



THE CATALINA NEWSLETTER

2700 E. SPEEDWAY - TUCSON, AZ 85716

WWW.CATALINAMETHODIST.ORG

November 2025

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I remember as a kid learning that Thanksgiving started when the pilgrims were having a hungry and fearful winter. The native people in the area, out of compassion, brought them food from their storehouses to share, thus starting the tradition. I don't know any longer whether my memory of what I learned has been sliced up and remade over the years from TV and other media. Or, whether it has simply been embedded with legend and maybe a little history. What I do know is that this thing we do each November started with people bringing together their food and sharing it so that all would be filled—not unlike Christ and the feeding of the 5000.

Out of all of our religious and secular holidays, I have often heard people say that Thanksgiving is one of their favorites; mostly because it hasn't been so overrun with commercialization. Sure we have the turkeys, stuffing, cranberries and some decorating odds and ends. But Thanksgiving doesn't seem to be as overblown and as detached from its origins as some others seem to be. And I think that is part of what makes this day special. For the most part, we get together with friends and family and share a meal together. We share time and stories together. We remember how we have been blessed. And we thank God for how we have been blessed.

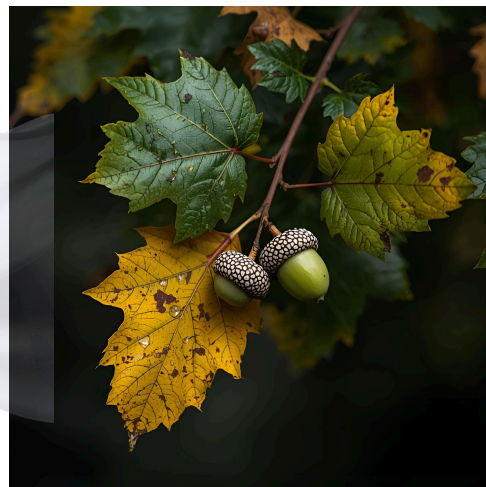
One of the traditions at Catalina is that a Thanksgiving collection is taken. On the Sunday before Thanksgiving, if you would like to thank God for blessings by giving to Catalina, we will have envelopes available to do so. As usual, we will also have a way to share gifts on the webpage as well.

As Thanksgiving quickly approaches, I want to wish you and yours a happy Thanksgiving and pray that you do feel blessed and do have something for which to give thanks. I know my family and I do—not only in our life here, in Christ, with Catalina, but in our children, our relationship, and our home.

Happy Thanksgiving,

Rev. Mike Kerr-Osman

*Grateful. Joyful.
Blessed beyond measure.
Happy Thanksgiving!*





Growing as Stewards Through Faith, Love and Hope by Laurie Campbell, Finance Committee Chair

November is the time of year when we focus on stewardship—that is, taking the time to consider the gifts God has blessed each of us with and how we might, in turn, bless others with our gifts.

In 1 Thessalonians 1:3, Paul writes:

“We continually remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.”

As God’s people, we are called to use and grow God’s gifts of faith, love, and hope to lift each other up and bless others.

As chair of our Finance Committee, I’d like to share a bit about the church’s financial status as we enter the final months of this year. In 2024, our congregation generously gave a total of \$468,000 in donations, for which we are truly thankful. Currently, we are \$20,000 behind in giving from where we were at this time last year, meaning that we are not on track to meet our budgeted income for 2025.

The reasons for this are varied. We have an aging congregation and people pass away, people move away, and people feel the stresses of a slowed-down economy. Many people are experiencing the effects of government programs being cut and job insecurity. This can understandably result in a scarcity mindset. But I ask you to remember God’s abundance and blessings. During these times, Catalina, as one of God’s lights in our community, can bring hope and comfort to our community.

We do have a Foundation, from which we withdraw money to cover some of our operating expenses and campus improvements. But those funds are limited, and we have used a substantial amount of them towards replacement of sections of our crumbling roof, the sanctuary remodel, and HVAC issues and other maintenance expenses. In 2025 alone, we plan to withdraw nearly \$400,000 to cover those expenses. Withdrawing that much from our Foundation each year is not sustainable.

