



In Touch

Fountain Hills Presbyterian Church

Pastor Jim Rizer | Training in the New Year



Every January there is a spike in health club memberships and in utilization, at least for a few weeks. The new year is an appropriate time to take an assessment of our lives and a new opportunity to make some changes.

New diets will start to correct for Christmas cookies and figgy pudding. Fresh exercise regimes will begin to better ensure that this year, although we may continue to grow up, we don't necessarily grow out. New budgets will be developed to either stem Christmas spending or to achieve revised goals.

As we ponder changes we desire in 2026, we are encouraged to consider an important area. "Train yourself for godliness; for while bodily training is of some value, godliness is of value in every way, as it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come." (1 Timothy 4:7-8)

This passage acknowledges the value of exercise, and by extension diet and budgets, but calls us to appreciate the scope of impact of growing in godliness and the lasting nature of these blessings.

The further we are shaped into Christlikeness, the more that love, joy, peace, patience and the rest of the fruits of the Spirit bless the entirety of our lives and the lives of all those that we are connected to. Growing in godliness makes us better disciples, better spouses, better parents/grandparents, better employees, and better neighbors.

Unlike many of the traditional New Year's resolutions, training in godliness brings growth and blessings that extend past this life and into our eternal life. Christian character developed is a blessing now and in the kingdom to come.

This year as you consider how you'd like to mark 2026, I encourage you to make the change that will be a blessing in every direction: train in godliness.



**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

MaryAnn O'Connor
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

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
www.fhpresbyterian.info

Focus on Finance | 2025

November Income	\$ 38,985	Budget	\$ 38,417
November Expenses	\$ 42,976	Budget	\$ 40,505
YTD Income	\$ 405,433	YTD Budget	\$ 422,587
YTD Expense	\$ 405,853	YTD Budget	\$ 436,058

Finance Report | Linda Lull, Treasurer



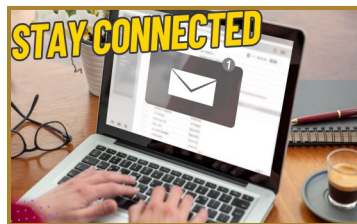
November expenses exceeded November income as a result of catching up with budgeted line items, some that generally occur later in the year. It's not too late to catch up on pledges and contributions, and if you haven't sent in your pledge for 2026, we are still accepting them. Thank you for your pledges and contributions towards the missions and operations of FHPC. We appreciate your commitment. The Finance team is wishing you a Very Merry Christmas and the happiest, prosperous, and healthy New Year.

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



Sermon Series: Discipleship Reset

SERMON SERIES

DISCIPLESHIP RESET

We will begin the new year with a new sermon series called “Discipleship Reset.” Like the Apostle Peter, we all tend to follow sporadically, and our walk often needs a reset or recalibration. This series will help clarify our understanding and refresh our discipleship journey.

- | | |
|---------|---|
| 1/4/26 | Refreshing Our Follow
John 21:15-19 |
| 1/11/26 | Discipleship Clarification
Mark 8:34-35 |
| 1/18/26 | Relationship & Purpose
Mark 3:13-19 |
| 1/25/26 | Women’s Sunday |

Bible Study: The Sermon on the Mount *continues*

Bible Study will resume on January 7. We will begin the month by finishing our walk through the Sermon on the Mount and then turn our attention to several questions about heaven.

JANUARY BIBLE STUDY

10AM—FIRESIDE ROOM

6PM—FELLOWSHIP CENTER

- | | |
|------------|--|
| January 7 | Sermon on the Mount
Matthew 7:13-20 |
| January 14 | Sermon on the Mount
Matthew 7:21-27 |
| January 21 | Heavenly Considerations
I Corinthians 15:50-58 |
| January 28 | Heavenly Considerations
Revelation 21:1-7 |



Clerk's Corner | Maryann O'Connor



As we stand at the threshold of a new year, I greet you with joy, gratitude, and hopeful expectation on behalf of the Session of Fountain Hills Presbyterian Church.

The turning of the calendar invites us to reflect on God's faithfulness in the year behind us and to look forward to what the Lord has in store. This past year has held moments of challenge and blessings, sorrow, and celebration. Through it all, we have witnessed God's steadfast love in our worship, service, fellowship and care for one another and our community.

