



Shepherd Life

*The Monthly Newsletter for
Shepherd of the Hills Congregational UCC*

April 2018

Shepherd of the Hills is a faith community which seeks to learn, to love, and to serve together.

From the desk of

Pastor Rock...

Dear Shepherd Family,

Christ has risen! I want to thank everyone who came for our celebrations and services during Holy Week. From Palm Sunday, through our evening Maundy Thursday service, Stations of the Cross on Good Friday, and Easter Sunday, it was a joy to be able to walk with you this Holy Week. I have always wanted an opportunity to include donkeys in a Palm Sunday service, and you have made a life-long dream come true; it was especially wonderful to meet all of the kids in your lives and see them loving on those sweet little donkeys! Please be sure to bring them again, anytime. A few of you mentioned that, in all fairness, I should bring in elephants next year. I'll work on that.

Through my involvement with the Arizona Interfaith Movement's Interfaith Council, I was invited by Director Larry Fultz to give the invocation on behalf of Shepherd of the Hills at the March meeting of the Arizona State Board of Education. The prayer I offered was as follows:

" God of all people, we give thanks for those engaged in the work of education: grant our administrators the freshness of thought and clearness of vision to promote a curriculum which honors our common life and protects our most vulnerable from the loss of opportunity. Enable our teachers to nurture the hearts and challenge the minds of their students, encouraging their eagerness to explore the world, searching mysteries, and taking the time

to engage those who may be slow to learn. Give our students the strength to doubt with courage, and the humility to learn from their mistakes, and ours. May we all support this generation in the discovery of truth, that they may grow in grace and wisdom and be well-prepared to face the challenges of life. We pray all this in the spirit of the one who unites us."

I recently had an opportunity to attend Be the Spark, which offers faith communities and organizations a leadership, development, and organizing model to become better agents of change. Shepherd of the Hills hosted this workshop, which was brought to Arizona by Arizona Interfaith Power and Light. Everyone in attendance learned a lot and are ready to take the next steps in advocating for climate, racial, and economic justice. Thank you Shepherd of the Hills for being such gracious hosts. Please standby for activation!

Thanks to Gabi Young, our outreach Chair. Our contact at the Red Cross said we donated enough blood to save 63 LIVES! It was a great turnout from our congregation and our friends around the neighborhood! Thank you Gabi and thanks to all who participated.

I am in the process of gathering a membership class. If you're interested in learning more about becoming part of our Shepherd Family, or if you'd like to transfer your membership, please let us know.

I want to thank everyone for your patience as we implemented the transition from pew sign-in pads to Attendance/Prayer Cards. I understand there was some hesitation to make the switch, but I want you to know why it's important to me; I simply was not getting a lot of helpful

information off of the pew pads. The new cards allow folks to write down their prayers and concerns, which I sit with and pray with during the week. In addition to the practical matter of protecting personal information, it's really helping me focus on the prayers of the community and reach out to those who need it. I'm calling on home bound folks so please, if you haven't seen someone in church lately, or know that someone is going through something, please email, call the office, or write it on one of our new Attendance/Prayer Cards!

Thank you for continuing to help me find my way and get acclimated.

Offering you every blessing during this Easter season,

Pastor Rock



Phoenix Pride Festival will take place April 7th & 8th at Steele Indian School Park from Noon – 9:00 PM. Children under 12 receive Free Admission. Children 13-17 receive Discounted Admission. Adults 18 and over have multiple different ticket packages available. Seniors 55+: \$12.00 (with ID). Active Duty Military: Free (with Valid ID). Former Military: \$12.00 (with Valid ID) Phoenix Pride Parade will be April 8th at 10am Step Off Time. Begins: 3rd St & Thomas Ends: 3rd St & Indian School.

WITH SYMPATHY...

We extend our sympathies to the family of **Ron Loewen**. Ron, brother to Cindy & Tami Loewen, passed away on March 14, 2018. Services were held here on March 17, 2018 in Columbia, SC.

