



In Touch

Fountain Hills Presbyterian Church

Phyliss Kern | Elder of Finance



As many of you know, financial stewardship is a vital part of maintaining a thriving church community. I currently serve as the Chairman of the Finance Committee for Fountain Hills Presbyterian Church.

I'm grateful to work alongside our dedicated

treasurer, Linda Lull. Our committee functions well together, and we remain focused on ensuring the financial health of our church.

Many of you will remember Pastor Bob Simmons, who served as our substitute pastor for three years. He brought valuable knowledge and insight, especially regarding the importance of giving. Giving is not just monetary—it also includes serving on committees, helping with church events, assisting

with coffee after services, supporting fellow members, and even simply being a good listener. All of this contributes to what it means to live as a faithful Christian.

As of this August, we are pleased to welcome our new pastor, Jim Rizer. I will continue to support our congregation and leadership team as we move forward together. I'm pleased to report that our church is currently in a very healthy financial position and is nearly debt-free.

Pastor Jim's goal, aligned with ours, is to continue leading us toward long-term financial stability. With your continued support, both spiritual and practical, we believe we can reach new heights together. Let us remain committed to building a full and thriving church home for all our members.

Thank you for your faithfulness!

Phyliss Kern, Elder of Finance

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Giving Back Through Generosity!
Back in November 2025!



**FOUNTAIN HILLS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**
The Heart of Fountain Hills for 50 Years

OUR STAFF**Pastor Jim Rizer**

pastorjim@fhpresby.org

Eric Williamson

office@fhpresby.org

Linda Lull*Treasurer***Debbie Fisher***Director of Music***Dorothy Parris** Pianist**Steve Trommer***Custodian***CHURCH SESSION****Jack Reynolds***Clerk of Session***Jackie Miles | Outreach****Jeff Rand | Administration****Jim Stewart | Bldg &****Grounds***Class of 2025***Phyllis Kern | Finance****Sandi Thompson |****Fellowship-Assimilation****Brendan Wagner | Mission***Class of 2026***Jack Morris | Personnel****MaryAnn O'Connor |****Worship & Music***Class of 2027***BOARD OF DEACONS****Barbara Hoverland****Matt Jefferson***Class of 2025***Jeannette Simmons***Class of 2026***Susan Titus, Moderator****Ilene Berg, Jean Linzer****Suzanne Ottoson***Class of 2027*

13001 N. Fountain Hills Blvd,
Fountain Hills, AZ 85268
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Focus on Finance | 2025

July Income	\$ 28,719	Budget	\$ 38,417
July Expenses	\$ 39,661	Budget	\$ 39,405
YTD Income	\$ 256,078	YTD Budget	\$ 268,919
YTD Expense	\$ 241,590	YTD Budget	\$ 277,337

Finance Report | Linda Lull, Treasurer

the fall.

July expenditures exceeded July income as a result of sending several budgeted donations from Missions, including a \$5,000 donation to Samaritan's Purse for the Texas and New Mexico floods. Overall we are still in a positive financial position, as a result of your generous pledges and contributions towards the ministry and missions of our church. We hope everyone had a wonderful summer and we look forward to seeing our Winter Residents returning in

FHPC eGiving is Safe and Easy

FHPC offers church members and supporters a convenient way to express their generosity online through our eGiving portal. To get started, sign up today at www.fhpresbyterian.info. Look for the Giving Box image at the top right or click "Giving" in the top menu.

You can also use the Vanco Mobile app to give directly from your phone. For instructions, please refer to the eGiving Help section.

**STAY CONNECTED WITH FHPC!**

Make sure you're getting our latest news and updates. Subscribe to our email list at:

www.fhpresbyterian.info

or contact the church office at **480-837-1763**

or office@fhpresby.org.

**Love God – Love People – Make Disciples**

From the Pastor's Pen | Pastor Jim Rizer



“THE HEART OF THE MATTER”

A few years ago, I knew a woman who suffered from bouts of extremely low blood pressure. At one point she described that it was like her heart would lose interest. Concerned about the potential impact of this she shared that she was hoping that her doctor would find some other problem. What if another organ or gland was the root of the problem? What if she changed her diet? She wanted it to be anything but the heart.