2025 was a notable year. Our major accomplishment was selecting a new Pastor, Rev. Jim Rizer, and thanking Rev. Dr. Bob Simmons, and his wife Jeanette, who has been our Transitional Pastor for the last 3 years.

We helped various charities: such as; Phoenix Rescue Mission, Boys and Girls Club, Community House, and Samaritans Purse, and many more.

The session, on behalf of our entire congregation, extends its gratitude and appreciation to Jim Stewart, Jeff Rand, and Jackie Miles for their service to our church as they step down as seated elders.

Also, want to thank Jack Reynolds for his years of service as Clerk of Session.

As we enter a new year, the Session is pleased to welcome new elders, Dean Preising, Melinda Stanton, and Larry Cole.

In this new year, I encourage you to remain rooted in prayer, enriched by Scripture, and committed to loving service. Let us walk together in faith, supporting one another as the body of Christ.

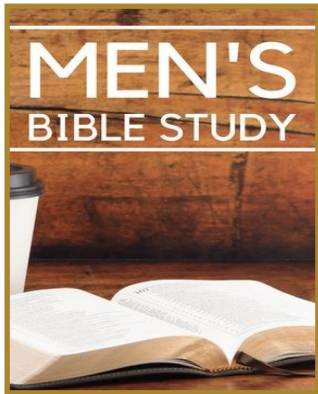
Wishing you a blessed and joy-filled New Year.

Maryann O'Connor - Clerk of Session

CHRISTMAS BRUNCH 2025 - 4th Advent Sunday - LOVE



Men's Bible Study



Men's Bible Study Group! Join us for our Men's Bible Study Group, **January 5 & 19** at **9:00 AM** in the **Fireside Room**. Together, we'll explore the New Testament and seek to apply its teachings to our daily

lives.

If you have any questions, please contact Don Carillo at 480-694-3025 or carillofamily8@gmail.com.

Men's Fellowship



Gentlemen: Seems like we just put up our church's Christmas decorations and now it's time to remove them. We'll be doing that this

Saturday, Jan.3, starting at **9:00 am**. Also, our next breakfast meeting will be the following **Saturday, Jan.10**, in the Fellowship Center beginning at **8:00 am**. Thanks guys and Happy New Year.

Bill Matty 815-282-6024 bbmatty67@gmail.com

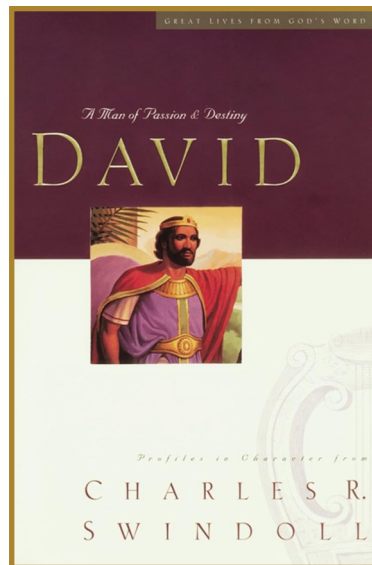
Ladies' Drop-In



**Every Tuesday | 10 AM
Fireside Room**

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

Women's Morning Bible Study



**Thursday,
January 8,
9:30 AM**

Fireside Room

We will start our new book today, *David: a Man of Passion and Destiny* by Charles Swindoll. Read chapters 1 and 2 for discussion. Join us as we get to know

“a man after God's own heart”.

For more information call Monique Reynolds at 336-382-8733.

Lunch & Lecture



**Saturday, January 10 & 24
12 PM | Fireside Room
Series on Genesis**

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

Out n' About

Out and About on **January 14th** will be at **Denny's**. Their address is **17053 E Shea Blvd.**

For reservations, please call: Joyce Leo at 803-522-2889 or Bonnie Matty at 815-260-5031



Support Our Troops | Donna Sims



As of this day in mid-December, I can happily say that I am almost completely done doing what all needs to be done on our Annual Christmas projects for our Church-Connected military members which began for me last September.

Always four months of doing my best to get

everything done. A total of 53 envelopes were taken to write the notes, and a total of 46 were returned. The Christmas cards full of the 46 notes were mailed last week and hopefully in plenty of time for happy faces to enjoy just before Christmas.

