

# Experience the Way!

December 2024  
Pastor Elizabeth Lyman,  
Transitional Pastor

Editor: Kathy Americano  
Volume 30, Issue 12

December 1, 2024

(From a letter written by Fra Giovanni on Christmas Eve, 1513)

I am your friend and my love for you goes deep. There is nothing I can give you which you have not got, but there is much, very much that while I cannot give it, you can take.

No heaven can come unless our hearts find rest in today. Take heaven! No peace lies in the future, which is not hidden, in this present little instant. Take peace!

The gloom of the world is but a shadow. Behind it, yet within our reach is joy. There is radiance and glory in the darkness could we but see - and to see we have only to look. I beseech you to look!

Life is so generous a giver, but we, judging its gifts by the covering, cast them away as ugly, or heavy or hard. Remove the covering and you will find beneath it a living splendor, woven of love, by wisdom, with power.

Welcome it, grasp it, touch the angel's hand that brings it to you. Everything we call a trial, a sorrow, or a duty, believe me, that angel's hand is there, the gift is there, and the wonder of an overshadowing presence. Our joys, too, be not content with them as joys. They, too, conceal diviner gifts.

Life is so full of meaning and purpose, so full of beauty - beneath it's covering - that you will find earth but cloaks your heaven.

Courage, then, to claim it, that is all. But courage you have, and the knowledge that we are all pilgrims together, wending through unknown country, home.

And so, at this Christmas time, I greet you. Not quite as the world sends greetings, but with profound esteem and with the prayer that for you now and forever, the day breaks, and the shadows flee away.

May we all rejoice in the birth of our Savior and may the Lord bless all of you this most holy Christmas season.

In Christ, *Pastor Elizabeth*

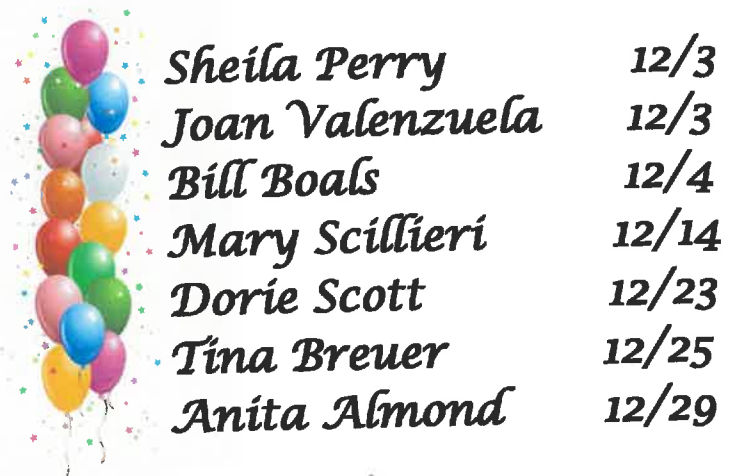
# HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

*Cathy & Greg  
Hershberger 12/26*

*Anita & John Almond  
12/31*



Happy Birthday!



|                        |              |
|------------------------|--------------|
| <i>Sheila Perry</i>    | <i>12/3</i>  |
| <i>Joan Valenzuela</i> | <i>12/3</i>  |
| <i>Bill Boals</i>      | <i>12/4</i>  |
| <i>Mary Scillieri</i>  | <i>12/14</i> |
| <i>Dorie Scott</i>     | <i>12/23</i> |
| <i>Tina Breuer</i>     | <i>12/25</i> |
| <i>Anita Almond</i>    | <i>12/29</i> |

Is your Birthday or Anniversary missing from the Newsletter? If so, be sure to let the church office know or email [Kathy@holywaytucson.org](mailto:Kathy@holywaytucson.org)



## Congregational Meeting

Session has called a congregational meeting for the purpose of electing elders and deacons for the upcoming term. It will be held right after worship on

**December 8.**



ANNUAL  
CONGREGATIONAL  
MEETING



**Worship Service is Sundays  
at 9:30 a.m.**

And you can access the Order  
of Worship at:

**[www.HolyWayTucson.org](http://www.HolyWayTucson.org)**

Click on the Worship tab, then  
Order of Worship tab.

You can also Zoom the Service.  
Zoom login information is:

**Sunday Worship Service  
9:30 am**

This is a recurring meeting at:

**[https://us06web.zoom.us/  
j/89894298024?  
pwd=jCrRhRWcbbw81KGI2uj  
dpB4HTaEhZm.1](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89894298024?pwd=jCrRhRWcbbw81KGI2ujdpB4HTaEhZm.1)**

Meeting ID: 898 9429 8024

Passcode: 189007



Sermons are now available online  
anytime! Check out  
the latest Sermon or even  
past Sermons.

