

Oracle Newsletter Archive

**CY 2025
and
January 2026**



They Will Know We Are Christians By Our Love

At Mountain Shadows Presbyterian Church in February, we celebrate those newly elected by the congregation to serve as Ruling Elders on the Session (leadership council) of the church, and as Deacons (who provide spiritual care for us). **Welcome, Ruling Elders-Elect: Susan Harden, Jerry Kinkade, Chris Maitin, Suzanne Pennington** (serving a 2nd consecutive term), and **Pamela Schultz. Welcome, Deacons-Elect: Ellie Birch and Alida Wilkes.**

On Sunday, February 9, 2025, our 10:00 a.m. worship service will include the ordination and installation of these newly elected church leaders. We also give thanks for those who concluded their service in 2024: Deacons Edrice Ivory, Beverly Johnston, Brian Parker, Zenda Saraydarian, and Chuck Sherman, and Ruling Elder Vic Saraydarian (who died into life everlasting on January 8, 2025).

A Worship Service of Witness to the Resurrection in Loving Memory of Vic Saraydarian will take place at Mountain Shadows Presbyterian Church on Thursday, February 6th, 2025 at 11:00 a.m. All are welcome. Please join us.

Looking Ahead to Lent: Lent will begin with a prayerful Ash Wednesday worship service on March 5th at 4:00 p.m. Let's begin the season of reflection and preparation for Easter by gathering in God's presence on Ash Wednesday.

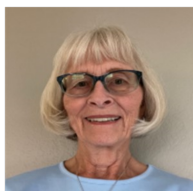
Lenten Learning: Jesus told his disciples, "No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends" (John 15:13). During Lent, I will offer a 4-part Adult Faith Formation class called *Laying Down Our Lives: Friendship and the Way of Jesus*. **Please plan to join me on Mondays, March 10th, 17th, 24th, and 31st from 2:00 until 3:30 pm in Room 3 of our church.** Please add your name to the sign up sheet at church if you intend to participate.

Why a Lenten class on faithful friendship? Several reasons: We're still recovering from a global pandemic that frayed the fabric of our society. Ideological divisions run deep in our culture. People of our congregation have expressed a desire to gather as faithful friends. "I have called you friends," Jesus said to his disciples (John 15:15). Friends honor our true selves, respect us, pray for us, challenge us sometimes, and treat us kindly with good humor. We *need* friends. Others need us to *be* their friends.

Friends, please read this issue of the *Oracle* from cover to cover. Even in the short month of February, there's much for us to learn and do as people called by God to follow Jesus.

Gratefully your friend in Christ,

Pastor Rachel Srubas



Karen Koopmans
Moderator



Ellie Birch



Jeff Mague



Alida Wilkes



Connie Wortman

“Ministry of Compassion Witness and Prayer” Deacon of the Month – Jeff Mague

Well, it was a wonderful Advent and Christmas season for us. Judy and I were able to visit our daughter's family in Sammamish, WA, for Christmas. They had just found a temporary rental home about 5 weeks after the “Bomb Cyclone” hit the Seattle area, and a 100' tall pine tree fell and ripped a 25' x 5' hole in their roof. We thank the Lord they were not home due to a massive power outage, as there would certainly have been serious injuries if they were home in bed. Having the family together for Christmas during and after a hardship somehow brings hope and comfort in recognition of the Lord's compassion and healing, as well as learning how to better help and support each other.

This brings me to the Deacons' tagline at the top of this article. We have two Deacons, Co-Moderator Beverly Johnston and Chuck Sherman, finishing their service after their maximum allowed time. They have been an example to the rest of us in practicing the ministry of compassion, witness, and prayer to the congregation for about 6 years. We wish them God's blessings and peace during a time of rejuvenation. It is also right to sincerely thank Brian Parker, Edrice Ivory, and Zenda Saraydarian for their service to the congregation over the past years. Please welcome Alida Wilkes, returning for her 3rd term as a Deacon, and Ellie Birch, starting her first term. We will have five Deacons on the Board this year, and we will likely be adjusting how we deliver our ministry of compassion, witness, and prayer to our congregation. One thing we can count on is that the Holy Spirit will give us all the support and encouragement we need.

ANGEL TREE PROJECT A HUGE SUCCESS



Thanks to the generosity of the MSPC congregation and friends and family, we collected gifts for 50 children and 11 caregivers. Organizers Pete and Sandy Quinonez reported that the Bridge Prison Ministry, along with several churches and organizations, helped 310 children have a merrier Christmas.

Five of us from our church participated in the gift wrapping (Paul Butler, Judy Hans, Beverly Johnston, Suzanne Pennington and Alida Wilkes). Thanks to Pete and Sandy's great organization and a lot of volunteers, we helped wrap over 300 gifts in two hours.

Continued

Caring- Cont'd

No one from our church was able to attend the Christmas party, but Sandy reported that a great time was had by all. One family of eight took three buses to get to the event. Not counting all the people who donated gifts, there were over 57 volunteers who helped organize everything.

The Deacons are so thankful for the generosity of our congregation and your enthusiasm for this project.

God Bless you all!

Beverly Johnston

Co-Moderator, Board of Deacons



Gift Wrapping Volunteers



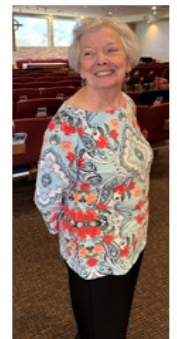
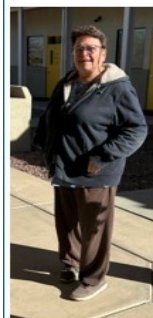
Christmas Party—Children picking up their stocking stuffers

GATHERING

More than a dozen Mountain Shadows' volunteers showed up to help take down the Christmas decorations. It was all done and put away in 30 minutes. What a group!

(Pictures provided by Dan Engeljohn)

Christmas Take Down 2024



WORSHIP & MUSIC



On February 2, Communion Sunday, the music ministry will present a new anthem titled *Bread of Life*. Some of the lyrics are as follows: *Lord, break your bread of life for me; feed my hunger, set my spirit free; pour out your grace on me. Teach us, Lord, how to share the bounty of your care when we leave this holy place. We thank you for your never-ending love.* When we leave this holy place, we must remember to share the bounty of God's love.

The Handbells are gearing up for rehearsal sessions this month. The schedule for February is Mondays from 4:00 – 5:00 in rooms 2/3. The plan is to play handbells on Transfiguration Sunday, March 2. Please let me know if you would like to join the bell choir! We need more ringers!

Listen this month for new choir anthems, instrumental renderings of sacred hymns, and handbells ringing angelic chords from the chancel area! We bring much thought to our weekly music. We are committed to practicing a prayerful spiritual discipline.

Choir Rehearsals: Thursdays from 2:45-4 pm in the Sanctuary

Instrumental Rehearsals: Thursdays 3:45-4:30 pm in the Sanctuary or Scheduled with the Music Director

Handbell Choir: February Rehearsal Schedule Mondays 4:00-5:00 pm in Rm 2/3

PLEASE call, text, or send me an email. I would love to share more information about joining our Music Ministry! **WE NEED YOU! Singers, Ringers & Instrumentalists!** 520-982-2437 bcdame@comcast.net

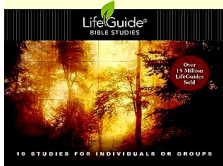
Charmaine Piane Dame, Music Director 

LEARNING

Womens' Bible Study LifeGuide® Bible Study *Meeting the Spirit*

DOUGLAS CONNELLY

MEETING
THE SPIRIT



All women are invited to join us February 11 & 25 and March 4 & 18, from 1:30pm – 3:00pm to discuss the LifeGuide® Bible Study, *Meeting the Spirit*. During our study we will consider:

- Who is the Holy Spirit?
- How does the Spirit change our lives?
- How does the Spirit work in the world?

You will see that the Spirit of God is eager to work in your life to draw you closer to God. This LifeGuide Bible Study features additional questions for starting group discussions and for meeting God in personal reflection, together with expanded leaders' notes.

Those who participated in the August series *Practice the Pause* based on Caroline Oakes' book may find themselves encountering some familiar concepts and additional opportunities to enjoy a deeper relationship with God. We look forward to lots of spirited fellowship together! *Please read on...*

Women's Bible Study, continued

Going through the lessons on your own in advance benefits you, personally, and the group as a whole when we gather together. Study guides are available from Karen Koopmans or Kathy Moyer at no cost to you – a generous MSPC member is covering the cost of the Guides this year.

If you are interested, please contact Karen Koopmans or Kathy Moyer. Their contact information is in the Mountain Shadows directory.

TENDING

SESSION of MOUNTAIN SHADOWS, Report from Session Clerk Jeff Mague



The activities of the January 8, 2025 Session meeting were:

1. Recorded the passing and remembered the precious lives of Anna Belle Emery, George Gregg, and Vic Saraydarian. Also, approved with our love and support the membership termination of Sherry Gregg.
2. Approved, with our appreciation, deepest thanks, and prayers, the resignation of Deacon Zenda Saraydarian.
3. Appointed five church members to serve on the Finance Ministry Team for 2025.
4. Session adopted an expenditure budget of \$288,679 for the 2025 calendar year, based on the anticipated income of \$288,684.

In Memoriam

Mountain Shadows Presbyterian Church members who had long been unable to attend worship died into life everlasting in 2024. We give thanks to God for, and pray for the bereaved loved ones of...

Anna Belle Emery, who died on November 19, 2024. A service of witness to the resurrection in loving memory of Anna Belle will take place on Sunday, March 2, 2025 at 3:00 p.m. at Mountain Shadows;

George Gregg, who died on December 21, 2024 at his home in California. He is survived by his spouse, our former church member, Sherry Gregg;

Mary MacDonald, who lived to be 101 years old, died into life everlasting at her Splendido home on September 23, 2024. A memorial service took place at Quail Hollow Presbyterian Church in Charlotte, North Carolina, Mary's birthplace;

Mike Penner, who had relocated from Tucson to Phoenix with his spouse, Sally, died into life everlasting on September 28, 2024. His ashes were interred in the Mountain Shadows Church columbarium.

And I heard a voice from heaven saying, "Write this: Blessed are the dead who from now on die in the Lord....They will rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them (Revelation 14:13).

2024 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

The December 31, 2024 Income and Expense Report is provided below because it was not present-
ed in the 2024 Annual Report. If you have any questions please contact **Church Treasurer Judy**
Mague or Elder Clair Brooks, Finance Ministry Team Moderator.

Mountain Shadows Presbyterian Church

Income and Expense Statement

GENERAL FUND 01, December 2024

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	Current Period	Year to Date	Year to Date Budget	YTD Budget Difference	YTD Budget Percentage	YTD Prior Year
INCOME						
OFFERINGS	\$24,009.41	\$264,947.32	\$283,638.00	(\$18,690.68)	93.41 %	\$251,389.36
OTHER INCOME	4.95	1,929.00	112.00	1,817.00	1,722.32 %	731.68
OFFERINGS - DESIGNATED	960.60	9,637.43	1,250.00	8,387.43	770.99 %	21,004.87
TOTAL INCOME	24,974.96	276,513.75	285,000.00	(8,486.25)	97.02 %	273,125.91
<i>Budgeted</i>	<i>24,225.36</i>	<i>269,127.68</i>	<i>285,000.00</i>	<i>(15,872.32)</i>	<i>94.43 %</i>	<i>0.00</i>
<i>Non-Budgeted</i>	<i>749.60</i>	<i>7,386.07</i>	<i>0.00</i>	<i>0.00</i>		<i>0.00</i>
EXPENSES						
GATHERING PRIORITY						
WORSHIP & MUSIC	\$514.82	\$6,640.20	\$5,850.00	(\$790.20)	113.51 %	\$5,353.75
CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY	0.00	623.13	750.00	126.87	83.08 %	1,221.98
MEMBERSHIP	0.00	166.52	450.00	283.48	37.00 %	445.48
Subtotal Gathering Priority	514.82	7,429.85	7,050.00	(379.85)	105.39 %	7,021.21
<i>Budgeted</i>	<i>514.82</i>	<i>7,429.85</i>	<i>7,050.00</i>	<i>(379.85)</i>	<i>105.39 %</i>	<i>0.00</i>
<i>Non-Budgeted</i>	<i>0.00</i>	<i>0.00</i>	<i>0.00</i>	<i>0.00</i>		<i>0.00</i>
LEARNING PRIORITY						
ADULT FAITH FORMATION	550.00	1,759.05	1,750.00	(9.05)	100.52 %	792.98
Subtotal Learning Priority	550.00	1,759.05	1,750.00	(9.05)	100.52 %	792.98
<i>Budgeted</i>	<i>550.00</i>	<i>1,759.05</i>	<i>1,750.00</i>	<i>(9.05)</i>	<i>100.52 %</i>	<i>0.00</i>
<i>Non-Budgeted</i>	<i>0.00</i>	<i>0.00</i>	<i>0.00</i>	<i>0.00</i>		<i>0.00</i>
GIVING PRIORITY						
GIFTING & STEWARDSHIP	0.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	0.00 %	0.00
VENTURING PRIORITY						
COMMUNICATIONS MINISTRY	0.00	250.60	3,129.00	2,878.40	8.01 %	5,452.42
MISSION & OUTREACH	5,119.04	25,720.18	26,050.00	329.82	98.73 %	24,982.12
WAVE	379.23	2,569.51	2,840.00	270.49	90.48 %	0.00
Subtotal Venturing Priority	5,498.27	28,540.29	32,019.00	3,478.71	89.14 %	30,434.54
<i>Budgeted</i>	<i>5,498.27</i>	<i>28,540.29</i>	<i>32,019.00</i>	<i>3,478.71</i>	<i>89.14 %</i>	<i>0.00</i>
<i>Non-Budgeted</i>	<i>0.00</i>	<i>0.00</i>	<i>0.00</i>	<i>0.00</i>		<i>0.00</i>
TENDING PRIORITY						
FACILITIES/GROUNDS	2,017.81	33,783.24	28,600.00	(5,183.24)	118.12 %	37,519.77
FINANCE/ADMINISTRATION	3,348.30	17,951.34	18,131.00	179.66	99.01 %	11,297.06
PERSONNEL	15,927.72	190,222.00	191,171.35	949.35	99.50 %	185,308.98
SESSION	0.00	5,258.98	5,172.00	(86.98)	101.68 %	5,665.88
Subtotal Tending Priority	21,293.83	247,215.56	243,074.35	(4,141.21)	101.70 %	239,791.69
<i>Budgeted</i>	<i>21,293.83</i>	<i>247,215.56</i>	<i>243,074.35</i>	<i>(4,141.21)</i>	<i>101.70 %</i>	<i>0.00</i>
<i>Non-Budgeted</i>	<i>0.00</i>	<i>0.00</i>	<i>0.00</i>	<i>0.00</i>		<i>0.00</i>
CARING PRIORITY						
SAFETY PREP&HEALTH (SPH)	0.00	0.00	500.00	500.00	0.00 %	0.00
DEACONS	0.00	428.19	500.00	71.81	85.64 %	371.15
Subtotal Caring Priority	0.00	428.19	1,000.00	571.81	42.82 %	371.15
<i>Budgeted</i>	<i>0.00</i>	<i>428.19</i>	<i>1,000.00</i>	<i>571.81</i>	<i>42.82 %</i>	<i>0.00</i>
<i>Non-Budgeted</i>	<i>0.00</i>	<i>0.00</i>	<i>0.00</i>	<i>0.00</i>		<i>0.00</i>
TOTAL EXPENSES	27,856.92	285,372.94	284,993.35	(379.59)	100.13 %	278,411.57
<i>Budgeted</i>	<i>27,856.92</i>	<i>285,372.94</i>	<i>284,993.35</i>	<i>(379.59)</i>	<i>100.13 %</i>	<i>0.00</i>
<i>Non-Budgeted</i>	<i>0.00</i>	<i>0.00</i>	<i>0.00</i>	<i>0.00</i>		<i>0.00</i>
EXCESS INCOME/EXPENSES						
	(\$2,881.96)	(\$8,859.19)	\$6.65	(\$8,865.84)	0.00 %	(\$5,285.66)
<i>Budgeted</i>	<i>(3,631.56)</i>	<i>(16,245.26)</i>	<i>6.65</i>	<i>(16,251.91)</i>	<i>0.00 %</i>	<i>0.00</i>
<i>Non-Budgeted</i>	<i>749.60</i>	<i>7,386.07</i>	<i>0.00</i>	<i>0.00</i>		<i>0.00</i>

"The legacy we leave is not just in our possessions, but in the quality of our lives"

—Billy Graham

...a thought from the Legacy Ministry

FACILITIES

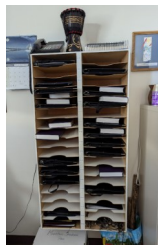


Facilities Team: Ron Anderson, Paul Bulter, Karl Kuehlwien, Linda Walka and new team member Chip Parfet. Welcome Chip!