A trip to Packages From Home in Glendale was made just before Thanksgiving, with many warm items for deployed military, which consisted of sweat pants, long-sleeved t-shirts, socks, neck scarves, gloves, hats, toiletries and snacks, hopefully for nearly 20-25 soldiers. A nice handwritten note of thanks was received from Packages From Home CEO, thanking FHPC for the many needed items this time of year.

And next, hopefully, CBI (Community Brides, Inc.) will be able to come to my garage to pick up all the recent donations that have come in in the last few months for our local Veterans, many homeless, prior to Christmas. Along with the donations that many of our Church members and friends throughout the Community have made, funds from our Mission Committee helped to purchase many long-sleeved t-shirts, mats, toiletries and snacks which I am sure will make the recipients happy, and that's our goal, is to make our Veterans happy.

Thanks again to all who have helped and are continuing to help with the needed donations.

Please remember that our Veterans and Troops Ministry is year-round, 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 cart out front as you enter the Church and in the Church office. Thanks again for helping make our military ministry a continuing success and putting smiles on many Veteran's faces.

Donna Sims,
Mission Committee



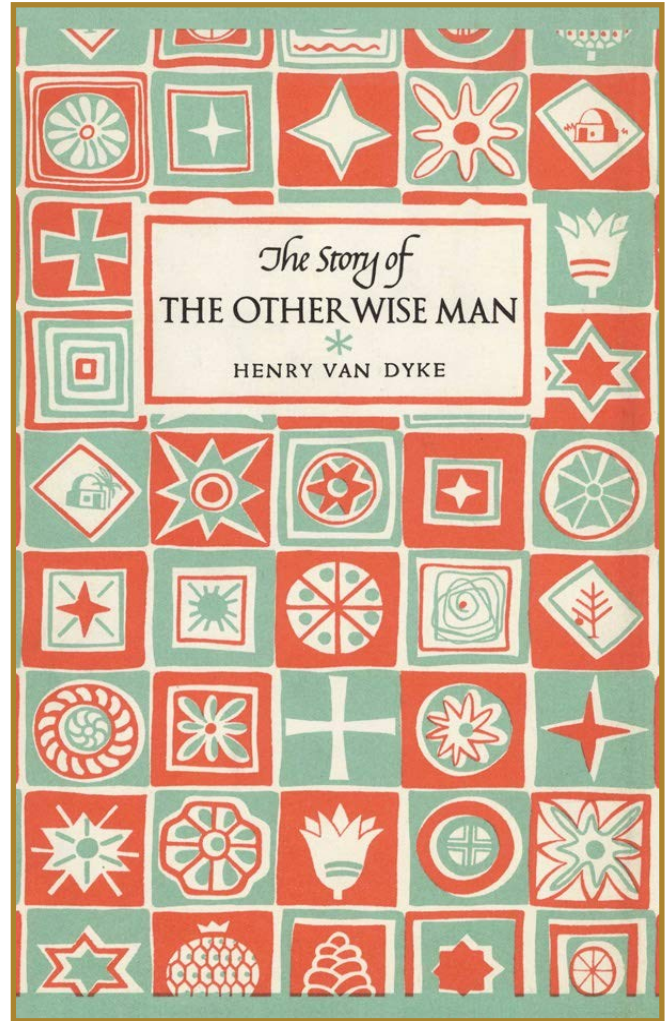
Library Footnotes | Barbara Oakeson



The Story of the Other Wise Man

I was fortunate to have recently run across a wonderfully satisfying short story that in its' brevity delivers a powerful message. This is true of *The Story of the Other Wise Man*, written more than a century ago by Henry

Van Dyke. Van Dyke tells the reader that he had always loved the tales of the Three Wise Men; one day the story of this fourth Wise Man came to him "out of the air, perhaps... It was a gift." And it is a gift that we can be thankful he shared with us. The main character Artaban belonged to the ancient priesthood of the Magi. He is to join the other three Wise Men at an appointed time following the appearance of a certain shining star in the night sky. They will journey together to honor the birth of their King. His journey is one of sacrifice and service to mankind. Will he in the end reach his destination? You have to read this beautiful, moving story to find out. This tale is one that would touch anyone that struggles with the question of whether or not they are on the right path. A perfect little book for the holiday season and the days thereafter as we move from the biblical story of