We also extend our sympathies to the family of **Rev. Dr. Lionel Miles**. Lionel passed away March 26, 2018. A celebration of life service was held for Lionel at Shepherd of the Hills on Monday, April 2, 2018 at 11:00AM.



WITH HONOR AND IN REMEMBRANCE...

As you take in the splendor of the Spring flowers this Easter season, you are invited to reflect on the significance of these flowers, the donors, and the lives they honor through this symbol of new life:

Ellen & Bill Janiga – *In Memory of Roger Burritt*
 John Clark – *In Memory of Jeanie Clark*
 Allen & Mary Curtis – *In Honor of our parents*
 Helen Boorman – *In Memory of Robert Boorman*
 The Wilson family (2) – *In Memory of Mary Jean Wilson*
 Beth Sposito (2) – *In Memory of Heather D'ambrosio & Daniel Sposito*
 Mary Ann Hamill – *In Memory of Olga Seehausen*
 Rose Mary Dupuy – *In Memory of Wilbert Seehausen*
 Dan & Liz Mullen – *In Honor of Owen Timothy Mullen*
 Ted & Jeanne Roper – *In Memory of Patricia Jean Livingston*
 Chris & Gabi Young (3) – *In Memory of Sarah Johnson, Dorothy Young & Carlos Peres*
 Betty May – *In Memory of Esther Harris, Ruth Harris & Clara Peacock*
 Carol & Lew Shaw (2) – *In Memory of their son, David Shaw and their daughter, Martha Shaw*
 Lauren & Paul Schweizer – *In Memory their mothers*
 John & Diana Schneeman – *In Memory of Their Son, Michael James*
 Homer & Mary Gilchrist – *In Honor of Xuelai Wu*
 Ginny Vaules – *In Memory of Marilyn Gilsdorf*

SUNDAYS AT SHEPHERD

Welcome to the season of Easter. It is more than just a day. It's a new way of experiencing life. Listed are our Sunday Scriptures for April:

April 1	Easter Sunday John 20:1-18
April 8	Second Sunday of Easter Acts 4:32-35; John 20:19-31
April 15	Third Sunday of Easter Acts 3:12-19; Luke 24:36b-48
April 22	Fourth Sunday of Easter Acts 4:5-12; John 10:11-18
April 29	Fifth Sunday of Easter Acts 4:5-12; John 10:11-18

BOOK CLUB NEWS

Our April meeting will be on the 18th in the Parish House Conference Room at 11:30. Please note the change of date. Bring your lunch if you wish and join the discussion about the



books we have been reading. We hope more people will decide to join us. It is an opportunity to get together with members and friends of Shepherd in a more social setting. For our May 16th meeting we plan to have read and then will discuss "Pudd'nhead Wilson" by Mark Twain. It is a delightful short story and we hope it will encourage others to read it and join us. Let me know if you wish to join us and need assistance in finding a copy of Twain's book. Ginny Vaules (480) 348-1217.

GOOD EARTH COMMITTEE

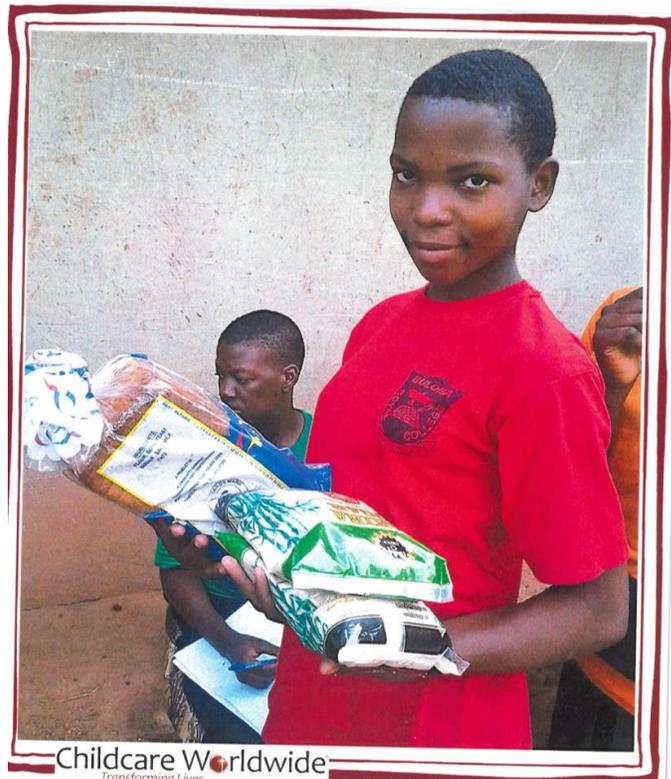
On the patio Easter Sunday, the Good Earth Committee will be selling coffee, chocolate and produce. Please stop by.

