



## *Summer Happenings at Mountain Shadows*

Summer's here and the time is right for worship at Mountain Shadows Presbyterian Church. I'll often be with you this summer. On a few summer Sundays when I am on study leave or vacation, guest preachers will proclaim God's Good News among you.

**On Sunday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>**, we'll celebrate Holy Communion, donate non-perishable foods for distribution among neighbors served by food banks, and reinvigorate our congregation's commitment to the **Matthew 25** movement of the Presbyterian Church (USA). Through congregational vitality, Matthew 25 Presbyterians actively seek to eradicate systemic poverty and structural racism. On June 2<sup>nd</sup>, I will preach and Mountain Shadows will welcome **Doug Larson**, manager of **Cross Streets Community**, which offers food, clothing, showers, and friendship (with help from a committed corps of Mountain Shadows members) to unhoused neighbors and others in need.

**On Sunday, June 9, Rev. James Martin, Site Coordinator of the Tucson Borderlands Young Adult Volunteers (YAVs) will be our guest preacher.** YAVs Anette, Caleb, and Atalia will also visit and speak to the congregation about their ecumenical, faith-based year of service with communities of this region. The YAVs are among the agencies supported by Mountain Shadows' mission giving.

**In Sunday, June 16, Rev. Bill Heinle will be Mountain Shadows guest preacher.** Bill is Associate Pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Casa Grande and is currently serving as Moderator of Presbytery de Cristo. Both of our June guest preachers will faithfully proclaim God's Word while I take some study leave at the Collegeville Institute.

On a couple of Sundays in **July (the 14<sup>th</sup> and the 21<sup>st</sup>)** when I am on vacation, **Rev. Jeff Dixon** will serve as Mountain Shadows' guest preacher. Our congregation enjoyed meeting Jeff when he co-led worship with me in early April. During my summer study leave and vacation days, Jeff also can be called in the event of a congregant's emergency necessitating a clergy presence. Any such calls should go through our church office: 520-825-7858.

This summer is an important season for the **General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA)**. Its 226<sup>th</sup> official gathering will take place in Salt Lake City, Utah from June 25<sup>th</sup> to July 4<sup>th</sup>. **Live Into Hope** will be the overarching theme of the gathering, at which our Affiliate Member Marilyn Collins will serve as a volunteer. Presbytery Pastor Brad Munroe will be among the many attendees worshiping and exploring questions about how we organize our life and witness as the Presbyterian Church (USA).

May you live into hope all summer long.

*Pastor Rachel Srubas*



Beverly Johnston  
Co-Moderator



Karen Koopmans  
Co-Moderator



Edrice Ivory



Jeff Mague



Zenda Saraydarin



Chuck Sherman



Connie Wortman

### ***“Ministry of Passion Witness of Prayer”***

#### ***Deacon of the Month – Beverly Johnston***

Ahh....the lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer. What a great time to find a cool place and read a good book. I have a recommendation....it's called *Mostly What God Does* (reflections on seeking and finding His love everywhere). Its author is Savannah Guthrie who, as most of you probably know, is one of the anchors on the *Today Show*. Savannah was raised in Tucson and received her Journalism degree from the University of Arizona. I like her because she's so down to earth and humble for someone with such a glamorous job. She wrote the book because "I like to tell people about the God I know."

She goes on to say "Mostly what God does is love you. To believe this about God is the essence of faith: giving God the benefit of the doubt in a world that invites cynicism and despair. I've always felt believing in God isn't really the hard part; believing he is good and actively engaged in our lives and the world in the face of so much pain----that is the hard part." In her book, through a collection of essays, Savannah explores the place of faith in everyday life and her own struggles over the years.

The author made me smile, laugh out loud at times, and think. Think about the kind of life I can lead that will show God's love to others. And the really hard question – what is my purpose? (I'll have to get back to you on that one.)

There are so many good stories and quotes in the book but I only have 300 words so I hope I have "piqued" your interest enough to give it a read. In fact, I liked it so much that I've donated a copy to our church library. I pray that you like it as much as I do.