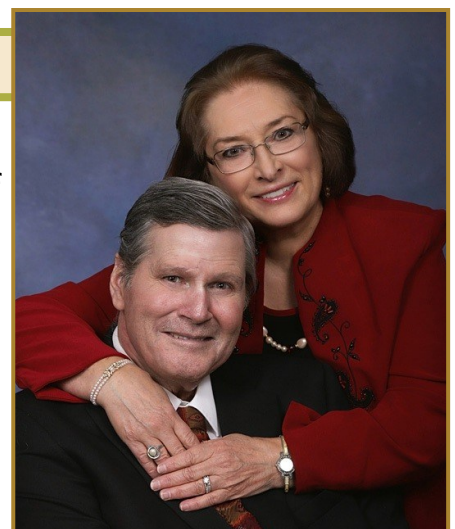


Christ's birth to the appearance of the three wise men.

-Barbara Oakeson

Farewell to Pastor Ken Brown & Margie

What a wonderful brunch and program to say goodbye to Pastor Ken Brown and his wife, Margie. They will be deeply missed by all of us at FHPC. Their leadership, kindness, and faithful service have touched countless lives and strengthened our church family in so many ways. A heartfelt thank you to the Deacons and Hilltop for organizing such a meaningful celebration, and to everyone who participated in the program. It was a beautiful reminder of the love and fellowship that bind us together. Our prayers go with Ken and Margie as they begin this new chapter in their journey. God bless the Browns!



Presby Pickins': A Market with Heart

Presby Pickins' is a benevolent outreach ministry of Fountain Hills Presbyterian Church. Through vendor rentals and sales of donated merchandise at our Church Tables, it generates proceeds that support both church ministries and meaningful programs in our community.

This season, Presby Pickins' has supported **Men's and Women's Fellowship** activities, contributed to the **Code:Red** water drive, the **Ministerial Association** Christmas Eve collection, and will fund a new top for our Communion table. Community support has included sponsorships for the **Fountain Hills Leadership Academy**, **Fountain Hills Sister Cities**, and the **Fountain Hills Art League**.

Presby Pickins' also creates space for connection and service. Recent Market Mission Spotlights and outreach efforts have included **the Governor's Youth Commission Domestic Violence Workgroup** product drive, the **Fountain Hills Middle & High School Girls Softball Team** fundraiser for a new scoreboard, and the FHUSD **Above That Club**. Local teens have volunteered at our markets, earning community service hours while giving back.

Beyond the market, Presby Pickins' represented FHPC at the Town's Halloween **Spooky Blast** and will participate in the upcoming **Activities & Volunteer Expo** on February 4.

We are grateful to all our volunteers for their time, talents, and generosity. Join us at the next market on **Saturday, February 7**, and see what the **buzz** is all about—together, we are turning generosity into action.



Sanctuary Updates

We are blessed with a beautiful sanctuary where the saints have worshipped for more than 40 years. We are thankful for two recent updates that will enable us to continue to praise our Lord in this sacred space.

After many years the carpet on the sanctuary floor had become worn and several of the seams gave way presenting a trip hazard that was addressed with duct tape. In mid-December the sanctuary and narthex carpets were replaced. Thanks to the Building and Grounds Committee for arranging and coordinating this project. Thanks to Larry Cole, Bob Lull, and Bill Matty for their work in preparing for the removal of the pews and for securing them upon return. Special thanks to the Foundation for their generous contribution and an anonymous donation to fund this project to make our sanctuary a safer place for the saints to gather for worship.

2026 will mark the unveiling of the new tabletop for the communion table. The beveled glass top acquired a chip that caused safety concerns each time the table was moved. Due to the chip and the significant weight of this, a new tabletop was commissioned. The new tabletop is fashioned by Greg Fisher, who had previously made the base and the pulpit. We are thankful for Greg's woodworking skills and for this new top to better enable worship and communion table placement. Thanks to Buildings and Grounds and the Worship Committee for working through this need. Thanks to Presby Pickins' for graciously funding this project.



