



# In Touch

Fountain Hills Presbyterian Church

## Matt Jefferson | Chair FHPC Foundation



### THE CHURCH'S ONE FOUNDATION

The Church's One Foundation, a hymn for all times, can be found on page 401 in The Celebration Hymnal. The Rev. Samuel John Stone

authored the hymn in 1866.

Samuel Sebastian Wesley added the melody and included it in his 1868 publication of Hymns Ancient and Modern. In the fourth verse Rev. Stone's lyrics provide a bridge between the church on earth and the church triumphant.

Similarly, the FHPC Foundation provides our members and friends a convenient charitable method to demonstrate their timeless support and enduring faith in the future of Fountain Hills Presbyterian Church. The FHPC Foundation is a separate 501c(3) non-profit corporation which was established for the exclusive purpose of providing financial support to FHPC through the solicitation, investment and disbursement of grants for the benefit of the church and its associated ministries. The good news is that if you are a member of church you are automatically a member of the Foundation.

Initially the focus of the Foundation's Trustees was on the solicitation of estate gifts. We still welcome legacy gifts but with the passage of time members have also chosen to make contributions to recognize noteworthy events in their lives e.g., anniversaries, graduations and birthdays. Types of gifts may include cash, stocks and bonds, real property, as well as estate gifts.

Major donations received are invested in a Socially Responsible fund established in 2014 with the Arizona Community Foundation (ACF). Your Foundation Trustees monitor this investment account status monthly and meet with our ACF partners annually to review fund performance.

If you would like to learn more about the Foundation's investments and grantmaking of over \$95,000, since 2014, please plan to attend our State of the Foundation Luncheon on Friday, March 27th at 11:00am in the Fellowship Center. In the meantime, feel free to contact me or one of the following FHPC Foundation Trustees: Mary Holtan, Bill Matty, Roy Nickel, and Susan Titus. Hymn 401 is in my top five. Feel free to ask me what is my number one hymn.

-Matt Jefferson  
Chair FHPC Foundation

**OUR STAFF**

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pastorjim@fhpresby.org

**Eric Williamson**  
office@fhpresby.org

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*Director of Music*

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13001 N. Fountain Hills Blvd,  
Fountain Hills, AZ 85268  
[www.fhpresbyterian.info](http://www.fhpresbyterian.info)

**Focus on Finance | 2026**

January Income	\$ 30,534	Budget	\$ 37,949
January Expenses	\$ 27,637	Budget	\$ 38,873
YTD Income	\$ 30,534	YTD Budget	\$ 37,949
YTD Expense	\$ 27,637	YTD Budget	\$ 38,873

**Finance Report | Linda Lull, Treasurer**



Our finances are in a positive position—a good start to the new year. In January, the decision was made to replace one air conditioner with four units to better manage air conditioning in the Sanctuary, Narthex, and Choir Loft. Funds were available from the Capital Reserve savings account. We will continue to build up that account monthly from budgeted general fund operating funds. Thank you for keeping up with your pledges and contributions for the ministry, missions, and operations of FHPC.

**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](http://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](http://www.fhpresbyterian.info) or contact the church office at 480-837-1763 or [office@fhpresby.org](mailto:office@fhpresby.org).



