KIVA NEWSLETTER

December 2024





Sunday Worship

Join us each Sunday morning for worship throughout the season of Advent. Wear purple, the liturgical color for Advent. Children are always welcome in worship, and we do have professional child care for those who choose. Children's activity bags are available in both worship spaces.

If you can't join us in person, we are also online: <u>www.cpctucsonaz.org</u> (scroll to the bottom of homepage) <u>www.Facebook.com/ChristPresbyterianTucson</u> <u>www.Youtube.com/cpctucsonaz</u>

8:30 a.m. in/from the Fellowship Hall led by our Band **10:45 a.m.** in/from the Sanctuary led by our choirs

December 1: First Sunday in Advent, Communion Scripture: Isaiah 53:1-8 Sermon: The Whole Story Liturgist: Ingrida Cazers

December 8: Second Sunday in Advent Scripture: Luke 2:1-7 Sermon: Where's the Innkeeper? Liturgist: The Hodges Family

December 15: Third Sunday in Advent Scripture: Luke 1:26-38; Matthew 1:18-25 Sermon: Beware of Angels Liturgist: Fred Hubbard

December 22: Journey to Bethlehem Event (No 8:30 service) 9 a.m. Journey events: Food, Music, Petting Zoo, Christmas Crafts 10:45 a.m. Worship with Pageant in the Sanctuary

December 24: Christmas Eve Candlelight Services 5 p.m. Worship in the Fellowship Hall with the Band 9 p.m. Worship in the Sanctuary with the Choirs

December 29: Two Services again (8:30/10:45 a.m.) Scripture: Matthew 1:18-23; Mark 15:33-39 Sermon: The Cradle, The Cross, and the Gift of Emmanuel Sarah Ver Burg, preaching Liturgist: Karl Ver Burg



We need your help as we host our 2024 Journey to Bethlehem on Sunday, December 22nd. As we invite people from Tucson to join us to celebrate the season of Christmas, we especially need folks to help us with crafts and games during the 9-10:30 a.m. time. Please let Robin Gilbert know that you can. Her email is on the back of the KIVA.



Saturday, December 7, 2024 Craft, candy, cookie sale: 9 - 10:45 a.m. Buffet (open seating): 9 - 10:45 a.m. Program: 11 a.m. Tickets: \$10 On sale Sundays on the Patio between services on November 17, 24, and December 1. Cash or checks are accepted (be sure to write WAE on the memo line). For more information:

Pam Cullop, 520-271-6678 or pjcullop@gamil.com Julie McCrea, 520-861-8137 or misbehavinswings@yahoo.com

2-4 Youth Fellowship

2-4 Youth Fellowship (grades 6th-12th) will meet only once in December.

Sunday, December 8: 5-6:30 p.m.

Christmas Celebration at Pastor Steve and Debbie Melde's

Christmas Dedications

At Christmas, it's our tradition to decorate our worship spaces with a special mission project in honor/memory of our loved ones. We used to do so with poinsettias. This year, we will support the Tucson Family Food project. This mission is a grassroots effort to help families to have one, home-cooked meal a week (cooked by their child in middle school). The project provides the food and supplies and a video teaching teens how to cook the meal for their families. It's an amazing way to give not only a healthy meal, but teach teens to be independent.

This year, we invite you to donate \$20 to CPC which will then be given to the Tucson Family Food Project. They will in turn buy tamale steamers for families and other kitchen supplies to help provide a special Christmas meal. CPC will place a "poinsettia stem" in the worship space for each donation to designate our giving. Fill out the enclosed form and return it to the church office by Sunday, December 22nd to be included in our Christmas Eve bulletins.

| FAMILY FOOD PROJECT | | | | |
|---------------------------|-------|-------|---|--|
| In memory of | | | | |
| In honor of | | | | |
| Given by | | Phone | | |
| Amt. paid | Check | Cash | | |
| PLEASE PRINT CL | EARLY | | 1 | |

Faith Studies on Sunday Mornings



Journeys in Faith 9:30 a.m., E/F Zoom ID: 868 3291 1992

Adult Bible Study 9:30 a.m., A/B In-person only

Greetings Saints

And so it is upon us – the glorious season surrounding the birth of Jesus. It's a perfect time to delve into the Bible and what it reveals about God in Christ.