Music Ministry | Debbie Fisher



Happy New Year!

A new year to approach with the openness of more Hope and Joy, learning to be confident in God's promise of Peace.

Our Music will continue bringing forth what reflects in us by knowing we are

instruments of God's doing.

We have had changes in and around our beautiful choir with some of our members. I am always amazed and blessed to know how they care for each other. From picking each other up, dropping them off, by taking each other to appointments and meeting up with each other to visit and support one another.

These people are living in Love with quiet, and usually unknown actions. I am so glad God makes all this possible.

Now, a new year to mark how He continues to

make all things possible.

Have a safe a Happy New Year!

"with all loveliness and meekness, with long suffering, forbearing one another in love. "

Ephesians 4:2

Blessings,

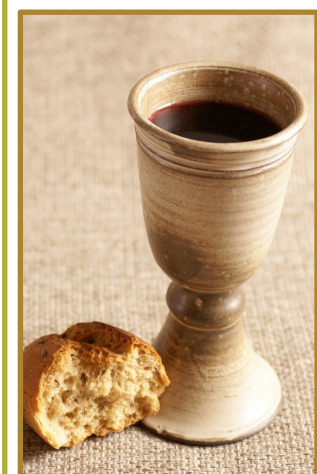
Debbie Fisher

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.



January Birthdays

- | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1–Jan <i>Bob Hoffarber</i> | 15–Jan <i>Christine Colley</i> |
| 3–Jan <i>Gayle Anderson</i> | 16–Jan <i>Jen Young</i> |
| 3–Jan <i>Clif Backes</i> | 23–Jan <i>Jeff Rand</i> |
| 3–Jan <i>Carol Fuls</i> | 24–Jan <i>Tony Harris</i> |
| 3–Jan <i>Donna Yordy</i> | 24–Jan <i>Maryann O’Connor</i> |
| 9–Jan <i>Linda Lull</i> | 25–Jan <i>Pastor Jim Rizer</i> |
| 10–Jan <i>Brendan Wagner</i> | |
| 15–Jan <i>Marge Bacher</i> | |

2025 Necrology

With Heartfelt Sympathy

Gerry Carroll Evelyn Hronek
Tyrus Knoy Joan Atchinson

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.



Mission Messages | Mission Committee Sponsored Activities

“Showing God’s Love by Giving and Doing” November & December

Community House

On Monday, December 29, a team led by Debbie Olson will prepare and serve another delicious meal to approximately 100 friends at Community House in Scottsdale.

It is a humbling and deeply rewarding blessing to share our time and hearts in preparing and serving a meal for our unhoused brothers and sisters—especially during the holidays. We are grateful for the opportunity to serve and to connect through compassion and presence.

The Mission Committee voted to donate \$500 toward each meal for four Mondays in 2026, with any unused funds donated directly to Community House. Let’s support our neighbors in need and volunteer our time at Community House!

Christmas Shoeboxes (Samaritan’s Purse)

A big thank you to the FHPC family and friends who donated to the Shoebox Project! Under the leadership of Leslie Hermansen, \$2,284.82 was collected in cash, and 9 shoeboxes were filled—equaling 100 shoeboxes

contributed by FHPC. There will be many happy faces around the world this Christmas when they receive their shoebox gifts!

Veterans

Donna Sims reported that \$1,500 worth of clothing was purchased and given to service members, troops, and homeless veterans in December. In addition, 46 Christmas notecards were sent to FHPC service members. Thank you, Donna, for your hard work and dedication!



Extended Hands Food Bank

The remaining balance of our 2024–2025 Mission Committee budget (\$812.45) will be donated to Extended Hands Food Bank to support our local community.

A big thank you to FHPC for your generosity—and may God’s blessings be with you in the New Year!

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.



© 2025 **In Touch** is a monthly publication of Fountain Hills Presbyterian Church. Articles should be submitted to news@fhpresby.org no later than the **15th** of the month prior to publication. Editors: Eric Williamson & Monique Reynolds



Office Hours: Monday – Thursday: 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Friday – Sunday: Closed
13001 Fountain Hills Blvd. | Fountain Hills, AZ 85268
Phone: 480.837.1763 | Email: office@fhpresby.org