Each member of the team plays an important role in the life of Mountain Shadows. On a rotating basis, they open and close the campus for worship each Sunday as well as being there for other special occasions. This includes setting up tables and chairs on the Ramada when needed, as well as removing debris from the parking lot and other light landscaping chores.

We are always looking for volunteers who bring their time and talents to the team. What are yours?

If you would like to be part of the Facilities Ministry, talk to Facilities Moderator and Elder, Therese Griffin or one of the other team members listed above. You can be as involved as you want, i.e. just opening and closing on Sundays, weed whacking, blowing the debris from the parking lot, or working on special projects. For example, Facilities is currently looking for someone who can help our Music Director, Charmaine, with some shelving in her office.



Current shelves in Charmaine's office

You may stop me on Sundays after worship or my contact information can be found in the church directory.

Therese Griffin, Moderator & Elder

VENTURING

COMMUNICATIONS



Don't Forget to Check Out the Website

When you open our website (www.mountainshadowschurch.org), you will see our greeting. The picture includes a montage of all the sanctuary glass. 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. For example, in mid-October, new titles were added to the church library and are noted on the "[Library](#)" page. If you have suggested edits to the website, let Dan Engeljohn know.

MISSION & OUTREACH: Interfaith Community Services' Empty Bowls Event



WHEN: Sat. March 1st at Tucson Chinese Cultural Center.

Noon - 1:30 pm 1288 W. River Road(lots of parking on the E. side)

BUY TICKETS HERE: <https://www.icstucson.org/emptybowls/>

Pre-Sale: Jan. 6-12 are \$35 After Jan. 13: \$40 (until sold-out)

After purchase, email will be sent to your phone with QR to scan for admission.

WHAT TO EXPECT:

- Select a bowl from one of the 100's donated by local ceramic artists
- Bid on items from among the 100's of wonderful donated items
- Enjoy delicious soups, breads & desserts prepared by local restaurants
- Listen to live music
- Visit with friends (new & old)—gathered around the many tables out on a huge, covered patio
- **SMILE** – knowing that you're helping your Tucson sisters & brothers in need!

Questions? See Kathy Moyer 520 308-8882 mmoyerpp@gmail.com



EACH SUNDAY IN February:

Bring your donation to the Mission table in the Narthex & watch our "Pasta Pile" grow!

HURRICANE HELENE RELIEF EFFORTS



Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church (GCPC.org) in Asheville, NC is led by Pastor Marcia Mount Shoop, a former Associate Pastor to Dorothy G.

Three months after the storms in late September, GCPC has served well over 1,000 households, through distribution of truckloads of donated goods, showers and over **\$3 million in rent assistance**. The church received a major grant check of \$450,000 approved by the Asheville City Council coming from federal housing funds. This means the rest has come from other donors!

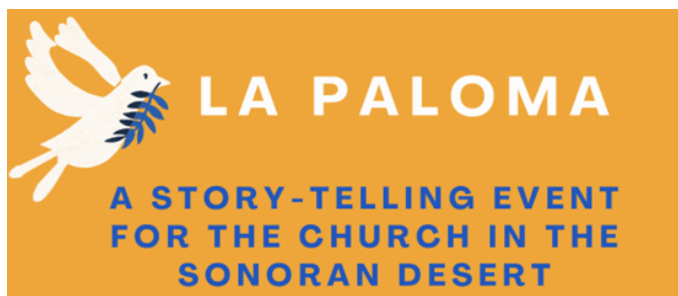
“What I want people to know is that these are hardworking people. They’re the backbone of our service economy. They are the folks who wash the dishes in restaurants. They clean the hotel rooms. They do our landscaping. Many of them have never been late on the rent before the storm and now they’re getting eviction letters.” – Rev. Mount Shoop

We can continue to support the people of WNC through our prayers. If you feel led, you may donate directly using this link or QR code that take you to the GCPC Pastor’s Discretionary Fund/Helene Relief Fund. These donations are directed to rent assistance.

<https://onrealm.org/gcpcusa/-/form/give/helene> (click or copy and paste in a browser)



(Train your phone’s camera on the code and tap the URL link that appears in yellow once the code is recognized.)



La Paloma: A fundraiser for Borderlands Young Adult Volunteers
Saturday, February 8th, 2025, St. Mark’s Presbyterian Church, Tucson

See Dan Engeljohn for more details.

<https://www.borderlandsyav.org/>

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Mountain Shadows' office hours are:

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



Submissions for the **March 2025 Oracle newsletter** are due **Monday, February 17th** to Office Manager Judy at mspcoffice@gmail.com. Articles should be no longer than 300 words, written simply and clearly so that a newcomer to our church may readily understand and get involved in the life of our church. Thank you.



Report from an Elder-Commissioner to Presbytery de Cristo

On January 25, 2025, I represented Mountain Shadows as Commissioner to Presbytery de Cristo at a joint meeting with Grand Canyon Presbytery. The gathering took place at 1st Presbyterian Church, Casa Grande.

The agenda included reports from both Presbyteries. The Moderator-Elect and new Commissioners were approved and elected.

Kellie von Borstel presented an update on Montlure Camp. Ed Spence presented a brief example of ways to help our congregations deal with conflict. He invited everyone to attend, listen, learn from a program on this topic to be offered at the March meeting of the Presbyteries.

After lunch, the combined Personnel Team of the Arizona Presbyteries recognized, with gratitude, the longtime service of Finance Manager, Paul Frieling. Also, the new Grand Canyon Finance Manager, Mark Yanke, was introduced.

Kelsey Martin, a candidate for ordination to the ministry of Word and Sacrament called to hospice chaplaincy, was examined. She presented a statement of faith and answered questions.

Brad Munroe, Presbytery Pastor, gave a combined report for the Presbytery and Stated Clerk, Bob Schulz.

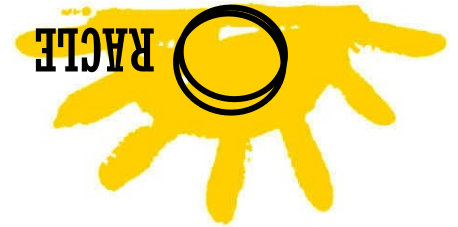
The next combined meeting of de Cristo and Grand Canyon Presbyteries will take place on Saturday, March 29, 2025 at a location to be announced.

Faithfully yours,

Elder Gay Russell, Commissioner to Presbytery de Cristo

February 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Due Date for Empty Bowls Silent Auction Donations
2 10:00 Communion Worship	3 4:00 Bell Rehearsal 6:00— OV Jazz Rehearsal	4	5	6 11:00 Vic Saraydarian Memorial 2:45 Choir Rehearsal 4:00—ESL Class	7 10:00 Fire Alarm & Sprinkler Inspections	8 La Paloma: Borderlands YAV fund- raiser at St. Mark's Church, 4:00
9 10:00 Worship: Ordination & Installation of Deacons & Elders	10 4:00 Bell Rehearsal 6:00— OV Jazz Rehearsal	11 1:30 Women's Bible Study	12 1:00 Session	13 2:45 Choir Rehearsal 4:00—ESL Class	14 No Mission Mtg	15
16 10:00 Worship	17 Oracle Articles Due 4:00 Bell Rehearsal 6:00— OV Jazz Rehearsal	18	19	20 2:45 Choir Rehearsal 4:00—ESL Class	21 11:30 Deacon Training 12:30 Deacon Mtg	22
23 10:00 Worship	24 4:00 Bell Rehearsal 6:00— OV Jazz Rehearsal	25 1:30 Women's Bible Study	26	27 No Choir Rehearsal 4:00—ESL Class	28	



3201 E. Mountaineer Dr.
Tucson, AZ 85739
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.



Ash Wednesday, Lent, & Laying Down Our Lives Mountain Shadows Presbyterian Church

Let me take it upon myself to speak to the Lord, I who am but dust and ashes. These words, spoken by our spiritual ancestor Abraham (Genesis 18:27), lead to a divine-human dialogue. God is far more merciful than Abraham feared. Even though Abraham is mortal and his life is limited (“dust and ashes”) he can—and we can—speak to God directly, with no intermediary, and no fear.

On Ash Wednesday (which falls on March 5th this year), Christians, like Abraham, recognize our human mortality. We also claim our freedom to live in direct relationship with God, who has taken on mortal flesh like ours, in Jesus. Through Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection (which we’ll celebrate on Easter Sunday, April 20th), we claim the good news that by God’s mercy and power, our life is more than dust and ashes. We are promised life eternal in the risen Christ. By faith, we live the risen life even now.

Please join us for an Ash Wednesday worship service on March 5th at 4:00 p.m. We’ll pray and sing, read scripture, reflect on our lives, and have an opportunity to make an offering toward an important ministry of Mountain Shadows Presbyterian Church. **To provide a place of final rest for the ashes of the faithful, we will build a new columbarium in our congregation’s memorial garden.** Learn more on page 6.

The Lenten Learning series that I will host is called “Laying Down Our Lives: Friendship and the Way of Jesus.” *I have called you friends*, Jesus said to his close followers (John 15:15). What does it mean to accept this calling? How can friendship be a robust and meaningful practice of Christian faith in a polarized and hurting society? **Please join with friends in faith as we gather on Mondays in March: 10th, 17th, 24th, and 31st from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. in room 3 at Mountain Shadows Church.** But first, add your name to the sign-up sheet at church so that I can provide you with a packet of readings on which our conversations will be based. This Lenten Learning series is co-sponsored by our church’s new **Friendship Ministry**, moderated by Elder Pamela Schultz.

There’s much more March ministry to read about in the pages that follow, so read on...

Lenten blessings on you, who are friends of Jesus,

Pastor Rachel Srubas



Mountain Shadow's Presbyterian Church Deacons who are currently serving are:

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



Karen Koopmans
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.

- Deacons practice confidentiality.
- Deacons practice kindness.
- Deacons listen to your joys and your sorrows and pray for you.

Every member and regularly attending friend of our church is part of a mini-parish and is prayed for regularly by one of our deacons. If you would like to reach out to your deacon for support but don't know who they are, you may email Judy Leonard, Office Manager, at mspcoffice@gmail.com or call 520-825-7858.

Upcoming announcements:

- **Deacon Sunday** is coming up on **March 2**. Everyone will have a chance to connect with your deacon face to face after worship. We hope you can join us.

GATHERING

New Friendship Ministry Team



Session has approved the formation of the Friendship Ministry Team. It will be moderated by serving Elder Pamela Schultz. Pamela heard from congregants over the past few years that socializing beyond Christian Hospitality was a desired way to meet and get to know each other better. Ample opportunities await interested congregants to share a meal at a restaurant or in each other's homes, as well as to attend public events together.

This new Gathering Faith Priority ministry is an extension of "Table of Friends" that was hosted by the Christian Hospitality team prior to COVID-19. "Table of Friends" sparked many new friendships within the congregation. If you are interested in learning more about this new ministry team, speak to Pamela during Fellowship or her contact information is in the church directory.

WORSHIP & MUSIC



This year, the month of March is a liturgically busy month. March 2nd is the Transfiguration of the Lord, the end of Ordinary time. Ash Wednesday is March 5th and Lent continues for the entire month!

Special music by the choir and instrumentalists will musically guide us on our Lenten journey. We – the Choir and Instrumentalists have planned special favorites, during Lent! The hymns follow the Lenten scriptures. *On Eagles Wings, What a Friend We Have in Jesus, Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley, and His Eye is on the Sparrow*, will be heard the first four weeks of Lent. Watch for April's Oracle to catch the "rest of the musical story"!

I asked myself, "What would be a powerful prayer I could pray as I begin this Lenten season?". I found my prayer! Maybe this could be your prayer!

God of goodness and mercy, Hear my prayer as I begin this Lenten journey with you. Let me be honest with myself as I look into my heart and soul, noticing the times I turn away from you. Guide me as I humbly seek to repent and return to your love.

Choir Rehearsals: THURSDAYS from 2:45-4 pm sharp in the Sanctuary!

Instrumental Rehearsals: Scheduled w/Music Director & Thursdays 3:45-4:30

Handbell Choir: Mondays – March 24, 31, April 7, 14 in Rm2, 4:15-5:15 pm

PLEASE call, text, or send me an email. I would love to share more information about joining our Music Ministry! **WE NEED YOU! Singers, Ringers & Instrumentalists!** 520-982-2437 bcdame@comcast.net

Charmaine Piane Dame, Music Director 🎵🎵🎵

The *Presbyterian Women* of Presbytery de Cristo

**2025 Spring Gathering
Saturday, March 29, 9:00am-2:00pm
Northminster Presbyterian Church
2450 E Fort Lowell, Rd, Tucson**

The *Presbyterian Women* of Presbytery de Cristo have Gatherings twice a year. The Gatherings include a time of worship, a keynote speaker, and lunch. The offering taken at this gathering's worship service will go to PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE.

Plan to join women of MSPC and other Presbytery congregations for worship and fellowship.

Ask Dorothy Grimm or Suzie Phelps for a registration form.

Registration deadline: March 20, 2025.

You're Invited!

**Presbyterian Women's, Presbytery de Cristo
Spring Gathering**

Saturday March 29, 2025 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

**North Minister Presbyterian Church
2450 E Fort Lowell Rd, Tucson AZ 85719, (520) 327-7121**



**Keynote Presenter: Rev. John Cheek
Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.**

**Road to Emmaus Worship
Led by Rev. Andrew Ross**



**Offering will go to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance to be
taken at worship**

*No one has greater love than this,
to lay down one's life for one's friends. John 15:13*



***Laying Down Our Lives:
Friendship & the Way of Jesus***

Mondays in March

9, 16, 23, & 30 ~ 2:00-3:30

***An Adult Faith Formation Class
during the season of Lent
led by Pastor Rachel Srubas***

Interested?

Add your name to the sign-up sheet.

TENDING

SESSION of MOUNTAIN SHADOWS, Report from Session Clerk Jeff Mague



The activities of the February 12, 2025 Session meeting were:

1. Welcomed new Elders Susan Harden, Jerry Kinkade, Chris Maiten, and Pamela Schultz as Session members and welcomed Deacons Ellie Birch and Alida Wilkes to the Board of Deacons.
2. Approved the creation of a Friendship Ministry to foster gathering opportunities and strengthen social bonds among Mountain Shadows congregants, which enhances their experience of MSPC as a faithful community of connection and care.
3. Approved several routine motions on items that require annual attention.
4. Renewed the appointment of Judy Mague as the Church Treasurer for 2025.
5. Renewed the appointment of Jeff Mague as the Session Clerk.
6. Appointed as Corporation Officers Clair Brooks as President, Therese Griffin as Vice President, Jeff Mague as Secretary, and Jeff States as Corporate Treasurer.
7. Appointed members of the Legacy Ministry Team.
8. Appointed Ministry Team Moderators and Session Liaisons.
9. Approved the reception of the Presbyterian Church (USA) Special Offerings for 2025: One Great Hour of Sharing, Pentecost Offering, Peace & Global Witness Offering, and Christmas Joy Offering.
10. Approved vacation time for Pastor Rachel.