The Adult Bible Study Group is digging into the final book of the Bible – Revelation. Mysterious, poetic and exciting, Revelation is the collected visions of John of Patmos, written approximately 60 years after the death of Christ. Questions were troubling the church. Was Jesus coming back as he had promised? Where did he go? Why didn't he return immediately? Revelation addresses these issues. This Adult Bible Study group meets at 9:30, every Sunday in Room A/B (in person only).

Journeys in Faith is our other Adult Education offering on Sundays at 9:30 a.m.. We discuss those issues that impact our lives as humans, as Americans, and most importantly, as Christians. (Zoom ID 868 3291 1992)

Dec 1: *Indescribable*: a video by Pastor Louis Giglio. In this wonderful look at the heavens, Giglio helps us "rightsize" God. Illuminating and powerful, it's a program you won't forget.

Dec. 8: TED Talk with Anne Lamott: *12 Truths I Learned from Life and Writing*. One of our greatest, most accessible theologians, Lamott's 12 truths will resonate and amuse.

Dec. 15: Our Annual Congregational Meeting.

Shalom, Lesley



Casa Maria - You did it! 269 lunches went out in November — above our goal! Thank you, CPC. The next sandwich event will be on December 24 at 8 a.m.

Market on the Move - Mark your calendars for January 2025 when MOM returns the first Saturday each month. Volunteers are needed. Contact Cheryll Dunafon, cdunafon@gmail.com

Exodus Community Services - These are the guys who help us every year at the Flea Market! It is a great organization that has been the beneficiary of donations from CPC. Exodus currently has three operating homes. They are included in the State of Arizona Tax exemption. Homes like these are now losing the support of the State of Arizona. So when you are thinking about your 2024 taxes and need a great State tax break, this is a good one to support. Arizona allows you to take a dollar-fordollar credit on your state taxes when you donate up to \$470

for single filers, or \$938 for married couples filing jointly to a qualified organization. Their QCO Code is 20079

Care Portal – The Care Portal is an organization that help families in crisis. CPC participates by purchasing cribs and toddler beds for kids who have none. Here are some photos of the adorable beds that have been donated. The children are





excited and happy to have a real bed!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: We need people who can help deliver the items (mattresses & frames; cribs). Please contact Cheryll Dunafon at <u>cdunafon@gmail.com</u> if you are able help. **Military Donations:** CPC is donating stocking stuffers for over 250 patients in the military medical locations this year. We are also giving gift cards to our military families feeling the financial stress of moving to a new location. Thank you CPC!

I am U 360 is going to have a ribbon cutting for their new location, which has the small house that CPC built! The ceremony is on Tuesday, December 3 at 10 a.m. at 1131 S VanBuren. This is north of 22nd street near Craycroft Road. If you have any questions, please contact Janis at azteach2001@gmail.com.

Coming soon to the bulletin board on the east side of the campus: Photos showing what Christ Presbyterian Church has done with your donations and also upcoming events.

Christmas Worship

December 24 Christmas Candlelight Services

- 5 p.m. Worship in Fellowship Hall with the band
- 9 p.m. Worship in the Sanctuary with the choirs

Qualifying Charitable Organizations

Following is a list of the QCO's, the QFCO's and Schools that CPC supports through our mission work:

What is a Qualifying Charitable Organization (QCO)?

The Arizona Department of Revenue (ADOR) defines Qualifying Charitable Organizations (QCOs) as those that "provide immediate basic needs to residents of Arizona who receive temporary

assistance for needy families (TANF) benefits, are low income residents of Arizona, or are children who have a chronic illness or physical disability." QCO organizations are also required to spend at least half of their annual budgets on "gualified services for

qualified Arizona residents," according to ADOR.

The maximum QCO credit donation amount for 2024:

\$470 single, married filing separate or head of household; \$938 married filing joint.