I wonder if we are not similar. As we confront the reality of our brokenness, we too long for it to be something other than our hearts. What if we adopted a new devotional regimen? What if we changed our “spiritual” diet? What if we redefine sin? What if we regulate our behavior with stricter principals or better laws?

Jesus addresses this wrestling as he unpacks what truly defiles a person.

²⁰ And he said, “What comes out of a person is what defiles him. ²¹ For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, ²² coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness. ²³ All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.”

Mark 7

The source of the uncleanness and brokenness is the heart. As much as we long for it to be something else the problem is the heart. This reality reminds us that the societal ills that we are facing; a contentious culture, festering anger, and racial injustice; need to be addressed at both the corporate level as well as the individual. In the larger arena we need wise change, but there is also a limit to what we can regulate with laws and mandates. The other change that is needed is individual heart change. This happens one heart at a time through the renewing and healing love of Christ.

Jesus wisely revealed the role of the heart in Matthew 5. Long before an act of murder there is sustained heart held hatred that was left untended. Long before the act of adultery there was a lustful heart. Without addressing the battlefield of the heart, we truncate the potential for true change. It is impossible for the unredeemed heart to achieve the loving, just society we desire. We must participate individually into the change that we anticipate.

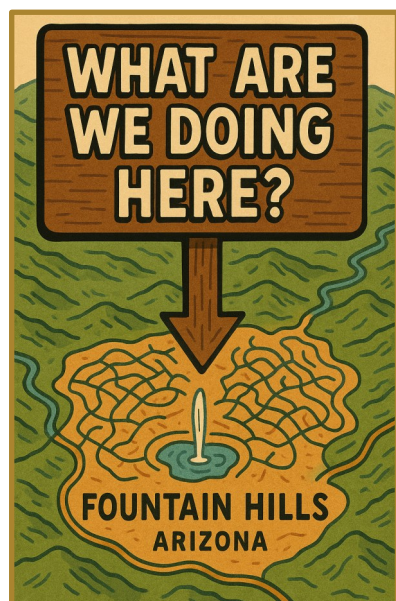
God, grant us the wisdom to see the reality in our hearts and match our passion for change outside of us with a fervent desire for you to change the inside of us. Amen.

Yours in Christ,

Jim Rizer



What Are We Doing Here?



The September sermon series will explore this question in several ways. We will begin by considering what we are doing in worship, then turn to what God wants for us individually and collectively.

- 9/7** What Are We Doing Here? | Worship
Psalm 100, Mark 14:22-26
- 9/14** What Are We Doing Here? | Knowing and Trusting
John 10:14, 27, John 17:20-21
- 9/21** What Are We Doing Here? | Discipleship/Christlikeness
Mark 8:34-35, Eph 4:15
- 9/28** What Are We Doing Here? | A God Family, An Odd Family
Eph 2:13-19, John 13:35

Bible Study: The Sermon on the Mount



“Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, ²and he began to teach them.”
Matthew 5:1-2

These opening words from the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7) remind us of the treasure that we have been entrusted with. After the calling of the first disciples, Jesus sits down and teaches them and the crowds about the inverted nature of the kingdom of God, the need to address the heart behind the action, how to pray, and the heart of the Father. These three

chapters are so rich that Dale Bruner writes, “To read the Sermon on the Mount is to discover what it means to be a disciple of Jesus; to read it with faith is to receive the power to be a disciple.” (Christbook, p. 132)”



Beginning **September 3** the Wednesday morning and evening Bible study will begin to walk through these chapters together. Bring your Bible, your curiosity, and a desire to discover more of the richness of the Sermon on the Mount.

Men's Bible Study

Don Carillo

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY



—Stay Tuned for September TBD— Men's Bible Study Group continues weekly every **Monday at 8:30am** in the Fireside Room. We hope to learn and gain a greater understanding of the New Testament and apply it to our daily lives.

