

# February 2024

## Shepherd's Voice



*Happy  
Valentine's Day!*

### Happy Birthday!



Frank H	10th	Virginia B	17th
Hailey W	13th	Gail R	18th
AJ C	15th		



### February Prayer Focus for the Desert Southwest Conference Churches



Christ Community UMC, Avondale  
Community Church of Buckeye

## Action Steps:



Family Fun Night will be our trip to the Church of the Beatitudes **Feb 2 @ 10:30am**. See details below.



Please submit items for the newsletter to Karen or Trina by the **17<sup>th</sup>** of the month.

Bible/Book Study is taking a break. We will let everyone know when we resume.



Men's Breakfast **February 10<sup>th</sup> at 8:00am**. Denny's at 43<sup>rd</sup> and Peoria. All men are invited.



Cactus book club will be meeting on **February 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6pm** in room 1. They are reading, *The Silent Patient* by Alex Michaelides.

I'm excited to share that the Church of the Beatitudes is going to open their doors to us on Friday February 2nd at 10:30am, so that we can view the Beatitudes paintings that have been featured in our most recent sermon series, Let Hope Be Your Attitude.



The artist, Julie Frye will meet us there to tell us more about her paintings. In addition, we will learn about their "Great West Window," an exquisite work of stained glass. As if that were not enough, there will also be an art display featuring the work of local high school students from Sunnyslope, Washington, and Cortez High Schools.

After we view all the artwork we will decide on a restaurant where we can meet for a no-host lunch. Please sign up if you are interested in this unique opportunity. We can discuss details about carpooling as the date approaches.

Church of the Beatitudes, United Church of Christ  
555 W Glendale Ave.  
Phoenix, AZ 85021

## Shepherd of the Valley Prayer Points for 2024

Dear Shepherd of the Valley Family,

As we prepare to enter a new year, we are thankful for God's faithfulness and answers to the prayers we began to pray at this time last year. New ministries have begun, and more opportunities are on the horizon. I ask you to please pray for our church, our leaders, and our ministries throughout 2024. Here are some prayer points that we can all focus on.

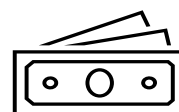
1. Praise God for the work he is already doing at Shepherd of the Valley and pray for God's continued movement in our midst.
2. Pray that our pastor and our leaders will be guided by the Holy Spirit to discern the unique call God has upon Shepherd of the Valley.
3. Pray that our worship will be honoring to God and filled with the Holy Spirit.
4. Pray that God will show us people we might invite to participate in the life of our church.
5. Pray for church growth that we may multiply in number, and in resources so that we may better live into our mission to Feed, Tend and Send in the name of the Good Shepherd, Jesus Christ.
6. Pray for the success of the participants in the I-Help program, for our church's continuing contribution through volunteers and resources, and for the administrators at Lutheran Social Services
7. Pray for the Safe-lot Initiative, the participants, volunteers, and administrators and our partnership with them.
8. Pray for our School Connect partnership with Chaparral Elementary school. Pray for the staff, students, and families.
9. Pray for the safety and protection of our campus and all who enter this space.
10. Pray that we will grow in our love for Christ and in our compassion for ALL of our neighbors and the world.

Thank you for your faithfulness!

Love, Grace, and Peace,  
Pastor Janet

You may contribute your offering to the church Online. There are many options. You could go to You Tube, Facebook, or Pay pal. You could also have a direct withdrawal from your checking account. Contact Trina, Wanda, or Don with questions.

## Special Offering Sundays for 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter of the Year



**March 10<sup>th</sup> UMCOR Sunday**

**April 14<sup>th</sup> Native American Ministries Sunday**

**🦋 Remember to change the year on your Offering Checks to 2024.  
2023 causes a delay in cashing them.**

Church Envelopes are available on the Welcome Wagon in the Narthex.



**Note new church phone number. 602-758-3473. This is a cell phone.  
You may leave a text and it will be answered.**

## Volunteer Needed



Our Memorial area needs a volunteer to learn the procedures, do record keeping & paperwork, and send thank you cards for memorial donations! Desk job only! We would like to computerize basic information from the paper files for safety and ease of access. This does not need to be a weekly or even a monthly activity. Please contact Pastor Janet if you have questions or are ready to volunteer!