The maximum QCO credit donation amount for 2025: \$495 single, married filing separate or head of household; \$987 married filing joint.

| Haven Totes Casa Maria | 20107 20417 |
|--|----------------|
| Candlelighters Childhood Cancer Foundation | 20980 |
| Angel Heart Pajama Project | 20910 |
| Ronald McDonald House Charities | 20567 |
| Sister Jose Women's Center | 20826 |
| Eagles Wings of Grace | 20259 |
| Exodus Community Services, Inc. | 20079 |
| Habitat for Humanity | 20376 |
| ICS – Interfaith Community Services | 20438 |
| Diaper Bank of Southern Arizona | 20604 |
| Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona | 20488 |
| TMM Family Services | 20469 |
| Catholic Community Services of Southern AZ | |
| (Casa Alitas Program) | 20345 |
| St Luke's Home | 20211 |
| | |

What is a Qualified Foster Care Charitable Organization (QFCO)?

Qualifying Foster Care Charitable Organizations (QFCOs) meet all the requirements listed above for QCOs, but with one additional condition. A QFCO charity must spend at least 50% of its budget on services for children who have been placed in foster homes or child welfare agencies, according to the instructions for Arizona Form 352.

The maximum QFCO credit donation amount for 2024: \$587 single, married filing separate or head of household; \$1,173 married filing joint.

The maximum QFCO credit donation amount for 2025: \$618 single, married filing separate or head of household; \$1,234 married filing joint.

| Aviva Children's Services | 10022 |
|---------------------------|-------|
| l Am You 360 | 11067 |

Public School Tax Credit

Taxpayers Making Contributions or Paying Fees An individual may claim a nonrefundable tax credit for making contributions or paying fees directly to a public school in this state for support of eligible activities, programs or purposes as defined by statute. The public school tax credit is claimed by the individual taxpayer on Form 322.

The maximum credit allowed is \$400 for married filing joint filers and \$200 for single, heads of household and married filing separate filers.

| Annie W. Kellond Elementary School | 100201275 |
|------------------------------------|-----------|
| Hudlow Elementary School | 100201251 |
| Tanque Verde High School | 100213201 |

Please Note: Arizona law allows QCO, QFCO and Public School Tax Credit donations made during 2024 or donations made from January 1, 2025 through April 15, 2025 (or by the time you file your tax return) to be claimed on the 2024 Arizona income tax return. If a taxpayer makes a donation from January 1, 2025 through April 15, 2025 and wants to claim the higher 2025 maximum credit amount, the taxpayer will need to claim the credit on the 2025 Arizona return filed in 2026.

*Tax circumstances are different for everyone. Please consult your tax advisor.

Congregational Care Corner



Congregational Care is offered to the members of Christ Presbyterian Church through various ministries. Here are some ministries that CPC has to provide care to its members and attendees.

Pastoral Care (visits, calls, and prayers) is provided by Pastor Steve Melde and Steve Brownson who are available to visit congregants in their homes, in the hospital, and

in other care facilities, such as Rehabilitation Centers. They can be contacted by calling or texting them on their cell phones, emailing or calling the church office, and leaving a message. **The Compassion Connection Team** visits church members who can't attend worship and other church functions regularly due to ill health or physical challenges. They also send cards, make phone calls, and deliver home communion every month. **The CPC Prayer Chain** is a prayer chain conducted via email. You may request prayers for yourself, a family member, a friend,

or a neighbor for any reason that you may desire prayer, be it a physical, emotional, or psychological concern. To request prayer, send an email to <u>cpctucsonprayers@gmail.com</u>.

The CPC Prayer Shawl Ministry

consists of church members who knit and crochet prayer shawls (for communicants of all ages and sizes), baby blankets and fleece shawls and other similar items. These shawls are blessed during worship services and presented to church members, their family members, and friends of church



members during times of life challenges: such as the loss of a loved one or while

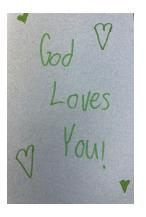


struggling with an illness. Prayer Shawls may be requested for a loved one by

completing the Prayer Shawl Request form located in the office. If you need assistance requesting a Prayer Shawl contact Steve Brownson or Pastor Melde. 10 Helping Hands Meals – There may be a time when we need assistance with meals, usually following surgery or during an illness. If you need assistance and would like to request to have an evening meal delivered for yourself and your immediate family, contact Steve Brownson or Pastor Melde who will then ask the congregation to help. While there are no guarantees, this congregation has always been very generous in helping one another in this way.