FACILITIES



MEMORIAL GARDEN UPDATE



The Memorial Garden of Mountain Shadows Presbyterian Church was established in 2013 to provide a place for reflection, remembrance and prayer to give glory to God for those who have gone before us. The Memorial Garden consists of a large Celtic cross, a Columbarium Wall, a Memorial Wall and a peaceful space for contemplation.

The Columbarium Wall contains niches for those who wish their cremated remains to be permanently inurned on church grounds. The Memorial Wall provides a space for those who have made other arrangements but still desire to leave a lasting memorial to their time at Mountain Shadows.

Continued

Through the years the Memorial Garden has become a valued part of our church's ministry. To perpetuate this ministry, it is now time to erect a second Columbarium Wall as all niches in the original wall have been reserved. Improving access to the Memorial Garden is also a priority. Therefore, the construction of a new Columbarium Wall, paver platform and walkway will begin in April.

The cost of construction will be financed in part by receipts from previous Columbarium and Memorial Wall reservations. Receipts from future reservations will be held in a church account designated for Memorial Garden maintenance and future expansion as needed. A discretionary portion, as approved by session, will be held in the Columbarium Compassion Fund to provide Columbarium or Memorial Wall remembrance for church members who cannot afford the usual costs.

We still need your support. Congregants may support this ministry by reserving a niche or a memorial plaque or by directing a donation to Memorial Garden expansion. In addition, the Session has approved our entire Ash Wednesday offering to support this project with up to ten percent of the offering designated to the Columbarium Compassion Fund.

Thank you to the Columbarium Team: Theresa Ashton, Moderator Paul Butler, Dan Engeljohn, Chris Maitin and Gay Russell.

Paul R. Butler, Elder

FACILITIES

2025 - Good News!

Therese Griffin and Chris Maitin, Elders are Facilities Co-Moderators



Facilities Volunteers: Karl Kuehlwein, Ron Anderson, Linda Walka, Paul Butler, Susan Ruffini

Health & Safety: Theresa Ashton

Welcome to New Team Member: Susan Ruffini. Susan joins the team with her gardening talents. Don't be surprised if you see her weeding around the Memorial Garden and other areas of the campus.

If you would like to be part of the Facilities Ministry, please see Co-Moderators & Elders, Therese M. Griffin or Chris Maitin. We are always looking for volunteers who bring their time and talents to the team. What are yours? We need yardwork volunteers for trimming the parking lot fence from overgrown vegetation, weed whacking, blowing the debris from the parking lot, or working on special projects needing light repairs with hammer, hand tools, etc. We have yard tools (weed whackers, leaf blower, and chain saw, all recently updated and serviced.)

Each member of the team plays an important role in the life of Mountain Shadows. On a rotating basis, they open and close the campus for worship each Sunday as well as being there for other special occasions. It may include setting up tables and chairs on the Ramada as needed. We are a service team with compassion and kindness.

Co-Moderators & Elders, Therese Griffin & Chris Maitin

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				
January 2025	-----	2025	-----	2024
	January	Year-to-Date	Year-to-Date	Year-to-Date
	Actual	Actual	Budget	Actual
Regular Offerings	\$ 34,424	\$ 34,424	\$ 23,707	\$ 30,633
Other Income	1,950	1,950	359	1,011
Total Income	\$ 36,374	\$ 36,374	\$ 24,066	\$ 31,644
Total Expense	\$ 20,136	\$ 20,136	\$ 24,132	\$ 17,900
Income less Expense	\$ 16,237	\$ 16,237	\$ (65)	\$ 13,743

“Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around.” – Leo Buscaglia

...a thought from the Legacy Ministry

VENTURING

COMMUNICATIONS



Don't Forget to Check Out the Website

When you open our website (www.mountainshadowschurch.org), you will see our greeting. The picture includes a montage of all the sanctuary glass. 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. For example, in mid-October, new titles were added to the church library and are noted on the “[Library](#)” page. If you have suggested edits to the website, let Dan Engeljohn know.



IMPACT Protein Partner —



It's that time of the year again when Mountain Shadows begins collecting 12-oz. canned meat and fish products (beef, pork, poultry, fish) for IMPACT of Southern Arizona. By the end of March, we hope to deliver at least 500 cans to IMPACT in order to supply 500 grocery bags for qualifying families in Catalina.

The grocery bags are distributed throughout the month of April. Each grocery bag is filled with a specific ration of U.S. Department of Agriculture donated commodities (e.g., canned vegetables and a starch). However, a protein is not provided. Mountain Shadows has been the Protein Partner for the month of April since 2022; donating 570 cans in 2022, 502 cans in 2023, and 511 cans in 2024.

IMPACT doesn't need protein such as peanut butter because of specific monetary donations year-round to purchase that product. Often, it is the meat and fish proteins that are the most expensive component of a family's meal. The 12-oz cans are important because a standardized net weight allows all families to get an equal amount of protein in their grocery bag.

Since many meat and fish based proteins are canned, the shelf-life is extended, often for more than a year. You can start buying your 12-oz cans now and drop them off at the church either on Sundays or during office hours. They will be put in our Narthex display. So that volunteers at IMPACT can begin

ANNOUNCEMENTS



A calendar change: The service in memory of Anna Belle Emery will not take place at Mountain Shadows Church on March 2nd. The family is making other arrangements.



Submissions for the **April 2025 Oracle** are due **Monday, March 17th**. 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.

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.

Ministry	Moderator
Christian Hospitality	Ginny Durand
Communications	Dan Engeljohn
Facilities	Therese Griffin & Chris Maitin
Finance	Clair Brooks
Security/Preparedness/Health	Co-Moderators Joy Lewis, Therese Griffin
Mission/Outreach	Suzanne Pennington
Personnel	Paul Butler
Shepherding	Karen Thomas
Christian Generosity	Clair Brooks



March 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 <i>Mountain Shadows' office hours are:</i> Monday through Friday 9:00 am to 1:00 pm.						1
2 10:00 Communion Worship Deacon Sunday	3 6:00— OV Jazz Rehearsal	4	5 4:00— Ash Wed Worship	6 2:30 Choir Rehearsal 4:00—ESL Class	7	8
9 10:00 In-person/Zoom Worship	10 2:00 - Lenten Learn- ing 6:00— OV Jazz Rehearsal	11 1:30 Women's Bible Study	12 1:00 Session	13 10:00 Finance Mtg 2:30 Choir Rehearsal 4:00—ESL Class	14	15
16 10:00 In-person/Zoom Worship	17 2:00 - Lenten Learn- ing 6:00— OV Jazz Rehearsal	18	19	20 2:30 Choir Rehearsal 4:00—ESL Class	21 12:30 Deacon Mtg	22
23 10:00 In-person/Zoom Worship	24 2:00 - Lenten Learn- ing 6:00— OV Jazz Rehearsal	25 1:30 Women's Bible Study	26	27 2:30 Choir Rehearsal 4:00—ESL Class	28	29
30 10:00 In-person/Zoom Worship	31 2:00 - Lenten Learn- ing 6:00— OV Jazz Rehearsal					



3201 E. Mountaineer Dr.
Tucson, AZ 85739
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.

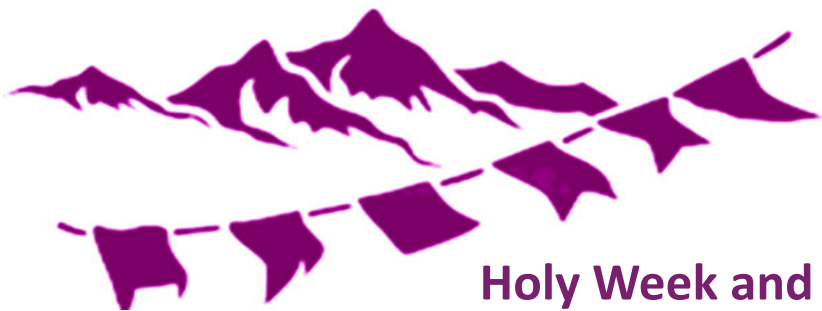
Fellowship and Refreshments

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.



Holy Week and Easter at Mountain Shadows Presbyterian Church

Please join us at Mountain Shadows Presbyterian Church for Holy Week, Easter, & More!

On Palm/Passion Sunday, April 13th, our 10:00 a.m. worship service will begin with a blessing of the new hitching rail! We don't want to scare the horses or cause anyone to twist an ankle on uneven ground, so, we'll assemble under the church ramada, from which the hitching rail is visible. Then we'll process into the church singing "Hosanna!" Worship will continue inside our sanctuary. The service will progress from the jubilation of Palm Sunday to the solemnity of Christ's passion.

On Maundy Thursday, April 17th at 1:00 until 3:00 p.m., join us for a workshop to create prayer flags, facilitated by Mountain Shadows member Deb Brandt. Using fabric squares, paints, hand-sewing equipment, and ribbon or cord, we'll construct simple, meaningful symbols of our prayers. Especially during this time of cultural lament and personal grief, prayer flags can visually remind us that the wind of God's Spirit is moving in the world. **That same day, Maundy Thursday, April 17th at 3:00 p.m., join us for light refreshments and conversation**, sponsored by the newly-formed Friendship Ministry Team. **At 4:00 p.m. on Maundy Thursday, April 17th, we'll gather in the church sanctuary for a service of worship and Holy Communion in remembrance of Jesus' final Passover meal with his disciples.**

On Easter Sunday, April 20th at 10:00 a.m., we'll offer one joyous service of worship to celebrate the divine love that Jesus, crucified but risen, embodies for the redemption and healing of all creation—including us! Christ is risen, indeed! The Hospitality Ministry Team will provide special refreshments following worship on Easter Sunday, April 20th.

On the Second Sunday in the Season of Easter, April 27th, Mountain Shadows will celebrate God's gift of music during the 10:00 a.m. worship service. The choir and musicians of our church will enjoy lunch together after worship. **At 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, April 27th, the Oro Valley Jazz Band will offer a joyful public concert in our church sanctuary. All are welcome!**

Faithfully yours in Christ, crucified and risen,

Pastor Rachel Srubas

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

Eleanor Birch, Karen Koopmans, Jeff Mague, Alida Wilkes, 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.

- Deacons practice confidentiality.
- Deacons practice kindness.
- Deacons listen to your joys and your sorrows and pray for you.

Every member and regularly attending friend of our church is part of a mini-parish and is prayed for regularly by one of our deacons. If you would like to reach out to your deacon for support but don't know who they are, you may email Judy Leonard, Office Manager, at mspcoffice@gmail.com or call 520-825-7858.

GATHERING

FRIENDSHIP

FRIENDSHIP GATHERING, APRIL 17th at 3:00



On Maundy Thursday, April 17th at 3:00 p.m., you are invited to join the newly formed **Friendship Ministry team** on the Ramada for light refreshments and conversation. **Following at 4:00 p.m.**, a **worship service and Holy Communion** will take place in the Sanctuary to remember Jesus' final Passover meal with his disciples.

WORSHIP & MUSIC



Holy Week is quietly moving upon us, and the Resurrection Story becomes our story of freedom! Are we ready?

We celebrate the **5th Sunday of Lent**, when “*Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley. He walked it for you and for me.*” He walked it unselfishly for us!

Palm/Passion Sunday, “*We Should Glory in the Cross.*” Can you recite the verse John 3:16? The choir will help refresh your memories in beautiful unaccompanied harmony.

A few days later, **Maundy Thursday**, as we are “*Gathered in the Upper Room*” seven handbell ringers ask, “*What Wondrous Love is This?*”

On the third day, **Easter Sunday**, “*The Tomb is Empty Now.*” Yes, He is truly Risen from the Dead! We are set free!

The Second Sunday after Easter, are you one of those doubting Thomases? “*Though Not Seeing You,*” we still love you and we believe!

Well, that is the musical plan for the month of April. Easter Sunday will be grandiose! Sam Kinghorn is joining the music ministry to play the organ during worship. He is also planning prelude music for Easter morning.

Loving Creator of all, are You watching? We timidly slide into the Passion, Death, and Resurrection of Your Son. Help us this month to become the living image of Your Son. You made us in Your perfect vision, not our imperfect vision. cpd

Choir Rehearsals: THURSDAYS from 2:30-4 pm sharp in the Sanctuary!

Instrumental Rehearsals: Scheduled w/Music Director & Thursdays 3:45-4:30

Handbell Choir: Mondays – April 7, 14 in Rm2, 4:15-5:15 pm

PLEASE call, text, or send me an email. I would love to share more information about joining our Music Ministry! **WE NEED YOU! Singers, Ringers & Instrumentalists!** 520-982-2437 bcdame@comcast.net

Charmaine Piane Dame, Music Director 🎵🎵



HOW TO DONATE AND DEDICATE SUNDAY FLOWERS



Donating flowers for Sunday services is a great way to remember someone or honor someone or just give thanks. It is easy to sign up, just add your name to the flower clipboard that is on the round table under the ramada for the date you would like, and the reason for the flowers. Let Lynn Parker (her number is in the church directory) know what type of flower arrangement you would like. To cover the cost of the flowers there is a **suggested donation of \$40.00. Lynn does not take your donation directly. You will find an envelope for flower donations in the back of the sanctuary chairs. Sign your name and include \$40.00 (either check or cash) and drop the envelope in the offering plate. The envelope will be put in the safe with the other offerings.**

TENDING

SESSION of MOUNTAIN SHADOWS, Report from Session Clerk Jeff Mague



The activities of the March 26, 2025 Session meeting were:

1. We installed Edler Suzanne Pennington to her second 3-year term, as she was unavailable to be installed with other Elders and Deacons in February.
2. With thanks and prayers to Gay Russell and Madeline Bosma, the Session reappointed them as Elder-Commissioners to Presbytery de Cristo.
3. Elders Discussed the upcoming Holy Week schedule (see page 1 of this *Oracle* for details).
4. The Session recorded and remembered with prayer the passing of Mountain Shadows members Mary McDonald, Boyd Bosma, Iris Pusti, and Gus Nasser.
5. The Session approved the installation of a hitching rail for horses and a mounting block (for mounting horses) on part of the undeveloped property, allowing for equestrian congregants to have a place to tie up horses while attending church events.
6. The Session adjusted who can sign checks from our checking account.
7. The Session approved merging of our Finance and Christian Generosity Ministry Teams, with Clair Brooks as the Moderator.
8. The Session approved a major update to our Session Standing Rules.

FACILITIES



The Facilities Team welcomes...

- Serving Elder and new member Chris Maitin. Chris has also agreed to be Co-Moderator of the Facilities Ministry Team.
- Susan Ruffini - Landscaping - Desert Plants Specialist. Susan's husband, Cameron, will assist occasionally.

Susan highly recommended **Sustainable Green Landscaping** to clean out wildland grasses, weeds, desert scrub and trim the trees around campus buildings. In our dry climate, keeping the buildings clear of weeds etc. helps with fire prevention.

Co-Moderators & Elders, Therese Griffin & Chris Maitin

HAVE YOU SEEN THE NEW HITCHING RAIL?

Have you seen the new hitching rail behind the church near the dumpster enclosure?

What's a hitching rail? Well, it is a rail attached to two posts anchored in the ground for tying horses after a ride. Why is it behind our church? Because we now have riders coming to church from the equine community near us.

Everyone is invited to come and meet the horses and riders on Sundays after services. Bring your children and grandchildren and take their picture with our equine friends. Have your own picture taken.

How long has it been since you've been near a horse? Remember horses love treats; carrots and apples are always a welcome treat.