We, as a faith community, can and are called to help others. Catalina’s ministries have blessed our church family and community in the past. We go forward in faith and with hope that we will continue to bless others far into the future.

So, during this difficult time, our Finance Committee asks for your help and your support in two areas. First, if you are able, we ask that you increase your giving this year to help us reduce our deficit. And second, that you prayerfully consider how you can grow your stewardship through faith, love, and hope by making an increased financial commitment for 2026. By completing an Estimate of Giving card for 2026, you will help us know which ministries and programs we can fund next year.

Please look for more information in the mail, listen to stories you will hear in Sunday services, and consider how God is calling you to sustain and grow Catalina’s ministries that are so vital for our community. I pray that next year will hold more hope and promises for each of us!

grow your stewardship through faith, love, and hope



MISSIONS UPDATE

BY DOUG WINGERT, CHAIR

At Catalina United Methodist Church, we work to assist the “poorest of the poor” in our community.

Primavera Men’s Shelter – On October 25th, our Primavera cooking team served our 5-course dinner to approximately 52 men living at the Primavera shelter. We are fortunate to have our November volunteers already identified, but we need help filling the December 27th date. Since that is the weekend following Christmas, many of our volunteers may be travelling or otherwise not available. If you can help on Saturday, **December 27th** from 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm, please notify Doug Wingert at dougwingert@gmail.com or contact the church office. **(If a four-hour outreach is too much, how about a two-hour shift? We could divide the work from 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm and 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm).** The meals are planned in advance and the grocery shopping is done by team leaders. The work involves standing and lifting, cooking, and serving. All volunteers who are gloved, and over the age of 12 are welcome. Who can help us out on **December 27th**?

Casa Maria Soup Kitchen – Catalina volunteers served approximately 350 cups of chicken vegetable soup, made from scratch, at the Casa Maria Soup Kitchen on Saturday, October 18th. This may have been the busiest Casa Maria event we have experienced in many years. Thank you volunteers!! Our last scheduled outreach for the year at Casa Maria will be on Saturday morning, **December 13th**. Would you like to join a small team of volunteers who cook and serve our excellent chicken-vegetable soup to our hungry neighbors? The work involves standing, lifting, cooking, and serving, using large commercial pots in a very small kitchen. Our volunteers must be gloved, and over the age of 12. Interested in helping us? Notify Doug Wingert, at dougwingert@gmail.com or contact the church office.

Peanut Butter & Jelly Sandwich Making Marathon – It’s on!! Our final sandwich making event of the year will be held on Friday afternoon, **December 12th**. We will need about 20 volunteers to make more than 500 sandwiches for those living with hunger. Stand-by for more information to follow in coming weeks.

Office Snack Packs – Catalina continues to offer snacks and bottled water to our homeless and hungry neighbors. Prior contributions toward this outreach have been exhausted, so we are now funding this important mission effort through your generous donations. If you wish to contribute to our snack pack budget, please designate “snack packs” on your donation.

Angel Tree – We must be getting closer to the holiday season, because the preliminary work for the Angel Tree project is already in motion. Catalina will be assigned 50 children, whose parents or guardians are incarcerated in the Arizona Prison System. Volunteers are being recruited to make phone calls to families. Gift tags for clothing and toys will be soon to follow. Stay tuned.



Vickie Crutchfield, Jerry Pellikaan and Doug Wingert prepared and served 550 cups of soup at Casa Maria Soup Kitchen in October

VOLUNTEERS ARE DESPERATELY NEEDED! CONTACT DOUGWINGERT@GMAIL.COM
YOU DON’T HAVE TO VOLUNTEER EVERY TIME THERE’S A NEED;
BUT YOU CAN VOLUNTEER SOMETIMES!

Something beautiful happens when you volunteer—you find joy in giving, strength in compassion, and purpose in connection.