***“Watch what God does, and then you do it,  
like children who learn proper behavior from their parents.***

***Mostly what God does is love you.”***

***Ephesians 5: 1-2 (The Message)***

# SAFETY, PREPAREDNESS & HEALTH (SPH)

Grant Update - The Safety Preparedness Health Team continues to apply for a FEMA/AZ Homeland Security Grant. Thanks to the Grant Team: Bill Grimm, Vic Saraydarin, Dan Engeljohn, Therese Griffin. Please hold us in prayer; it is a long process.

*Joy Lewis, Co-Moderator & Elder*  
*Therese Griffin Co-Moderator & Elder*

## GATHERING

### WORSHIP & MUSIC



### Update from the Music Ministry Prayer Warriors Plus, a Glimpse of the Woman's Retreat!

I know I am continually looking for new musicians – singers, ringers, instrumentalists. Sometimes I hear, “Oh, I’m not very good. I don’t sing very loud. I haven’t played since high school. My dog died as I held a high C fermata!” I invite **ALL** of you! We are not Carnegie Hall contenders! We are Musical Prayer Warriors! We share our love of God through music, not perfect music, **PRAYERFUL** music!

Join us this summer when we are not so formal. Please join us for a hymn or two! This is your opportunity to explore your musical skills. Another **Handbell Workshop** is in the planning stages. Reading music is an advantage. Here’s the “but” - **you can learn** to ring even if you do not read music very well!

**Thank You MSPC** in advance for sending me to the **Tahoe Music Festival at Zephyr Point, NV** at the end of July. I am following the Conductor’s track but will also attend handbell workshops and sing in two choirs. It’s a blessing for me to sit on top of that mountain, listen to the waves on the lake and breathe in the Holy Spirit!

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- Choir Rehearsals: Begin Thursday September 5.**
- Instrumental Rehearsals:** Scheduled with Music Director
- Handbell Choir & Newbies: Watch for more information at the end of July regarding the August Workshop.**

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

### The Woman's Retreat:



I thought I would include some notes about the Woman's Retreat which was held April 21-23 at the Redemptorists Renewal Center. Shirin McArthur, our retreat director, spoke to us in depth about a couple female Bible figures we have read about in the Gospels! Myself, I never went beyond “reading” about them. Thank you, Shirin, for opening my eyes and helping me read/see between the lines. We were transported back in time to the land Jesus and his Disciples walked.

Continued

## Worship & Music — CONTINUED

**The Samaritan Woman at the Well – Photini.** Were you aware that was her name, which means enlightened one? Her life changed when she gave water to Jesus who told her I AM the Living Water. She never looked back and spread the Good News about this prophet.

Do you remember reading about **Lydia, the purple cloth dealer** from Thyatira? She was converted to Christianity after listening to Paul preaching in Philippi. Lydia took an active part in quenching her spiritual thirst. After Lydia and her household were baptized, she invited Paul and Silas to stay in her home. This is where the Philippian church later met.

Each participant at the retreat received a piece of purple cloth to write or draw something, depicting our thoughts or feelings about the stories of Photini and Lydia. These two women were brave and courageous. Everyone created a square and turned the piece in at the end of the retreat. Steven Cupo will stitch together piece by piece all our patches. Each day, during our Prayer Services, we sang the hymn “The Handiwork of God.” The refrain of the hymn is: “A quilt of love, made by holy hands, every pattern known by heart, stitched together by the sewer of our souls, a quilt of love, a work of art, we’re the handiwork of God.” When the quilt is complete sometime this fall, the choir will sing the entire anthem and you will be able to check out our patches!

*Charmaine Piane Dame, Music Director*



There will be a short tutorial on "how to usher" after worship on June 23rd. This is especially for those from the choir and anyone else who may need a refresher. Call Lynn Parker if you have questions.

## Women's Retreat 2024



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## LEARNING -Cont'd



April 23-25, 2024, saw 18 women of MSPC gather at the Redemptorist Renewal Center for our annual retreat. “Linking Our Lives with Our Scriptural Sisters” was our theme. Led by Shirin McArthur, we journeyed back to the Holy Land of Jesus’ time. We then explored the story of the Woman at the Well and Lydia, the merchant of purple cloth. Ask a retreat participant about the name of the Woman at the Well.