1. **Go to:** [www.holywaytucson.org](http://www.holywaytucson.org)
2. **Click** on the "Worship" tab.
3. **Then, click** on "**Sermons**" from  
the drop-down menu.



**Coffee Fellowship**

*Join us after Worship on the  
scheduled Sunday for some  
great fellowship time!*

**Here's the Schedule for  
December**

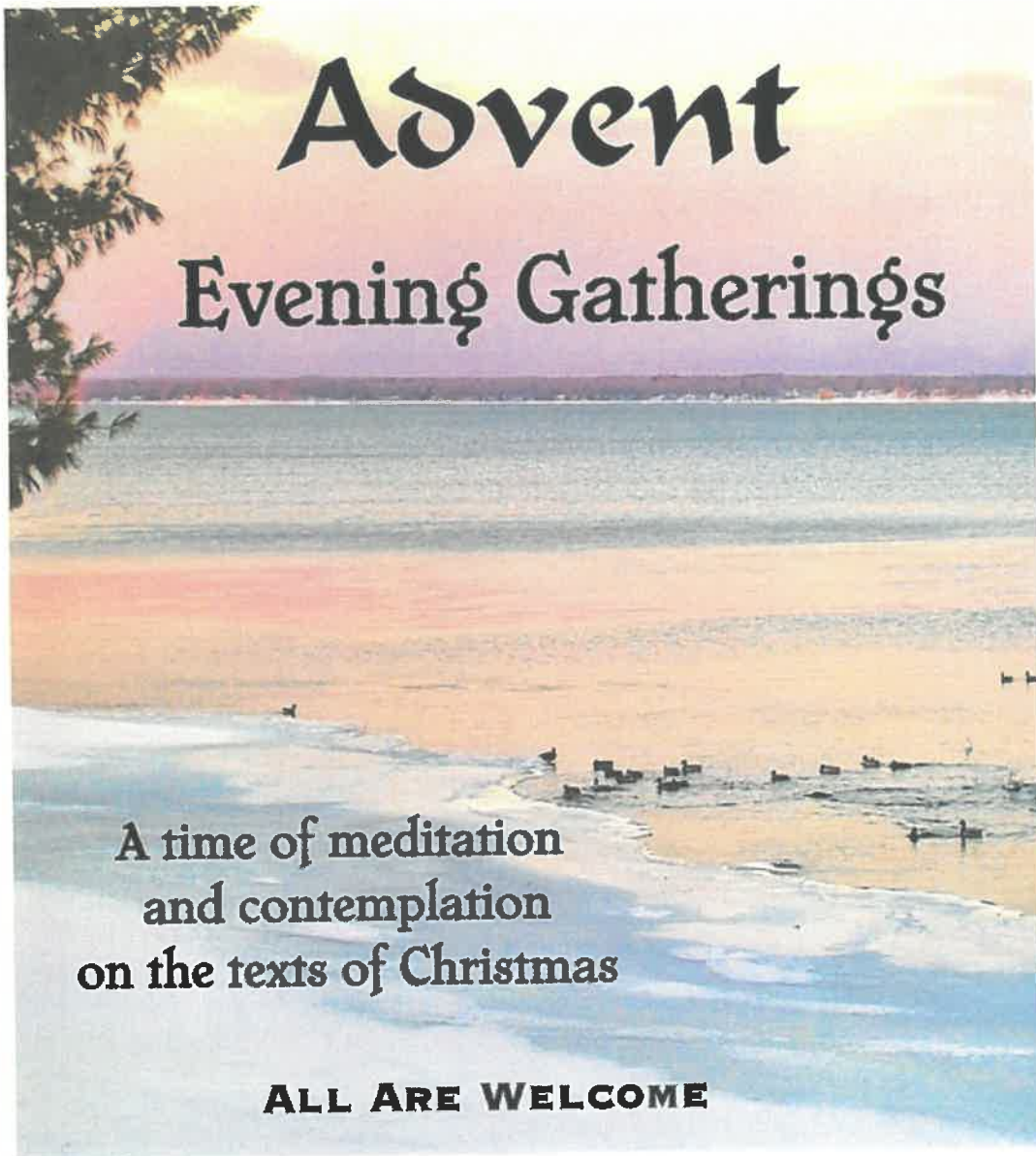
**1st Sunday, December 1:**  
Refreshments in the Ranch House