Love God – Love People – Make Disciples



## March Small Groups

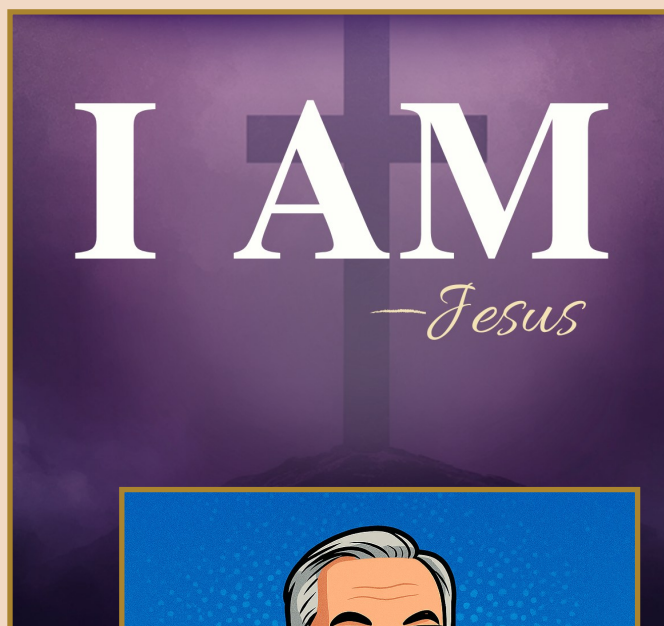
# Small Groups

Thank you to everyone who signed up and began participating in our Lenten small groups this March. We're grateful you've chosen to journey together during this meaningful season. As you continue reflecting on how to draw nearer to Christ, we hope your small group experience deepens your understanding of Scripture, strengthens your relationships within the congregation, and offers an accessible, Christ-centered way to grow in discipleship. We pray these weeks of studying the "I Am" guide are already blessing and enriching your walk with God.

## March Preaching Schedule!

This month we continue our Lenten focus on the "I am" statements of Jesus.

- |                |  |
|----------------|--|
| <b>3/1/26</b>  | <b>I Am #2</b><br>The Light of the World<br>John 8:12-20 |
| <b>3/8/26</b>  | <b>I Am #3</b><br>The Good Shepherd<br>John 10:1-21      |
| <b>3/15/26</b> | <b>I Am #4</b><br>The Way, Truth, Life<br>John 14:1-14   |
| <b>3/22/26</b> | <b>I Am #5</b><br>The True Vine<br>John 15:1-17          |
| <b>3/29/26</b> | <b>Palm Sunday</b><br>Hosanna! Save Us!<br>Mark 11:1-11  |



## Pastor's Pen | Jim Rizer



Once a year I head to the doctor for my annual check-up. When my name is called, I am led by a nurse toward the exam room. On the way we stop at the scale and check my weight. Once in the room, while seated on the crinkly white paper seat cover, the nurse takes your temperature and blood pressure. These easy to quantify measurements are important and can indicate how you are doing, but if they were the complete picture of health, I would be sent home immediately following. Instead, there are a variety of exams and tests that follow to better gauge my overall health. While one's weight, temperature and blood pressure are the easiest to measure, they give a rather cursory glimpse of health.

The same is true with the numbers that we tend to use to assess a congregation's health. The easiest numbers to assess, worship attendance, membership, and giving, are the ones we most frequently turn to. However, it is possible for these to appear strong and be an "unhealthy" congregation. A better assessment, past the easiest things to measure, is needed to see if we are healthy or a vital congregation.

A couple of years back I did a running form assessment. It started with a bit of warm up on the tread mill and then some video of me running at "top speed". Afterward, I was handed off to a different physical therapist who carefully measured my range of motion, both what my body would allow under my strength and flexibility as well as skeletally as the physical therapist would gently push me further than my current flexibility would allow. Then the running video and the flexibility data were integrated into a starting point of what to work on. While I could have received generalized information on how to run with better form, this assessment highlighted my specific strengths and identified weaknesses that need to be addressed.

Wouldn't it be great to have a similar tool available to the congregation to give us a clearer picture of where we are and that would better equip our leaders to partner with you with you in your spiritual growth?

The good news is that there is. The Renovo Church Assessment. This assessment is an anonymous, congregational online survey that is easy to understand, simple to administer, and takes roughly 20 minutes. Renovo quantifies several aspects of the spiritual health of the congregation and then compares a particular congregation's results to the more than 2,000 congregations that have taken the assessment.

This month you will have the opportunity to take this assessment as part of our congregation's discipleship reset. In March I'll invite you to invest a few minutes in the spiritual health of you and your church by completing the Renovo Church Assessment.

Yours in Christ,  
Jim Rizer

## Clerk's Corner | Maryann O'Connor



March brings us fully into the Lenten Season, a time when our church pauses to reflect on Christ's journey to the cross and what it means for our walk of faith. It is a season that encourages honesty in prayer, commitment in discipleship as we are learning through Pastor's sermons, and compassion in how we are for one another.

