



Hello! In October and November, 2025, Mountain Shadows Presbyterian Church is launching **Gifted & Giving**, a Christian Generosity program to encourage your spiritual and financial commitment to our congregation in the coming year. Everything we do in ministry and mission—every worship hour and act of service—depends on God-given gifts that flow through the hands and hearts of our congregation’s people, including you.

Please watch your mail and listen for announcements of two upcoming events:

Friday, November 7, 4:00 – 6:00 pm, A Gifted & Giving Gala at our church. Join us for mocktails, hors d’oeuvres, and entertainment by gifted congregants. We hope this faithfully fun gathering will inspire your ongoing support of Mountain Shadows in the coming year.

Sunday, November 9, 10:00 am, Christian Generosity Commitment Day.

During worship, we’ll be invited to offer our completed commitment cards, pledging our financial support for Mountain Shadows’ ministries and mission activities through 2026.

From the New Testament Letter of James (1:17), we learn the true source of our blessings: *Every good gift comes from above. Gifts come down from the Creator of the heavenly lights.*

Thank you for sharing your God-given gifts with Mountain Shadows Church.

Gratefully your Pastor,

Rev. Rachel Srubas



Starting with this issue, the *Oracle* newsletter of Mountain Shadows Presbyterian Church will be published six times per year, in 2-month issues:

October-November; December-January; February-March; April-May; June-July; August-September, and so forth.

Why are we making this change? Our congregation's communication patterns have changed. We send weekly emails to the congregation. Mountainshadowschurch.org has become more robust. We offer online streaming of worship services and video recordings, via Zoom and YouTube. We provide paper newsletters for those who need them. We've increased the number of bulletin boards on which ministry fliers can be posted at church. Our communications are diverse and frequent, thanks to a team of dedicated folks who make it all happen.

Meanwhile, the publishing platform that we have been using to produce the *Oracle* will be phased out by its provider company in a few months. Now is the time for our church not only to transition to a new publication platform for the *Oracle* but also to a bimonthly publication schedule.

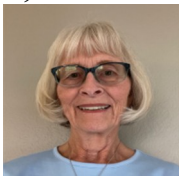
Ministry news items to be included in the *Oracle* are due to Office Manager Judy Leonard by the 15th of the month prior to the forthcoming newsletter. The next *Oracle* due date is **Friday, November 14th**. Ministry announcements to be included in a week's congregational email may be sent to Judy by Tuesday of that week. Requests for items to be posted on the church website can be sent to Dan Engeljohn. There are many ways to get the word out about Mountain Shadows' ministry programs and opportunities.

While Mountain Shadows adapts to a new newsletter publishing platform and a year-round bimonthly *Oracle* publication schedule, we request your support and understanding, especially for our Office Manager Judy Leonard. Judy has been serving our church for ten years and counting! Any change in an organization's life involves a learning curve and a period of adaptation. May we all be of good cheer as we try something new.
Double blessings on you!

Pastor Rachel Srubas

Mountain Shadow's Presbyterian Church's Currently Serving Deacons:

Karen Koopmans, Alida Wilkes, Eleanor Birch, Jeff Mague, Connie Wortman



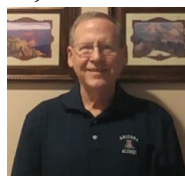
Karen Koopmans
Co-Moderator



Alida Wilkes
Co-Moderator



Ellie Birch



Jeff Mague



Connie Wortman

The ministry of deacon as set forth in scripture is one of compassion, witness, and service, sharing in the healing and redeeming love of Jesus Christ.

Deacons care through listening and prayer.

“Ministry of Compassion, Witness and Prayer”

Deacon Karen Koopmans

Coming up again in November: **Angel Tree**, a special project for us at Mountain Shadows. Angel Tree is sponsored by Bridge Prison Ministry in partnership with Prison Fellowship to purchase Christmas gifts for the children of incarcerated parents. Last year we collected gifts for 50 children. In response to your generosity last year, we are pledging the same number of Angels this year.

