

## A Faithful God, A Fruitful Church



Greetings from Pastor Rachel Srubas. Throughout 2023, the Session of Mountain Shadows Presbyterian Church has focused on discerning God's purposes for our congregation and setting ministry goals to fulfill our congregation's calling between now and the end of 2026. At the October 29 Town Hall Gathering, the congregation was presented with a summary of the Faithful and Fruitful vision of our church and the practical ministry goals that are detailed below. All congregants have a gift and a calling to serve.

How might **you** get involved our church's efforts to grow in faith and fruitfulness? Speak to me or to a Session Elder or Team Moderator about how to connect with a Ministry Team. By sharing your time and talent and expressing your faith through our church's ministries, you can grow in Christ and help our congregation to bear abundant fruit for God. When we bear good fruit in the world, our congregation also grows in spirit and in numbers. Please read the goals listed below and pray for God to guide your next steps.

### **Worship & Music Staff & Team:**

Identify concrete ways to continue thriving in worship & music ministry.  
Create plans for upcoming special seasons, Sundays & other worship events.

### **Hospitality:**

Develop new Team leadership (to support & eventually relieve Moderator.)  
Develop strategy for fostering relationships among congregants & neighbors.

### **Shepherding:**

Develop Shepherding Team from current one member to at least three Team members.  
Develop a plan for involving more/newer congregants in MSPC Ministry Teams.  
Identify Fall, Winter & Spring dates for receiving new church members.

### **Deacons:**

Develop concrete plans for bolstering Deacons' ministry skills & confidence.  
Clearly define & communicate Deacons' ministry purposes & boundaries.  
Encourage congregants' use of local service providers (Senior Village, etc.).  
Consider developing a senior adult-focused education ministry within MSPC.

### **Safety/Health/Preparedness:**

Identify congregational health/safety goals & target dates.  
Create & publicize an Emergency Action Plan for MSPC by the end of 2023.  
Address congregants' resiliency needs & emphasize preventing ministry burnout.  
Ask Session to prioritize funding for CPR & AED training.  
Become a gun-free congregation & post "firearms prohibited" signs on property.

Continued

**Adult Faith Formation:**

Redevelop Adult Faith Formation Team (identify & recruit new Team members.)  
Encourage Session to prioritize funding for Guest speakers, classes, retreats, etc.  
Emphasize ministries of spiritual practice & wellbeing, creativity, faith formation.  
Ask Session to fund women's retreats and gender-inclusive congregational retreats.

**Stewardship:**

Build on strong 2023 monetary giving to foster the congregation's future.  
Emphasize and encourage congregants' giving of time/talent as well as dollars.  
Plan & schedule promotion of PCUSA special offerings, 2023 thru 2026.  
Assess Legacy Ministry's current effectiveness & consider redeveloping Team.

**Finance:**

Celebrate Team's fiscal diligence & trustworthiness.  
Seek future Treasurer(s).  
Strengthen communication to congregation re: per capita giving to MSPC/PCUSA.

**Facilities:**

Adopt proactive (versus reactive) Facilities maintenance plans & budgets.  
Ask Session to consider enhancing Facilities ministry with paid facilities staff.

**Personnel:**

Continue Team's care for church staff & positive personnel policies & practices.  
Help congregants understand that church's small staff cannot be all things to all.  
Identify potential future Personnel Team members (wise & emotionally healthy).

**Mission:**

Identify ways to continue MSPC's thriving mission.  
Strategize ways to involve many congregants in outreach projects & opportunities.  
Assess and revise as necessary MSPC's current connections to mission agencies.  
Explore adopting Matthew 25 emphasis of PCUSA.  
Explore becoming a More Light or Covenant Network Congregation of PCUSA  
(welcoming LGBTQ+ and emphasizing full diversity, equity & inclusion of all.)

**Communications:**

Encourage congregants' online & word-of-mouth communications of MSPC's life.

**MSPC's Connection to Presbytery:**

Recruit 2nd Presbytery Elder-Commissioner (in addition to current one.)  
Encourage congregants' participation in Presbytery (such as Big Event attendance.)  
Refer potentially interested elders to Presbytery nominating committee.