Needy Family Fund – Sometimes the financial challenges of life pile up and can be overwhelming, especially when we have a financial emergency. When that happens, CPC can provide some assistance through its Needy Family Fund. If you need financial assistance, contact Pastor Melde or Steve Brownson. **Sunday Funday School** – Not only do our volunteer Elementary and Middle School Sunday School Leaders teach our youngest members about God and God's Son, Jesus Christ, but they also teach them how to share God's Love. Our children are constantly creating cards, bookmarks, and other craft items to give to our VIPPs (Very Important Visited in-Person People) those members who are not always able to be physically present in church. These are always the favorite gifts that our VIPs receive as it reminds them that they are loved and not forgotten.





Just wanted to say we love you V Love. CPC Kids

Wednesday, December 11th 5:00 p.m. Patio Room



This December marks the 12th year since the shooting at the Sandy Hook Elementary School. On December 11th, folks will gather in churches all over the country to remember the over one million Americans killed or injured by guns since the Sandy Hook tragedy.

I invite you to join me at 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 11th for a brief prayer service to honor the Sandy Hook children, and all those who have been impacted by gun violence. We'll meet in the Patio Room.

This is not an anti-gun thing. This is not political. It is my hope that as people all over the country gather to pray, God will lead us to a greater understanding of how we might protect ourselves and our children while allowing legitimate gun owners their right to bear arms.

Stewardship and Finance News

Thank you to all who have been a part of supporting our annual budget this year. We have had accomplished some amazing ministry and been a part of some faithful mission. As this year comes to a close, we encourage you to know:

- December 29th is our last day to receive financial donations to be counted in the 2024 giving. We'll need to get them deposited in the bank during the holiday breaks while the bank is open.
- Can't find a gift for that person that has everything? Consider making a special gift to CPC's Life Celebration Fund in their honor. You would simply write a separate check to CPC and let us know who it's in honor of! What a great way to do some extra giving to CPC.
- Be sure to review the page about the tax rebate charitable giving.
- We are grateful for every donation: financial, personal, prayerful. You make it all happen.

Tuesdays at Noon Zoom ID 839 0008 2868

Every Tuesday at Noon (Tucson Time) Pastor Steve hosts a Zoom conversation about the previous Sunday's worship and sermon theme. Join with others as we take our faith deeper.

Wednesday Message

Most Wednesdays Pastor Steve sends out a special email just for a little faith thought and inspiration in the middle of the week. This is a special group mailing, so if you would like to be a part of it, send him and email and request to be put on the Wednesday Message list:

PastorSteveMelde@gmail.com

Faith Filled Fridays

Each Friday at Noon (Tucson time), Pastor Steve broadcasts a few moments of faith and inspiration. Join him on any of our three broadcast sites (Just like Sunday mornings)

www.cpctucsonaz.org (scroll to the bottom of the homepage) www.YouTube.com/cpctucsonaz www.Facebook.com/ChristPresbyterianTucson

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and



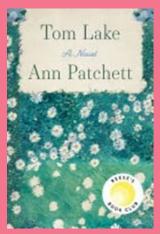
The Book Club will meet on December at 1 p.m. in the Patio Room. Would you like to join them? All are welcome!

Our book for December is *Tom Lake: A Novel* by Ann Patchett

In the spring of 2020, Lara's three daughters return to the family's orchard in Northern Michigan. While picking cherries, they beg their mother to tell them the story of Peter Duke, a famous actor with whom she shared both a stage and a romance years before at a theater company called Tom Lake. As Lara recalls the past, her

daughters examine their own lives and relationship with their mother, and are forced to reconsider the world and everything they thought they knew.

Tom Lake is a meditation on youthful love, married love, and the lives parents have led before their children were born. Both hopeful and elegiac, it explores what it means to be happy even when the world is falling apart. As in all of her novels, Ann Patchett combines compelling narrative artistry with piercing insights into family



dynamics. The result is a rich and luminous story, told with profound intelligence and emotional subtlety, that demonstrates once again why she is one of the most revered and acclaim

Kirkus Reviews gave the novel a starred review, writing, "These braided strands culminate in a denouement at once deeply sad and tenderly life-affirming. Poignant and reflective, cementing Patchett's stature as one of our finest novelists."