Angel Tree is one of the many projects of Bridge Prison Ministry, a local non-profit, serving men and women who have been released from jail or prison and are under supervision. For more information, see <https://bridgeprisonministryaz.org/BPM>

Here's how you can participate in the Angel Tree project:

1. Beginning Sunday, November 16, take an Angel from the tree in the narthex stating the child's first name and Christmas wish list.
2. Be sure to **record your Angel** with the attending deacon—we need to account for each angel.
3. You may purchase one or all of the items on the list with a minimum of \$25 for each child.
4. Return your Angel and **unwrapped gifts to the attending deacon**, who will check in your Angel.

Pick up Angels on Sundays, November 16, November 23, and at the very latest November 30.

We have a short turn-around this year, so it would be helpful if you pick up your angel and return your gifts by the 30th. (December 7 is the very last date to return gifts.)

If you are unable to shop for gifts, you may donate cash or checks (Angel Tree in the memo) in the offering plate to be used for gifts or gift cards.

- **Saturday, December 13, 9:00 AM -12 Noon:**
Gift-wrapping day at Pusch Ridge Christian Academy, 9500 N. Oracle Rd.
- **Saturday, December 20, 1:00 AM -3:30 PM:**
Angel Tree Christmas Party at Unleashed Christian Church, 265 W. Valencia Rd.

GATHERING

FRIENDSHIP Ministry



The Friendship Committee has listened to your requests to bring back “Table of Friends”! A favorite annual activity of Mountain Shadows brings parishioners together during the months of January thru April. “We all know that good things happen when we gather together - around a table, around a fire pit, sitting around in a circle at any location. It doesn’t make any difference the time of day or the type of activity or the type of meal that we share. The important thing is the friendships that come when we get together.”

Groups of 8-10 people are formed from those who have signed up to participate. If you don’t drive, want to be paired up with a particular person, or have mobility limitations, please include these concerns on the sign-up sheet, so we can accommodate everyone who would like to participate.

A leader selected for each group they will notify the group members about the first get together in January. At this first meeting you’ll become acquainted and together plan your next get-togethers. You will be asked to choose a date to coordinate an activity. Examples: Go out for lunch or dinner, tour an exhibit, read & discuss a book, play a game, go to a movie & discuss afterwards, have a potluck, etc.

Still not clear what it’s all about? Please ask Pamela Schultz, Karen Kuehlwein, or a congregant who participated in the past.

Sign up on the ramada will take place on the following Sundays in November & December. If you are not in town to sign up, please email our office manager, Judy at mspcoffice@gmail.com, with “Table of Friends” in the subject line.

Sign Up Dates:

November 16

November 23

December 7

December 14



We are excited to get back to our Table of Friends!



Mountain Shadows Celebrates 28 Years!

On Sunday, October 26, 2025, we will mark the 28th anniversary of the founding of Mountain Shadows Presbyterian Church. Since we were established as a worshiping fellowship in 1997, our congregation has celebrated our anniversary on the last Sunday in October, which is also when many Protestant Christians celebrate our Reformation heritage. Worship with us on October 26th! Afterward, enjoy some special cake graciously provided by the Hospitality Ministry Team.

WORSHIP & MUSIC



Thank you once again for the privilege of attending the Summer Music Conference in Zephyr Point, NV. This year two choir members joined me at the conference. I am sure they will return next summer! The theme of the conference was *Echoes of Creation*. What better place to explore the theme with the backdrop of the majestic Lake Tahoe and surrounding mountains. The entire week we created sacred harmonies praying, singing, and ringing!

I attended classes to refresh my conducting skills, handbell techniques, and sight reading. Plus, the advantage of singing in a choir filled with professional church musicians and those who pray their way each day in song! THANK YOU one more time.

I am planning music for October and November that will be familiar to many of you! It's exciting when I find a newer arrangement of an older hymn! It's a challenge for the choir, because they are used to singing it the "old" way and new rhythms are thrown in, or a slight variation of the melody! Listen to all the new sounds: How Great Thou Art, Shall We Gather at the River, What a Beautiful Name, How Can I Keep From Singing, and on and on!