If you have any questions, please contact Don Carillo at 480-694-3025 or carillofamily8@gmail.com. We would like to see our small but steady group grow and all are welcome to attend! Thanks, Don

Women's Bible Study

Janet Scaggs

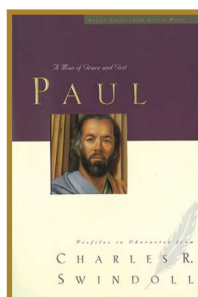


Dig into the Word! We're called to gather, connect, and be involved in ladies' bible study; study God's Word, to connect with other women, enjoy fellowship and sharing. The evening Women's Bible study will focus on women in the Bible. Each study is a stand-alone study so if you miss one, no worries, you will not be lost. Join us! **We anticipate meeting on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month.** Our start date and meeting location are yet to be determined. *Stay tuned!*

For more information or any questions, please contact Janet Scaggs janetscaggs@gmail.com.

Women's Morning Bible Study

Monique Reynolds



Thursday, October 9 | 9:30 AM
Fireside Room

Women's Morning Bible Study will recommence **Thursday morning October 9**. We will review Chapters 1-16 of our book *Paul, a Man of Grace and Grit* by Charles Swindoll. Please read Chapters 17 and 18 for discussion. For info call Monique 336-382-8733. See you then!

Women's Fellowship

M. Holtan & S. Titus



Friday, Sept. 19 | 10AM
Fireside Room

This will be a Women's Fellowship Planning meeting. We will plan our 2025/2026 events. For any questions, you may contact Susan at SLTitus@gmail.com.

Ladies' Drop-In

L. Katz & M. Berry



Every Tuesday | 10 AM
Fireside Room

Resumes on September 2
All ladies are invited to *drop-in* for fellowship, games, puzzles, and conversation.

Lunch & Lecture



Saturday, Sept. 13 & 27
12 PM | Fireside Room

Genesis
by Professor Gary Rendsburg, PHD
For any questions, you may contact Maria Berry 602-799-9982.

Men's Fellowship Bill Matty



Gentlemen: It's August and Fall is coming soon, so please mark your calendars for two important dates.

Our next regular breakfast meeting will be on **Saturday, Sept. 20** in the Fellowship Center, starting at 8:00 am.

Also, our church picnic is scheduled for **Saturday, Oct. 25**, at Golden Eagle Park behind the high school, and we will start planning for the picnic at our Sept. meeting. Enjoy the rest of your summer, and blessings to all.

Looking forward to seeing everyone soon.
Bill Matty 815-282-6024 bbmatty67@gmail.com

Out n' About Joyce Leo & Bonnie Matty



Out and About will be having their September luncheon at **noon** on **Wednesday, September 17**.

We will be gathering at the **Georgie's** at **16725 E Ave of the Fountains** in Fountain Hills.

Joyce Leo | 803-522-2889 or
Bonnie Matty | 815-260-5031 to **RSVP**.

Presby Pickins' Flea Market

Giving Back Through Your Generosity!

Help us continue our mission of supporting Fountain Hills Presbyterian Church ministry projects and community initiatives by donating to Presby Pickins' Flea Market! We're currently accepting a wide variety of items for our upcoming markets.

We graciously accept donations of household items, tools, children's toys, jewelry, games, electronics, and more. **Please note that we are unable to accept donations of furniture or clothing.**

Donations can be dropped off at the church during business hours (Monday – Thursday from 9am-3pm) or by appointment by calling our church office at (480) 837-1763. For coordinating larger donations, please contact Shawn Uphoff directly at 480-794-0872. Donation receipts are available upon request.

Your donated items are sold at our "Church Tables" by dedicated volunteers, with all proceeds directly



benefiting our Presby Pickins' mission. To discover more about how the Market creates positive change within our church and the wider community, visit our website: <https://www.fhpresbyterian.info/ppgives>.

Thank you for your continued support and generosity!!