FELLOWSHIP

ALL CONGREGATIONAL ANNUAL MEETING Sunday, December 15, 9:30 a.m. in and from Fellowship Hall Zoom ID 885 9127 8799

We'll be electing new deacons and elders for the coming year, voting on changing the terms of service to January 1 to December 31, and affirming the budget for 2025

Men of Faith Breakfast

Wednesday, 18, 7:30 a.m.

All the men of the church are invited to gather for breakfast. We meet monthly on the third Wednesday at Biscuits Café at 7026 E. Broadway Blvd. We pay our own way and have a lively faith discussion.

Mexican Train Dominoes

Join us on Wednesdays, December 4 & 18 in A/B

Have fun playing this challenging game of dominoes. We will teach you!

First, third, and sometimes fifth Wednesday of the month.



Casa Maria Lunches

The Casa Maria Lunch Ministry meets the fourth Tuesday of each month to put together 200 lunches for the Casa Maria Soup Kitchen. If you would like to join them, contact Cindy at ridingsc@comcast.net. The next meeting is Tuesday, December 24, 8 a.m. in Fellowship Hall Kitchen. Drop off your sandwich donations in Fellowship Hall Kitchen.



Thank you, Jordan Cullop! Jordan has served as our AV Coordinator. Jordan began this ministry as a volunteer, and CPC quickly asked him to serve in a hired position to lead us, especially on Sundays with worship projection and broadcasting. Over the years Jordan has helped us develop a vibrant worship experience and online experience. He's helped us develop the AV systems, expand them in new ways, and continue to keep them running even when the gremlins get into the systems.

Jordan has announced his resignation from this position, as his duties at KGUN9 News have expanded. He's a videographer and editor there. We thank Jordan for all he has done to get our AV systems up and running, and all he did throughout COVID to keep us all connected in so many ways. Jordan and his family will remain members of our congregation. We are so grateful! Jordan will help us through the holidays. CPC is actively seeking a new person to hire to run our AV program. Inquiries can be referred to Pastor Melde.



THANK YOU

Thank you, Lon Bothwell, of Bighorn Environmental. Lon has served as Facility Manager for 20 years and has announced his retirement. His last day will be December 31st. Lon's company (mostly Lon) has helped to care for our campus faithfully for all these years. His care and faithfulness have shown clearly as he guided us in the repairs, maintenance, and cleaning of our incredible church campus. We are grateful for the trust and hard work developed over the years of his company's service that has helped us maintain a safe and inviting campus of faith. CPC has enlisted the services of JanPro Cleaning. They will come and clean the entire campus on Mondays

and do a second cleaning of the bathrooms on Saturday nights. Other duties may be covered by volunteers from our Buildings and Grounds Team until we discover how to cover those other duties as needed.



Flea Market News



NOTE: No Secondhand Weekend until 2025!

The Flea Market Team and the *much-appreciated* faithful Flea Market volunteers have been busy as bees all year long in preparation for the 2025 sale, which will take place March 13-15, and will be back at it again after the New Year on the Secondhand Weekend dates of January 11 & 12.

Please Note: Throughout December donations will be accepted but we would prefer they be brought to church on Sunday only, when the MPR closet can most easily be accessed. Otherwise, please contact the donation coordinator, Claudia for an appointment... especially with larger items.

For questions about donations, call or text: Claudia Howell : 520-850-0637. For general Flea Market questions, call or text: Pam Cullop : 520-271-6678.

Thank you for your continued support in this hugely successful event which raises funds for various mission and outreach organizations.

Some folks have asked about Pink Pick-Ups Furniture Taxi (520-268-5670). They are an independently owned moving company that will move your donations to CPC or your entire household to any location. The Flea Market Team hires them to store boxes after Secondhand Weekends and to do heavy lifting for the Flea Market each March. Since we don't collect donations, we encourage you to call the owner, Nathan Heuser for a free estimate. He charges hourly, with a one-minimum of \$125-\$150, depending on the volume and distance.