November is an interesting month. Not only does this Liturgical Year end on November 23 (Christ the King), but we also move into the new year! Advent begins on November 30! *How many shopping days before Christmas???*

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Choir Rehearsals: 2:45-4pm in the sanctuary.

Instrumental Rehearsals: Scheduled with Music Director

Handbell Choir: Plan for rehearsals in November, more information coming soon!

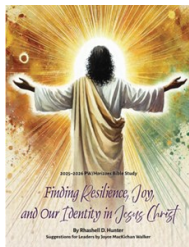
PLEASE call, text, or send me an email if you would like more information about joining our Music Ministry! **WE NEED YOU!** 520-982-2437 bcdame@comcast.net

Charmaine Piane Dame, Music Director 🎵🎵🎵

LEARNING: Women's Bible Study

Finding Resilience, Joy and Our Identity in Jesus Christ

By: Rhashell D. Hunter



This fall, the Mountain Shadows Women's Bible Study group will begin to gather for thoughtful discussions based on the 2025-26 PW/Horizons Bible study, *Finding Resilience, Joy, and Our Identity in Jesus Christ*, by Rhashell D. Hunter, with Suggestions for Leaders by Joyce MacKichan Walker. Resilience is the ability to spring back into shape and to adapt well in the face of adversity, trauma, tragedy and stress. Joy is more than happiness but instead relying on putting our full trust in God. Our Identity is not found in our titles and possessions, but only in Jesus Christ.

Mountain Shadows' Women's Bible Study group invites all women to join us for nine lessons on Tuesday afternoons at 1:00 pm, October - March. The first meeting will be Tuesday, October 28th. We welcome Marilyn Collins and Dorothy G as leaders this year. If you are interested, please contact Dorothy or Marilyn. Their contact information may be found in the church directory.

TENDING

SESSION of MOUNTAIN SHADOWS, Report from Session Clerk Jeff Mague



The activities during the September 10, 2025, regular meeting of the Session were:

1. Received the Home Communion report. If you are homebound or otherwise unable to attend worship services on the first Sunday of each month, we are very happy to bring the Lord's Supper to you. Please get in touch with your deacon, the office, Pastor Rachel, or Rev. Laura Munroe.
2. Approved three new policies required by the *Book of Order*: Anti-Harassment Policy, Anti-Racism Policy, and the Child, Youth and At-Risk Adult Protection Policy.
3. Approved an upcoming Gifted and Giving Gala for the entire congregation on November 7, 2025.
4. Processed budget-related items.
5. Approved pastoral study leave.
6. With our gratitude to Susan Harden, we assigned Susan to moderate the 2025 Nominating Committee.
7. Processed, with our blessings, the membership transfer of two people who felt it was time to worship with the family of their son at a local church.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Mountain Shadows' 2025 Nominating Committee Has Been Seated

I would like to take this moment to introduce its members:

- Susan Harden, Session Elder and Moderator
- Deb Brandt, at large
- Jeff Mague, at large
- Connie Wortman, Deacon
- Rev. Rachel Srubas, ex officio



Over the next several weeks we will be reaching out to members of the congregation to consider a leadership role in the church. If you are considering or would like more information about the leadership roles that serve the church, we encourage you to reach out to any nominating committee member. Whether you choose to serve at this time or not, we value your input concerning our leadership opportunities. I encourage all to prayerfully consider your role in the life of our church. We are looking forward to engaging conversations as we move forward with nominating new church leaders for 2025.

Susan Harden, Session Elder & Moderator

FACILITIES



Meet Our Facilities Co-Moderator

As an Elder and Co-Moderator for Facilities, I would like to introduce myself to the congregation. My name is Chris Maitin and I grew up in Southwest Montana. I graduated from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, NY and served in the Army for 14 years as an Engineer. I received a Masters degree in Engineering from Texas A&M University and taught Engineering courses at West Point after that. After leaving the Army, I went to work at companies that manufacture folding carton and corrugated boxes (think Amazon). I worked in various roles from plant Engineering and Maintenance to Plant management. Most recently I manage a team that supports all 130 corrugated box plant for International Paper in the U.S. and Mexico. I am very happy to have joined this church with its very active, open and welcoming congregation and leadership.