*Pastor Rachel Srubas*





Beverly Johnston  
Moderator



Jeff Mague



Karen Koopmans



Brian Parker



Theresa Ashton



Nicky Bantock



Elizabeth Posey



Chuck Sherman

*"Ministries of Compassion Witness, and Service"*  
*Deacon of the Month – Brian Parker*

It is becoming increasingly clear how much we need to seek guidance from above. Failures in leadership, pandemic disease, violence on the rise both at home and abroad, just what does it take to seriously seek the help of God? People ask how they can make that possible, after all, isn't he the one that seeks us out?

I know that in my own life, when I was alone and at a low point, God made himself available to me. I did not realize at the time how important this would be to me. There have been so many calls recently to address mental health issues that have affected wide numbers of people, and our understanding of God lies at the center of it. It is God that made this one life possible for me, and you, and his promise of eternal life is a promise that should be echoing throughout the world. What can we do, how can we show God that we are graced with his love and promise? We can start or renew his promise to us by extending opportunities to others that have been offered to us. We can exhibit the kind of unselfish love that relies not on some immediate reward, but with the hope and belief that it matters every single day, all our waking hours. When we pass the peace of Christ every Sunday morning, we see that hope does come alive, and look forward to the time when we will meet Christ once again.

## ANGEL TREE PROJECT



Again this year, the Deacons at Mountain Shadows Presbyterian Church will support the Bridge Prison Ministry (BPM) Angel Tree Program, by collecting Christmas gifts for children of incarcerated parents. Last year, our congregation sponsored 75 children; and this is our goal again this year. Through BPM's Angel Tree Project, last year a total of 345 children had a happier Christmas.

The Angel Tree will be in the Narthex starting on Sunday, October 29<sup>th</sup>. Each Angel will have the child's first name and their Christmas wish list. You can purchase one or all of the items on their list. A minimum of \$25 is suggested for each child. Please feel free to take more than one Angel. If you don't like to shop, cash or check donations are also accepted. Check and cash donations may be used purchase gifts or gift cards for care givers. Checks should be made out to MSPC with Angel Tree in the memo or to Bridge Prison Ministry. Sunday, November 26<sup>th</sup> is the last day to turn in your unwrapped gifts.

## CARING -Cont'd

On Saturday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> from 9 a.m.—12 p.m., at a place yet to be determined, everyone is invited to come out and help wrap gifts. If you're not a wrapper, other volunteer opportunities are available.

Your participation and generosity will help make Christmas a little happier for children who are going through tough times.

*“Dearest Lord, teach me to be generous.  
Teach me to serve You as You deserve; To give and not to count the cost;  
To fight and not to heed the wounds; To toil and not to seek reward,  
save that of knowing that I do Your will, O God.”  
St. Ignatius Loyola*



## SAFETY, PREPAREDNESS & HEALTH (SPH)

### Safety & Preparedness Update:

- Work continues with the Emergency Preparedness Plan.
- Emergency exit maps have been posted at door exits around the campus.
- SPH plans to apply for grant funding from the State of Arizona Nonprofit Security & Houses of Worship Grant Program to help pay for security upgrades. **SPH is looking for a volunteer who is willing to assist with the grant writing and application process. The application open period is Nov 1—Dec 15th. Please contact Therese Griffin if you can help.**

### Health Update

- New guidelines allow simultaneous administration of COVID, flu & RSV vaccines.
- You are encouraged to be fully vaccinated as soon as possible.
- **Last, October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Ladies, have you had your annual mammogram? Prayers for those who have been healed and those who may be undergoing treatment now.**

*Therese Griffin & Joy Lewis, Co-Moderators*



## Would you like to learn more about Suicide Prevention?

The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Southern Arizona will be giving a presentation on Suicide Prevention. You will learn about who's at risk, contributing factors, the early warning signs, myths vs. facts, and how you can play a role in the prevention of suicide.

The same program will be presented twice so feel free to attend the one that fits your schedule --

November 5th from 1 - 3 pm

or

November 13th from 6 - 8 pm

Santa Catalina Catholic Church  
(Parish Hall)

14380 N Oracle Rd.  
Tucson, AZ 85739



# GATHERING

## WORSHIP & MUSIC



### Annual Advent Workshop: Friday, December 1st at 10:00 a.m.

Help start the season of Advent in a joyous and meaningful way by helping to decorate the church for this sacred season leading to Christmas. Call Lynn Parker at 936-293-0304, or just show up at 10:00 on Friday morning.