Many acts of kindness go unseen but are deeply felt. Our church is strengthened not only by our programs and plans, but by our members who show up, pray for one another, and share hope in their difficult times.

As we move toward Easter, may this season help us rediscover the joy in helping one another and may we continue to support and encourage one another along the way. Pray for your Elders, as we always seek guidance to ensure our church is heading down the right path.

Grace and Peace to all

Maryann O'Connor  
Clerk of Session

## Easter Flower Dedications at FHPC

As we prepare our hearts and sanctuary for the joy of Easter morning, members and friends of Fountain Hills Presbyterian Church are once again invited to participate in a beloved tradition: purchasing Easter flowers in honor of a loved one or in celebration of a special event.

These dedications help create the beautiful chancel display that enriches our Easter worship service each year. Flowers are available for **\$20 each**, and each dedication will be included in our Easter acknowledgments.

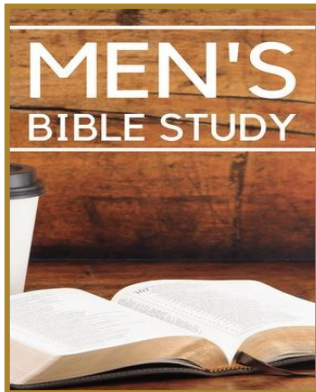
To participate, simply fill out the order form located on the **narthex table** and place it in the offering box with your payment. If you prefer, you may also bring your check directly to the church office. Please write **"Easter Flowers"** on the memo line so we can record your dedication correctly.



All orders must be submitted **by March 15, 2026**. Checks should be made payable to **Fountain Hills Presbyterian Church**.

*Thank you for helping beautify our sanctuary as we celebrate Christ's resurrection together!*

**Men's Bible Study** **Men's Fellowship**



**Men's Bible Study Group!** Join us for our Men's Bible Study Group, **March 2 & 16** 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](mailto:carillofamily8@gmail.com).



**Gentlemen:** Thanks again to all of us who helped make the Sweetheart Brunch a success this year, and a special thank you to Women's Fellowship for their beautiful Valentine decorations

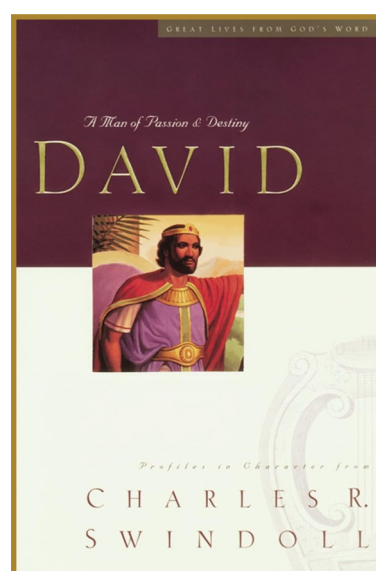
which made the Fellowship Center look very festive. At our last meeting the Men voted to have Men's Sunday on **April 12**, the week after Easter Sunday. We'll discuss details at our next meeting on **Saturday, March 14**, in the Fellowship Center starting at **8:00 am**. Blessings to all, Bill Matty 815-282-6024

**Ladies' Drop-In** **Women's Morning Bible Study**



**Every Tuesday | 10 AM  
Fireside Room**

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



**Thursday,  
March 12,  
9:30 AM  
Fireside Room**

Read chapters 5 and 6 of our book David, a Man of Passion and Destiny by Charles Swindoll. What is the aftermath of the giant-killing? Was Saul afraid of David? We will find out and discuss.

For information call Monique 336-382-8733. See you there!

**Lunch & Lecture**



**Saturday, March 14 & 28  
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 **March 18th** at **12PM Noon** will be at **Streets of New York**. Their address is **12645 North Saguaro Blvd**.