As Co-Moderator of Facilities, I will be working on developing long range plans for repairs and improvements to our facilities. If you have any suggestions or needs, please contact myself, Therese or any of the Facility team members.

Chris Maitin Session Elder & Facilities Co-Moderator



MEMORIAL GARDEN UPDATE

Columbarium Update



With an upcoming final coat of paint for each wall, the update of the Memorial Garden will be complete. The Memorial Garden consists of a Memorial Wall and two Columbarium Walls. The Memorial Wall commemorates church saints with a plaque. The Columbarium Walls include niches to accommodate the cremated remains of one or two saints.

Memorial plaques are \$350.00 for one individual and \$500 for two individuals on the same plaque. Columbarium niches are \$1250 for a single urn and \$1500 for two urns.

With the closing of Community Presbyterian Church of San Manuel, the session of Mountain Shadows has agreed to the transfer three inurned remains from Community Presbyterian Church to our new Columbarium. A brief internment service is planned for October 19.

To reserve a plaque on the Memorial Wall or a niche in the new Columbarium Wall, please contact the church office or Elders Chris Maitin or Paul Butler.

Paul R Butler, Session Elder

“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

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 Church Treasurer Judy Mague if you have any questions.

Monthly Financial Report - Operating Budget				
August 2025	2025		2024	
	August Actual	Year-to-Date Actual	Year-to-Date Budget	Year-to-Date Actual
Regular Offerings	\$ 17,034	\$ 185,756	\$ 189,656	\$ 179,182
Other Income	526	6,523	2,875	7,361
Total Income	\$ 17,560	\$ 192,278	\$ 192,531	\$ 186,543
Total Expense	\$ 18,793	\$ 174,983	\$ 192,152	\$ 189,659
Income less Expense	\$ (1,232)	\$ 17,295	\$ 379	\$ (3,116)

Judy Mague, Treasurer

GIVING

World Communion Sunday: Peace & Global Witness



On Sunday, October 5, we'll celebrate the Lord's Supper with Christians worldwide and receive the special offering that equips Presbyterians to pursue the deeply needed things that make for peace.

25% of this Offering stays with our congregation to support peacemaking and reconciliation in our own community.

25% of this Offering goes to our mid-council to join with other congregations to support peacemaking work in our region.

50% of this Offering supports the work being done by Presbyterians across the globe

VENTURING

COMMUNICATIONS

Check Out Our Website

(www.mountainshadowchurch.org)



On the website, you can find current and historical information related to our church life. Note that each week, both the “**Weekly Update**” found on the opening page and the “**News and Events**” page are updated. As new information becomes available, other sites are updated. If you have suggested edits to the website, let Dan Engeljohn know.

The Session approved at its September meeting inclusion of three new policy statements that affect both the MSPC staff, congregants, and guests. The policies are named — “Anti-Harassment Policy,” “Anti-Racism Policy,” and “Child, Youth, and At-Risk Adult Protection Policy.” All three policies can be accessed at the Personnel Ministry page on the MSPC website. To find this page, at the website’s Menu bar, under Faith Priorities and Tending, select Personnel Ministry. A PDF copy of each policy statement can be accessed and reviewed. Know the boundaries established to protect you and others.

MISSION & OUTREACH

Musings From the Mission Ministry Team

Mission Statement: The Mission Ministry Team exists to encourage, educate, and assist the members of the Mountain Shadows Presbyterian Church (MSPC) congregation to carry out discipleship with Christ and in Christ, and in loving our neighbors as ourselves. The Ministry Team attempts to balance our local, regional, and global mission efforts, keeping in mind the priorities of Presbytery de Cristo, the Synod of the Southwest, and PC(USA). We continually strive to meet the needs of others in a spirit of love and respect that honors the dignity of all people.