#### A Prayer for All Saints' Day

*Watching for a new heaven,  
waiting for a new earth,  
we pray to the Lord, saying,  
God, have mercy and wipe away our tears.  
Transform this **broken body** into a communion of saints,  
a company of the faithful, working for good in your world.*



Considering what is going on throughout the world, this prayer touched my soul. A caption before the prayer read, "What is the prayer of the faithful on All Saints' Day?" I thought who are the faithful? Well, WE are the faithful. WE are working for good in this world. WE must fix this **broken body**.

This month the Handbells will play during worship on November 19th! Since it is so close to Thanksgiving, we will play a few familiar hymns. For instance, *Simple Gifts*, a medley with *Ash Grove*, and *Now Thank We All Our God*.

We could use more ringers during Advent! **Call me (Charmaine Piane Dame) and I will explain!**

The choir and instrumentalists are also preparing gorgeous pieces for the last four Sundays of the church year! Let me know what your favorite piece is.

**AND** - It is not too late to join our music ministry! Singers, Instrumentalists, and Handbell Ringers, ALL ARE WELCOME! Talk to me after worship any Sunday! Or beware – If I find **you** after worship, I am extremely persuasive! You will find your name, phone number, and email on MY forever LIST!

\*\*\*\*\*

**Choir Rehearsals: THURSDAYS from 3-4pm in the Sanctuary**

**Instrumental Rehearsals:** Scheduled with Music Director

**Handbell Choir: Rehearsals November 7 & 14 in Rm 2/3 From 11-12!**

**PLEASE** call, text, or send me an email if you would like more information about joining our Music Ministry! **WE NEED YOU!** 520-982-2437 [bcdame@comcast.net](mailto:bcdame@comcast.net)

## Worship & Music — CONTINUED

### Native American Heritage Month: Special Guest Worship Leaders, Sunday, November 12th

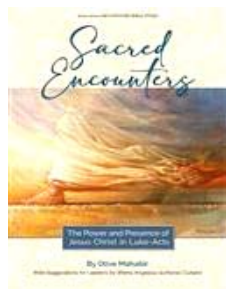
November is Native American Heritage Month. On Sunday, November 12, Mountain Shadows Presbyterian Church will welcome guest worship leaders Terry and Darlene Wildman.



Terry is Chief Director of Rain Ministries and Editor of *First Nations Version: An Indigenous Translation of the New Testament*. Darlene plays Native American flute. The Wildmans live in Maricopa Arizona on the traditional lands of the Pima and Tohono O’odham. Rain Ministries is an Arizona non-profit that encourages Indigenous Peoples to realize and fulfill the destiny the Creator has given them through Jesus Christ and to partner with them in developing culturally significant ways to express their worship of Creator and to make God known to others. Through Rain Ministries, they also encourage and facilitate reconciliation between Christian churches and First Nations people. **On Sunday, November 12, Terry and Darlene Wildman will share their faith, music, and cultural traditions with our congregation. After worship, copies of their books and CDs will be available for purchase.**

## LEARNING

### 2023–2024 Women’s Bible Study, Tuesday, Nov. 14th at 3:00 p.m. Sacred Encounters in Luke and Acts The Power and Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke-Acts



The Mountain Shadows Presbyterian Church Women’s Bible Study will gather on **Tuesday, November 14th at 3:00 pm** for a thoughtful discussion based on the 2023–2024 PW/Horizons Bible Study, Sacred Encounters: The Power and Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke-Acts. Author Olive Mahabir invites readers to consider Jesus, “the good shepherd” (Luke 10:15), who shared the Good News through sacred encounters with everyday people. We will meet again **Tuesday, December 12th at 3:00 pm. Beginning in January we will meet every other Tuesday starting January 9th.** Our last meeting is scheduled for April 9th. If you are interested, please contact Kathy Moyer or Dorothy Grimm at their numbers listed in the church directory.

