Cafe	9 OFFICE CLOSED	10 OFFICE CLOSED  Sandy Krahn's Birthday
11 8:00 Praise Team 8:40 Choir Practice 10:00 am Worship and Holy Communion Worship online  Soup Collection for Souper Bowl of Caring	12 10:00 Paint Tutorial 1:00 pm Walking group 2:00 pm TAI CHI in the Beehive 2:00 Activities Board Meeting	13 10:30 am Sun Health Living Well with Diabetes 1:00 pm & 2:30 pm SilverSneakers Exercise Class in the Beehive  Happy Anniversary Steve and Diane Gahm!	14 10:00 Converse and Connect 12:00 Power of the Pause 1:00 pm Walking group  Marsha Peek's Birthday	15 11:00 am Bible study Pastor's study 1:00 pm & 2:30 pm SilverSneakers Exercise Class in Beehive	16 OFFICE CLOSED  9:30 am Matter of Balance  Sharon Bargrain's Birthday	27 OFFICE CLOSED
18 8:00 Praise Team 8:40 Choir Practice 10:00 am Worship Worship online  Soup Collection for Souper Bowl of Caring	19 Newsletter Deadline 1:00 pm Walking group 2:00 pm TAI CHI in the Beehive	20 1:00 pm & 2:30 pm SilverSneakers Exercise Class in the Beehive  Brenda Goodenberger's Birthday	21 10:00 Converse and Connect 12:00 Power of the Pause 1:00 pm Walking group	22 11:00 am Bible study Pastor's study 1:00 pm & 2:30 pm SilverSneakers Exercise Class in Beehive	23 OFFICE CLOSED  9:30 am Matter of Balance	24 OFFICE CLOSED
25 8:00 Praise Team 8:40 Choir Practice 10:00 am Worship 11:00 Town Hall Gathering and Soup Luncheon Worship online  Soup Collection for Souper Bowl of Caring	26 1:00 pm Walking group 2:00 pm TAI CHI in the Bee- hive	37 1:00 pm & 2:30 pm SilverSneakers Exercise Class in the Beehive	28 10:00 Converse and Connect 12:00 Power of the Pause 1:00 pm Walking group	29 11:00 am Bible study Pastor's study 1:00 pm & 2:30 pm SilverSneakers Exercise Class in Beehive	30 OFFICE CLOSED  9:30 am Matter of Balance	31 OFFICE CLOSED  9:00 am to 1:00 pm  Fairway Court Annual Meeting in the Beehive

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



**January 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**