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



## Support Our Troops | Donna Sims



I am happy to report that, as of now, I am on time with passing out the envelopes for all who were willing to write notes to our Church-connected military as of this past Sunday and will continue to do so for a couple more Sundays. As indicated in my article in our February In-Touch, I would begin

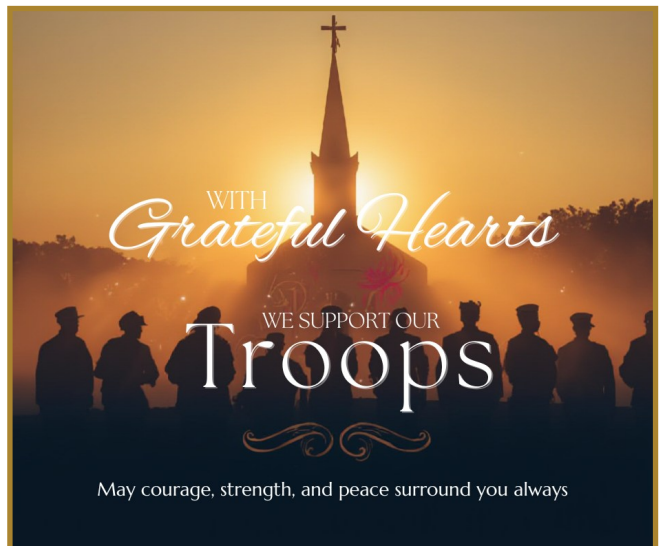
passing out the envelopes on Sunday, February 15 with a 4 week deadline of March 15, so I can have enough time to put separate all the notes into each Easter card. I again ask all families of our military to advise me of any rank and/or mailing address changes; this is very important.

Hopefully I am able to schedule a pickup next week from CBI (Community Bridges, Inc.) of all the donations that have come in and I did let them know that it is, again, a large amount of items, so please come as soon as you can place me on your schedule, I continually thank each and every person who has made a donation(s) and am thrilled with the variety that I always ask for. As noted before, these donations are requested year-round, to try our best to meet the needs of the veterans who find themselves not only in need of clothing and bedding, but need housing too.

Thanks again to all who have helped and are continuing to help with the many needed items of donations. I try my best to remind one and all 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. I thank you, the Mission Committee thanks you and our Veterans and Troops thank you for helping make our military ministry a continuing

success and putting smiles on many faces as they are given items of clothing, bedding, hats, gloves, and shoes.

Donna Sims,  
Mission Committee



## Library Footnotes | Barbara Oakeson



### The "I Am" Sayings of Jesus: 50 Days of Spiritual Exercises: A Guide for Lent

by Paul F. Soderquist

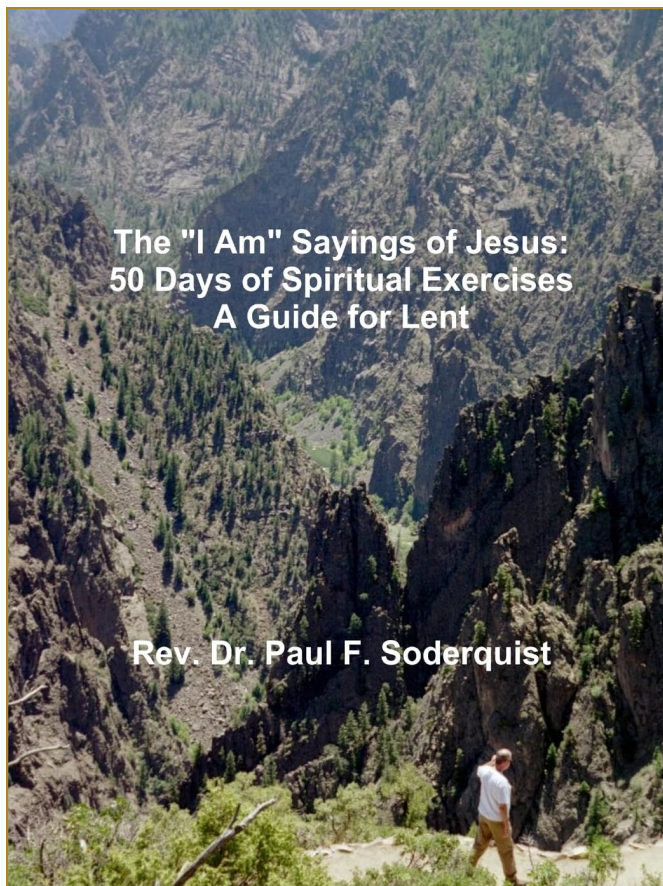
This guide is written specifically for purposes of Christian spiritual formation in an easy one page a day format. The author is Rev. Paul Soderquist who served as

our interim minister from 2008 to 2010 at FHPC.

