

### SAGUARO UPDATE ~ ~ ~

Beloved Saguaro,

Advent dawns. Emmanuel awaits. It begins with a prayer. It begins in darkness. It begins with the search for a promised tomorrow, our tomorrow.

And so we follow a family, a holy one of ordinary station. We discover their despair, the full reality of all humanity. We hear their hope and we walk in their footsteps seeking refuge, a place free to feel the eternal weight of the love carried within Mary.

There are a thousand different voices asking us to see a thousand other things from this moment. There are the pulls to romanticize and sanitize this scene within scripture. I urge you to resist it. The days that lead to Christmas morning were never meant as a diversion to life as it is but rather a way to transform life as it is with the birth of the Christ child.

On Sunday, as the music fills a sanctuary thick with the smell of hope, we open our hearts, voices and souls to this journey. God bless your coming together as a community. I lift you in prayer. Be present within the possibility that awaits us. God is with us.

#### Community Kitchen Update:

My prayer for November consisted of gold shovels, smiles for cameras and dust from construction. I cannot describe how frustrating it is to write that for now it appears construction remains around the corner. After much deliberation and work, the architecture team of Saguaro paused the start of construction. We lost confidence in our contractor and we have put the project out to bid again.

Whereas we do not assign malfeasance to our current contractor and whereas we fully understand the competing complexities of a vibrant local economy struggling with tariffs and worker shortages, we no longer felt their bid reflected the best intent of what was possible. The two new bids are scheduled to be in by next week for the architect team's evaluation. As stewards of Saguaro's resources and enthusiasm to create a tool of tangible hope and a lasting legacy for the Tucson community, we could not, in good conscience, push forward without triple checking the process.

We pray that you will continue to be patient with us. We also pray that you will not give up hope on this project which has already given birth to the Sol Food Initiatives and Saguaro's exclusive partnership with the Southern Arizona Community Food Bank on the "Innovative Solutions For Senior Hunger" project in 2019. I am generally of the belief that there are few problems that cannot be solved with hard work, but this Design-Build process has tested that theory. Pray for us and with us.

#### Saturday, 12/1

10 am – Decorate Sanctuary

#### Sunday, 12/2

Library Open

Regular Services

10:00 am – Adult Education Class

for Advent – by Dorothy Walters

10:00 am – Christmas Play Practice

for Children and Youth – room 5

12:30 pm – Youth (5<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>) PARTY

(see page 2 for details)

#### Monday, 12/3

7:00 pm – Recovery

#### Tuesday, 12/4

9:00 am – "40 Under 40" Event @  
Pima Air & Space Museum

5:00 pm – STEM Scouts (FH)

6:30 pm – Joint Board / Elders

Meeting

#### Wednesday, 12/5

9:15 am – Blessings in a Backpack

11 am – Chapel

12 noon – Brown Bag

5:30 pm – Community Dinner

6:00 pm – Saguaro Ringers

7:00 pm - Choir

8:00 pm - Shelter

#### Thursday, 12/6

6:00 pm – DWM Dinner (FH)

#### Friday, 12/7

#### Saturday, 12/8

#### Sunday, 12/9

Library Open

Regular Services

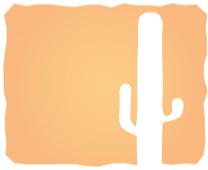
10:00 am – Adult Education Class

for Advent – by Dorothy Walters

10:00 am – Christmas Play Practice

for Children and Youth – room 5

12:00 pm – Primavera Prep



**ATTENTION ALL YOUTH (5<sup>TH</sup>--12<sup>TH</sup> GRADES) IT'S TIME FOR A PARTY on Sunday, December 2.** Join Kelley and Owen and some other fantastic adults for a "super fun, progressive lunch, service project and game afternoon".