## TENDING

### SESSION of MOUNTAIN SHADOWS, Report from Session Clerk Joy Lewis



Session met on October 25, 2023 and approved the following motions:

**Motion #1:** Create a Memorial Garden Compassion Fund (for MSPC congregants in need of financial support to purchase a columbarium niche or memorial plaque).

Continued

**SESSION of MOUNTAIN SHADOWS - cont'd**

**Motion #2 :** To approve the dedication of the Ash Wednesday 2024 offering to support the Memorial Garden Compassion Fund.

**Motion #3:** To shift responsibility for MSPC's property & liability insurance transactions from the Facilities Team to the Finance Team.

Lastly, MSPC will host a meeting of the Presbytery de Cristo on October 26, 2024. The next day, October 27, 2024 will be MSPC's annual birthday celebration.

The next meeting of the Session will be 11/15/2023.

*Respectfully submitted, Joy M Lewis, Clerk of Session*

**FACILITIES**

**What's Happening in Facilities?**

1. AZ Painting will work on the exterior of all three buildings. It will begin November 6th until the 23rd.
2. The dirt road that leads to the pumphouse received an extensive clean up. We need to have it clear in case the Golder Fire Department ever needs it.
3. Our water irrigation is outdated and caused a huge leak from tree roots. We're working on the next steps. Thanks to Nicky Bantock and husband who discovered the leak. MSPC is very blessed with all our active volunteers.



*Therese Griffin, Facilities Moderator & Elder*

**Volunteer Opportunities**



After our 3 buildings' exterior painting is completed, who's available to assist with MSPC Weed-Whacking? Let's have a Weed-Whacking Party on Thursday, November 30th!



MSPC Mission Visit to Old Pueblo Community Services Friday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>. Learn about *Housing First*, visit two homeless shelters: general and specialty LGBTQ. Tour includes lunch. Please see Therese Griffin or Suzanne Pennington for more details.

**FINANCIAL SUMMARY**

Below is a financial summary of the Operating Budget showing the most recent month, year-to-date results, the year-to-date budget, and the prior year-to-date results. Please **contact Linda Zoellner at (936) 689-8777 or Jeff States at 520-268-8956 if you have any questions.**

Monthly Financial Report - Operating Budget				
September 2023	2023		2022	
	September Actual	Year-to-Date Actual	Year-to-Date Budget	Year-to-Date Actual
Regular Offerings	\$ 12,509	\$ 190,199	\$ 176,729	\$ 168,122
Other Income	363	20,003	1,209	2,747
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 12,872</b>	<b>\$ 210,202</b>	<b>\$ 177,938</b>	<b>\$ 170,869</b>
Total Expense	\$ 22,909	\$ 199,547	\$ 203,028	\$ 191,601
Income less Expense	\$ (10,037)	\$ 10,655	\$ (25,090)	\$ (20,732)

## STEWARDSHIP



### PEACE AND GLOBAL WITNESS SPECIAL OFFERING RESULTS

Stewardship is pleased to report the results of the World Communion Sunday Peace Offering that was collected on Sunday, October 1<sup>st</sup>. As of October 2, 2023, \$1,906.83 had been collected to support this offering!

Your generosity is heartwarming and affirms the commitment that Mountain Shadows is united in its mission to be Centered in Christ, Caring for Community. Through the Peace and Global Witness Offering, we especially affirm that working for peace is an essential priority throughout our ministry work. Mountain Shadows joins other Presbyterian Churches across the world in advocating for a Season of Peace.

Mountain Shadows is grateful for your generosity and your ongoing support of the many transformative “Peacemaking and Reconciliation Projects” throughout the world. ***Thank You!***

May God bring peace and blessings to all of us during these troubled times.