Jerry Kinkade, Serving Elder



Ray and Francelia Preparation of Hitching Post



Leslie Carter, Jerry Kinkade, Francelia Barnes



Muddy, Sprout, Annie

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				
February 2025	----- February Actual	2025 Year-to-Date Actual	----- Year-to-Date Budget	2024 Year-to-Date Actual
Regular Offerings	\$ 40,335	\$ 74,758	\$ 47,414	\$ 61,723
Other Income	136	2,086	719	1,898
Total Income	\$ 40,471	\$ 76,845	\$ 48,133	\$ 63,621
Total Expense	\$ 20,449	\$ 40,586	\$ 48,263	\$ 44,910
Income less Expense	\$ 20,022	\$ 36,259	\$ (130)	\$ 18,712

“Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around.” – Leo Buscaglia
...a thought from the Legacy Ministry

VENTURING

COMMUNICATIONS



Don't Forget to Check Out the Website

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MUSING 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

USDA Cancels \$1B In Local Food Purchasing for Schools, Food Banks

<https://www.politico.com/news/2025/03/10/usda-cancels-local-food-purchasing-for-schools-food-banks-00222796>

Recent headlines such as this, and the subsequent articles, are beyond alarming. When dollar amounts in the millions and billions are thrown around, it is overwhelming and disheartening. Then we remember. Jesus fed the hungry crowd of 5,000 with only five loaves of bread and two fish (Matthew 14: 13-21).

The disciples were worried and anxious as that crowd was becoming hangry! Did Jesus perform some kind of magic trick? Were those with an abundance of food inspired to share their bounty with others? The “how” of this miracle has been debated for years. What we do know is that hungry people were fed. Jesus was the catalyst who worked through his disciples, and likely others in the crowd, to work the miracle of distributing food to everybody. Nowadays, it is the Holy Spirit working through us to ensure that nobody goes hungry.

So here is another headline for you:

Hungry Pima and Pinal County Residents Are Fed

- Lots a Pasta collection of canned spaghetti sauce and boxes of pasta.
- Tower of Protein collection of canned animal protein.
- Annual Peanut Butter Party collection.
- First is for Food Sundays: a large carload of nonperishable foods is delivered to the Tri-Community Food Bank in Mammoth, AZ, and a team of volunteers plans a meal, purchases the food, preps, and cooks for those served by Cross Streets Community.
- Several volunteers prep and cook the Monday and Friday breakfasts served at Cross Streets Community.
- A volunteer collects surplus food from the Oro Valley Walmart and delivers it to the food pantry at IMPACT of Southern Arizona.

Sisters and brothers in Christ – this is some of what we at Mountain Shadows do. Now multiply that by all the other houses of worship, non-profit and charitable organizations and take heart. Miracles do happen.



COVENANT NETWORK OF PRESBYTERIANS

On year ago, Mountain Shadows Presbyterian Church became a member congregation of the Covenant Network of Presbyterians. The Covenant Network of Presbyterians (CNP) has sought since 1997 to strengthen the church by working for the full inclusion of LGBTQIA+ people in its life and leadership.

CNP is a network of more than **400** congregations and thousands of individuals, all committed to celebrating the gifts and extending authentic welcome to people of all gender identities and sexual orientations.

The Covenant Network of Presbyterians rejoices in the ratification of Amendment 24-A enshrining, for the first time, recognition of LGBTQIA+ people in the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), and declaring the denomination's commitment to their full participation and representation in the church's worship, governance and emerging life.

"People of diverse gender identities and sexual orientations have faced a long and difficult journey to be seen and respected in the PCUSA, and we're still a long way from equity in many areas of church life," said the Rev. Brian Ellison, executive director of the Covenant Network of Presbyterians. "Still, this vote marks a significant milestone aligning our governing documents with our stated values, and demanding that all who would serve as leaders in our midst take seriously their responsibility to avoid discrimination and honor all people."

The change, which takes effect July 4, 2025, adds the phrases "sexual orientation" and "gender identity" to section F-1.0403, where they join "race, ethnicity, age, sex, disability, geography, or theological conviction" as categories that may not be the basis for discrimination in the church's life. The change is the culmination of efforts that began with 10 presbyteries sending the proposed change to last summer's General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA).



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING SPECIAL OFFERINGS

HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT



One Great Hour of Sharing Offering, Palm/Passion Sunday, April 13, 2025

Ending hunger, repairing after disasters, promoting self-development of people.

One Great Hour of Sharing will be received on Palm/Passion Sunday, April 13, 2025 at Mountain Shadows Presbyterian Church.

Each gift to One Great Hour of Sharing supports efforts to relieve hunger through the Presbyterian Hunger Program, promote development through the Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People, and assist in areas of disaster through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. All three programs work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope.





Remembering our Members

We give thanks to God for the lives of the faithful who have died, and we affirm that those who die in the Lord will rise with Christ in glory.

May the memory of the following Mountain Shadows Presbyterian Church members be a blessing to all, and may their loved ones be comforted in their grief:

Boyd Bosma, born October 9, 1935; died into everlasting life March 11, 2025;

Iris Pusti, born September 13, 1936; died into everlasting life March 15, 2025;

August “Gus” Nasser, born May 27, 1933; died into everlasting life March 19, 2025.

Condolences may be sent to bereaved family members at their addresses in our church directory.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Submissions for the **May 2025 Oracle** are due **Tuesday, April 15th**. 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.**

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.

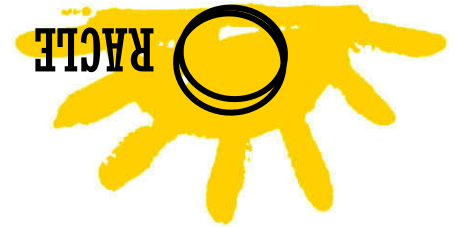
Ministry	Moderator
Christian Hospitality	Ginny Durand
Communications	Dan Engeljohn—Elder at Large
Facilities	Therese Griffin & Chris Maitin
Finance/Christian Generosity	Clair Brooks
Security/Preparedness/Health	Co-Moderators Joy Lewis, Therese Griffin
Mission/Outreach	Suzanne Pennington
Personnel	Paul Butler
Shepherding	Karen Thomas



HOLY WEEK & Easter

April 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 10:00 Legacy Mtg	2	3 2:30 Choir Rehearsal	4	5
6 10:00 Communion Worship	7 4:15 - Bell Rehearsal 6:00— OV Jazz Rehearsal	8	9 1:00 Session	10 10:00 Finance Mtg 2:30 Choir Rehearsal	11 11:00 Mission Mtg 12:30 Deacon Mtg	12
13  10:00 Worship— 1 Great Hour of Sharing	14 4:15- Bell Rehearsal 6:00— OV Jazz Rehearsal	15	16	17  No Choir Rehearsal 1:00 Prayer Flag Workshop 3:00 Friendship & Refreshments 4:00 Worship	18   Office Closed	19
20  10:00 In-person/ Zoom Worship	21 6:00— OV Jazz Rehearsal	22	23	24 2:30 Choir Rehearsal	25	26
27 10:00 Worship 12:00 Choir Party 3:00 Oro Valley Jazz Band Concert	28 6:00— OV Jazz Rehearsal	29	30		Mountain Shadows Church's Hours: Monday through Friday 9:00 am to 1:00 pm.	



3201 E. Mountaineer Dr.
Tucson, AZ 85739
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.

A Legacy for the Next Generation



In 2009, when Mountain Shadows Presbyterian Church still had a major mortgage debt to pay for our church facility, the Stewardship Ministry Team introduced the idea of a Legacy Ministry to our congregation. The thinking was not only financial; it was biblical, spiritual, and ethical, prompted by scriptures like these:

A good life gets passed on to the grandchildren. (Proverbs 13:22a The Message Bible)
One generation will praise your works to the next one, proclaiming your mighty acts. (Psalm 145:4 Common English Bible)

In 2018, building on the ministry legacy of their predecessors, the next generation of Mountain Shadows' stewardship leaders offered comments and a question to prompt our reflection: *A Legacy is what one generation passes on to the next changing lives for years to come. What will your Legacy be? Legacy Gifts are planned gifts. Our annual giving to God makes a statement about how important our faith is in our lives. Making a gift to God from our accumulated assets after we are gone makes a spiritual statement about our faith.*

Now, after a period of post-pandemic dormancy, the Legacy Ministry Team of Mountain Shadows Presbyterian Church has been reinvigorated with leadership by its Moderator, Dorothy Grimm. **On Sunday, May 4, 2025, Dorothy will offer "A Moment for Legacy Ministry" to acquaint our current congregation with what the legacy ministry can mean for us and the next generation.**

Creating a legacy goes beyond estate planning. Stephen Keizer, Vice President of Ministry Relations for the Presbyterian Foundation* says, "Recently I became a grandfather. [My grandson's] birth has... made me think about the legacy that I want to share with him. What values, beliefs, experiences, life lessons and other themes do I want to pass on to the next generation? Legacy giving is an act of faith, hope, and generosity that transforms lives and strengthens the mission of the church for generations to come. Ethical Wills are a practical tool that have been around for at least a century. They have their roots in the Bible where Jacob is described as gathering his children around his bedside to tell them how they should live after he is gone (Genesis 49:1-33). Today [ethical wills] are taking on a broader appeal, as folks look back on their lives and want to pass on more than just their assets."

Through legacy gifts, members and friends of our congregation can support ministries that are important to them and provide long-term financial stability to Mountain Shadows Presbyterian Church. Legacy giving can be approached as an act of worship and recognition that all gifts come from God and work through us to achieve the kin-dom of God on Earth.

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow!

Pastor Rachel Srubas

*The visual logo above and some language in this article come from
www.presbyterianfoundation.org

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

Eleanor Birch, Karen Koopmans, Jeff Mague, Alida Wilkes, 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.

- Deacons practice confidentiality.
- Deacons practice kindness.
- Deacons listen to your joys and your sorrows and pray for you.

Every member and regularly attending friend of our church is part of a mini-parish and is prayed for regularly by one of our deacons. If you would like to reach out to your deacon for support but don't know who they are, you may email Judy Leonard, Office Manager, at mspcoffice@gmail.com or call 520-825-7858.

GATHERING
WORSHIP & MUSIC



Update from the Music Ministry!

Sunday May 4 the **Choir and Handbells**, will sing & ring together the familiar hymn **Here I Am Lord!** I found an arrangement that allows the Handbells to accompany the Choir!

This Sunday will be the last formal Music Ministry Sunday. Plans unfolding for the month of May are for vocalists, instrumental soloists, duos, quartets, ensembles, etc. to complete our prayer each weekend. Watch for more information in the June/July Oracle.

Handbell update: Ringer Rehearsals will be scheduled for the last couple weeks of August. *Please let me know if you would like to be on "The List!" My contact information is below!*

AND if you would like to help with music this summer, because during the year, you have too many other commitments - please contact me! Even kazoos and boom whackers are welcome!

+++++

Choir Rehearsals: THURSDAYS from 2:45-4:00 pm in the Sanctuary – last Rehearsal for the season is May 7th.

Instrumental Rehearsals: Thursdays 4:00-4:30 & Scheduled with Music Director.

Handbell Choir Rehearsals: Watch for details – Planning for the middle of August.

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

Charmaine Piane Dame, Music Director 🎵🎵

FRIENDSHIP



Thank you to all who made our April 17th "Friendship Gathering" a success!

We really appreciate receiving so many wonderful friendship ministry ideas which will support developing friendships among our congregants.

There is still an opportunity to share your ideas with us. Please just write them on the small cards provided on the signup table on the ramada and drop them into the nearby basket. We'd love to hear from you!

The Friendship Ministry Team

TENDING

SESSION of MOUNTAIN SHADOWS, Report from Session Clerk Jeff Mague



The activities of the March 30, 2025 Special meeting, and April 9, 2025 regular meetings of the Session were:

1. Received with appreciativeness, new members Liz Wright and Hooker Lowe, who were also celebrating their one-year anniversary.
2. Welcomed Dorothy Grimm, the newly appointed Moderator of the Legacy Ministry Team. She briefed the Session on the Policy and Procedure updates for the ministry team, which were approved.
3. Approved minutes of the March 26 and March 30 Special meetings of the Session.
4. Approved upcoming vacation days for Pastor Srubas.
5. Received a report of an expansion of our messaging and advertising to include more of the northwest residents of the Tucson area.
6. Discussed a report by Elder Dan Engeljohn about the progress of the Security Grant awarded in 2024. We expect to see activity regarding this in the next few months.
7. Finalized the Holy Week activities and schedule.

FACILITIES

What's Happening in MSPCFacilities?

Therese Griffin, Elder/Chris Maitin, Elder Co-Moderators

Active Volunteers: Karl Kuehlwein, Ron Anderson, Linda Walka, Susan Ruffini,

Welcome: Hooker Lowe, Francelia Barnes and Jerry Kinkade



Facilities Mission Statement

"The Facility Team diligently maintains and stewards our church buildings and grounds, ensuring its accessibility and optimal use for all members and guests in a safe and healthy environment by providing a welcoming, functional, and spiritually conducive space for worship, fellowship, and community outreach."



Need Open/Close Volunteers



We need volunteers to open and close the campus for worship and special meetings. Opening and closing typically includes opening and locking buildings and restrooms before and after worship on Sundays. There may be a need occasionally for someone to be available to open and close for a meeting (if no one in the meeting has a key to open or close up.) Please contact Chris Maitin, Karl Kuehlwien or Ron Anderson, they can walk you through the process and duties.

Co-Moderators & Elders, Therese Griffin & Chris Maitin

MEMORIAL GARDEN UPDATE



The Memorial Garden has become a valued part of our church's ministry. Creating a lasting memorial to one's time at Mountain Shadows Presbyterian Church, it provides a place for interment of cremated remains in the Columbarium wall and/or a memorial plaque on the Memorial Wall. With all available space in the current Columbarium Wall reserved, the Session has approved construction of an additional Columbarium Wall and paved deck and walkway that will improve access to the Memorial Garden.

The niches for the Columbarium Wall are being provided by Homecoming, Inc. of Tempe. For onsite construction and landscaping, Tucson Professional Landscaping has been chosen. The internal niche construction requires around 13 weeks. On site construction will begin upon completion of the niches and is expected to begin around June 1.

For those interested in reserving a space in the Memorial Garden, the cost of a niche with one urn is \$1250.00. For a niche with two urns the cost is \$1500.00. The cost of the niches includes the urn(s) an identification plate on the urn and an inscribed facing stone. Each niche can hold two urns.

Memorial plaques are \$350.00 for an individual and \$500.00 for two individuals.

For questions and reservations, please contact elder Paul Butler or the church office.

Paul Butler, Serving 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 Church Treasurer Judy Mague if you have any questions.**

Monthly Financial Report - Operating Budget				
March 2025	----- March Actual	2025 Year-to-Date Actual	----- Year-to-Date Budget	2024 Year-to-Date Actual
Regular Offerings	\$ 24,182	\$ 98,940	\$ 71,121	\$ 89,678
Other Income	458	2,698	1,078	2,950
Total Income	\$ 24,640	\$ 101,638	\$ 72,199	\$ 92,628
Total Expense	\$ 24,284	\$ 64,870	\$ 72,395	\$ 69,360
Income less Expense	\$ 356	\$ 36,769	\$ (195)	\$ 23,268

Judy Mague, Treasurer

GIVING LEGACY



Legacy Gifts are planned gifts. Our annual giving to God makes a statement about how important our faith is in our lives. Making a gift to God from our accumulated assets after we are gone makes a spiritual statement about our faith.

Legacy Ministry Team: Dorothy Grimm (Moderator), Clair Brooks, Judy Mague, Linda Zoellner and Pastor Rachel Srubas (ex-officio)

The Legacy Ministry was established by the Session in 2009, to encourage gifts and bequests by congregants from their accumulated assets. The objective is to use these planned offerings to extend and expand the reach of Mountain Shadows Presbyterian Church in the world. Since that time, most of the Ministry Team members have moved on (out of town, to their heavenly home, or another congregation) and the team has been inactive since late in the pandemic.