Shalom Circle: Reuniting in Faith and Mission

Calling all women of faith! The United Women in Faith are excited to announce the revival of our Shalom Circle—a special gathering dedicated to fellowship, learning, and mission-oriented service. After a thoughtful period of reflection and re-organization, we are ready to embark on an inspiring new chapter, filled with dynamic mission events and learning experiences tailored to the needs of our community.

We invite you to join us for our meeting on Tuesday, November 11th at 10:00 AM in Room H230. It's a wonderful opportunity to connect, share, and discover how we can make a meaningful impact together. Everyone is welcome—whether you're a long-time member or a curious newcomer looking to find sisterhood and shared purpose.

Let's come together and celebrate this new beginning for the Shalom Circle—where faith meets action and all are embraced. We look forward to seeing you there! If you have any questions or concerns please contact Deaconess Toni Smith @ Toni@catalinamethodist.org

Congregational
care



November Report by Deaconess Toni Smith

The month of October was an eventful time for the Congregational Care Team! Some congregants passed on to heaven, and then we acquired more visitations as well! This reminds me of the quote, "God is good all the time, all the time God is good!" This is a declaration of faith and trust in God's character, even in the midst of difficult or challenging times. It also serves as a reminder to give thanks in ALL circumstances, knowing that God is working for our good according to His perfect will and purpose. Romans 8:28: "In everything God works for good with those who love him, who are called according to his purpose." Psalms 145:9: "The Lord is good to all, and his mercy is over all that he has made."

A couple of highlight visits:

Bob Briggs – Since losing his wife Jean in September, he has moved into a facility that is much closer to his daughter. He seems to be getting well adjusted and seems to be content at his "new home". He was eating his lunch when we arrived, and it seems his appetite is something he has not lost! He also shared that he participates in Bingo with the other residents, which he thoroughly enjoys, and, as usual, continues to be quick-witted!

Betty Pritts- She is doing well and seems to be at peace where she is living. She misses her husband dearly, and she expressed that she is so ready to "go and be with her Mel, in heaven." She also had a recent 94th birthday on 11 October, which she celebrated with family. On another note, I wanted to mention a note regarding the Stephen Ministry Team. Betty and her husband, Rev. Melvin Pritts, founded the Stephen Ministry at Catalina UMC many years ago. While we were visiting, she donated a chalice set for communion for the Stephen Ministry. I had taken the box containing the set to be engraved, which states: Stephen Ministry, donated by Rev. Melvin J. Pritts. She was so happy to see that engraving on the box, for she stated, "That is what Mel would have wanted!" I have enclosed a photo to share on that special day!



Toni visits Betty

Sometimes, when we set out to share God's grace with others, we find ourselves unexpectedly blessed in return. Truly, God is good—all the time. And ALL the time, God is good!





November Observances

By Kent Batty

National Native American Heritage Month is celebrated each year in November. It is a time to celebrate the traditions, languages and stories of Native American, Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian, and affiliated Island communities and to ensure their rich histories and contributions continue to thrive. We celebrate the culture and heritage of these remarkable Americans who deeply enrich the quality and character of our Nation. We celebrate Indian Country with its remarkable diversity of cultures and peoples while remembering and honoring those veterans who have sacrificed so much to defend our Nation.



This year's theme at the United States Department of Interior is "Weaving Together Our Past, Present and Future." Its focus is on the failed policies of the past especially with regard to Federal Indian Boarding Schools and moving into the present and the work being done to address the intergenerational trauma Native people still face. In partnership with the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Smithsonian Institution, we are working to record the lasting impacts of that era and share that information with all Americans.

Beyond the federal theme, as individuals we should use this month to learn more about Tribal Nations' histories, especially those here in Arizona. We should also work to overcome stereotypes that are largely based on literature and entertainment from a past that is framed by the "white man's" perspective.

"Tolerance is respect, acceptance and appreciation of the rich diversity of our world's cultures, our forms of expression and ways of being human."