**2nd Sunday, December 8:**  
Little Mexico Steak House

**3rd Sunday, December 15:**  
Refreshments in the Ranch House

**4th Sunday, December 22:**  
Potluck in the Ranch House

**5th Sunday, December 29:**  
Refreshments in the Ranch House



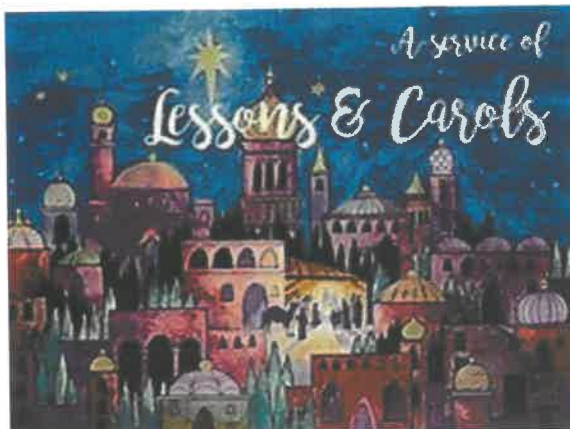
# Advent

## Evening Gatherings

A time of meditation  
and contemplation  
on the texts of Christmas

**ALL ARE WELCOME**

*Sundays, December 1, 8, 15, and 22.  
5 pm in the Sanctuary at  
The Holy Way Presbyterian Church*



**Christmas Eve celebration** is at 5:30 on the 24<sup>th</sup>. It will be a wonderful service of Lessons and Carols, with a variety of special music, including our handbells!

# #GIVING TUESDAY

**This Giving Tuesday, December 3,** let us join hearts and hands as a church community, stepping boldly into our calling to be the light of Christ in a world that so desperately needs His love. As Presbyterians, we affirm that our faith is not just something we believe but something we live out in tangible ways, answering God's call to serve others with generosity and grace.

Giving Tuesday is an opportunity to reflect on the abundant blessings God has poured into our lives and to share those blessings with others. Whether it's helping families in need, supporting ministries that nurture faith, or reaching out to care for the most vulnerable among us, your gifts make a profound impact. Every dollar given, every prayer offered, every act of kindness extended is a way of saying, Here I am, Lord—send me.

Your generosity fuels the mission and ministries of our church, enabling us to be a beacon of hope in our community and beyond. It equips us to feed the hungry, provide shelter to those without a home, comfort the grieving, and

nurture the spiritual growth of all ages.

This Giving Tuesday, we invite you to partner with us in this sacred work. Together, let us reflect God's kingdom here on earth, showing His love in action. No gift is too small because each one, when offered with a willing heart, is multiplied by the grace of God.

Join us today in giving back, praying fervently, and serving faithfully. As we give generously and sacrificially, may we remember the words of Jesus: "It is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35). Let's rise as a community united in love and service, bringing God's hope and healing to a world in need.

*Marcel Eisma*





**Knitting/Hand Crafts**

Mondays  
10:00 a.—Noon, Conference Room

**Choir Rehearsal**

Thursdays  
10:45 a.m.-11:45 a.m., Sanctuary

**Congregational Life Committee**

No Mtg in December  
(First Sunday each month)

**Worship & Music Committee**

Monday, December 9, 2024  
1:00 p.m., Conference Room  
(First Monday each month)

**Deacons**

Wednesday, December 3, 2024  
3:00 p.m., Conference Room  
(First Wednesday each month)

**Session**

Tuesday, December 10, 2024  
2:00 p.m., Conference Room  
(Second Tuesday each month)

**Outreach/Mission Committee**

Sunday, December 15, 2024  
10:45 a.m., Conference Room  
(Third Sunday each month)

**Finance Committee**

TBA  
10:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.  
Conference Room  
(Fourth Wednesday each month)

**Worship Service Committee**

Thursday, December 19, 2024  
2 p.m. Conference Room  
(Third Thursday each month)

**Buildings & Grounds Committee**

Sunday, December 29, 2024  
10:45 a.m. Conference Room  
(Last Sunday each month)

**Bible Study**

Tuesdays at  
10:00 a.m.

Come and meet in the  
Conference Room.

**Bible Study Sessions  
for December are:**

December 3, 2024  
December 10 2024  
December 17 2024  
December 24, 2024  
December 31, 2024



## Calling All Angels!

Pastor Elizabeth will be preaching through Advent on the visits of the angels to those involved in the Christmas story. She will loosely base her sermons on the book "Calling All Angels – An Advent Study in Fearlessness and Strength". (Erin Wathen - Westminster- John Knox Press). "Fear Not" is a phrase used more than 300 times in the Bible. God has soothed fearful souls throughout history and continues to this day. Come, step forward in faith this Advent Season.