Merry Christmas everybody! The Flea Market Lead Team Pam Raines, Claudia Howell, Jan Marshall, & Pam Cullop

Presbyterian Women of CPC

Introducing a few new items in 2024. The latest in Hershey creations – The Nutcracker, this year's Snow Friends (\$2 each) and packages of 10 chili Christmas cards (\$7.50) each.



These, and several other treasured handmade items such as microwave bowl cozies, hand crocheted dishtowels, ornaments, jewelry, and much more, including delicious homemade cookies, breads, and candies will be available for purchase at the annual PW Christmas/Cookie sale on December 7 from 9-1045 am, in conjunction with the annual Women's Advent Event, and continuing on December 8 from 930-1230.

Also: To make way for new designs and more embellished card selections in 2025, many cards on hand will sell at clearance prices through the end of this year making it a great opportunity for you to stock up and save!

Profits from Crafts sales benefit a variety of PW Ministries mainly to those who focus their support on women and children. By supporting this group, you are supporting those ministries as well.

The Crafty Ladies meet each Wednesday (with very few exceptions) from 9 a.m.-12 p.m., in north wing classrooms A/B. New ideas and suggestions are always welcome. Breaktime is typically around 10:30 when we pause for a light snack and coffee or tea. This is a relaxed crowd of ladies who enjoy laughter and exchanging funny and heartfelt stories, just as much as they do creativity. Join us one week and see what we do is a good fit for you! * We will NOT MEET on Wed, Dec 25, or on Wed, Jan 1, but will resume regular meetings beginning Wed, Jan 8, 2025. Please Note: <u>PW no longer collects empty prescription bottles</u>. Thank you for your past support of that mission.

Our December Birthdays!

Luke Hopkins
 Bob Burdeshaw
 Janet Rowe
 Susan Hein
 Conner Cech
 Jonah Valentine
 Edwin Hopkins
 Keith Marshall
 Sagan Friskey
 De-De Chandler
 Nicole Melde
 Shelby Gaither
 Wyatt Hodges
 Clover Compton
 Tyler Dittmann

17 Katelyn Murphy

- 18 Becky Hodges
 19 Bob Mielbeck
 20 Sheri Goddard
 20 Joyce Mooney
 21 Bill Street
 22 Laura Manning
 22 Chris Crowder
 23 Christine McCleery
 24 Dave Koch
 26 Sunny McFarren
 26 Kenna Hopkins
 27 Donnie Luther
- 30 Emily Beck
- 30 Steve Melde
- 30 Susan Simpson
- 31 Zack Hodges

If we've missed your birthday, please let us know.





Accepting donations of the following:

Ronald McDonald House: Pop tabs, disinfectant wipes, and chemo caps.

Lions Club Glasses: Lenses, frames and any glasses.



6565 E. BROADWAY • TUCSON, ARIZONA 85710

Member of the Presbyterian Church (USA) & Presbytery de Cristo

The Rev. Steven P. Melde, Pastor (PastorSteveMelde@gmail.com) Steve Brownson, Coordinator of Congregational Care (sbrownson52@gmail.com) Robin Gilbert, Director of Children's Christian Ed (robbert77@juno.com) Luke Diamond, Director of Music (La24diamondcpc@gmail.com) Susan Simpson, Accompanist (susanannsimpson@hotmail.com) Stella Lopez, Office Manager (office@cpctucsonaz.org) Doug Wingert, Bookkeeper (bookkeeper@cpctucsonaz.org) Cathy Wade, Facility Monitor (cawhaw421@gmail.com) Tara Luther, Childcare (tlbohrer17@yahoo.com)

| Church Office Hours | Deadlines | |
|--|--|--|
| Monday - Friday 9 a.m 3 p.m. (Closed for lunch 12 - 1 p.m.) | KIVA January 2025 Articles due by 12 p.m. on Friday, December 10, 2024 | |
| Phone: 520-886-5535 | <u>Weekly Bulletins and Friday</u> <u>News, requests for flyers or</u> inserts | |
| www.cpctucsonaz.org | Please submit your articles and requests by Wednesday at noon! | |



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