- Meet at Kelley's house at 12:30 pm
- Grown Ups – pick kids up at Owen's house at 4 pm
- We will make our own pizza, decorate cookies, play some Christmas games and decorate cards for Casa Mariposa

Email or message Kelley Dick or Owen Chandler if you can attend (by Saturday, December 1)

[Rev.KelleyDick@saguarochristian.org](mailto:Rev.KelleyDick@saguarochristian.org)

[Rev.O.R.Chandler@saguarochristian.org](mailto:Rev.O.R.Chandler@saguarochristian.org)

**THIS IS GOING TO BE AMAZING AND EPIC!**

**CHRISTMAS PLAY PRACTICE – Lights, Camera, Action –**

Christmas Play Practice for Children and Youth starts this Sunday, the 2<sup>nd</sup>, at 10 am. Bethany Keenan and Stephanie Sager are the directors. Get ready for a super silly good time! The play will be December 23 at 10 am. We will start out in room 5. Seriously. . .there is a part for EVERYONE!!! YAY!! Kelley will have doughnuts each week!

**NON-PROFITS HIGHLIGHTED IN DECEMBER –** As we journey together this year during Advent, we invite you to participate in one or all of the weekly collections we are holding at Saguaro. Each week we will highlight a different non-profit and collect different item(s). Each of these non-profits rely on the kindness of strangers and all care for families in different capacities. Each week, as a part of worship, we will collect the items and hold them and all families in our prayer. May we always remember that we are in this together. **THIS WEEK WE ARE COLLECTING FOR AVIVA – NEW CHILDREN'S UNDERWEAR, SOCKS, TOYS, AND HYGIENE ITEMS**

**ATTENTION: ALL WOMEN OF SAGUARO: THE ANNUAL DWM CHRISTMAS PARTY** will be held on Thursday, December 6, at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. We will gather for food, fellowship and service. Once again we will be collecting for AVIVA Children. We are asking for donations of socks, underwear, (for boys, boxer briefs) – birth to 18 year olds –, toys, and hygiene items to fill a bag when the children are taken from their homes. Also, that evening, we will load up cookie tins for our shut-ins so save a dozen or two Christmas cookies when you're doing your holiday baking. We will be taking reservations the next three Sundays so look for us in the Narthex. Price is \$12 for a meal from Olive Garden with decadent desserts to follow. All reservations need to be in by December 2. Come join us for a fun, service-filled evening.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS – ADULT CHRISTMAS PARTY ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16 AT 6:00 P.M. AT VENTANA RESORT,** 7000 N. Resort Drive. Fran Johnson is taking the reservations and your payment. Please make your checks payable to Shirley Estes. The cost is **\$10/person**. Each person is asked to **bring a wrapped White Elephant** gift (marked "man" or "woman") for the gift exchange. **Reservations need to be in by December 9.**

**SERVICES FOR SUNDAY, December 2**

8:00 a.m. – Chapel

9:00 a.m. – Contemporary Worship

Elder: Mike Aaker

11:00 a.m. – Traditional Worship

Elder: K C Estes (Offering)

Elder: Susan Keenan (Communion)

Children's Moment: Rev. Owen Chandler

Acolyte: Kia Meyer

**SCRIPTURES:**

Psalm 25: 1-10 NRSV: Tim Bacchus

**SERMON SCRIPTURE:**

Jeremiah 33: 14-16 NRSV

**SERMON TITLE:** "Worth the Risk"

**Home Communion:** Michael Cleveland

**Property Person on-call: Dan Hicks**

**ADULT EDUCATION CLASS** – Dorothy Walters will be leading this four-week class in the Saguaro Room at 10 am. The class will use the book, **“Taste and See: Experience the Stories of Advent and Christmas”**. Books are available in the office or in class.

**WE WILL BE DECORATING THE SANCTUARY ON SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1 AT 10 am** – All are welcome to come and help. Questions?? Contact Fran Johnson in the office.

**POINSETTIAS** – It’s time to order your poinsettias for Advent. Plants will be \$10 each. Please sign up on the sheet provided by the ushers and submit your payment in the offering plate or directly to the church office. Please make a notation that the payment is for poinsettias.

### UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER

- **SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1, 10 am** – DECORATE THE SANCTUARY – ALL ARE WELCOME!
- **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2, 12:30 pm** – YOUTH (5<sup>TH</sup>-12<sup>TH</sup> GRADES) – SEE PAGE 2 FOR DETAILS
- **THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6, 6 pm** – DWM CHRISTMAS DINNER – LAST CHANCE TO SIGN UP ON SUNDAY, 12/2
- **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16, 6 pm** – ADULT CHRISTMAS PARTY AT VENTANA RESORT. (See [Fran Johnson](#) for reservations)
- **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 23, 10 am** – CHRISTMAS PLAY – Children and Youth performing!
- **FEBRUARY 1-3** – Midwinter Youth Retreat at Camp Pinerock (Register here: <http://azdisciples.org/midwinter2019/>)

**ADVENT IS HERE!** In order to more fully celebrate the season, consider tips for staying mentally healthy during the holidays:

- Recognize that people in your life **are who they are**. Give your energy to those whose presence makes you happy.
- It’s OK to **let some things go**. Reduce your “to do” list, focus on ones really important to you.
- Every day **enjoy something about the season**. . . Lights, fragrances, music. . .
- **Care for yourself**: this isn’t an extra, it’s critical to your well-being.
- Remember **moderation**: you know your limits, honor them.
- **Stick to your budget**. Overspending isn’t the only way to express love!
- **Reach out** to those who are without a loved one and connect with others.
- **Be grateful**. Expressing daily gratitude builds immune system, keeps us in touch with positive aspects of life and connects us with others.

**YOU** have the ability to **bring down the stress and to bring up the joy!**

**THE TUCSON BARBERSHOP HARMONY CHAPTER**, which sang at our Church in August, will be presenting their Christmas Show, **“I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus”**, on **Sunday, December 9 at 3 p.m.** at Pima Community College West, 2202 W. Anklam Rd. Tickets are \$12 for seniors and students; \$15 for general admission. See Mike Elbert for tickets.

**ST. PAUL’S UNITED METHODIST WOMEN** invite women of **ALL FAITHS** to attend a **CHRISTMAS COFFEE**, on **Tuesday, December 4, at 9:30 a.m. in Brummet Hall**. Their Boutique will open at 9 a.m. St. Paul’s United Methodist Church is located at 8051 E. Broadway

### WEEKLY PRAYER LIST

- **HOSPICE**: Sandy Broussard
- **ONGOING HEALTH CONCERNS**: Shirley Heaphy; Marilyn Hanson; Iris Carson; Annell Gooden; Leon Moore; [Pat Easter’s brother](#); [Ann Olsen](#), friend of Jay Deskins’ mother; [Joan Rigsby](#), mother of Emily Chandler; [John & Lori Larson](#); [Shirley Callahan](#); [Steve Oaks](#); [John Rhodes](#); Dan Hicks’ cousin, [Neta Hicks](#); [Linda Church](#), mother of Betsy Church; [Pat Barnes](#); [Maxine and Lee Hunt](#); [Pam Rexroat](#), sister of Ken Shearer; [June Phillips](#), mother of Sarah Beth Ansell; [Rick Chandler](#), Owen’s father; [Erin Sebert](#); [Barbara Miranda](#); [Mrs. Sanchez](#), Barbara Miranda’s mother; [Joe Chitty](#); [Cece Terry](#); [Dean Carson](#); [Karen Absalom](#); Malika Tazi’s family ([Finn](#), [Jackie](#), [Bill](#), [Kathy & Ellis](#)); Friends of Terri Elliott: [Kathy](#), [Barbara](#), [Peter Joann](#); [Milt Slaybaugh](#); [Dante & Arion Foglietti](#) (nephews of John Larson); [Aaron](#), [Ana](#), [Ayden Stubb](#)
- **NATION**: Immigrant families still separated; Fires in California; Hurricane victims throughout the world.
- **WORLD**: World state of affairs; Civil Unrest in Nicaragua