Mission Ministry Team: Paul Butler, Dan Engeljohn, Eleanor Geiger, Dorothy Grimm, Susan Harden, Kathy Moyer, Suzanne Pennington –moderator, Suzie Phelps, Jeff States, Karen States



Adrian Gonzalez, Director of Customer Relations at Café Justo recently shared some relevant news that the mission team wanted to share with MSPC members and friends. Coffee production throughout the region and in many other coffee growing areas has been much lower than expected. Global warming and climate change are contributing to this situation. To ensure all growers who are part of the Café Justo cooperative receive equitable compensation and the member numbers are kept at a level to guarantee that. With low yields from existing members, the co-op is looking to expand the number of growers, but such an expansion will take time. As a result, people ordering coffee should expect delays in coffee orders. Café Justo continues to keep the prices competitive but due to these market and environmental changes, some price increases are anticipated.

Café Justo and Frontera de Cristo are vital partners in MSPC borderland ministries. We encourage all our coffee drinking members to continue supporting this important effort with your online orders at justcoffee.org.

Greetings from Sandy and Pete Quinonez,

We pray you everyone from Mountain Shadows Church are doing well. As for us, the men from the homes, and BPM are doing great!

We are very excited to report that BPM is in the process of getting the women's home. Looks like we will be closing on the house September 15, if all goes as planned. A flyer with the date for the open house will follow. Women volunteers are needed as well as clothing and hygiene products for the ladies.

At this time, we have 14 men. A couple of guys moved into their own apartment. Another guy is getting ready to move. He wants to purchase a house, which he was pre-approved for. God has been blessing the men so much. The men have had growth in the Lord, restoration with family, deliverance from drugs, alcohol, and cigarettes. They are experiencing promotions at work and pay raises.

Also, the men with the help of another volunteer are starting an outreach ministry. They are very excited about it. Mentors are very much needed. Huge need, please join us in prayer in regards to this matter.



MISSION & OUTREACH Cont'd

We are scheduled to go into the Perryville Women's Facility where a resource fair will be taking place October 8, 2025. It will be a great opportunity to inform them about the women's home. We will also be signing up ladies who need a pen pal. Prayers needed that all goes according to God's plan.

Board members, volunteers, donors and prayers are needed and welcomed! BPM is looking for a board member with marketing/fundraising skills.

God is so good He is in the midst of the ministry, the men, volunteers and us. We are truly blessed!

Thank you for your partnership and for all the accomplishments BPM is having. It's all because of donors like you Mountain Shadows Presbyterian Church.

Sending our love, Pete and Sandy.



SAVE THE DATE!!!

AIDS Walk Tucson will be held on World AIDS Day

Saturday, December 6, 2025, Gene C. Reid Park

Registration will begin at 11:30 AM

COME WALK WITH US! MSPC's Mission Team is again sponsoring a team. A sign-up sheet is forthcoming, or you can contact Suzanne Pennington. We have MSPC T-Shirts available for \$20. All proceeds will be donated to the Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation

BRING YOUR CLEAN, INTACT PLASTIC GROCERY BAGS TO CHURCH!

Our unhoused neighbors whom we serve at Cross Streets Community are always in need of these! Reusable bags or totes are also very much appreciated.



THANK YOU!!

Your generous donations enabled volunteers at Interfaith Community Service's 9/11 National Day of Service to assemble 1,000 hygiene kits!

ANNOUNCEMENTS



The next publication of the Oracle will be for December/January. Submissions for the **December/January Oracle** are due **Friday, Nov. 14th.**

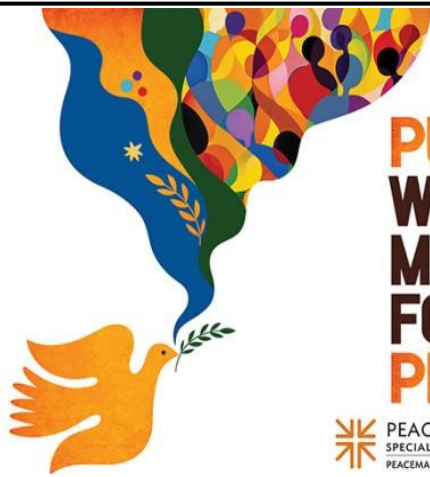
Email your submissions to mspcoffice@gmail.com.