*JJ Johnston, Stewardship Moderator & Elder*

*“It’s not how much we give, but how much love we put into giving.”*

*- Mother Theresa*

*...a thought from the Legacy Ministry*

## VENTURING COMMUNICATIONS



### Memorial Garden’s Celtic Cross Anniversary



Did you know that November 3, 2023, marks the tenth anniversary of the dedication ceremony for our Celtic cross? This outdoor artwork is beautifully nestled in the serenity of the Memorial Garden and framed by the Santa Catalina Mountain range as a backdrop. The story of how our Celtic cross and the Memorial Garden came to be is worth retelling. The Communications Ministry Team (CMT) reached out to the artist who created the cross, the Eagle Scout who oversaw the original landscaping of the walkways, and a current member who captured the installation and dedication processes in pictures. Check out the full article by clicking here —

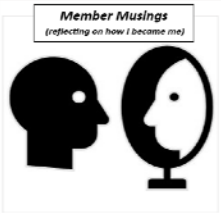
[MSPC website](https://www.mountainshadowschurch.org) or go to the internet at any time and type <https://www.mountainshadowschurch.org>. Once at the website, practice your skill at finding helpful information on our website by typing in key terms such as “Celtic” or “Cross Anniversary” in the search box at the bottom of any page. All pages with links to the search term will appear. Click on the most applicable link that appears and enjoy the article.

Continued



## COMMUNICATIONS - CONT'D

The CMT wants you to investigate our website. We've placed a significant amount of information about our active congregation at the site. If you want something added, let us know. If you see an error, let us know. Our website is intended to keep you informed and to attract others who are seeking a safe and welcoming congregation to call home. Help us make our website just as welcoming as the congregation. Members of the CMT include the following: Ginny Durand, Dan Engeljohn (Elder/Moderator), Ginny Durand, Joy Lewis, Brian Parker, and Linda Zoellner. If you want to be part of the team for increasing God's kin-dom through MSPC, ask to be a part of our team.



**Mike Moyer** -- Are you curious about how Mike became an advocate for ending Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)? In his musing, Mike is sharing his story and his involvement with "Resilience – The Biology of Stress and the Science of Hope." Go to [Member Musings](#) to learn more.

## MISSION & OUTREACH

*Mission Ministry Team: Sandy Brooks, Paul Butler, Ginny Durand, Dan Engeljohn – notetaker, Eleanor Geiger, Susan Harden, Kathy Moyer, Suzanne Pennington – moderator, Suzie Phelps, Jeff States, Karen States*



Presbyterian  
Peace  
Fellowship

**BE BOLD. NONVIOLENCE WORKS!**

## OUR VISION

*Relying on God's grace, the Presbyterian Peace Fellowship imagines a world of peace where all God's creation can thrive. In local and global communities, we will use every nonviolent means to disrupt and transform the culture of domination that normalizes racism, ecocide, militarization, and war. We build peace through the abolition of structural violence and by living into alternatives to violence with creativity, intelligence, imagination, and love.*

If this vision statement of the Presbyterian Peace Fellowship resonates with you, go to <https://www.presbypeacefellowship.org/about/> to learn more about them. This past summer PPF's Coordinator of Gun Violence Prevention, Deanna Hollas, recorded a webinar on "The Intersection of Faith and Gun Violence Prevention." One of the speakers was Jimmie Hawkins, Director of the PC (USA) Office of Public Witness and Ministry at the United Nations. You can view that webinar at <https://vimeo.com/849247962>

Continued

## Mission Fieldtrip to Agua Prieta, Mexico: February 27-28, 2024



MSPC's Mission Team is happy to announce a field trip to Frontera de Cristo and the Café Justo operations in Agua Prieta, Mexico. The trip will take place on Tuesday, February 27 through Wednesday, February 28, 2024. Mark Adams will lead our group on this two-day trip. It will be an immersive trip, so to allow for maximum time for worship, fellowship and meals with our partners across the border. We will stay Tuesday night in Agua Prieta, Mexico. A passport will be required for this trip. We will carpool from MSPC to the office of Frontera de Cristo in Douglas, Arizona.

There we will board Frontera de Cristo vans and travel to Agua Prieta. We will be staying at a partner hotel of Frontera de Cristo. The cost for this trip will be \$170 per person, plus accommodation. We will provide more details about the hotel when they become available.

The \$170 per person cost includes program fees, three meals a day, local transportation, and honorariums. Participation is on a first-come basis. A sign-up sheet will be available after worship on November 12, 2023. Please contact Susan Harden or any mission team member regarding questions.

*thank you*

On behalf of my family, thank you so much for all the cards, meals, prayers, and donations made to MSPC in memory of my husband Randy. Your kindness, compassion and love to us is appreciated more than you can ever know.