*The Good Earth Group holds its monthly sale of Fair Trade coffee and chocolate before and after Worship on the first Sunday of the month. Purchasing your coffee, chocolate, and fresh produce from the Good Earth Group is a simple way to help make a difference for the sake of your health and for the sake of the earth's health.



ICM FOOD & CLOTHING BANK

Children's clothing is always in demand at ICM, especially clothes, shoes and underwear for boys of all ages. Another category is rolling luggage. Clients are often on foot or taking the bus so wheeled luggage is very helpful for toting food and clothing home. If you are able to donate any of these things, your generosity will be appreciated.



Childcare Worldwide
Transforming Lives
U20588 Immaculate Nakibuuka

Childcare Worldwide
Transforming Lives

Dear Sponsor,

Enclosed is a photo of your sponsored child receiving their Christmas Love Pak.

Thank you for helping to share the love of Christ and the joy of Christmas. Your support is truly a blessing.

Sincerely,

Maggie Anderson
Maggie Anderson
Sponsorship Assistant

OUTREACH NEWS

by Gabi Young, Outreach Chair

Hello Shepherd!

In March, you all proved once again how generous and kind-hearted you are. Our special offering went to One Great Hour of Sharing which supports many refugees, people trying to rebuild after natural disasters, or people trying to lift themselves out of poverty by accessing affordable lines of credit. Our congregation raised \$1,037! That is PHENOMENAL! Somewhere on Earth people we don't even know will be feeling God's love because YOU feel God's love and calling! Also, our contact at the Red Cross said we donated enough blood to save 63 lives! It was a great turnout from our congregation and our friends around the neighborhood!

And speaking of Earth, that leads me to the special offering and focus for April. On Sunday, April 22 (Earth Day!) we will be collecting for AZ Interfaith Power and Light. Their mission is to "... mobilize a national religious response to global warming while promoting renewable energy, energy efficiency and conservation." Why? Because as it says on their website, "People of faith have a responsibility to care for God's creation." Well said! Giving to our offering on the 22nd is one way to make an impact and take a stand for environmental progress in our state and country. However, there are many other ways to get involved and learn more about ways to care for our planet.

Two fun events that will be going on in April around Earth Day education:

1. As written on the AZ Interfaith Power and Light Website: On April 13, the Care for Creation team will show A Plastic Ocean as part of the Creation Connection Movie Night series. This movie is a feature-length adventure documentary that brings to light the consequences of our global disposable lifestyle. An international team of adventurers, researchers, and ocean ambassadors go on a mission around the globe to uncover the shocking truth about what is truly lurking beneath the surface of our seemingly pristine oceans. The result will astound you! The movie begins at 6:00pm. The \$10 fee includes a light dinner. Pre-registration is required. To

register, visit thecasa.org or call 480-948-7460. (This movie is at The Casa - Franciscan Renewal Center.)

2. For those of you with kids or grandkids, the Phoenix Zoo is having a "Party for the Planet" day on Saturday, April 14th from 9am-4pm sponsored by SRP. All activities will be included with general admission and consist of face painting, farm animal activities, and literal tree hugging and much more! Visit <http://www.phoenixzoo.org/event-items/earth-day/> for more details.