In 1996, the UN General Assembly adopted [Resolution 51/95](#) proclaiming 16 November as International Day for Tolerance. This action followed the adoption of a [Declaration of Principles on Tolerance](#) by UNESCO's Member States on 16 November 1995. Among other things, the Declaration affirms that tolerance is neither indulgence nor indifference. It is respect and appreciation of the rich variety of our world's cultures, our forms of expression and ways of being human. Tolerance recognizes the universal human rights and fundamental freedoms of others. People are naturally diverse; only tolerance can ensure the survival of mixed communities in every region of the globe.

Taken from the UNESCO website, the words above should resonate well within the U.S. in today's political environment. Practice tolerance in all things.



Blenman School Holiday Request

Blenman Elementary School has asked Catalina United Methodist Church if we would provide some Christmas dinners for families over the school break. The grocery store gift cards will be \$50.00 per family. If you would like to help, make a contribution to the Church and indicate it is for Blenman School. The families are always appreciative of the extra food support over the holidays. Thank you in advance – Deborah Williams





Prison Fellowship - Angel Tree

Catalina has our 50 children assigned and callers are calling the caregivers to get specific gift ideas for a fun gift and a clothing gift. Tags for the Angel Christmas Tree will be made on Monday, Nov. 3rd.

If you wish to shop for a gift for a child whose parent is in prison, Angel Tree tags can be picked up on Sunday Nov. 9, and Sunday Nov. 16 and ALL GIFTS NEED TO BE RETURNED BY SUNDAY, NOV. 23, 2025.

Wrapping will be right after church on Sunday Nov. 30th. People who are delivering can pick up family bags on Sunday, Dec. 7th right after church. Deliveries need to be made by Dec. 21st. Contact Judy Wingert to volunteer or for more details. 520-909-4404. judywingert@gmail.com

Thanks in advance for your generosity.



CUMC Foundation News

The Catalina United Methodist Church Foundation was started in 1958. Over the decades the Foundation has been able to provide funds directly to Catalina United Methodist Church for program and property and scholarships. Last month I wrote about the mission of the Foundation. This month I am writing about Giving Options. Gifts can be directed to unrestricted and restricted funds. Named funds are available for gifts over \$5,000.00. There are three types of funds:

Gifts for Immediate Distribution. The entire amount is available for immediate use for a specific purpose designated by the Donor or at the discretion of the Finance Committee.

Specified Term Gifts. The entire amount of the original gift, income, and capital gains are made available for distribution for a specific purpose of program over a 3, 5, or 10 year period.

Enduring Endowment. The amount of the original gift remains whole. The interest and dividend income are accrued to working funds for distribution per the Uniform Prudent Management of Institutional Funds Act and Catalina United Methodist Foundation Bylaws. Capital gains may be distributed per the UPMIFA and CMUF guidelines on an annual basis.

Please consider including the CUMC Foundation in your estate planning, as well as in your giving. Together we can keep the Foundation strong and keep the church keeping on. If you would like more information please contact Judy Wingert, President of the Foundation Board. 520-909-4404 judywingert@gmail.com. Current Foundation Board members are: Rebeca Gill, VP, David Pingry, Secretary, Cori Hoag, Treasurer, and members: Tim Mason, Tom Campbell, Bruce Gillaspie, Kyle Hood, Tom Strong, and Pastor Mike.

Money may seem like a small or ordinary thing, but when it is given in love, it becomes lasting treasure...helping to build the future of Catalina UMC.