We had time for early morning coffee and fellowship on the patio or a hike along the trails or the Labyrinth. Delicious meals were enjoyed, courtesy of the Redemptorist Center. Wednesday afternoon included free time to work on crafts, swim, nap or just socialize. By the end of the retreat everyone felt a new bond with the other women from Mountain Shadows and we left feeling that we were truly stitched together as sisters. Watch for our group project to be featured one Sunday morning during worship.

Finally, I want to thank the team who put this year’s retreat together: Edrice Ivory, Charmaine Plane Dame, Alida Wilkes, Linda Zoellner, and Therese Griffin, who took the photos. Thanks also to Judy Leonard for **our** behind-the-scenes administrative support and copying.

In 2025, we will switch to a one-day format at the Redemptorist Renewal Center. **Save the date of February 26, 2025 and plan to join us for a day of faith formation and spiritual renewal.**

*Peace and blessings, Joy Lewis, Team leader*

## TENDING

### SESSION of MOUNTAIN SHADOWS, Report from Session Clerk Jeff Mague



The activities of the May 15th Session meeting were:

- Reviewed and approved updates to the Board of Deacon’s Guidelines. This update clarifies the Deacons’ role in offering care for our members and friends.
- With abundant gratitude for his service as a Deacon over the last 5 ½ years, the Session accepted the resignation of Brian Parker, effective June 1.
- With some of our Policies requiring annual reviews and updates as appropriate, the Session reviewed and approved updates to the Legacy Ministry Policies and Procedures, the Policies and Procedures for Receiving Gifts to the Church, and the Employee Policies Handbook.
- In 2023, the Session completed an emergency action plan and identified several items that should be done to maintain or improve the safety and security of the church campus. As it would take years to complete these items using our operating and reserve funds, the Safety, Preparedness and Health Team received permission from the Session to apply for a federal grant via a group of three agencies that are processing special grants for non-profit organizations to increase their protection (the U.S. and Arizona Departments of Homeland Security, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency). While it is likely to take 6-12 months or more to receive this grant, it would substantially benefit us if approved.

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- A request from the Oro Valley Jazz Band to continue using our sanctuary for their rehearsals for their 2024-2025 season was approved. At a recent concert by the band, \$459 was donated to MPSC from the proceeds of a free-will offering.
- At the recommendation of the Finance and Stewardship Teams, Session approved adjusting our stewardship drive and budget approval schedule for 2025. The Stewardship Campaign will now be during September, October, and November, with the final Session budget approval coming in January, before the Annual Congregational Meeting. This will help distribute some of our high activity in December to other months. Any employee pay and benefit adjustments will be retro-active to January 1.
- The final scheduled vacation and study leave for Pastor Rachel in 2024 was approved.



### **Serve on a Presbytery-wide Committee!**

Yes, you! Are you feeling called to serve the Presbytery? Explore the Presbytery's committees and commissions! Once you decide to serve or need more information, reach out to Madeline Bosma at 520-345-3546, or contact her at [maddiebosma@gmail.com](mailto:maddiebosma@gmail.com). Talk to her at church. Madeline will forward your contact information to the Presbytery de Cristo (PdC) Nominating Committee. You'll be contacted when a vacancy arises.

#### **General Requirements:**

**Membership:** Must be a member of Presbytery de Cristo (no affiliate members)

**Tech Savvy:** Must have access to Zoom

**Ordination:** Not required for committees. Elders (Ruling or Teaching) required for commissions.

**Term:** Three-year terms, up to two consecutive terms.

#### **Committees and Commissions:**

##### **1. Leadership Commission**

- **Role:** Acts as the "Session of the Presbytery"
- **Meets:** Monthly, 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday at noon
- **Prerequisite:** Prior service on another PdC commission or committee

##### **2. Administrative Committee**

- **Role:** Manages PdC finances, fund development, technology, communication, personnel, risk, and property
- **Meets:** Every other 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday at 9:30 AM

**3. Commission on Ministry**

- **Role:** Oversees matters specified *Book of Order* G-3.0306 and G-3.0303, except inquirers and candidates
- **Meets:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday every other month at 1:00 PM

**4. Committee on Preparation for Ministry**

- **Role:** Manages Inquirers and Candidates for ordination
- **Meets:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday every other month at 9:30 AM