Please limit your articles to 300 words or fewer.




Mountain Shadows' office hours are:

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



PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
PEACEMAKING AND RECONCILIATION

October 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 <p>Office Manager, Judy Leonard, will be on vacation from Friday, October 3rd through Monday, October 13. Normal office hours will resume on Tuesday, October 14th.</p>			1	2	3	4
				<p>10:00 Finance/ Generosity</p> <p>2:45 Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>1:00 Friendship/ Hospitality</p>	
 <p>5</p> <p>10:00 Communion Zoom Worship Peace & Global Offering</p>	6	7	8	9	10	11
	<p>6:00— OV Jazz Rehearsal</p>		<p>1:00 Session</p>	<p>10:00 Legacy</p> <p>2:45 Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>11:00 Mission Mtg</p> <p>12:30 Deacon Mtg</p>	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
<p>10:00 In-person/ Zoom Worship</p>	<p>6:00— OV Jazz Rehearsal</p>			<p>2:45 Choir Rehearsal</p>		
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
<p>10:00 In-person/ Zoom Worship</p>	<p>6:00— OV Jazz Rehearsal</p>			<p>2:45 Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>Women's Retreat—Franciscan Renewal Center—Scottsdale, AZ</p>	
26	27	28	29	30	31	
<p>10:00 In-person/ Zoom Worship</p> <p>MSPC's 28th Anniversary</p>	<p>6:00— OV Jazz Rehearsal</p>	<p>1:00 Women's Bible Study</p>		<p>2:45 Choir Rehearsal</p>		



GIFTED & GIVING

MOUNTAIN SHADOWS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
CHRISTIAN GENEROSITY 2026

November 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 10:00 Communion Zoom Worship	3 6:00— OV Jazz Rehearsal	4 1:00 Friendship Begin Gala Setup	5 Gala Set Up	6 No Choir Rehearsal 1:00 Friendship/ Christ Gen Gala Setup	7 1:00 Friendship 4:00 Gifted & Giving Gala	8 Gala take down and set up for Worship
9 10:00 In-person/ Zoom Worship Christian Generosity Commitment Sunday	10 6:00— OV Jazz Rehearsal	11 1:00 Women's Bible Study	12 1:00 Session	13 2:45 Choir Rehearsal Oracle Due	14 11:00 Mission Mtg	15
16 10:00 In-person/ Zoom Worship	17 6:00— OV Jazz Rehearsal	18	19	20 2:45 Choir Rehearsal	21 12:30 Deacon Mtg	22
23 10:00 In-person/Zoom Worship	24 6:00— OV Jazz Rehearsal	25	26	27 2:45 Choir Rehearsal	28	29
30 10:00 In-person/ Zoom Worship						



If you would like to make your 2026 pledge early, please fill out the form below and either mail it to Mountain Shadows Presbyterian Church or drop it in the offering plate on Sunday.

GIFTED & GIVING
Mountain Shadows Presbyterian Church

With gratitude for God's generosity, I/we commit financial gifts to Mountain Shadows Presbyterian Church in 2026.

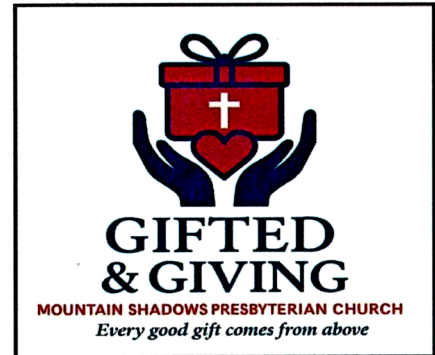
My/Our 2026 Commitment: \$_____/per week, or
 \$_____/per month, or
 \$_____/per year

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____



_____ I/we wish to give time and talent to the church.

_____ I/we plan to make 2026 offerings to the church
from a retirement account or gift fund.

_____ I/we wish to include the church in an estate plan.



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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

Mountain Shadows Presbyterian Church

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



Mountain Shadows Presbyterian Church

Centered in Christ, Caring for Community

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.