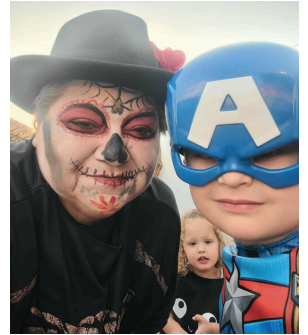


Catalina UMC Day School Report

by Carolyn Lovell, Executive Director

The Day School's enrollment currently stands at 85 children (including two staff children), bringing our total to 83. We continue to see strong community interest—particularly in our Toddler and Two-Year-Old classrooms. In October, we celebrated several wonderful staff anniversaries that highlight the dedication and heart within our school community:

- Ms. Brenda, Two's Educator – 14 years of service
 - Ms. Aniza and Ms. Sierra, PM & School-Age Educators – 2 years
 - Ms. Amber, Two's Educator, and Ms. Priscilla, Toddler Educator – 1 year
- We are grateful for their continued commitment to nurturing and inspiring our young learners each day.



Our school also joined in the fun at the Church's Trunk-or-Treat event! All eight classrooms helped decorate Ms. Tammie's "Spooky Tree" truck, filled with black cats, bats, spiders, ghosts, lanterns, gravestones, and even mummies—each classroom contributing their own creative touch.

Looking ahead, the Day School will be holding a Midland Cookie Dough Fundraiser from November 5–19, which can be done virtually. It's the perfect time to stock up on your favorite cookie dough tubs while supporting the Day School's programs and classrooms. Stay tuned for more details on how to participate!



Alpha Delta Kappa So. Dist Founders' Day in Fellowship Hall

by Filomena Brooks

Alpha Delta Kappa was founded in 1947 by four visionary educators. They created our organization to recognize and support teachers. Alpha Delta Kappa honors outstanding women educators, enrich professional development, and provide funds, gifts and scholarships as well as volunteering numerous services to support children and families through heartwarming community altruism projects and world understanding.

Our Southern District Founders' Day, Sat. Oct. 25th, was the 69th year that Founders' Day has been celebrated in Tucson. Included in the 85 Chapter members in attendance were International Past Presidents, State and local officers and the University of Arizona Collegiate Club future educators.

Our altruism project this Founders' Day was Wings for Women. Wings for Women is a 501(c)3 organization established in 2010. Our presenter, Esthermarie Hillman, has been director since 2018. The mission for Wings for Women is to make the community a better place by using assets to the betterment of the community.

Wings for Women is now being supported by donations to the thrift shop called Bringing Out the Best located on 5320 E. Speedway (the Old SAS shop) for private donors and recycling projects. Donated items are passed on to the clients helping with homes. Clients are referred to by other organizations, especially those who have just moved into housing with nothing but what they had while living on the street, in a shelter or could fit in a car often after leaving a domestic violence situation. Other items needed donations are canned vegetables, fruit, and hygiene items.



As Chair of the Planning Team for Southern District, we would like to express our thanks and appreciation to Catalina Church, Bob Golden, Kyle Hood, Frank Lopez Jr and Sr. for assisting us. Catalina's Fellowship Hall made our Founders' Day 2025 a success by providing the warm and welcoming spirit.

Filomena Brooks

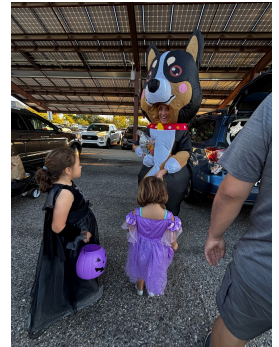


Chilcren & Family Ministry Update



We had a great success at Trunk or Treat! We'll be doing Santa, Cookies, and Crafts December 12 pm 5-6 in E18.

We are "pausing" together Tuesday 11/11 to encourage our families to go to dinner church on 11/12.



We will be putting on a Arts camp-VBS- July 6-10, 2026. Bible story every day with themed art rotation. Ideas: Music, Acting, Dance, Painting, Science, Beads. If you are interested in hosting an "art class" please reach out to Paige@catalinamethodist.org! It does not have to be one of the above listed--anything you are passionate about! (If you know someone for dance, please let me know, that's the one I'm assuming will be hardest to fill!!)

God answers prayers.

Please Be In Prayer For...

Catalina has an active prayer team, Prayer Partners, praying for YOU throughout the year. If you would like to add a special prayer request, please send it to office@catalinamethodist.org and we will publish it here!