**5. Permanent Judicial Commission**

- **Role:** Handles disciplinary and remedial cases
- **Term:** Six years (yes)
- **Meets:** As needed
- **Preference:** Attorneys or Bible scholars

**6. Mission Committee**

- **Role:** Develops and executes mission strategies; oversees immigrant congregations, new worshipping communities, and church developments.
- **Meets:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday every other month at 3:00 PM

**7. Nominating Committee**

- **Role:** Nominates persons for various positions with PdC
- **Meets:** Monthly, 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday at 1:30 PM

**8. Synod of the Southwest Commission**

- **Term:** Two years, can a serve a second term
- **Role:** Supports leadership development in AZ and NM Presbyteries
- **Meets:** Twice a year: March and October, in person (travel and hotel provided).

**9. Montlure Council**

- **Role:** Oversees a Presbyterian Church camp in the White Mountains of AZ
- **Meets:** Monthly, 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday, 9:30 AM, First PC, Casa Grande

**FACILITIES****New Looks**

1. New front poster at MSPC Sanctuary gate entrance. The front large bullet-board stand was repainted by Linda Walka and C.J. Shepherd.
2. The Sanctuary and Office Building have had added flashing added to the base of the buildings to prevent pack-rats and other rodents from getting into the buildings. eighteen rodent nests were removed as well.
3. All locks/doors have been checked/oiled/repaired.

*Therese Griffin, Facilities Moderator & Elder*

## 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 Judy Mague if you have any questions.**

Monthly Financial Report - Operating Budget				
April 2024	2024			2023 Year-to-Date Actual
	April Actual	Year-to-Date Actual	Year-to-Date Budget	
Regular Offerings	\$ 17,961	\$ 107,989	\$ 94,546	\$ 111,363
Other Income	1,985	4,585	454	12,704
Total Income	\$ 19,946	\$ 112,574	\$ 95,000	\$ 124,067
Total Expense	\$ 25,614	\$ 94,974	\$ 95,499	\$ 93,897
Income less Expense	\$ (5,668)	\$ 17,600	\$ (499)	\$ 30,170

*Judy Mague, Treasurer*

*“We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.” - Winston Churchill  
...a thought from the Legacy Ministry*

## 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*

### We Need You This Summer!



Are you an early bird? We could use you at Cross Streets Community for a couple of hours on a Monday or Friday morning!

**WHY NOW?** Many of the regular volunteers are seasonal visitors, but our neighbors are still in need of a hot breakfast and some human kindness.

**WHEN?** Monday and/or Friday mornings, from 5:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. or if that's a bit too early, 6:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m.

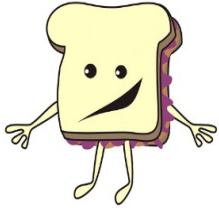
**WHERE?** Cross Streets Community, a ministry of Southside Presbyterian Church, 317 W. 23<sup>rd</sup> St, Tucson, AZ 85713

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**WHAT?** Help prepare breakfast including chopping veggies, making peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, and prepping or cooking other food items as needed. Also serve breakfast to our neighbors at 7:30 a.m. Help with the clean-up.

**INTERESTED?** Talk with Suzanne, Paul, or Jeff!



## SpreadtheLove **PEANUT BUTTER PARTY FOOD DRIVE** at Interfaith Community Services (ICS) Continues!



Keep rounding up any & all kinds of peanut butter – mostly 16 oz, but larger jars are welcome too.

Bring ‘em to church on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sundays’ food collection (**June 2, and July 7**) or hand them over to Dan Engeljohn & Stevie Cupo for the GIANT display they’ll create to celebrate our yummy MSPC donation collection! They’ll be delivered to ICS by the end of July.

ICS has set an amazing goal of **10,000 jars of peanut butter!** It’s the most common item given out and especially welcome for the kids on summer break. Last year we won the “prize” for the most jars per capita AND Stevie won special recognition for being the “nuttiest” participant – as “Peanut Butter Man”!

Mt. Shadows Presbyterian Church really knows how to “**Spread the Love**” and how to build a **TOWER OF PEANUT BUTTER POWER!** Thanks, everyone!