Seven "I Am" sayings of Jesus found in John's gospel included are:

I Am the Bread of Life  
 I Am the Light of the World  
 I Am the Gate  
 I Am the True Vine  
 I Am the Good Shepherd  
 I Am the Way, the Truth, and the Life  
 I Am the Resurrection and the Life

The author comments that each day in the exercises, the "I Am" saying is considered in the light of relevant scriptural cross references, life experience, cultural



Rev. Dr. Paul F. Soderquist

awareness, and prayer. Reviewing the "I Am" sayings of Jesus through this process will assist anyone in knowing, growing in, and following Jesus Christ, who is the great I Am.

## Devereux Easter Baskets 2026 | Jane Allen

It's a "go"! FHPC Women's Fellowship is excited to celebrate its 16th year of filling 50+ Easter baskets with candy, fun items, and special surprises for the residents at Devereux. These children, ages 8-17, are medically and/or behaviorally challenged, and they love our Easter Baskets!

### How You Can Help:

- **Sign-ups:** Sundays, March 8, 15, 22
- **Basket/Cash Donations:** Due by Palm Sunday, March 29
- **Easter Sunday:** April 5

Would you like to fill a basket or donate \$25 to sponsor one? We need your support! Thank you, FHPC, for your continued belief in these kids and our Easter Basket tradition! Excess donations will go to the resident's miscellaneous needs. Contact Jane Allen at 907-538-3223 with any questions. *Thank you!*



## Presby Pickins': Community, Connection, and Discipleship

Presby Pickins' Flea Market continues to be a vibrant outreach of FHPC, bringing people together while supporting ministry, service, and discipleship.

Our next market takes place **Saturday, March 7**, welcoming shoppers, vendors, and volunteers to our campus. Proceeds support FHPC ministries and local community initiatives, extending our impact beyond market day.

Presby Pickins' outreach includes sponsorship of the **Fountain Hills Art League's Artisan Tour (March 6–8)** and the **Fountain Hills Dark Sky Festival (March 28)**. Representatives from the Dark Sky Festival will be **at Presby Pickins' on March 7** to share information with our market attendees .



Presby Pickins' is committed to discipleship through:

- **Loving one another** through hospitality and service.
- **Sharing God's love through good works** in community partnerships.
- **Sharing God's love through good words** as we welcome, encourage, and build relationships.



We have been especially encouraged by the strong participation of **local teens volunteering at Presby Pickins'**, earning community service hours while serving others with energy and care.

Also, Presby Pickins' is supporting **Women's**

**Fellowship's baby shower benefiting Maggie's Place**, helping provide care and hope to women and families in need..

## Women's Fellowship to Host Baby Shower | March 20, 2026



Women's Fellowship invites all FHPC women — and their guests — to a **Baby Shower benefiting Maggie's Place on Friday, March 20 at 11:00 am.**

Maggie's Place is a Phoenix-area nonprofit that provides safe housing, a nurturing community, and practical support for homeless, pregnant women and their babies. Their mission: **Love Lives Here.**

The **Baby Shower is our primary gathering** — a time of fellowship, games, and celebration, with a lunch served and speakers from Maggie's Place. Attendees are encouraged to bring a baby gift, just as they would to a traditional baby shower. A full invitation with details and a gift list will be shared soon.

To extend participation beyond the event, **additional donation opportunities** will be available for those unable to attend, but who wish to donate. Baby toiletries and diapers will be collected **Sunday, March 1 before and after worship** and **Saturday, March 7 at Presby Pickins' Flea Market**. Donations may be given by bringing items or by supporting Presby Pickins', which will have items available for a donation — making it easy for everyone to participate.

For more information, visit [www.fhpresbyterian.info/baby-shower](http://www.fhpresbyterian.info/baby-shower) or contact Susan Titus on 608.332.1265.