## Angel Making

We are keeping decorations simple in the sanctuary this season. But we DO need angel ornaments for our tree. We invite you to bring an ornament to hang on our tree for the Christmas season (do put your initials on it so you the right ones home after Christmas.) Our children will also be making ornaments to contribute and we will hold an angel-making party on **December 9** at 10 am with the Hand Craft group. Knitting or crochet ability not a requirement. Angels can be made from folder paper as well as ribbons. Come and join us!



**We are opening up the  
Ranch House for the  
winter season!**

Starting in **December** join  
us for fellowship in the  
Ranch House. Come be  
part of a Christmas potluck  
there on

**December 22**

after Sunday's service.



CHRISTMAS JOY  
SPECIAL OFFERINGS

CHURCH LEADERS—PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

## **Christmas Joy Offering**

Each year during the Advent and Christmas season, the PC(USA) lifts up past, present, and our future leaders of the church.

God has blessed the Church with incredible leadership in every time and place, but those leaders often need to be supported by their communities as well. This Offering addresses the support needed by some of our leaders, including supporting leadership development for communities of color, and providing support for Presbyterian church workers in their time of need. We will collect this offering on **December 22**.





**December is a busy month—  
here's a recap of activities planned this month:**

- December 3: Giving Tuesday
- December 3: Bible Study, 10 a.m.
- December 3: Deacons, 3 p.m.
- December 8: Congregational Meeting after service
- December 8: Lunch at Little Mexico Steak House
- December 8: Advent Service, 5 p.m.
- December 9: Worship & Music Committee 1:00 p.m.
- December 10: Bible Study, 10 a.m.
- December 10: Session 2 p.m.
- December 15: Outreach/Mission Committee,  
10:45 a.m.
- December 15: Fellowship in Ranch House
- December 15: Advent Service, 5 p.m.
- December 17: Bible Study, 10 a.m.
- December 19: Worship Service Committee, 2 p.m.
- December 22: Potluck after service
- December 22: Advent Service, 5 p.m.
- December 22: Christmas Joy Offering
- December 24: Bible Study, 10 a.m.
- December 24: Christmas Eve Service, 5:30 p.m.
- December 29: Buildings and Grounds, 10:45 a.m.
- December 29: Fellowship in Ranch House after  
service
- December: 31: Bible Study, 10 a.m.

# Thanksgiving Food Boxes



On Friday, November 22, ten boxes of food & turkeys were delivered to Vesey Elementary School to needy families. Some of the families were there waiting, and also helped transfer the food from the truck to the school's office.

The families consisted of two with 4 members, two with 5 members, three with 6 members, two with 8 members and one with 9 members.



The boxes contained all the ingredients (except eggs!) for stuffing, gravy, pumpkin dump cake, green bean casserole & 5 lbs white potatoes. The larger families (sized 8 and 9) received enough to make two green bean casseroles. We also gave them dishcloths and pot holders.

Sheila Martin and Dee Ellis put the boxes together. **A big thanks to Kathy and Raul who helped transport the food. A special thanks to Sheila and Soren Perry for providing the turkeys.**





# Kingdom Seekers



Miss Judy is teaching Amaris a Christmas song!

Our Kingdom Seekers collected donations for the Vesey School Thanksgiving Food Boxes. Amaris was given a piece of the pumpkin dump cake.

In October our  
Contributions totaled  
**\$17,175.05**

Our Expenses totaled  
**\$14,116.16**

**\$3,058.89**  
was added to the Church's  
General Fund.

As of October 31, the  
Church bank account  
had a balance of  
**\$52,601.84**



We now have online giving available! Follow the instructions below to get your online giving started. You can even set it up to automatically donate every month so you don't even have to think about it.

Or you can download the Vanco app from your Google or Apple store and enter the invitation code:

**ND9UJ2**

Get started by scanning the QR code:



Instant  
Church Directory™  
Online

To view the directory online, go to  
**Members.InstantChurchDirectory.com**

And follow the prompts under "Sign In"  
to "Create a login now." Please  
remember, you must confirm your  
email address before you can sign in.

If you have trouble signing in, please  
contact our  
Office manager:

[Kathy@holywaytucson.org](mailto:Kathy@holywaytucson.org)

VIEW OUR  
**CHURCH  
DIRECTORY**  
ON YOUR MOBILE  
DEVICE!