And one easy change you can make today if you haven't already:

Stop buying disposable, plastic water bottles! I admit I have had a bad habit of buying disposable water bottles instead of just drinking from a washable and reusable bottle - plastic or aluminum. Here are some surprising facts provided by the Pacific Institute about those flimsy plastic bottles we see everywhere. "The amount of petroleum required to make, ship, and distribute the average single-use water bottle would fill 25 percent of the bottle itself. So when you drink a bottle of water, you're also consuming the equivalent of a quarter of the bottle's volume in oil. The Earth Policy Institute estimates that bottled water consumption is the global warming equivalent of three million cars driven for a year. Drinking from a reusable water bottle, however, is a simple but empowering change. You may not be able to reverse global warming single-handedly, but collectively we can make a difference by changing our water consumption habits.



COOL CAMPAIGN UPDATE

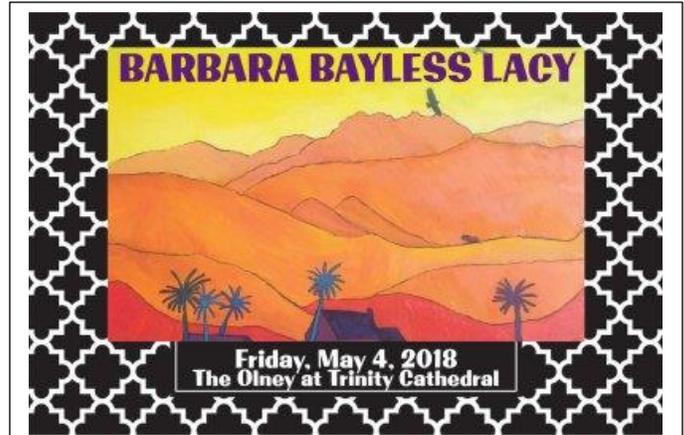


As the Arizona temperatures rise, so do our donations to our Cool Campaign to raise funds to replace the air conditioners in sanctuary building. We have an excellent HVAC company that has provided a cost estimate of approximately \$30,000 to replace the units. So \$30K – that's our goal. We hope to have all funds and pledges received in March, April and May to meet this goal. Thank you to everyone that has already donated or pledged. As of the 1st of April our pledges and receipts totaled around \$13,645. We are quite a way from our goal of \$30,000 but continue to see your commitments come into the church. Mark any pledge or money with "Cool" and we will make sure it is applied to this campaign. Thank you for your support of this much needed replacement in our sanctuary!



ONE HAPPY CUSTOMER

This photo was received from Nancy Splain after the March Shepherd Life newsletter was published but it's too cute not to share. It was titled "A happy Purchaser and Nancy wrote: A young couple who live in our neighborhood bought this for their little girl-as well as furniture. etc.



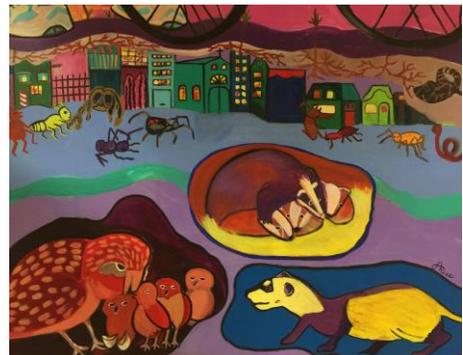
Longtime SOH member, Barbara Lacy, has a solo painting exhibition, Arizona Grand, April 27-May 24, 2018, at the Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, Olney Gallery, 100 West Roosevelt, Phoenix. Opening reception is from 6-9 p.m., Friday, May 4, 2018.

Fun fact: The Cathedral is a stop on the Light Rail. Good news, especially on a First Friday!

NEWS FROM THE HILLSPRESCHOOL

Alice Rice has been so generous at the preschool, sharing her time and talents with the children through the years. She makes the natural environment come alive with animated storytelling, artifacts, and beautiful children's literature. Alice recently gifted her Pre-K friends with a very large canvas painting. Together they explored the animals in the painting: Badger, ferret, burrowing owls, spiders, termites, rattlesnake, black widow spider, to name a few. Though we're an urban school, we try to connect with the natural environment as much as we can. Alice makes that wider world much more tangible and beautiful. Her visits continue to be a much-anticipated highlight each week for the children.