## Music Ministry | Debbie Fisher



What a beautiful Lenten journey we have all been given to travel together. The Lenten Bible studies are an effective way to bring our hearts and minds further in tune with God, the One and only, and the giving of His Son, the One and only, to redeem us,

each one individually. His willingness to watch Christ die for the sins of the ones that were putting Him to death. It's always the deepest conversation I can ever be involved with. Looking forward to it every time I get the opportunity.

We sure appreciate the hand railings that were added to the choir loft. What a considerate thing to do. That was a Bob Titus, Larry Cole and Pastor Jim thing. Our beautiful choir uses each rail every step up or down,, how did we manage without them before? A caring Community, who looks about and realizes how one might help to ease discomfort, or ease worry, or just help another along. Our church

community is full of this beautiful, caring "thing". It moves beyond our Sanctuary walls. God does equip us.

We are grateful to Him. Enjoy your Lenten Journey.

*"Wait on the Lord: be of good courage, and He shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the Lord"*

Psalm 27:14

Debbie Fisher  
 Director of Music Ministries  
 Fountain Hills Presbyterian Church ECO



## Biblical Garden



**Visit our Biblical Garden, a peaceful sanctuary located at the heart of our campus.**

Before beginning your tour, take a moment to discover the remarkable variety of plants featured throughout the Garden. Each one has been carefully selected for its biblical significance and deep historical roots.

Learn more about their stories and symbolism online at [www.fhpresbyterian.info/biblical-garden](http://www.fhpresbyterian.info/biblical-garden), or pick up a beautifully printed brochure in the office to enrich your visit even further.

## 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

## 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.



## March Birthdays



- 7–March *De Amend*
- 7–March *Kathy Cole*
- 9–March *Paula Meeuwenberg*
- 11–March *Jay Moyer*
- 12–March *Mike Pizzuto*
- 20–March *Judy Hamouda*
- 23–March *Twyla Preising*

- 24–March *Helen Quigley*
- 26–March *Phil Katz*
- 29–March *Donna Lyons*
- 29–March *Terri Schmidt*
- 31–March *Matt Jefferson*



## Report from the 2026 ECO Gathering | Arlene Stewart



I attended the 2026 ECO Gathering in Atlanta, centered on the theme **“CALLED!”** from Esther 4:14. The Gathering emphasized how church leaders today, like Esther, are called to faithful courage as we navigate cultural challenges and discern next steps for gospel-centered ministry. The event offered rich worship, fellowship, and

learning, strengthening my understanding of ECO’s mission and our role within it.

Each day included two main worship sessions and two breakout sessions. In my first session, **“Five Shifts for a Generosity Culture,”** John Terech outlined practical ways churches can shift from budget-focused thinking to disciple-focused stewardship, improve communication about impact, and adapt to new giving patterns such as donor-advised funds.

During the **Presbytery Business Meeting**, Rev. Dr. Bob Simmons was elected Moderator for 2026–27, and Elder Mary Artigue as MPT Chair. Worship sessions featured inspiring global testimonies from church leaders in

Ghana, East Africa, West Africa, Brazil, and Egypt, where millions are coming to Christ—some churches even exploring ECO affiliation.

Another breakout, **“Called to Flourish,”** led by Rev. Dr. Kaitlyn Wood, provided tools for defining and measuring discipleship using ECO’s “Flourish Tree” model. A further session by the ECO Standing Theological Committee reviewed the **Essential Tenets**, emphasizing their beauty, clarity, and importance for teaching and leadership.

The final day’s **Synod Business Meeting** covered commissioner reports, polity updates, and voting procedures, with changes to be sent to all Presbyteries for approval.

Thank you for allowing me to represent Fountain Hills Presbyterian Church at this significant denominational gathering. I am happy to answer any questions or share more details.

*Yours in Christ,  
Arlene Stewart, Elder Commissioner*

*Reach out to Arlene for more information on the gathering.*

## Social Media | Live Streaming

### Facebook Page:

[www.facebook.com/fhpresbyterianchurch/](https://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](https://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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**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](mailto:office@fhpresby.org)**