Pease be in prayer for:

- for Virginia, the 89 year old sister of Delia, who is bed-ridden and would like to walk again.
- for Heidi Bunch undergoing medical treatment
- the family and friends of Jean Briggs who passed Sept 11. Services are to be announced.
- UMC of the Good Shepherd, Kearny, UMC of Green Valley, and Wilcoxx UMC
- Peace. Love. Prayer. Always.

Need a Visitation?

If you, or someone you know, would like a visitation from our Deaconess, Toni Smith, please contact her at toni@catalinamethodist.org



UPCOMING EVENTS

Seekers Adult Sunday School Class @ 8:45am – 9:45am in Room H230

A desire to enrich your understanding and faith is the only requirement. Join us for a variety of video-based lessons led by volunteer class members. For lesson schedule go to <https://www.catalinamethodist.org/adults/>.

Koinonia Class for Adults: Sundays @ 9am in Room E-23

AN ALTAR IN THE WORLD: A GEOGRAPHY OF FAITH begins Sunday morning, October 5, 9:00 am in Room E23. Books are available from Rev. Reed. Adults of all ages can enjoy learning together! For more info: wkirkreed@gmail.com.

Women's Bible Study: Wednesdays @ 9:30, Room H230

We're on break until January. For more info, contact Brenda Halferty at 520-481-6993 or email bjhalferty@gmail.com

Men's Bible Study: Wednesdays @ 6:45am, Room E23

Bible study, Brotherhood, and Breakfast! We gather for breakfast at 8am after studying! Join our Men's Bible Study each week.

(continued on next page)

UPCOMING EVENTS Continued

Catalina Breakfast Forum: Saturday, November 01, 9am in Fellowship Hall

"Saving People from the Gates of Hell" presented by Denise Furtado of Cocaine Anonymous. \$4/person donation requested at the door. Please RSVP to 520-327-4296.

Shalom Circle: Tuesday, November 11, 10am in Room H230

We'd love you to join us and bring a friend! Let's have fun and enjoy fellowship with our wonderful sisters in Christ! Can't wait to see you there! If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Deaconess Toni Smith at toni@catalinamethodist.org

Edge High School Bloodmobile: Tuesday, November 25th, 8:30am-1:30pm

Held in front of the school just west of CUMC on 1st Street, sign-u online at <https://tinyurl.com/421kwphm>

Elegibility requirements: <https://www.redcrossblood.org/donate-blood/how-to-donat/elegibility-requirements.html>

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Together Tuesdays: Cancelled for November

Join us for Together Tuesday at 5:30 in the fellowship hall. This program has free dinner and features a Bible story and a craft for families to learn about God and Jesus together!

Also of Note:

www.UMC.ORG/EN

Want to know more about the United Methodist Church? You'll find it on the website link shown above. Take a look--you'll be surprised!

Catalina Cares - E-news Weekly

Are you on the email list? If not, go to: <https://www.catalinamethodist.org/newsletter/> and fill out the form at the bottom of the page. We'll add you to the list and you can stay "In the Know!" every Thursday afternoon!

Monthly Bible Verses

You can find them at: <https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/> If you would like a copy in print, please contact the office.

Catalina Loves Music

If you love music too, consider joining our Sanctuary Choir which rehearses Thursdays @ 7pm in the Choir Room, or if you can read music, join our bell ringers on Thursdays @ 5:30pm.

Mariana@catalinamethodist.org for more info.

The Upper Room On-line

If you love the Upper Room daily devotionals in print, you're going to love them on-line! Just go to: <https://www.upperroom.org/>

Church Office Hours

The office is open Monday-Thursday, 10am to 3pm. Email: office@catalinamethodist.org
Phone: 520-327-4296

**HELP US GET THE WORD OUT: LIKE
US ON FACEBOOK & INSTAGRAM!
REVIEW US ON GOOGLE!**

Catalina 
United Methodist Church

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