Thank you, Alice, for your advocacy for young children.



WORSHIP & MUSIC NEWS

A huge Thank You goes out to the congregation of Shepherd of the Hills, for each one of you that helped to make our Lenten Season a great success.



Starting with the donkeys and a processional into the sanctuary with

song on Palm Sunday, to Holy Week packed full of new ways to experience this time. From



Maundy Thursday's reading of the Scripture and candle lighting to Noon on Good Friday with Stations of the Cross in the sanctuary filled with readings of Jesus challenging us today to be mindful of the ways in which we live our life following Him. Then an amazing Easter Celebration of Jesus' Resurrection with a beautiful flower altar and the adornment of the cross with flowers, a children's time with the Easter story and



singing to God with "The Alleluia Tree" Cantata. After service the children ran to start the Egg hunt followed by a yummy breakfast on the patio.

Welcome to Rev. Rock Fremont on his first Easter Season with us. Thank you again for many folks with many hands to celebrate together as a community in Christ.

Blessings to you all,

Sue Spahle,

Worship and Music Chair

April SOH Helpers

April 8

Greeter: Laura Minnick

Ushers: Ginny Vaules, Alice Rice, Sally Shackelford & Caroline Mills

Liturgist: TBD

April 15

Greeter: Ginny Vaules

Ushers: Nadine Smith, Marian Hoff

Liturgist: TBD

April 22

Greeters: Darrell & Mary Kay Smith

Ushers: Ray & Candy Sorenson, Beth Sposito, Alice Rice

Liturgist: TBD

April 29

Greeters: Mary Curtis & family

Ushers: Mark Minnick, Becky Boyd, John & Diana Schneeman

Liturgist: TBD

Thank you all for your service! Anyone wishing to help with the many tasks that keep our services running smoothly can sign up in the narthex or by contacting the church office. We are always in need of people to greet our guests, to read the liturgy, to provide flowers for the altar, assist in Sunday school and to bring refreshments for our coffee hour.

SHEPHERD LIFE IMAGES



Palm Sunday At Shepherd of the Hills

SHEPHERD LIFE IMAGES (Palm Sunday continued)





(Transformation of the Cross)



(Transformation of the Cross)



(Blessing the Cross)

Easter at Shepherd of the Hills



SAVE THE DATE!!

Earth Day Sunday, April 22nd, the Good Earth group will be hosting a fun and informative event after service in the Sanctuary.

Shepherd of the Hills UCC
Council Meeting
March 6th, 2018

In attendance: Mary Curtis (Moderator), Jeanne Roper (Membership), John Schneeman (Buildings & Grounds), Bill Janiga (Moderator), Rev. Rock Fremont (Senior Minister), Gabi Young (Outreach), Stephen Fuller (Christian Ed), Alice Rice (Christian Ed), Carol Shaw (Diaconate), Lauren Schweitzer (Member at Large), Austin Shackelford (Clerk). Sue Spahle (Worship & Music), Joe Coltman (Treasurer). All in attendance.

Call to Order: 6:34 PM Bill Janiga & Mary Curtis. Introductions between council members and newly settled Pastor Rock Fremont.

Opening Prayer: Rev. Rock Fremont.

Approval of Feb Minutes: Sue Spahle moves to approve the minutes as presented. Stephen Fuller seconds.
Motion passed via unanimous approval.

Call for Additional Agenda items: No new items

New Business:

- **ADT Security:** Behind fellowship hall is main concern
 - Security for the window in her office, something to lock her space
 - Contradictory to last month's council meeting, there may not be an apparent need for a security system in the parish office, so John will follow up with Vicki as to what her needs are
- **Raises for staff**
 - 2% for Vicki and Xuelai, Abraham is limited personal financial considerations
 - **Motion:** Lauren Schweitzer moves for a 2% raise, based on their individual salaries, for Vicki (approx. \$720) and Xuelai (approx. \$246) retroactive for calendar year 2018.
 - Stephen Fuller second
 - **Motion passed** with unanimous approval
 - Discussions on ways to thank Abraham
- **Filling Committee Roles**
 - SOH does not have nominating committees, so it is up to the work of the council
 - **Personnel committee:** goal is to have 3 members. Bill volunteers to be de facto member of the committee and there will be discussions on nominations for the other 2 positions.
 - Functioning of the committee: Rev. Rock will perform evaluations and pass them to the committee
 - **Pastoral Relations Committee**
 - Three members have come forward to form this committee: Judy Eighmy, Beth Franco, and Diana Schneeman
 - **Financial Secretary:** 2 or 3 members would be most efficient for this committee. Duties include collecting the weekly offering, counting, and locking it in Vicki's office for final deposit. Currently Laura Minnick and John Schneeman are covering for this position.
 - **Clerk:** The current clerk, Austin Shackelford, will be moving in June. Currently looking for nominations to fill this position. Duties include taking notes at council meetings and the annual meeting. Providing a report of members gained and lost at the annual meeting, and signing checks issued by the church.
 - **Stewardship:** This position has been run on a *ad hoc* basis for the past two years, with Joe Coltman and Laura Minnick taking most of the responsibilities. Duties of this

committee include running the annual stewardship campaign (typically from Sept/Oct through January).

▪ **Request for meeting space**

- Steve Davis has requested to work with SOH for an Arizona Interfaith Power & Light (AIPL) workshop.
- The AIPL Workshop is for environmental advocacy-finding solutions to increase green and then advocating for state and federal policy.
- **Motion:** Bill Janiga moves to host the event and waive the \$300 facility usage fee, as a one-time fee waiver approval.
- Alice Rice seconds motion
- Discussion: Any possible expenses-having Abraham clean and set up the coffee. Church member involvement-since this is an appointed committee meeting, members can be involved in helping to set up/take down only.
- **Motion passed** via unanimous approval

▪ **Online Banking access for Vicki**

- Joe is currently working with Chase bank to give ability for Vicki to monitor checking account with limitations
- Current signatories for checks
 - Rev. Rock, Austin Shackelford, Mary Kay Smith, Joe Coltman, Laura Minnick
 - Chase needs motion from the council for when exchanging check signers (new moderators and clerk)
- Question: do we have our books audited?
 - Future item for the discussion, perhaps a financial review
 - Cost of an independent audit (John's HOA is \$600)

▪ **Zoom meeting option**

- Council open for having future meetings recorded and accessible for members unable to physically be present.

• **Committee Reports**

- **In general:** Goal in this and future meetings is to keep this portion brief. The idea is to have committee reports submitted before the meeting for review and to limit discussion to action items that require approval from the council.
- **Treasurer:** For council meetings this year, Joe will look to give quarterly reports.
 - Cool Campaign: \$1720 raised so far with one person who has provided a block of money for matching.
 - Will promote the campaign more in the following weeks.
 - Looking at a possible end date in May, and pay with reserves if necessary due to timing and cost associated with AC replacement in the summer months.
 - Action items for next meeting:
 - renewal of The Hills license
- **Minister:** Rev. Fremont has been getting to know the community including the local LDS church, Prince of Peace, Community of Christ on 40nd St and Osborn, Methodist Church, and the 7th day Adventists on Camelback. Rev. Rock is visiting these churches with the concept of forming an Arcadia ministerial group.
 - **The organ:** Rev. Rock has a connection who could look at the organ pro-bono and reevaluate options for repair. Many members of the Church have expressed interest in hearing it again during service.
 - **Back office utilization:** Rev. Rock asked Council for permission to use this area as a space for contemplative prayer. Council agreed that this would be an excellent use of the space.