This ministry is now being re-activated and newly approved, by Session, team members are coming up to speed on their many responsibilities. These responsibilities range from communicating to you, the congregation, managing the investments of legacy funds and related income, and making recommendations to Session for distributions of funds that are available for needs outside the annual operating budget and supporting MSPC’s mission (and the giver’s intentions, if provided) that have been identified.

The Legacy team is looking forward to providing much more information in the coming months.

Dorothy Grimm, Moderator

“What you do is your history. What you set in motion is your legacy.” - Leonard I. Sweet
...a thought from the Legacy Ministry

VENTURING COMMUNICATIONS

Don’t Forget to Check Out the Website

When you open our website (www.mountainshadowschurch.org), you will see our greeting. The picture includes a montage of all the sanctuary glass. 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. For example, in mid-October, new titles were added to the church library and are noted on the “[Library](#)” page. If you have suggested edits to the website, let Dan Engeljohn know.





A Mission Update on our Borderland Ministries

In February of this year, Presbyterian Church USA (PCUSA) concluded its World Mission Ministry and decided to embrace a new approach to global ministry. This transition “moves from a model centered on mission co-workers to a structure where global ecumenical liaisons will facilitate relationships between our global partners and the congregations, networks, and mid-councils of the PCUSA”. For additional information on this structural change, you are directed to the PCUSA website at <https://pcusa.org>.

This transition impacted 79 World Mission Ministry staff members. Three of those individuals are James Martin (YAVS), Mark Adams and Miriam Maldonado (Frontera de Cristo). Currently, James’s position is not impacted by this restructuring. Mark and Miriam have elected to take the generous severance package offered by PCUSA. This will allow Mark and Miriam to continue in their current positions at Frontera de Cristo. For the remainder of 2025, Mark and Miriam will volunteer with Frontera de Cristo.

Frontera de Cristo is a non-profit organization independent of PCUSA. Throughout the remainder of 2025, the Frontera de Cristo board will explore avenues to sustainably add two positions to its budget. For additional information concerning these discussions, you are directed to the Frontera de Cristo website at <https://fronteradecristo.org/>.

The Mission Team is staying in close communication with Mark and Miriam as this change begins to take effect. Mark and Miriam are committed to the Borderland Ministries as it is so greatly demonstrated in the Frontera de Cristo ministries. As part of the Frontera de Cristo discernment process, a capital campaign is anticipated with these changes. As more information becomes available, the Mission Team will relay all pertinent details to the Mountain Shadows’ congregation through our regular channels.

Mountain Shadows will continue to keep all impacted by this transition in their prayers. Mountain Shadows will continue to lift up and support Mark and Miriam as they navigate these new and unexpected changes.

As a final note, all the ministries of Frontera de Cristo are greatly supported by our purchases of Café Justo. Please remember to continue to support this worthy mission with your online purchases of coffee.

Your sister in Christ,

Susan Harden

ANNOUNCEMENTS



The June Oracle will cover both June & July. Submissions for the **June/ July 2025 Oracle** are due **Thursday May 15th**. 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.**



Interested in Volunteering?

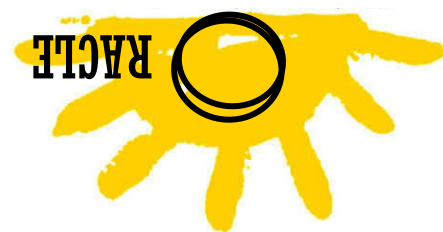


Our ministries are always looking for volunteers. If you are interested in joining one of these ministries contact the Ministry Moderator listed in the attached table. Their numbers and email are listed in the church directory.

Ministry	Moderator
Christian Hospitality	Ginny Durand
Communications	Dan Engeljohn—Elder at Large
Facilities	Therese Griffin & Chris Maitin
Finance/Christian Generosity	Clair Brooks
Security/Preparedness/Health	Co-Moderators Joy Lewis, Therese Griffin
Mission/Outreach	Suzanne Pennington
Personnel	Paul Butler
Shepherding	Karen Thomas

May 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 <p>Mountain Shadows Church's Hours: Monday through Friday 9:00 am to 1:00 pm.</p>				1	2	3
				2:30 Choir Rehearsal		
4 10:00 Communion Worship Legacy Ministry Sundry	5 6:00— OV Jazz Rehearsal	6	7	8	9 11:00 Mission Mtg 12:30 Deacon Mtg	10
11 10:00 In-person/ Zoom Worship	12 6:00— OV Jazz Rehearsal	13	14 1:00 Session	15 Oracle Articles Due	16	17
18 10:00 In-person/ Zoom Worship	19 6:00— OV Jazz Rehearsal	20	21	22 10:00 Finance Mtg	23	24
25 10:00 In-person/ Zoom Worship	26  Office Closed	27	28	29	30	31



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Email: MountainShadowsOffice@gmail.com
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Centered in Christ, Caring for Community

Presbyterian Church

Mountain Shadows

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



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.

Loving, Nonviolence, Justice, & Peace



On June 19, 1865, it was announced that the Civil War had ended and enslaved people in the United States had been freed. The Juneteenth holiday celebrates liberation for African Americans as July 4th does for all Americans. But our nation continues to struggle with the oppressive, inequitable and unjust treatment of people of color. So, Mountain Shadows Presbyterian Church is united with many other Presbyterian congregations in seeking to apply our faith to break down the systems, practices and thinking that underlie discrimination, bias, prejudice and oppression of people of color. Together, let's watch a movie to support our antiracist commitment.

On Thursday, June 19 at 2:00 pm, folks of Mountain Shadows will observe the Juneteenth holiday with a matinee showing of the movie *Loving* in the church sanctuary. Sign up to attend! Rated PG-13, *Loving* tells the story of Richard and Mildred Loving, a white man and a black woman whose arrest for interracial marriage in 1960s Virginia began a legal battle that would end with the Supreme Court's historic 1967 decision.



At the June 19 movie matinee, we'll provide popcorn and the refreshing, red-colored soft drinks that are a traditional part of Juneteenth celebrations. Before and after European contact, West Africans welcomed and entertained their household guests with red-colored beverages — more accurately described as teas—made from hibiscus flower petals or kola nuts, which are indigenous to that part of Africa.



On Thursday, June 26 at 2:00 pm, everyone's invited to participate in a conversation based on the recent issue of *Presbyterian Outlook* magazine devoted to Non-Violence: Faith-Based Strategies for Justice and Peace. Sign up to attend! Once again, we'll provide light refreshments for all. A generous donor has purchased ten copies of *Presbyterian Outlook*, which will be given to the first ten people to sign up to attend on June 26. Among the magazine articles is one titled "The Principles of Kingian Nonviolence," based on the teachings of Martin Luther King, Jr. This article will provide the main focus of our conversation. During a time of social protest against cruel policies that target vulnerable people, followers of Jesus are called to resist injustice nonviolently, faithful to the God of courage, community, and peace.

Pastor Rachel Srubas

Sources of this article's content include pres-outlook.org, IMDB, and foodandwine.com.

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

Eleanor Birch, Karen Koopmans, Jeff Mague, Alida Wilkes, 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.

- Deacons practice confidentiality.
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- Deacons listen to your joys and your sorrows and pray for you.

Every member and regularly attending friend of our church is part of a mini-parish and is prayed for regularly by one of our deacons. If you would like to reach out to your deacon for support but don't know who they are, you may email Judy Leonard, Office Manager, at mspcoffice@gmail.com or call 520-825-7858.

GATHERING

WORSHIP & MUSIC

UPDATE FROM THE MUSIC MINISTRY

PRAYER WARRIORS



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 loudly. I haven’t played since High School.” 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** 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!

+++++

Choir Rehearsals: Thursday September 4, mark your calendar.

Instrumental Rehearsals: Scheduled with Music Director

Handbell Choir & Newbies: More information in the next Oracle, 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

Charmaine Piane Dame, Music Director 🎵🎵

TENDING

SESSION of MOUNTAIN SHADOWS, Report from Session Clerk Jeff Mague



The activities during the May 14, 2025, regular meeting of the Session were:

1. We were privileged to have Presbytery Pastor, Rev. Brad Munroe, moderate this meeting of your Session, filling in for Pastor Rachel Srubas.
2. Received a columbarium expansion construction report and updated the Columbarium Policy Statement to allow for a larger group of our congregants to take advantage of this beautiful final resting place or to have a memorial plaque on the wall.
3. Received the annual Financial Review report, as required by the *Book of Order*.
4. Updated the list of Legacy Ministry Team members who can manage our investments with the donations to our Legacy funds.
5. Approved upcoming study leave, vacation, and family leave for Pastor Srubas.
6. The Session will be on its Sabbatical break from June through August but can hold special meetings if anything critical comes up.



Linda Walka & Chris Maitin gave a new look to the Music Director Charmain's Office with a new cabinet with slots for music notebooks and hymnals for each individual choir/instrumental member.

- ♦ **We completed our Golder Ranch Fire Department inspection. All is updated and approved until 2026.**

A Few odds/ends needs...

- Leaf Blowers to clear the parking lot, walkways, and under the ramada, as needed. Weed Whackers are needed too.
- Light touchup Painting - The restrooms at the end of the Office Building and Room # 5, including the hallway. Nicks on the south side door need touch up.
- Volunteers (church members) are needed to open/close buildings for Sunday Worship and Special Events. That includes other odds & ends as sweeping the outside rug mats, spray for wasps, etc.
- Walk-Checkers are needed to walk around our parking lot before Sunday worship to check if anyone needs assistance getting out of their car and to reinforce parking lot safety. A little reminder - it's wise to lock your vehicle doors.
- Light jobs are needed: The three sheds north of ramada and pumphouse need some touch up and repairs. If you see a facility problem and know how to assist to fix it, please see Therese Griffin or Chris Maitin, Facilities Moderators.

Co-Moderators & Elders, Therese Griffin & Chris Maitin



SUMMER HOURS

Mountain Shadows begins their summer office hours starting June 1, 2025.
Office hours are as follows:

Monday — Thursday

9:00 am — 1:00 pm

Closed Fridays

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

April 2025	2025			2024
	April Actual	Year-to-Date Actual	Year-to-Date Budget	Year-to-Date Actual
Regular Offerings	\$ 19,476	\$ 118,416	\$ 94,828	\$ 107,639
Other Income	1,487	4,185	1,437	4,935
Total Income	\$ 20,963	\$ 122,601	\$ 96,265	\$ 112,574
Total Expense	\$ 22,436	\$ 87,306	\$ 96,526	\$ 94,974
Income less Expense	\$ (1,473)	\$ 35,295	\$	\$ 17,600

GIVING

CHRISTIAN GENEROSITY



Last year's Christian Generosity's "Come to the Table" campaign was a great success. It is now time to develop a Christian Generosity campaign for 2026. The Christian Generosity Team (formerly Stewardship) is looking for volunteers to help develop and execute a campaign for 2026. If you are interested in volunteering your time, thoughts/ideas and talents please contact Clair Brooks. You can find his contact information in the church directory.

"Building a legacy of faith yesterday, today and forever." - Benny Hinn

...a thought from the Legacy Ministry

VENTURING

COMMUNICATIONS



Don't Forget to Check Out the Website

When you open our website (www.mountainshadowschurch.org), you will see our greeting. The picture includes a montage of all the sanctuary glass. 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. For example, in mid-October, new titles were added to the church library and are noted on the "[Library](#)" page. If you have suggested edits to the website, let Dan Engeljohn know.

Based on an excerpt of Presbytery Pastor Brad Munroe's Las Noticias missive, with additional content from fronteradecristo.org.

Frontera de Cristo is a Presbyterian border ministry that sees borders as places for encounter, compassion, and the sharing of culture. Through partnerships in both Agua Prieta, Sonora, and Douglas, Arizona, they work to extend welcome and support to migrants and the surrounding communities.

By demonstrating gospel values in all that they do, Frontera de Cristo seeks to build relationships that demonstrate God's will and build bridges rather than walls. So many people are migrating, seeking refuge and fleeing extreme poverty and violence. Frontera de Cristo's goal is not only to address their immediate needs, but also to address the root causes of mass migration, creating safe and prosperous opportunities that allow our sisters and brothers to stay in the land they call home, if they so choose.



Late in 2024, the Presbyterian Church (USA) national offices announced a reduction in force of 50% of mission co-workers. Many Presbyterian worried about what was to become of Frontera de Cristo, where mission co-workers **Mark Adams and Miriam Maldonado Adams** have served faithfully with distinction for over two decades. Without national funding, would Frontera be able to keep Mark and Miriam on staff? Without connection to a PCUSA congregation or mid-council, how would Mark and Miriam remain connected to their long-term ministry partners?

Our two Arizona based presbyteries, Frontera de Cristo and Grand Canyon have agreed, in principle, to enter into a covenantal relationship for Mark and Miriam Adams to serve Frontera as mission co-workers for the combined presbyteries. There are numerous technical details to be worked out, but the heart of the agreement is affirmed by all: Presbyterians and others in the US-Mexico borderlands will continue to benefit from the spiritual, theological, and relational gifts of Mark Adams and Miriam Maldonado Adams. Frontera will fund the Adams' salaries despite the loss of national support. Thus, Frontera needs to raise funds. Congregations and individuals are asked to contribute to Frontera de Cristo's Mission Co-Worker Support Fund.

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

It's PEANUT BUTTER PARTY TIME at Interfaith Community Services!



Start rounding up any & all sizes of peanut butter – mostly 16 oz, but larger jars (plastic jars please) are welcome too. Bring ‘em to church on the 1st Sundays’ food collection (**June 1 and July 6**) 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 & especially welcome for the kids on summer break. Mountain Shadows Presbyterian Church is one of the 121 Faith Communities that support ICS. Let’s see if we can win the “prize” for **the most jars per capita**! OR: Dan & Stevie’s talents may win the “prize” for the most creative PEANUT BUTTER DISPLAY shown on social media! Wow!

Thanks to you all for your support,

Kathy Moyer, ICS volunteer & MSPC liaison to ICS

PS – I’d love to collect all of your favorite ways to enjoy peanut butter.

Please email them to me at: mmoyerpp@gmail.com

Love to hear from you while in Michigan!

Third is For Threads



Our clothing ministry continues throughout the summer. As you heard when Eleanor Geiger presented a Moment for Mission, the clothing we collect is distributed to a variety of organizations throughout Pima and Pinal counties. A list is displayed on the collection table on the third Sunday of the month. Right now, there is a need for summer weight clothing, new socks and underwear, and gently used or new shoes.

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. 23rd St, Tucson, AZ 85713

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, Dan, Paul, or Jeff!

ANNOUNCEMENTS



The August Oracle will cover both August and September. Submissions for the **Aug/Sept 2025 Oracle** are due **Tuesday, July 15th**. Email your submissions to mspcoffice@gmail.com.

Please limit your articles to 300 words or fewer.



Mountain Shadows' Summer office hours are:
Monday through Thursday
9:00 am to 1:00 pm.
Closed Fridays

Interested in Volunteering?



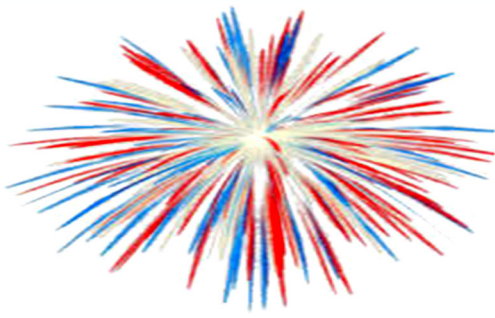
Our ministries are always looking for volunteers. If you are interested in joining one of these ministries contact the Ministry Moderator listed in the attached table. Their numbers and email are listed in the church directory.