The Presby Pickins' Team

Support Our Troops | Donna Sims



Time has continued to pass while I have been laid up in recovery from surgery and I am eternally grateful for the help I have received so our military/homeless veterans ministry could continue in my absence. Many thanks to Barbara Hoverland who has on a regular basis brought over to my garage the donations that had come in

on Sunday mornings and during the week. Many thanks to Eric in his helping her gather the donations.



The month of September begins my tradition of getting everything prepared for our annual Christmas card program featuring handwritten notes to our Church-connected military. In order to get to the appropriate time to mail out the cards, a lot of work needs to be done, like stuffing envelopes with the notepads for members and friends to write the notes. Next step is to place the list of names of the recipients in each envelope. The next step is to prepare all the envelopes to be passed out to those willing to write handwritten notes. The next step is to gather all the envelopes with notes to be placed in individual Christmas cards that had been gathered, hopefully addressed correctly, and ready to be mailed on two different dates, to those who are deployed and then to those who are stationed stateside. The envelopes with the notepads will be passed around beginning the first or second Sunday of October and the second Sunday in November is usually the deadline to return your notes back to me or leave in the office.

During all of this Christmas card preparation time, donations still need to be collected to help our homeless military and veterans. Please remember as you do so, kindly think of donations of toiletries, our most needed items. With the fall season soon upon us, we return to the collection of warmer wear clothing, like long sleeved tshirts and jackets, hats and caps, socks and shoes, bedding and other such items.

Please remember that our Veterans and Troops Ministry is year-round and it never stops. We are always happy to see Church members and friends from our community placing items in our collection box, located in the Narthex on the East side, in the basket out front as you enter the Church and in the Church office. Thanks again to all of you who bring in donations to help make our military ministry a fabulous success.

Donna Sims,
Mission Committee

Library Footnotes | Ilene Berg



"The Chosen"

This popular television series has gathered praise from critics and fans alike for its historical and biblical accuracy. DVDs are available in separate boxed sets for seasons 1-4 to borrow from the church library.

The DVDs were donated in loving memory of Evelyn Hrunek by friends who shared 7 years of monthly Bible study and a cherished relationship.

Whether you're new to "The Chosen" or revisiting it, the series offers a powerful and moving portrayal of the life of Jesus and His followers. We encourage you to explore these episodes, reflect on their message, and share the experience with others in our faith community.

Just for Fun (and Faith!)



ACROSS

2. _____ and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven.
5. Blessed are the _____, for they will see God.
6. Blessed are those who _____ after righteousness.
7. Blessed are the _____, for they will receive mercy.
8. Blessed are the _____, for they will inherit the earth.
9. Blessed are those who _____, for they will be filled.