## **CASA ALITAS** **WELCOMING MIGRANT FAMILIES**

Casa Alitas guests are asylum-seekers. Most are families. They are parents, children and pregnant women from a variety of places around the globe, including Central America, South America, Mexico, India, Nepal, Africa, Eastern Europe and more. They have traveled here over several days, weeks or months seeking protection from persecution, war, violence, famine, economic collapse, or other severe hardship. Often they spend weeks or more at the border, then another two to fourteen days in detention before being released. Conditions in the detention centers are arduous. **Before coming to Casa Alitas, asylum-seekers were screened for eligibility and can legally stay in the US while pursuing their immigration process.** (Information taken from: [casaalitas.org](https://www.casaalitas.org))

Casa Alita always appreciates donations of gently used or new clothing. Since each new arrival typically arrives with only the cloths on their backs, they are provided with a set of clean clothing and toiletries. Examples of needed items are: gently used clothing, packaged unused socks and undergarments. **You may go to: <https://www.casaalitas.org/clothing-goods>** to find a more complete list of clothing needs and sizes.

**COMING JULY 2024!**

**Peanut Butter Party Food Drive**

*Spread the Love*

Help ICS collect 10,000 jars of peanut butter in July.



**ANNOUNCEMENTS**



*Mountain Shadows' Summer office hours are:*

**Monday through Thursday  
9:00 am to 1:00 pm.  
Closed Fridays**



**Submissions for the August/September 2024 Oracle are due Monday, July 15th. Email your submissions to [mspcoffice@gmail.com](mailto:mspcoffice@gmail.com).**

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

**Interested in Volunteering?**

Our ministries are always looking for volunteers. If you are interested in joining one of these ministries contact the Ministry Moderator listed in the attached table. Their numbers and email are listed in the church directory.





<b>Ministry</b>	<b>Moderator</b>
Christian Hospitality	Ginny Durand
Communications	Open
Facilities	Therese Griffin
Finance	Clair Brooks
Security/Preparedness/Health	Co-Moderators Joy Lewis, Therese Griffin
Mission/Outreach	Suzanne Pennington
Personnel	Paul Butler
Shepherding	Karen Thomas
Stewardship	Vic Saraydarin

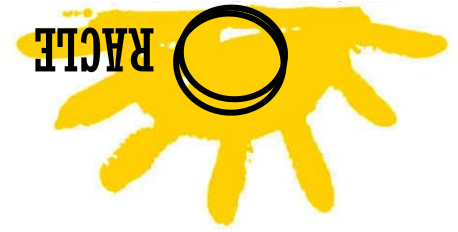
# June 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 Mountain Shadows Church's Summer Hours: Monday through Thursday 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. Closed Fridays						1
2 10:00 Communion In-person/ Zoom Worship 2: 00 Cross Streets Meal Prep	3	4	5	6	7	8
9 10:00 In-person/Zoom Worship Rev. James Martin - Preaching	10	11	12	13	14	15
16 10:00 In-person/ Zoom Worship Rev. Bill Heinle Preaching	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 10:00 In-person/ Zoom Worship 11:30 Usher Mtg	24	25	26	27	28	29
30 10:00 In-person/Zoom Worship						



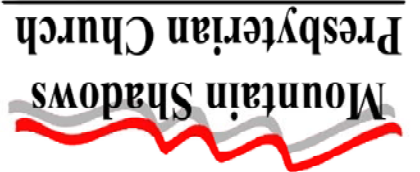
# July 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	 Office Closed	5 Office Closed	6
7 10:00 Communion In-person/ Zoom Worship 2: 00 Cross Streets Meal Prep	8	9	10	11	12 Office Closed	13
14 10:00 In-person/Zoom Worship Jeffrey Dixon Preaching	15	16	17	18	19 Office Closed	20
21 10:00 In-person/ Zoom Worship Jeffrey Dixon Preaching	22	23	24	25	26 Office Closed	27
28 10:00 In-person/Zoom Worship	29	30	31		Mountain Shadows Church's Summer Hours: Monday through Thursday 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. Closed Fridays	



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Phone: 520-825-7858  
FAX: 520-825-7860  
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 Plane 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.