Ministry	Moderator
Christian Hospitality	Ginny Durand
Communications	Dan Engeljohn—Elder at Large
Facilities	Therese Griffin & Chris Maitin
Finance/Christian Generosity	Clair Brooks
Security/Preparedness/Health	Co-Moderators Joy Lewis, Therese Griffin
Mission/Outreach	Suzanne Pennington
Personnel	Paul Butler
Shepherding	Karen Thomas




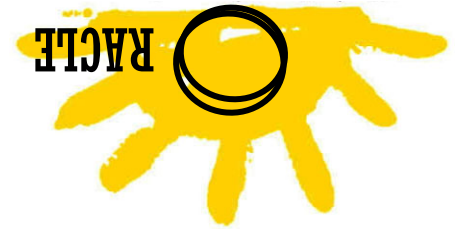
June 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10:00 Communion Worship	2	3	4	5	6 Office Closed	7
8 10:00 In-person/ Zoom Worship Pentecost 	9	10	11	12	13 Office Closed	14
15 10:00 In-person/ Zoom Worship	16	17	18	19 <i>Juneleenth</i> 2:00 Movie Matinee "Loving" 	20 Office Closed	21
22 10:00 In-person/ Zoom Worship	23	24	25	26 2:00 Discussion: Non Violence	27 Office Closed	28
29 10:00 In-person/ Zoom Worship	30		<div> <i>Mountain Shadows'</i> <i>Summer office hours are:</i> Monday through Thursday 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. Closed Fridays </div>			



July 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	 Office Closed	5
6 10:00 Communion Worship	7	8	9	10	11 Office Closed	12
13 10:00 In-person/ Zoom Worship	14	15	16	17	18 Office Closed	19
20 10:00 In-person/ Zoom Worship	21	22	23	24	25 Office Closed	26
27 10:00 In-person/ Zoom Worship	28	29	30	31		



3201 E. Mountaineer Dr.
Tucson, AZ 85739
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.

The Power of Stories: The BIG EVENT, Saturday, August 23rd

Greetings from Pastor Rachel! What are you reading this summer (besides this newsletter)? 😎 I've been making my way through two books. In the morning, I've been reading *Miles to Go Before I Sleep: Letters on Hope, Death, and Learning to Live* by Claire Gilbert. She often writes about my favorite theologian, Julian of Norwich, but this book is more like a memoir. Gilbert's letters to friends and family members tell the story of her experience of blood cancer and the ways she learned to live with hope despite serious illness. In the evening, I've been reading *Murder Before Evensong*, a cozy mystery novel set in a fictional English village. Its author, Rev. Richard Coles, is an Anglican priest, as is the book's main character, Daniel Clement. He finds himself working to solve crimes while also pastoring his local parish. I love a compelling story. Stories can move us emotionally, enlighten our minds, and humanize the issues we learn about in the news. As Mr. Rogers said, "There isn't anyone you couldn't learn to love once you've heard their story."

Explore The Power of Stories and Storytelling at **THE BIG EVENT**, Saturday, August 23rd at Northminster Presbyterian Church in Tucson, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. This gathering, equally open to men and women, will connect us to other Presbyterians and strengthen our Christ-centered engagement in this world, which is yearning for the love of Jesus and his followers.



The August 23 event will feature keynote presenter **Mónica Tornoé**. Born and raised in Guatemala, Mónica is a law school graduate serving as Director of Latino Programs at Austin Presbyterian Seminary, where she oversees the Undocumented Stories Project. She is an immigration activist and coauthor of *The Truth In Our Stories: Immigrant Voices in Radical Times* and the author of a children's book, *The Holy Stranger*.

To learn more about the August 23rd **BIG EVENT**, email pby.rec.office@gmail.com. Register in advance online and make a lunch reservation (\$12 per person payable by cash or check at the event; vegetarian & gluten-free options available). Visit azpresbyteries.org and click on Newsletters; then click on Newsletter-DC and you'll see an announcement containing a registration link. Consider coordinating or joining a carpool to attend the BIG EVENT with other folks from Mountain Shadows!

Yours in the unfolding story of God's love for all,

Pastor Rachel Srubas

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

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



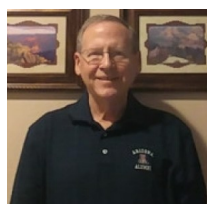
Karen Koopmans
Co-Moderator



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.

- Deacons practice confidentiality.
- Deacons practice kindness.
- Deacons listen to your joys and your sorrows and pray for you.

Every member and regularly attending friend of our church is part of a mini-parish and is prayed for regularly by one of our deacons. If you would like to reach out to your deacon for support but don't know who they are, you may email Judy Leonard, Office Manager, at mspcoffice@gmail.com or call 520-825-7858.

GATHERING

Sanctuary Flowers—Got a Fridge You Can Spare?

Some of you have been disappointed that there are no fresh sanctuary flowers during July and August. During these hot summer months, keeping the flowers fresh is a problem. **It would be helpful if someone has an extra refrigerator that they are not using and would be willing to put it in my garage.** This would help keep the flowers fresh until Sunday morning. It would be helpful other months, too. If you have a suggestion (or an extra refrigerator), please call me. My contact information is in the church directory.



Lynn Parker

HOSPITALITY

The Hospitality Team will be back in action starting on the first Sunday in September, September 7th. This means, coffee, tea, lemonade and all kinds of treats will be served after Sunday services, on the Ramada. If you would like to serve on our team just see me, Ginny Durand, after church on any Sunday. We can always use cookies (store bought or home made.) You can drop them off on Sundays in the kitchen, located in Room 4.

This is a great way to meet and get to know each other better during fellowship time.



See you on September 7th!!

Ginny Durand, Hospitality Moderator

A Women's Retreat: *Connecting in Love Through Our Stories*

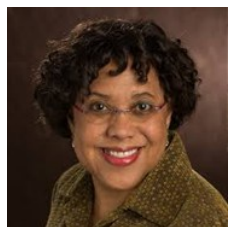


An opportunity for Presbyterian women to gather and grow in faith and friendship.

When? Friday and Saturday, October 24th through 26th

Where? Franciscan Renewal Center, a beautiful retreat setting in Scottsdale, Arizona, at 5802 East Lincoln Drive. <https://www.thecasa.org/>

For Whom? *All* Presbyterian Women of Arizona and New Mexico



Keynote Presenter & Workshop Leader? Rev. Dr. Rhashell Hunter, author of the women's Bible Study curriculum, *Finding Resilience, Joy, and Our Identity in Jesus Christ*. Rhashell is a dynamic, respected leader in the Presbyterian Church (USA) who loves preaching, teaching, and building bridges in intercultural communities. She is a "big hit" when she leads Presbyterian Women's gatherings.

Cost? Single occupancy for 2 nights and six meals—\$435 per person; Double occupancy for 2 nights and six meals—\$345 per person. *Note: these costs are effective through postmark date August 15, 2025. Thereafter, additional late registration costs will apply.*

Payable to? Make checks payable to **PW Synod of the Southwest**

Address for mailing registration checks? Carol S. Marr, cmarr2142@gmail.com, 443 West Meadowlark Lane, Corrales, NM 87048; postmarked by August 15, 2025 to avoid late registration costs.

Registration Form? Paper registration forms are available at Mountain Shadows Church, to be mailed with checks in the amounts listed above (postmarked by 8/15/25).

Scholarships? If you need financial assistance to attend the retreat, please contact Pastor Rachel Srubas for a confidential conversation.

Questions about the retreat? Contact Chris Casanova, the Moderator of Presbyterian Women in the Synod of the Southwest, at 480-203-7567.

FRIENDSHIP Ministry

Friendship Ministry



The Friendship Ministry is a new ministry that is part of Mountain Shadows' Gathering Priority area, with Elder Pamela Schulz as moderator.

Our mission statement is based on **Matthew 22: 36-40 (CEB)**

"Teacher, what is the greatest commandment in the Law?"

Jesus replied, "*You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your being, and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: You must love your neighbor as you love yourself. All the Law and the Prophets depend on these two commands.*"

Continued

Loving our neighbors as ourselves also means we get to celebrate one another. Marking life together, taking time to celebrate significant life events, inviting one another to laugh, dance, cry and sing with us, and sharing meals together are ways we love our neighbors (based on sermon by Rev. Laura Munroe).

This ministry will focus on helping to coordinate activities outside Sunday Fellowship hour and/or the MSPC campus, such as *Table of Friends*, or others that are organized as our friendships grow and areas of common interests are discovered. We may host 2-3 events per year to which the whole congregation is invited.

Our first event, *Friendship & Refreshments Time*, was held prior to the Maundy Thursday worship service on April 17, 2025. Attendees were invited to submit their ideas for friendship ministries to explore. We received a lot – 61 ideas from 21 people. Thank you! Many had common themes to be explored moving forward.

Our second event was July 11th, a *Brown Bag Lunch and Ice Cream Social*. It was designed to be an opportunity for people to begin to get to know one another more in depth, and to provide an example of how one might seek out, greet and meet (really talk with) others that one does not know at Mountain Shadows church. We had a “Crowded Table” and a wonderful time.

We still have a lot of work to do to resume a new *Table of Friends* program, and organizing other opportunities to practice *philia* (φιλία–friendship love) together. Stay tuned.

WORSHIP & MUSIC A New Season for the MSPC Music Ministry!

It is a new season for Mountain Shadows’ Handbell, Choral Choirs, and instrumentalists! **You** are invited to join us! **PLEASE** contact me for more information.

Dates for the 3rd Annual Handbell Workshop will be announced soon. If you are interested in attending, **PLEASE** contact me!

Mountain Shadows Choir & Instrumental Ensemble begin formal rehearsals **Thursday, September 4 from 2:45-4 pm** in the Sanctuary! **Instrumentalists join the rehearsal at 3:45.**

September 14th officially begins our formal Music Ministry Season during the 10 am Service.

My October article will include information regarding the Tahoe Music Conference I attended July 27 through August 1. Thank you for your generosity in providing for my continuing education!

This year Karen Thomas & Suzanne Pennington joined me at the conference. I’m sure they will also have information to share with everyone!

Choir Rehearsals: Begin Thursday September 4 from 2:45-4pm in the sanctuary.

Instrumental Rehearsals: Scheduled with Music Director

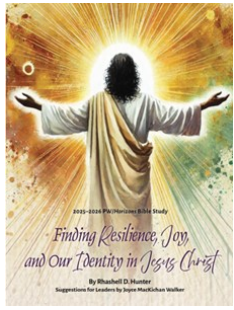
Handbell Choir & Newbies: WORKSHOP News & Dates coming soon!



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 (one or two per month, dates to be announced). We welcome Marilyn C. and Dorothy G. as leaders this year. If you are interested, please **RSVP by August 13th** to our Office Manager, Judy Leonard, at mspcoffice@gmail.com, **using the subject line "Women's 25-26 Bible Study"**. Please also indicate whether you would like a regular print or large print version of the study book. When you submit your request, please also send a check for \$18 payable to MSPC with "Women's Bible Study book" in the memo line.

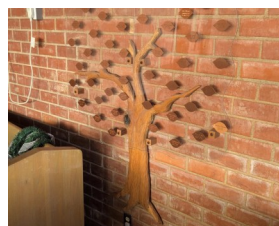
TENDING

SESSION of MOUNTAIN SHADOWS, Report from Session Clerk Jeff Mague

An opportunity to demonstrate our Christian love towards each other has come to us. The Community Presbyterian Church of San Manuel, pastored by Rev. Jeff Dixon, has made the difficult decision to close its doors due to a reduction in membership, making it impractical to maintain an active church. Officially, they will transition from a church to a fellowship, meeting in each other's homes each week. The church has served San Manuel and the larger Tri-Community for 68 years.

We now have the opportunity to fulfill one of their hopes that some of their church will continue to speak to God's creation and love for everyone. The Session has agreed on three items. A Celtic cross, which has been greeting congregants as they walk into their church, will be brought to Mountain Shadows and placed in the area across from room 1 in the multi-purpose building. We are also going to receive a beautiful tree of life, to be placed in our sanctuary. Most importantly, we will receive the ashes of two of their members that currently rest in their memorial garden, to be placed in the new extension of our columbarium, as it is not practical to keep the memorial garden maintained.

May God's blessings come to their current congregants with our prayers and support.





**We Stand With the Vulnerable: A Letter to the Church from Rev. Jihyun Oh,
Stated Clerk of the General Assembly and Executive Director of the Interim
Unified Agency of the Presbyterian Church (USA)**

Dear Siblings in Christ Jesus and Fellow Disciples of our Crucified and Risen Lord,

Scripture reminds us that as Christ Jesus journeyed to the cross, he was also entrusting his earthly ministry to his disciples. Failing to understand, the disciples found themselves arguing about who would be greatest. To this, Jesus says, “The greatest among you will be your servant. All who exalt themselves will be humbled, and all who humble themselves will be exalted” (Matthew 23:11–12).

This is the heart of leadership, especially for any who would claim to be “Christian”—to serve others instead of insisting on one’s own greatness, to lift up others instead of pushing them down, to show honor to the least instead of denigrating their humanity, to use one’s power and authority to work toward the wholeness of God’s beloved world instead of harming those who are most vulnerable in society.

We find ourselves in a nation in which leaders who purport to be Christian are attacking those who preach the mercy and love of Christ Jesus, arresting those who pray for justice, and using their position of leadership to harm the most vulnerable and to enrich themselves and their friends and allies by impoverishing those who have much less. Instead of emulating Christ’s earthly ministry of justice and love that brought God’s reign of wholeness and peace, these leaders seek to create a society that is marked by fracture and violence, a society in which power matters more than truth, winning more than communion and the good of the whole. Instead of working for a world in which strangers and foreigners can become neighbors, the weak and sick are protected, and the young and lonely are embraced, they build up dividing walls of hostility, threaten the vulnerable, and ridicule the marginalized. This is not Christian. This is not Christian leadership.

As the Co-Moderators of the 226th General Assembly and I [wrote in December](#), as a Christian, Reformed, Presbyterian denomination, we as the PC(USA) will be a church for this time and place as God calls us to be. And we will act in accordance with our biblical and theological values that have also guided the actions of our General Assemblies, both PC(USA) and our predecessor denominations, in the discernment of our policies.

We will continue to stand with and for the most vulnerable in our society, whether that is because of status, identity, ability, resources, or any other factor; all bear the image of God. In our common life as a denomination, we will continue to pursue representation and full participation of all in the life of our denomination as we continue living into unity in our diversity. We will continue to stand with and for LGBTQIA+ siblings and communities and act to resist efforts to denigrate or harm them, or exclude them from the promise of the fullness of life.

We will work toward the day of God’s wholeness when all tears are wiped away, weapons are hammered into plowshares, hunger and violence are no more, Earth and all that inhabit it are restored, and God’s love and justice reign. *(Letter continues on the next page.)*

A Letter to the Church from Rev. Jihyun Oh—Cont'd

As Reformed Christians, our Sovereign God calls us to involvement in the world instead of being apart from it. And our involvement should be more than words. The Church's call is to follow Christ, "entrusting itself to God alone, even at the risk of losing its life" [PC(USA) Book of Order, F-1.0301].

As Presbyterians, the Lord of our conscience calls us to stand up against the abuse of power and authority, especially when it is done in the name of Christ but not in the image and likeness of Christ and his earthly ministry.

Our God calls us and our cloud of witnesses calls out to us and strengthens us by their witness to the love and justice of Christ Jesus in the world.

Taking a stand against the rise of the Nazi party, the Confessing Church movement in Germany drafted the 1934 [Theological Declaration of Barmen](#), asserting that Christ alone is Lord of the church and Sovereign of the world: "Jesus Christ, as he is attested for us in Holy Scripture, is the one Word of God which we have to hear and which we have to trust and obey in life and in death" [PC(USA) Book of Confessions, 8.11].