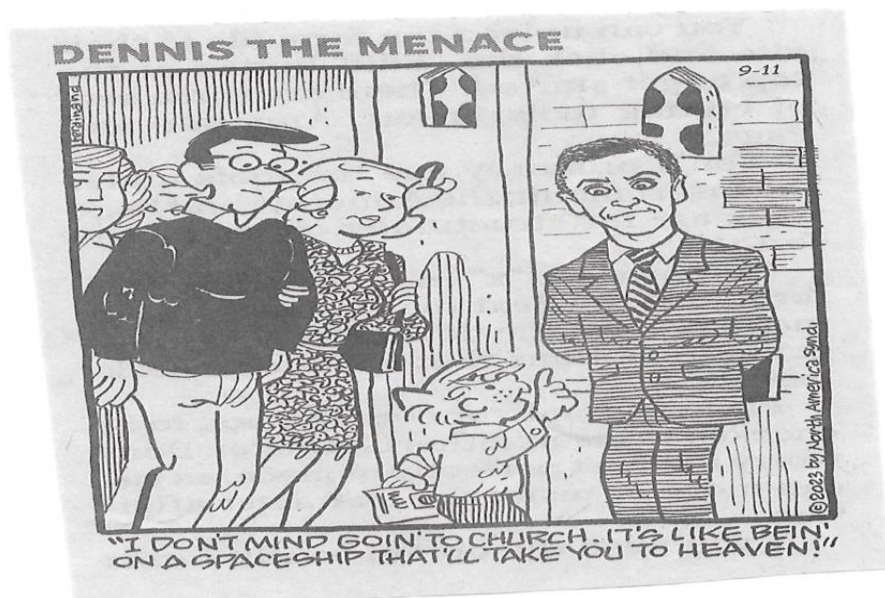
This is Safety Month. We will be conducting a fire drill one Sunday in February. Please familiarize yourself with alternate exits other than the one you use to enter the church routinely. Look for the locations of the fire extinguishers and the AED. If you are unfamiliar with their use, please see Suzanne or Karen.

We are updating our lists this month. We would like to know which member has keys to the church and to which buildings, please contact Karen or through the church office for your name to be verified on our list. If you have found that your role in the church has changed and you no longer need to have a key to any of the church buildings, or if you have a code/key and no longer need access to the church or music building when it's unoccupied please return your key to Karen and your code will be removed. Thank you.

If you need to borrow a key to access any of the buildings, the checkout keys are in the church office. Please fill out which key you borrowed on the checkout sheet provided.

## Attention Frys Shoppers:

When you go shopping at Frys, please see the customer service desk for assistance in linking your card to Shepherd of the Valley UMC. Every purchase helps the church.



Thank you, Jane!

## Protect Yourself from Scams (Humana)

### Continuing our information on scams:

There are several ways that we can be scammed.

Type of Scam	How it works	How to protect yourself.
Funeral and cemetery scams	Scammers may act as mysterious debt collectors, corrupt funeral homes may tack on extras, or you may get a phishing email.	Don't give anyone money, especially if they cannot prove a debt is owed. Find help when planning a funeral and don't be pressured into making a purchase. If you receive an email, call the funeral home directly to verify someone has passed away.
Sweepstakes and lottery scams	Scammers inform the victim that they have won a lottery or sweepstakes but need to make a payment to "unlock" the prize. They may also send a fake check to deposit and collect "taxes and fees" before it bounces.	Remember: If something sounds too good to be true, it probably is. Never wire money to anyone, and don't click on sweepstakes links.
The grandparent scam.	Scammers calls pretending to be a grandchild who needs help now – often by way of a cashier's check or money order.	Contact your grandchild using the number you have for them to see if they story holds up. Call the child's parents, even the grandchild has asked you not to. Ask the person key questions to verify their identity.
Fake charities	Scammers claim to represent a charity in need of money for a specific cause. The charities are often bogus or only contribute a small amount.	Always do your homework before donating to a charity and only give to those you've fully investigated. Visit <a href="http://www.charitynavagator.org">www.charitynavagator.org</a>