**PRAYING FOR OUR MISSIONARIES** – Please be in prayer for our missionaries serving through Global Ministries. During the **week of December 2, we lift up Nikotemo Sopepa in Fiji.** For more information regarding our missionaries, overseas partners, or how you can make a difference, visit: [www.globalministries.org](http://www.globalministries.org)

### UPDATE ON GOFUNDME CAMPAIGN FOR “VAN FOR KIA”:

**Our current total is \$17,107.90**

Please watch the short video (49 seconds): <https://www.gofundme.com/help-kia-buy-an-adapted-van>

Or you may give cash or a check made payable to either:

Stewart Bagwell or Gwen Elbert (Do NOT make it payable to Saguaro CC)

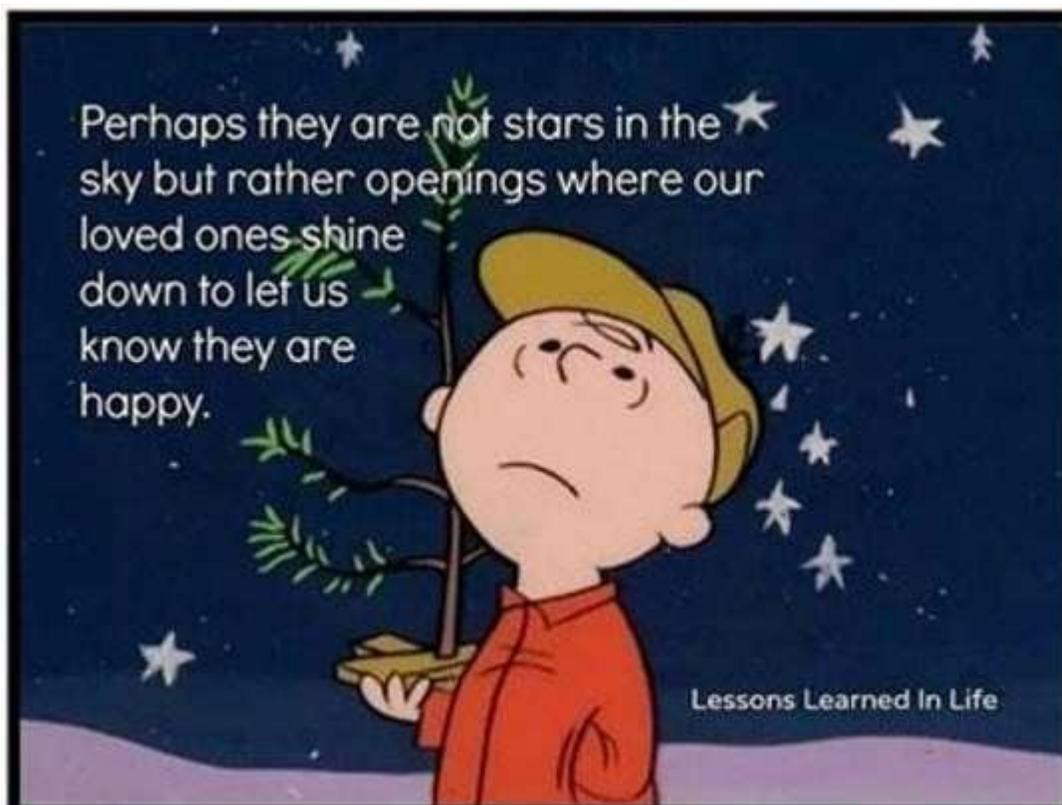
If you prefer to write a check, please write “Kia” in the Memo.

**Please donate whatever you can. Share this link with your friends and family. Take it viral.**

We will keep you informed of the progress.

Fran Johnson, Terry Bagwell, Stewart Bagwell, Dick Immel, Pat Sutton,  
Gwen Elbert, Michael Elbert, Owen Chandler, and Kelley Dick.

### *THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK*



**Lighting of the Advent Candle this week: HOPE**



Instagram: [saguarochristianchurch](https://www.instagram.com/saguarochristianchurch)



Facebook: [Saguaro Christian Church](https://www.facebook.com/Saguaro Christian Church)