Our God calls us and also sends us.

God sends the Church to work for justice in the world: exercising its power for the common good; dealing honestly in personal and public spheres; seeking dignity and freedom for all people; welcoming strangers in the land; promoting justice and fairness in the law; overcoming disparities between rich and poor; bearing witness against systems of violence and oppression; and redressing wrongs against individuals, groups, and peoples [PC(USA) Book of Order, W-5.0303].

So many in the church, in faithful discipleship to Jesus Christ, have been working for and toward God's justice and love in the world. In the coming weeks and months, more will be shared about what Presbyterians are doing and can join to do.

Romans 12:9-16, 21 reminds us:

⁹ Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. ¹⁰ Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. ¹¹ Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. ¹² Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. ¹³ Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. ¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.

²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Let us not despair even as we grieve the brokenness and the pain we witness. Let us not lose heart. Let our discipleship be a faithful witness to what it means to be "Christian" in this time. May it be so for all of us.

The Rev. Jihyun Oh

Stated Clerk of the General Assembly

Executive Director of the Interim Unified Agency

FACILITIES

What's New Happening on MSPC Campus?



Oh, no we have a huge “Black Snake” on Campus. “Oh, yes! It’s a Good Snake.”

Pro Tip:

This is why you don’t kill black snakes/ king snakes/rat snakes which are constrictors and resistant to copperhead, rattlesnake, and cottonmouth venom, which is why venomous snakes are easy prey for them. They can easily overpower most venomous species.

Your property is much safer with these snakes allowed to be there.

- ♦ **You can join free:** Join *AZ Animals FREE* to get amazing animal facts, printable animal activities, and much more sent directly to you, Written by Emmanuel Kingsley Updated: April 10, 2023 <https://a-z-animals.com/blog/7-black-snakes-in-arizona/>

We always need volunteers to assist with facilities that includes Opening/Closing, etc. If you see a need for an improvement, please feel free to contact: Therese or Chris – our information is in the church directory.

Co-Moderators & Elders, Therese Griffin & Chris Maitin

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				
June 2025	-----	2025	-----	2024
	June	Year-to-Date	Year-to-Date	
	Actual	Actual	Budget	Year-to-Date Actual
Regular Offerings	\$ 22,566	\$ 151,455	\$ 142,242	\$ 138,232
Other Income	1,206	5,539	2,156	5,935
Total Income	\$ 23,772	\$ 156,994	\$ 144,398	\$ 144,167
Total Expense	\$ 26,632	\$ 134,130	\$ 144,789	\$ 144,896
Income less Expense	\$ (2,860)	\$ 22,864	\$ (391)	\$ (729)

Judy Mague, Treasurer

*“Patience and diligence, like faith, remove mountains.” — William Penn
...a thought from the Legacy Ministry*

VENTURING

COMMUNICATIONS



Check Out Our Website

(www.mountainshadowschurch.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.

MISSION & OUTREACH

Mission & Mercy: Presbyterians Respond to Flooding in the Texas Hill Country

This is an abridged version of an article by Mike Ferguson that you can read in its entirety at: <https://pcusa.org/news-storytelling/news/2025/7/5/presbyterians-respond-quickly-and-compassionately-rapid-flooding-texas-hill-country>

Destructive fast-moving waters along the Guadalupe River rose 26 feet in just 45 minutes before dawn on [July 4, 2025]. At least one Presbyterian was among the many who tragically died in the floodwaters. Jane Ragsdale, a ruling elder at [First Presbyterian Church of Kerrville](#), died in the flooding. She was camp director at [Heart O' the Hills Camp for Girls](#) in Hunt, Texas.

[Mo-Ranch is a beloved Presbyterian Conference center in the Texas Hill Country.] Many of Mo-Ranch's 83 full-time staff have been finding ways to help their Kerrville neighbors affected by the floodwaters.

The Rev. Kathy Lee Cornell, the Synod of the Sun's disaster response manager, said the floodwaters have impacted both Mission and [Tres Rios](#) presbyteries. Cornell said conversations are underway with [Presbyterian Disaster Assistance](#) over sending an emotional care team into the affected area. "We want to pay attention to how folks are processing and grieving this event," she said. "We are monitoring, and we will share any information we learn and provide resources when they are needed."

The president of Schreiner University in Kerrville, Dr. Charlie McCormick, reported the university lodged some campers who had to be evacuated. Staff "created a space where some very fragile girls who had been through hell could find peace and a place to sleep," McCormick said in an email. "Throughout the night they kept watch, managing the despair of families desperately seeking information on their missing loved ones and the extraordinary reunion of each camper with her family. Some 50 first responders stayed on campus that evening, too, grabbing a few hours of sleep before leaving again for the rescue and recovery work."

Go [here](#) to donate to disaster relief for U.S. flooding. Funds in this account will help communities' overall relief and recovery efforts associated with flooding to include assessments, clean-up efforts, and rebuilding. Your prayers and faithful giving are deeply appreciated.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



The next publication of the Oracle will be for October. Submissions for the **October 2025 Oracle** are due **Monday, September 15th**.

Email your submissions to mspcoffice@gmail.com.

Please limit your articles to 300 words or fewer.





Mountain Shadows'
Summer office hours are:
Monday through Thursday
9:00 am to 1:00 pm.
Closed Fridays





August 2025



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Office Closed	2
3	4	5	6	7	8 Office Closed	9
10 10:00 In-person/ Zoom Worship	11	12	13	14	15 Office Closed; postmark deadline, women's re- treat registra- tion	16
17 10:00 In-person/ Zoom Worship	18	19	20	21	22 Office Closed	23 BIG EVENT Az Presbyteries at Northminster Church
24 10:00 In-person/ Zoom Worship	25	26	27	28	29 Office Closed	30
31 10:00 In-person/ Zoom Worship: HYMN SING!				 <p>Mountain Shadows' Summer office hours are: Monday through Thursday 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. Closed Fridays</p>		

September 2025



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Note: Pastor Rachel will take some study leave in September. Preachers to be announced!	1 	2	3	4 10:00 Finance Mtg 2:45 Choir Rehearsal	5	6
7 10:00 Communion Worship; Hospitality after worship resumes.	8 6:00—OV Jazz Rehearsal	9	10 1:00 Session	11 2:45 Choir Rehearsal	12	13
14 10:00 In-person/ Zoom Worship	15 Oracle Articles Due 6:00—OV Jazz Rehearsal	16	17	18 2:45 Choir Rehearsal	19	20
21 10:00 In-person/ Zoom Worship	22 6:00—OV Jazz Rehearsal	23	24	25 2:45 Choir Rehearsal	26	27
28 10:00 In-person/ Zoom Worship	29 6:00—OV Jazz Rehearsal	30	<div>  <p>Mountain Shadows Church's Non-Summer Office Hours: Monday through Friday 9:00 am to 1:00 pm.</p> </div>			



3201 E. Mountaineer Dr.
Tucson, AZ 85739
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.



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.

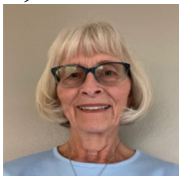
Ministry news items to be included in the *Oracle* are due to Office Manager Judy Leonard by the 15th of the month prior to the forthcoming newsletter. The next *Oracle* due date is **Friday, November 14th**. Ministry announcements to be included in a week's congregational email may be sent to Judy by 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



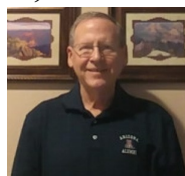
Karen Koopmans
Co-Moderator



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???*

+++++

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!

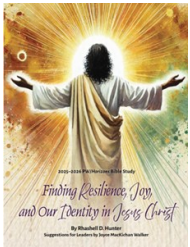
PLEASE call, text, or send me an email if you would like more information about joining our Music Ministry! **WE NEED YOU!** 520-982-2437 bcdame@comcast.net

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 interment 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



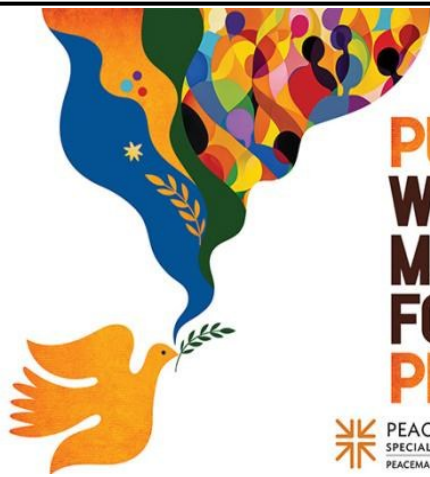
The next publication of the Oracle will be for December/January. Submissions for the **December/January Oracle** are due **Friday, Nov. 14th.**

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.



PURSUE WHAT MAKES FOR PEACE.



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.

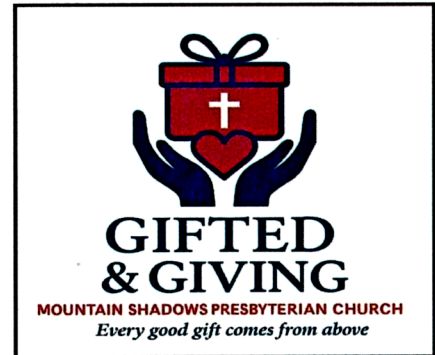
My/Our 2026 Commitment: \$_____/per week, or
 \$_____/per month, or
 \$_____/per year

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

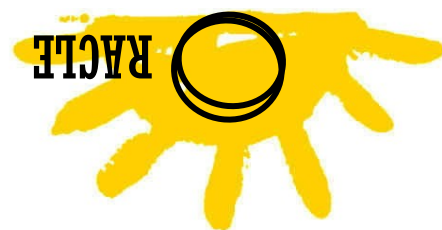
Email: _____



_____ 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.



3201 E. Mountaineer Dr.
Tucson, AZ 85739
Phone: 520-825-7858
FAX: 520-825-7860
Email: MountainShadowsOffice@gmail.com
Website: www.mountainshadowschurch.org

Centered in Christ, Caring for Community

Presbyterian Church

Mountain Shadows

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



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.

The Circling Years



*God of our life, through all the circling years, we trust in you;
In all the past, through all our hopes and fears,
your hand we view. With each new day, when morning lifts the
veil, we own your mercies, Lord, which never fail.*

“God of Our Life,” hymn lyric by Hugh Thompson Kerr

**Advent...Christmas... Epiphany...December...
2025... January...2026... The circling years go on.**

Season’s Greetings to the people of Mountain Shadows Presbyterian Church from Pastor Rachel. Have you ever wondered how the Christian church schedules its special celebrations and its ordinary times? Did you know that Advent, the season of expectation, hope, and preparation leading to Christmas, signifies a new year in the Christian calendar even before January begins? If these “timely” questions interest you, **I invite you to join me for *The Circling Year*, a two-part Adult Faith Formation series in the season of Advent.**

Part 1: On Thursday, December 11th from 1:00 until 2:30 in Room 3, I’ll offer a class on the meanings of the Christian calendar. We’ll explore the rhythms, histories, symbols, and cycles that guide the church’s scripture readings and holy days, and the colors that signify sacred seasons.

Part 2: On Thursday, December 18th from 1:00 until 2:30 in Room 3, I’ll facilitate a conversation about the Advent aspect of a book titled *Living the Christian Year: Time to Inhabit the Story of God* by Bobby Gross. Whether you're familiar or unfamiliar with following the seasons of the Christian year, this book explores the significance and history of each season, ideas for living out God's Story in your own life, and devotions that follow the church calendar for each day of the year. **Interested? Ready to add this Advent series to your calendar? Sign-up at church to participate. Those able to commit to the December 18th class will receive a no-cost copy of the book.**

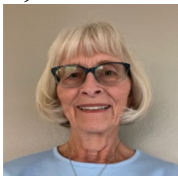
Advent & Christmas Worship Services. Throughout December, we’ll gather at 10:00 on Sunday mornings to sing, learn, pray, and proclaim our way to Bethlehem, Christ’s birthplace. **On Sunday, December 21, The Christmas Joy Offering will be received to support past and future Presbyterian leaders.** <https://pcusa.org/special-offerings/christmas-joy-offering>

Christmas Eve: Lessons, Carols, Candlelight & Cookies! On Wednesday, December 24th at 3:00 p.m., our worship service celebrating Christ’s coming will include carols, candlelight, and marvelous music, and the great news that God is with us now and in all the seasons of our lives. Following the service, stick around to enjoy some cookies! **If you can, bring a plate of cookies to share.**

Yours in Christ, *Pastor Rachel Srubas*

Mountain Shadows Presbyterian Church's Currently Serving Deacons:

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



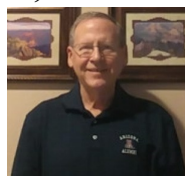
Karen Koopmans
Co-Moderator



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.

- Deacons practice confidentiality.
- Deacons practice kindness.
- Deacons listen to your joys and your sorrows and pray for you.

Every member and regularly attending friend of our church is part of a mini-parish and is prayed for regularly by one of our deacons. If you would like to reach out to your deacon for support but don't know who they are, you may email Judy Leonard, Office Manager, at mspcoffice@gmail.com or call 520-825-7858.



Angel Tree News

We thank you for your generosity and enthusiastic participation in our Angel Tree project this year. Pete and Sandy Quinozez of Bridge Prison Ministry will be picking up our gifts for children of incarcerated parents after December 7. Please include Pete and Sandy, the moms and dads, and the children in your prayers this season.

If you would like to help wrap the many gifts that have been collected from the community, join our group and energetic high school students on Saturday, December 13, 9 AM to Noon, at Pusch Ridge Christian Academy, 9500 N. Oracle Rd. You can sign up on the ramada to car pool from church.

Everyone is also invited to the Angel Tree Christmas Party and Gift Giveaway Saturday, December 20, 1-3:30 PM, at Unleashed Christian Church, 265 W. Valencia Rd. They need volunteers as greeters and helpers for the children's activities. Or just come to watch the fun.

See the sign-up sheet on the ramada.

Reminder: Please return your Angel and gifts no later than Sunday, December 7. If you wish to donate cash or checks (designated for Angel Tree in the memo), please place in the offering plate to be used for gifts or gift cards.

Karen Koopmans, Deacons Co-Moderator

GATHERING

FRIENDSHIP Ministry



The Friendship Ministry Team has listened to your requests to bring back Table of Friends.

This favorite annual activity of Mountain Shadows brings parishioners together during the months of January through 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 will notify the group members about the first get together in January. In addition, an email will go out to all members in each group in early January to get you started. At the first meeting you’ll become acquainted and together plan your next three 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 continue on the following Sundays in 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.

- December 7
- December 14

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

WORSHIP & MUSIC



O Come, O Come Emmanuel....

Pray with the Handbell Ringers as they begin each Sunday Worship during Advent with “O Come, O Come Emmanuel.” As you listen, silently sing the words of the ancient “O Antiphons” that appear in this familiar hymn. (O Come Emmanuel, O Come Thou Wisdom, O Come Thou Lord of Might, O Come Thou Root of Jesse, O Come Thou Key of David).

The repeated use of the imperative "Come!" expresses the longing of **all** for the Divine Messiah.

Continued

Worship & Music — CONTINUED

Christmas Eve: For our 3:00 pm worship service, we are planning unique music for the choir and instrumentalists. I have chosen an anthem arranged by one of our favorite composers, Elaine Hagenberg, Wexford Carol! You might remember this as an old simple hymn. This arrangement is exquisite. The introduction begins with the Flute & Violin dancing with each other before the choir joins in the ballet! The other instruments help build a glorious ending!

The Music Ministry of Mountain Shadows hopes to enhance your prayer life with the addition of gentle choir, instrumental, handbell, and soloists during worship. Join my “Hymn n Bell” Worship Contest! What are the names of the hymns that you heard bells ringing?