		(or call 201-818-1288) to look into the charity you'd like to give to more closely. Watch the news for reports of fraudulent organizations. Add your number to the do -not-call list
Tech support scams	Scammers tell you that your computer has a problem, and you need to click to "fix" it – which usually requires your credit card.	Don't click on pop-ups unless you're sure it is from a legitimate antivirus company. Don't trust phone calls made to you. Large companies wait for you to call them. If you do get scammed, consider taking your computer to a local repair company.

**Continued next month.** I thought I was aware and savvy to not be scammed until I was. I lost a few hundred dollars thinking I was helping someone I knew. I'm much more reluctant to help people with a phone call and to answer the phone if I don't know who's calling. Sad that this is the world we live in.

### Leadership Team Members

Chair	Suzanne	Finance	Don	SPRC	Femi
Fac/Sec	Suzanne	Finance Secty	Wanda	At Large	Betty
At Large	Jack	At Large	Vonnie	Tech	Trina
Lay Leader	Randal	Pastor	Janet	At Large	Sandee

Shepherd of the Valley UMC  
 3039 W. Cactus Rd. Phoenix AZ 85029  
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 Pastor Janet Culbertson SOVUMC@hotmail.com  
[www.shepherdofthevalleyphoenix.org](http://www.shepherdofthevalleyphoenix.org)  
 Bishop Carlo A. Rapanut, UMC Bishop  
 Reverend Javier Olivares, District Superintendent

# February 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
Worship 10:30 am Worship On-Line Any Time			Office Open 12:00 - 4:00 pm Prayer Group 1:30 pm zoom	Martha Circle 10:30 am Rm1 Office Open 12:00 - 4:00 pm Women's AA 6:00 pm Fellowship Hall & kids Rm 1 Men's AA 8:00 pm, FH Bible Study 6:30 pm P. O.	Church of the Beatitudes Art Display 10:30am	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Worship 10:30 am Worship On-Line Any Time			Office Open 12:00 - 4:00 pm Prayer Group 1:30 pm zoom	Office Open 12:00 - 4:00 pm Women's AA 6:00 pm Fellowship Hall & kids Rm 1 Men's AA 8:00 pm, FH Bible Study 6:30 pm P. O.		Men's Fellowship Breakfast 8:00 am Denny's at 43rd & Peoria Jewelry Making with Sandee, rm 1 noon - 4 pm
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Worship 10:30 am Worship On-Line Any Time	Girl Scouts 5:30p		Happy Valentines Day! Office Open 12:00 - 4:00 pm Prayer Group 1:30 pm zoom	Martha Circle 10:30 am Office Open 12:00 - 4:00 pm Women's AA 6:00 pm Fellowship Hall & kids Rm 1 Men's AA 8:00 pm, FH Bible Study 6:30 pm P. O.		
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Worship 10:30 am Worship On-Line Any Time Board 12:30 pm			Office Open 12:00 - 4:00 pm Prayer Group 1:30 pm zoom I Help 6pm FH	Office Open 12:00 - 4:00 pm Women's AA 6:00 pm Fellowship Hall & kids Rm 1 Men's AA 8:00 pm, FH Bible Study 6:30 pm P. O.		Jewelry Making with Sandee, rm 1 noon - 4 pm
25	26	27	28	29	1	2
Worship 10:30 am Worship On-Line Any Time	Girl Scouts 5:30p		Office Open 12:00 - 4:00 pm Prayer Group 1:30 pm zoom	Office Open 12:00 - 4:00 pm Women's AA 6:00 pm Fellowship Hall & kids Rm 1 Men's AA 8:00 pm, FH Bible Study 6:30 pm P. O.		

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**NOTES**

Worship is available In-Person and On our YouTube channel SOVUMC.  
Masks are Encouraged, but not Required unless trends change.  
Enjoy coffee and snacks after the worship service.