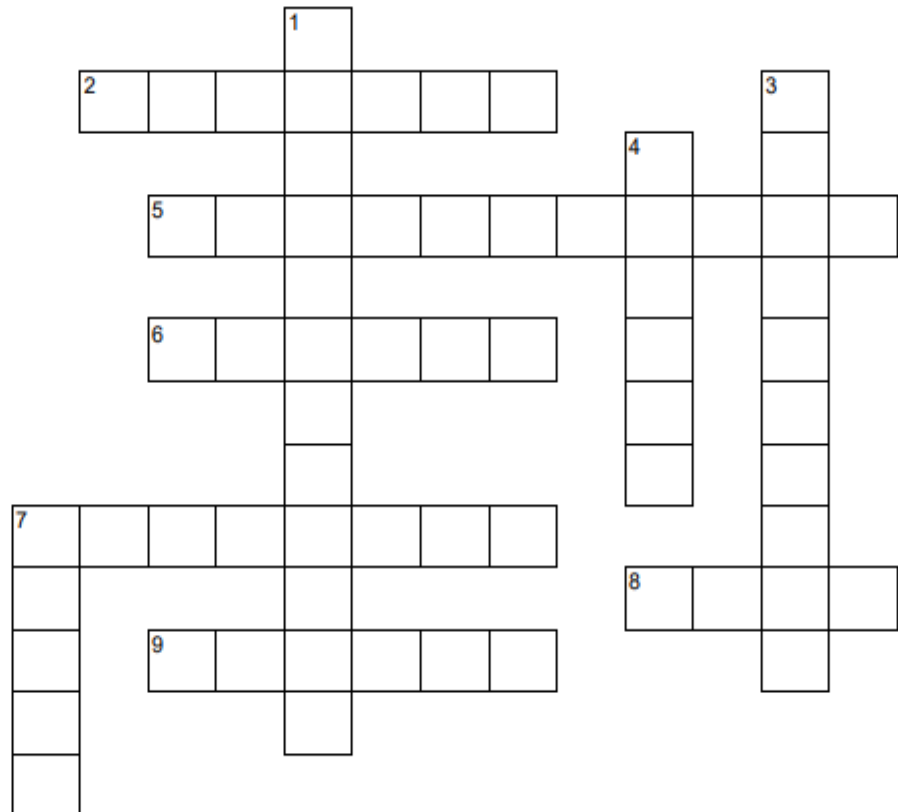


BEATITUDES

Fill in the blanks below to complete the crossword. Answers are based on Matthew 5:1-13, New International Version.

DOWN

1. Blessed are the _____, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
3. Blessed are those who are _____ for righteousness' sake.
4. Great is your _____ in heaven.
7. Blessed are those who _____, for they will be comforted.



Music Ministry | Debbie Fisher



Welcome to September!

I am Looking Forward to the return of the **CELEBRATION SINGERS** within our worship experience! We have a great time together in creating the sound that fills our sanctuary. We will

resume our **Thursday rehearsals** in the sanctuary on **SEPTEMBER 18**. We rehearse at 4:30 p.m., then again at 8:00 a.m. on **Sunday morning**. We welcome any newcomer into our choir, so if you are willing to join in with us, show up on Thursday and we will have a folder ready for you. If you haven't read any music in awhile, don't worry, it comes back to you. So will your voice after a bit of warming up. It is so healthy for you to sing, taking in the deep breaths to sustain your sound, letting your vocal cords vibrate and activate your vagus nerve. Think about it, won't you?

We are reviving our **CELEBRATION RINGERS** for our worship. We will resume

rehearsals on **Wednesday, SEPTEMBER 24**, in the Sanctuary at 4:30PM.

We need ringers! I can teach you! It is a most lovely instrument, one that is so unique. Please consider joining us! You will love the sound, and the workout!

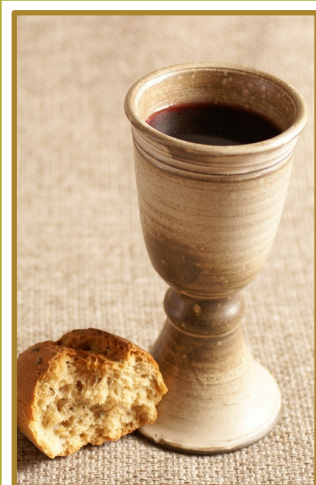
It definitely lifts your spirit!

"How good it is when God's people live together in unity!"
-Psalm 133:1

Blessings,
Debbie Fisher
Director of Music Ministries
Fountain Hills Presbyterian Church ECO



Extended Communion



Fountain Hills Presbyterian Church is offering **Extended Communion** at the homes of interested congregants following the regular Communion service on the first Sunday of each month.

If you are unable to get to church and would like to receive Communion at home, simply call the church office at (480) 837-1763 and ask to be added to the Extended Communion list.

Please call no later than the Monday prior to the first Sunday of the month.

A Deacon will call you a couple of days prior to the service to confirm that you still want to receive Communion on that Sunday, and an Elder, Deacon, or both will visit you following the regular 9 a.m. service to serve Communion.

—The FHPC Board of Deacons

Sharing Our Gifts



At FHPC, we are continually inspired by the ways our congregation shares their God-given gifts—our talents, time, and treasure—to advance God's work and spread His love. As 1 Peter 4:10 reminds us, "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others." Every act of generosity, no matter the size, enriches our church community and demonstrates our shared commitment to making a meaningful difference.