PLEASE - It is never too late to join our music ministry! Start this new church year singing, playing handbells or an instrument with us! **ALL ARE WELCOME!** Talk to me after worshipping any Sunday! Beware – If I find out **you** are even slightly interested - your name, phone number, and email will be on MY forever LIST!

Here is a simple prayer for Advent that follows the imagery of the O Antiphons.

Come, Jesus Christ, our savior—

teach us your way,

lead us to freedom,

grow in our lives,

open our minds,

shine in our actions,

rule in our hearts,

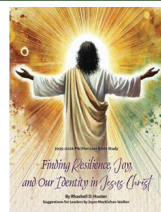
be with us here, now, always. (Taken from the PCUSA Resource Guide)

Choir Rehearsals: THURSDAYS from 2:45-4pm in the Sanctuary

- **Instrumental Rehearsals:** THURSDAYS from 3:45-4:30 pm in the Sanctuary & as scheduled with Music Director.
- **Handbell Rehearsals:** MONDAY Nov. 30 & Dec 1 from 3:30-4:30 in RM 2/3!
- **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



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 Dec - March on Tuesday afternoons at 1:00 pm; We will study the book *Finding Resilience, Joy, and Our Identity in Jesus Christ*, by Rhashell D. Hunter. We welcome Marilynn Collins and Dorothy G as leaders this year. If you are interested, please contact Dorothy or Marilynn. Their contact information may be found in the church directory.

TENDING

SESSION of MOUNTAIN SHADOWS, Report from Session Clerk Jeff Mague



October & November 2025 Session Meetings

The activities during the October and November 2025 regular meetings of the Session were:

1. The Session met with Ruth McPherson, representing the Presbytery de Cristo Commission on Ministry. We participated in a constructive 90-minute conversation with Ruth regarding the life and health of Mountain Shadows. Her report to the Presbytery mentioned our ongoing enthusiasm and intentional welcoming of visitors to the church, as well as our numerous mission projects and high level of volunteerism.
2. The Session approved the transfer of membership of Joyce and Ed Artman to the First Presbyterian Church of Kalamazoo, MI.
3. The Session started working on the 2026 budget.
4. The report of the records review by the Presbytery de Cristo was briefed to the Session, with no exceptions noted.
5. The Session welcomed Karen Thomas as a transferred active member from Rochester, NY.
6. The Session endorsed Ruling Elder Madeline Bosma as a candidate possibly to represent the Presbytery de Cristo as its commissioner to the upcoming 227th 2026 General Assembly.
7. The Session approved updates to two church policies.
8. The Session 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 Srubas or Minister of Care, Laura Munroe.

SHEPHERDING

Directory Update - from the Shepherding Ministry Team

The updated Directory for your Smart phone is finally available without bugs. The first time you logon, you need to follow specific steps.

Once you have downloaded the updated App. Online Member Directory from your App Store :

1. Click the option labeled "**First time login from old system.**"
2. Next, You will be prompted to search for your old account via

- Your First Name - **Required:**
- Your Last Name - **Required:**
- Your Old username or Email Address are not required but can be helpful to find your record.



Continued


3. **Confirm Identity:** Once your record is found, review the displayed information to ensure it is you. Click "**Yes, this is me**" to proceed.
4. Follow the prompts to migrate your account. Upon completion, you'll be logged into the member directory.

If you would like assistance in getting set up on your smart phone, members of the Shepherding team will be available after church starting in January to help. A signup sheet will be made available next week to get your slot:). It only takes about 5 minutes or less to get updated.

Hopefully, we will all be back to accessing our Directory with ease soon!

Karen Thomas, Shepherding Ministry Team Moderator

FACILITIES

 The facilities team is working to identify areas that need repairs as well as budgeting for 2026. We have plans for landscaping improvements and are looking at improving our pest control activities. I am working with the finance committee on budget preparation, and we are getting quotes to identify long range needs and costs that we need to plan for. We are reviewing the need for parking lot resurfacing, air conditioning replacement, and other types of major maintenance work.

If you have any suggestions or needs, please contact me, or any of the Facility team members: Ron Anderson, Karl Kuehlwein, Hooker Lowe, Susan Ruffini and Paul Butler.

Chris Maitin, Facilities Co-Moderator

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				
October 2025	----- October Actual	2025 Year-to-Date Actual	----- Year-to-Date Budget	2024 Year-to-Date Actual
Regular Offerings	\$ 18,286	\$ 219,588	\$ 237,070	\$ 209,066
Other Income	631	8,057	3,593	10,089
Total Income	\$ 18,918	\$ 227,646	\$ 240,664	\$ 219,155
Total Expense	\$ 23,030	\$ 229,390	\$ 240,415	\$ 231,386
Income less Expense	\$ (4,112)	\$ (1,745)	\$ 248	\$ (12,231)

Judy Mague, Treasurer



An Offering Reminder

Please remember to complete your 2025 financial commitment. The final deposit for 2025 will be done on December 31st. **ALL contributions need to be received by the church office by December 30th** in order to be included on your 2025 Contribution Statements. Your help and generous gifts are always appreciated.

GIVING

CHRISTIAN GENEROSITY



Gifted & Giving: A Christian Generosity Commitment Update

The Gala was Great! The Gifted & Giving Gala in November kicked off the season of Christian Generosity in a fun and festive way. Many kudos to all the people who contributed time and talent to produce a spirited celebration of our gifted congregation.

Thank you! As of this newsletter's due date, Mountain Shadows' congregants have committed \$236,834 to sustain our ministries through 2026. We are truly grateful.

Good news! The commitments we've received to date represent over 78% of Mountain Shadows' total anticipated operating budget for 2026. We're well on our way to funding the ministries, mission, and maintenance we hope to accomplish in 2026.

The Budget's Background. In 2025, Mountain Shadows' operating budget totaled \$288,679. We anticipate the cost of doing ministry in 2026 will increase to \$301,000.

Generosity Comes in Many Forms. Some congregants support our church financially without making a formal commitment. Some of us give gifts that are musical, or spiritual, or practical. By all gifts and offerings, we are enriched. For all expressions of generosity, we are grateful. Thanks to God's abundant provisions channeled through our lives, we co-create a community of faith where people find welcome, compassion, worship, friendship, and the joy and challenge of the Gospel.

There's Still Time to Commit! If you wish to make a financial commitment to support Mountain Shadows' ministries in 2026, it's not too late. You can pick up a commitment card in the church entryway. Or you can submit a commitment electronically. Email mshpcoffice@gmail.com for information. Again, thank you.

All generous giving and every perfect gift is from above. —James 1:17

"It seemed to me that the people who were genuinely thriving in their lives were the ones who had made room for well-being, wisdom, wonder and giving."

—Arianna Huffington
...a thought from the Legacy Ministry

LEGACY

What do you think of when you come across the word “Legacy”?

Some might think of financial gifts in support of things important to the giver, whether to organizations or relatives, with or without specific purposes in mind.

Others first think of passing along their values or what is important to them. This can be thought of as an Ethical Will. We are reminded of God’s message in Deuteronomy 6: *⁵ Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. ⁶ These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. ⁷ Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.*

Those who include a church or faith organization in their bequest or by other planned giving means may do both: provide financial means to enable the organization to carry on the passions of their hearts.

The purpose of Mountain Shadows’ Legacy Ministry Team includes encouraging and promoting a continuing program of gifts and bequests. Members and supporters of Mountain Shadows Presbyterian Church can secure, strengthen, and extend the mission and ministry of the church now and in the future. Givers do this through financial support of mission projects and ministries and capital improvements that are not part of the normal operating budget.

We feel it is important to share the tangible and intangible legacies of the gifts that come about as a result of the legacy funds received.

To date, three distributions from Legacy funds have been approved by our Session. In 2019, MSPC provided sponsorship for a Community Health Conference, which included Pamela S. speaking about caregiving. In late 2019, Session approved using Legacy funds to pay for the hearing assistance loop to be installed in the sanctuary as it was being renovated in 2020.

Thirdly, we were thrilled to be asked to sponsor the recent Gifted and Giving Generosity Gala event in November 2025, to launch the Christian Generosity giving campaign with a flourish! At that fun event, about sixty people shared friendship and talents (known or newly shared), and refreshments.

When you’d like to learn more, talk to one of our Legacy Ministry members: Clair B, Dorothy G (moderator), Judy M, Liz W and Linda Z.

Annual Reports & the Annual Meeting

Written Annual Reports on Mountain Shadows’ ministries in 2025 are due to Office Manager Judy Leonard on Thursday, January 8th. Reports should be brief, clear, factual, informative, and

readily understandable by newcomers to our congregation. These will be published in the congregation’s 2025 Annual Report, to be distributed to all congregants prior to **the Annual Meeting of the congregation, which will take place on Sunday, January 25, 2026**, following worship and refreshments. All are welcome to attend. Active congregation members are eligible to be elected as, and to vote for nominees to serve as, Elders, Deacons, and Nominating Committee members.

MISSION & OUTREACH

Messages From the Mission Ministry Team

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

AIDs Walk

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. Sign up online at <https://saaf.org/events/aidswalk/> and register with our Mountain Shadows Presbyterian Church team. Contact Suzanne Pennington if you have any questions or need help. 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. You can leave them on the donation table on First Is for Food or Third Is For Threads Sundays.

INTERFAITH COMMUNITY SERVICES NEWS <https://icstucson.org>

Mountain Shadows is blessed to be 1 of the 120 Faith Partners with Interfaith Community Services. It was such fun on November 2nd to have Phil Lynn, ICS Coordinator for Faith Partners, deliver the peanut butter piñata we won by giving the most jars of peanut butter per capita for ICS' July Peanut Butter Party! Phil also brought information about the wonderful ways that ICS meets many needs in the Tucson area.

On Giving Tuesday, December 2nd, donations to icstucson.org will help to "Drive Away Hunger" through the ICS mobile food bank. See Kathy Moyer, our ICS liaison and volunteer, to learn you can volunteer and donate. It takes LOTS of volunteers and funds to make great things happen.

Here are some other specific ways to help Interfaith Community Services:

In **JANUARY**, Kathy will be collecting donations for the **Empty Bowls Silent Auction & Raffles** held in March. Please read on, on page 10...

To qualify for an ICS Empty Bowls auction or raffle donation, items must be new and valued over \$25. No used items! Art is no longer accepted because it is hard to sell and ends up having to be stored at year after year. Gift cards are always welcome because sell very quickly and for the most amount of money.

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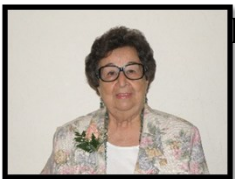
FEBRUARY is the annual “**LOTS A PASTA**” event. Start rounding up pasta plus CANS of spaghetti sauce to help build our “Pasta Tower of Power”!

EMPTY BOWLS is major fundraiser. Put **MARCH 7** on your calendar to attend this super event! There’ll be more information about it in the Feb-March *Oracle* newsletter.

FEEDING OUR NEIGHBORS

Mountain Shadows has stepped up to meet the increased needs of our hungry neighbors in Tucson, Oro Valley, Catalina, Mammoth, Oracle, San Manuel, and Dudleyville.

1. **Tri Community Food Bank:** A large carload of your “First Is for Food” donations are taken to the Tri-Community Food Bank every month to help those in Mammoth, Oracle, San Manuel, and Dudleyville. MSPC will be sending a monetary gift of \$500 from extra donations you have made to the Miscellaneous Mission Fund. Thank you!
2. **Cross Streets Community:** unhoused or food-insecure or migrant neighbors on the south side of Tucson are fed a hearty, hot meal every Monday and Friday morning. In addition to annual donations made directly to Cross Streets, several of us volunteer there regularly. A new ministry was developed to meet the increasing need. Each month, a team plans, shops for, and prepares the meal. During the summer, we packed “to go meals” with non-perishable foods. The monthly and to-go meals have been funded by some generous members and friends of Mountain Shadows.
3. **IMPACT of Southern Arizona:** We are IMPACT’s protein partner for April. In 2025, you donated over 600 12-oz cans of animal-based protein. Thank you!
4. **Interfaith Community Services:** You donated 101 cans of spaghetti sauce, 195 pounds of pasta, and 1,000 jars of peanut butter in 2025. Thank you!
5. **Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona:** during the government shut-down, Mountain Shadows was able to make a special donation of \$500 from gifts you made to the Miscellaneous Mission Fund. Once again, thank you for your generosity!






Remembering Julie Balogh, by Gay Russell

Julie Balogh, a native of Columbia, was my friend and neighbor in Sun City for over 25 years. She came to Mountain Shadows Presbyterian Church with me and then joined the church. Julie’s great passion was sewing garments for needy children. She worked tirelessly for Casa de Los Niños for over 20 years at the Sewing room at Sun City. She enlisted my help and we furnished garments for Casa and put on ticketed dinners to raise money. She brought that passion for sewing to Mountain Shadows by working on our mission project, “Little Dresses for Africa.”

A few years ago, Julie moved to assisted care at Desert Springs and could no longer sew for the children. But her bright, cheerful encouragement to all and her care for the children were constant. Julie passed from this life on Oct. 9, 2025. Her family has planned a private service. She will be missed and all who knew her have fond memories of her loving presence.




December 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 1:00 Legacy 3:30 Bell Rehearsal 6:00—OV Jazz Rehearsal	2	3	4 2:45 Choir Rehearsal	5	6 AIDs Walk
7 10:00 Communion Zoom Worship	8 3:30 Bell Rehearsal 6:00—OV Jazz Rehearsal	9 1:00 Women's Bible Study	10	11 10:00 Finance/Generosity 1:00 Advent Class 2:45 Choir Rehearsal	12 11:00 Mission Mtg 12:30 Deacon Mtg	13
14 10:00 In-person/Zoom Worship	15 6:00—OV Jazz Rehearsal	16 1:00 Friendship	17 1:00 Session	18 1:00 Advent Class 2:45 Choir Rehearsal	19	20
21 10:00 In-person/Zoom Worship Christmas Joy Offering	22 6:00—OV Jazz Rehearsal	23	24 3:00 Christmas Eve Worship: Lessons, Carols, Candle-light & Cookies	25  Christmas Day: Christ is Born!	26	27
28 10:00 In-person/Zoom Worship, Marilyn Collins preaching	29  6:00—OV Jazz Rehearsal	30	31		Office Manager, Judy Leonard, will be on vacation from Wed, Dec 24th through Friday, Jan 2nd. Normal office hours will resume on Monday, January 5th.	



January 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 No Choir Rehearsal Office Closed	2 Office Closed	3
4 10:00 Communion Zoom Worship	5 6:00— OV Jazz Rehearsal	6  <i>Epiphany</i>	7	8 2:45 Choir Rehearsal Annual Reports due	9 11:00 Mission Mtg	10
11 10:00 In-person/ Zoom Worship	12 6:00— OV Jazz Rehearsal	13 1:00 Women's Bible Study	14 1:00 Session	15 Feb/Mar Oracle Articles Due 2:45 Choir Rehearsal	16 11:00 Deacon Mtg	17
18 10:00 In-person/Zoom Worship	19 6:00— OV Jazz Rehearsal	20	21	22 1:30 Shepherding Mtg 2:45 Choir Rehearsal	23 1:00 Friendship	24
25 10:00 In-person/ Zoom Worship 11:00 Annual Mtg	26 6:00— OV Jazz Rehearsal	27 1:00 Women's Bible Study	28	29 2:45 Choir Rehearsal	30	31

ANNOUNCEMENTS



The next publication of the Oracle will be for February/March. Submissions for the February/March Oracle are due Wednesday, Jan. 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.



If you have not made your commitment for 2026 yet you may fill out the form below and either mail it to Mountain Shadows Presbyterian Church or drop it in the offering plate on Sunday. Your gifts and generosity is appreciated.

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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10:00a.m.

Fellowship and Refreshments

11:15a.m.

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