- **Outreach:** The Flea Market was a great success and raised \$1300 for outreach! The committee will look to distribute those funds to deserving organizations within the next few months.
 - **March Outreach:** One great hour of sharing. \$1300 raised last year.
 - **Blood drive** will be on 3/25 and a sign to promote it is going up soon.
 - **Facebook** in conjunction with Rev. Rock, Gabi Young is working on keeping the page updated to reach a broader audience.
- **Worship & Music:** report sent via email-coordinating with Rev. Rock on integrating new ideas into the service.
- **Christian Ed:** After mentioning the need for tables and chairs for Sunday School, they were donated along with a whiteboard. Thank you for the generosity!
- **Diaconate:** committee is going well, coordinating with Linley-service for Lynn Shepherd went well.
 - Memorial Service Monday March 11 for Gene Hunnington
- **Buildings & Grounds:** Only action item is for the removal of oleanders that line the entry way to the Sanctuary. For now, they will get a winter cut and then complete removal at the next bulk trash.
- **Final Discussions:**
 - **Live Streaming and Recording Service:** An inquiry mentioned from council to Rev. Rock regarding this possibility. At Rev. Rock's previous church, they used Facebook live streaming-cameras that could hook up to it. It is definitely a possibility for the Church and it would be in the ballpark of \$800 for a camera to perform this service.
 - **Re-branding and Website Updates:** Another inquiry was brought up regarding updating the Church website and brand. Rev. Rock's husband, Ernie, is a graphic designer and his spending time drafting new possibilities.

Call for Adjournment: Bill Janiga moves to adjourn the meeting at 8:26PM. Austin Shackelford seconds. Unanimous approval.

Enthusiastically Submitted,

Austin J. Shackelford, Clerk



April 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10am Worship & Cantata w/Easter Egg Hunt & Lite breakfast Good Earth Sales 1:30pmMarshallese Worship, Hall 4pm Meditation, PH	2	3	4 10am Wednesday Wanderers, Parish House 6:30PM Choir Rehearsal	5	6 10am Bridge, Parish House	7 8:30am Yoga, Fellowship Hall 1:00pm UAA, Fellowship Hall
8 10am Worship 1:30pmMarshallese Worship, Hall 4pm Meditation, PH	9 9am ICM Pick Up	10	11 10am Wednesday Wanderers, Parish House 6:30PM Choir Rehearsal	12 5:30pm Girl Scouts, Fellowship Hall	13 10am Bridge, Parish House	14 8:30am Yoga, Fellowship Hall 1:00pm UAA, Fellowship Hall
15 10am Worship 1:30pmMarshallese Worship, Hall 4pm Meditation, PH	16	17 1:30pm Truthseekers, Fireplace Room	18 10am Wednesday Wanderers, Parish House 6:30PM Choir Rehearsal	19 11:30am Book Club, Parish House	20 10am Bridge, Parish House	21 8:30am Yoga, Fellowship Hall 1:00pm UAA, Fellowship Hall
22 10am Worship Mission Moment 1:30pmMarshallese Worship, Hall 4pm Meditation, PH	23 9am ICM Pick Up	24	25 10am Wednesday Wanderers, Parish House 6:30PM Choir Rehearsal	Southwest Conference Annual Meeting in Tucson		28 8:30am Yoga, Fellowship Hall 1:00pm UAA, Fellowship Hall
29 10am Worship 1:30pmMarshallese Worship, Hall 4pm Meditation, PH	30	First Light AA Meetings Monday—Saturday mornings 7:00 AM-Fellowship Hall AA Meeting and Alanon Meeting, 6:30pm EVERY Tuesday Fellowship Hall Ala-teen Meeting 7:00PM EVERY Tuesday, Library AA Meeting 8:00PM EVERY Wednesday, Fellowship Hall				

Shepherd of the Hills Congregational
United Church of Christ
5524 E. Lafayette Blvd.
Phoenix, AZ 85018-4599

Through our ministry of hospitality, we provide space to the following:

Sun – 1:30pm	Marshallese Worship in Hall
Sun- 4:00pm	Meditation Group in Parish House
Tues - 6:30pm	AA Group, Fireplace Room Al-Anon, Fellowship Hall
Tues – 7:00pm	Ala-Teen, Library
Wed - 8:00pm	AA Group, Fellowship Hall
Mon-Sat - 7:00am	First Light AA Group, Fireplace Room
Sat – 8:30am	Hatha Yoga, Fellowship Hall
Sat-1:00pm	United Art of Arizona Classes, Fellowship Hall