We want to hear your stories about how you or others are sharing these gifts. Whether it's through volunteering, supporting church initiatives, or making an impact in the community, your experiences can inspire and uplift others. Please email your stories to office@fhpresby.org to be featured in our upcoming In Touch newsletter.

Celebrate with Flowers: Honor, Memorialize, and Cherish

Honor your loved ones or celebrate special occasions by dedicating flowers in the Sanctuary. Each week, beautiful arrangements are created and available for a fee of \$35, which can be taken home after Sunday Worship.

When you dedicate flowers to honor or memorialize someone, or to celebrate a significant event, your dedication will be announced during the Welcome portion of the service and included in The Weekly. To order flowers, simply sign up in the book located in the narthex or call the church office.

The \$35 fee covers the cost of flowers, which are thoughtfully purchased and arranged by our dedicated volunteers—no commercial florist could provide such generous support. You are welcome to take the flowers home after the service, allowing you to cherish these special moments.



September Birthdays

2	Beverley Mills	15	Leslie
3	Marilyn Humes		Hermansen
4	Greg Fisher	15	Stephen
4	William		Hoffman
	Quigley	22	Susan Ray
9	Bradley Kern	28	Tom Taylor
10	Barbara		
	Hoverland		
12	Bonnie Matty		
14	Louis		
	Meeuwenberg		

2025 Necrology

With Heartfelt Sympathy

Gerry Carroll

Evelyn Hranek

Fountain Hills Presbyterian Church Foundation



Are You Looking for a Way to Do Good?

The FHPC Foundation solicits, invests and subsequently disburses planned gifts from members and friends to ensure the future needs of the church and its ministries.

FHPC Foundation NEEDS your pledges, bequests, cash or check donations, endorsed stocks and bonds, IRA transfers, Qualified Minimum Distributions, real estate proceeds, trust fund designation, and why not tithe your insurance policy or estate???

Whatever you can give will be gratefully accepted. We can help you with the pledge form – call today!

Foundation Trustees

Matt Jefferson, Chairman
Linda Lull, Treasurer

Mary Holtan
Bill Matty

Roy Nickel
Susan Titus

The FHPC Foundation is registered as a 501[c][3] non-profit organization. Contributions are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law. The Foundation's tax ID number is 46-2970452

Biblical Garden



Visit our Biblical Garden, located at the very heart of our campus. Before embarking on your tour, explore the fascinating variety of plants featured in the Garden.

Learn about their significance and historical context online at www.fhpresbyterian.info/biblical-garden or pick up a brochure in the office for more information.

Columbarium



The Columbarium provides a final resting place for the mortal remains of members and friends. Along with the urn niches, there is a Wall of Remembrance, a waterfall and memorial benches, providing a lovely place for prayer and meditation. It is managed by the Columbarium Trustees, a committee of our church corporation. A trust fund insures proper maintenance and perpetual care of the area.

U.S. Military Medallions are available for Veterans' columbarium niches. Please contact the church office for more information.





Thanks to the generosity of our members, we raised over \$2,000 and collected almost 50 cases of water during this year's Code Red Water Drive to benefit Phoenix Rescue Mission. I will be able to give a more accurate accounting next month.

When the Mission Committee reconvenes after the Summer Break, an additional donation will be decided on as well.

Our Membership is so generous and gives to many causes. The Mission Committee works hard to spread your generosity to benefit as many individuals as possible and I know that Phoenix Rescue appreciates our efforts in this drive.

'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'
Matthew 25:40

Yours In Christ,
Brendan Wagner

Social Media | Live Streaming

Facebook Page:

www.facebook.com/fhpresbyterianchurch/



View Sunday **worship** and read current posts about FHPC. Be sure to "Like" our page to get posts directly in your News-feed.



YouTube Channel:

www.youtube.com/@fhpresbyterianchurch



View Sunday worship here under "Live." Subscribe to our Channel to receive notifications of upcoming LIVE services.

SUBSCRIBE

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Friday – Sunday: Closed
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