Blessings to you all,  
Suzanne Pennington

### ANNOUNCEMENTS



**Mountain Shadows' office hours are:**

**Monday through Friday  
9:00 am to 1:00 pm**






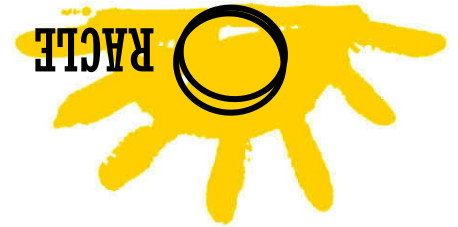
**Submissions for the December Oracle are due Wednesday, November 15th. Email your submissions to [msp-coffice@gmail.com](mailto:msp-coffice@gmail.com).**

***Please limit your articles to 300 words or fewer.***

# November 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
 <b>Mountain Shadows</b> <b>Church's Office Hours:</b> <b>Monday through Friday,</b> <b>9:00 am to 1:00 pm.</b>			<b>9:00—ESL</b> <b>Class</b>  <b>1:00 Finance/</b> <b>Stewardship</b>	<b>1:00</b> <b>Nominating</b> <b>Comm Mtg</b>  <b>3:00</b> <b>Choir Rehearsal</b>  <b>4:00—ESL Class</b>		
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
<b>10:00</b> <b>In-person/Zoom</b> <b>Worship &amp;</b> <b>Communion</b>  <b>2:00 Cross</b> <b>Streets Meal</b> <b>Prep</b>	<b>6:00—</b> <b>OV Jazz</b> <b>Rehearsal</b>	<b>10:30—</b> <b>Handbell</b> <b>Rehearsal</b>	<b>9:00—ESL</b> <b>Class</b>	<b>3:00</b> <b>Choir Rehearsal</b>  <b>4:00—ESL Class</b>	<b>10:30 —</b> <b>Mission Team</b> <b>Mtg</b>	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
<b>10:00</b> <b>Native American</b> <b>Heritage</b> <b>Worship</b> <b>Celebration with</b> <b>Terry &amp; Darlene</b> <b>Wildman</b>	<b>3:00 Women's</b> <b>Retreat Mtg</b>  <b>6:00—</b> <b>OV Jazz</b> <b>Rehearsal</b>	<b>10:30—</b> <b>Handbell</b> <b>Rehearsal</b>  <b>3:00 Women's</b> <b>Bible Study</b>	<b>9:00—ESL</b> <b>Class</b>  <b>1:00 Session</b>	<b>3:00</b> <b>Choir Rehearsal</b>  <b>4:00—ESL Class</b>	<b>12:30—</b> <b>Deacons</b>	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
<b>10:00</b> <b>In-person/Zoom</b> <b>Worship</b>	<b>6:00—</b> <b>OV Jazz</b> <b>Rehearsal</b>		<b>9:00—ESL</b> <b>Class</b>  <b>1:00 Comm.</b> <b>Mtg</b>	  <b>Office Closed</b>	<b>Office Closed</b>	
26	27	28	29	30		
<b>10:00</b> <b>In-person/Zoom</b> <b>Worship</b> <b>Rev. Laura</b> <b>Munroe</b> <b>preaches</b>	<b>6:00 OV Jazz</b> <b>Rehearsal</b>		<b>9:00—ESL</b> <b>Class</b>	<b>3:00</b> <b>Choir Rehearsal</b>  <b>4:00—ESL Class</b>		



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Email: MountainShadowsOffice@gmail.com  
Website: www.mountainshadowschurch.org

Centered in Christ, Caring for Community



Office Hours:

Mornings

Monday - Friday

Rev. Rachel M. Srubas, Pastor

(520) 664-6970

Charmaine Piane Dame, Director of Music

Judy Leonard, Office Manager

(520) 825-7858



SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday Worship Services

10:00a.m.

Fellowship and Refreshments

11:15a.m.

Mission Statement

Mountain Shadows Presbyterian Church, a congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA), is a Christ-centered fellowship, called to live a disciples of Jesus Christ as we care for our community and our world.

We strive to share the good news of the Gospel with each other and the surrounding communities, and to interact with love and grace with all of God's creation.