FREE App for iPhone, iPad  
& Android



Our church directory is a great resource tool that allows you to get to know our church family better!

Simply go to the App Store, search for *Instant Church Directory*  and download the FREE app to begin.

You will use your email address listed in the directory to **CREATE A LOGIN** the first time you use the directory app.

If you're not listed in the directory, OR if you have trouble logging into the app, please contact the church office.



# Be Aware of Christmas Scammers

**Free gift cards:** Nothing brings good cheer like the word "FREE." Scammers have been known to take advantage of this weakness by sending bulk phishing emails requesting personal information to receive free gift cards. In some of these emails, scammers impersonate legitimate companies and promise gift cards to reward their loyal customers. They may also use pop-up ads or send text mes-

sages with links saying you were randomly selected as the winner of a prize.

If you have received an unsolicited email with gift card offers, do not open it. Instead, mark it as spam or junk and delete it. However, if you opened the email, do not click on any links.

## Donating IRA Assets to Charity

Turn your required distributions into charitable donations.

IRS rules mandate that individuals age 70 1/2 and older take RMDs (Required Minimum Distributions) from their IRA each year, regardless of whether the income is needed. These annual withdrawals are subject to ordinary income taxes. By making a contribution from your IRA to the church or other charity, you can satisfy your RMD amount without reporting additional income.

This provision may be especially attractive for retirees who don't need all the income from their IRA to meet current living expenses. By donating the money to a charity, you can enjoy the satisfaction of knowing that you are contributing to a worthy cause while effectively lowering your tax bill.

### How it works:

The provision allows retirees age 70 1/2 and older to donate up to \$100,000 tax

free from their IRA each year. Generally, when you take a distribution from your IRA, it is treated as taxable income. Under this provision, made permanent in the 2015 federal spending and tax package, those assets are excluded from income if the distribution is made directly to charity.

The distribution is not included in your income so you avoid the potential negative consequences that regular IRA withdrawals in retirement can create, including taxes on Social Security benefits. Normally, charitable contribution deductions are limited or are eliminated altogether for taxpayers who do not itemize deductions.

### Talk to your financial representative

It's important to consider your tax situation before deciding whether to make a charitable contribution from your IRA. Be sure to work closely with your financial advisor to determine whether this tax provision is right for you.

*This information is not meant as tax or legal advice. Tax laws are complex and subject to change. Please consult a professional tax advisor to determine how this tax law affects your situation.*

## Altar Valley School District

The Altar Valley School District is located in Three Points, AZ, which is about 25 miles west of downtown Tucson. Three Points, also known as Robles Junction, is a small, rural community (45 square miles) of about 5,000 residents.

The community is located adjacent to the Tohono O'odham Reservation, and is about 30 miles from the international border. The median household income is about

\$34,000 and nearly 28% of the population is below the poverty line. Most residents live in single-family or mobile homes.

The Altar Valley School district is vast, covering nearly 600 square miles in Pima County. Student enrollment is about 500 students between two school sites: Robles Elementary (Pre-K-5th grade) and Altar Valley Middle School (6th -8th grade).

## Three Points Fire District Santa Shop

TPFD collects ***new, unwrapped*** gifts for the community beginning each November. A Santa Shop is held in the bays at Station 303, in which community members in need can shop for their children. The list is started in November, The Shop works closely with the Altar Valley Schools to make sure families in need of help get the chance to participate. Two weeks before Christmas the District schedules appointments and each family can send one member to come in and shop choosing three gifts per child. They collect for infants through young adults; ***new,***

***unwrapped items are needed.*** Examples include; books, clothing, coloring books and crayons or colored pencils, blankets, toys, games, Barbies and accessories, remote control cars, legos, dolls, balls (Soccer, Football, Basketball), body care gift sets (Axe for boys, and for girls), earbuds, beanies, Baby toys (rattles, teethers, soft cars, etc.) gift cards (for teens—Amazon, Walmart), gas gift cards, fast food gift cards.

Santa also delivers gifts to families in need that do not have transportation, arriving by Fire-truck.

# Diaper Bank

**Fact: Over 25 million American adults suffer from incontinence.**

In addition to diapers for babies, the Diaper Bank also provides incontinence and feminine hygiene products. The Holy Way focuses on adult products as there is a great need for adult products. The Holy Way is about the only organization in Tucson that provides adult products to the Diaper Bank of Southern Arizona. The Diaper Bank can make the dollar stretch much farther than any individual donation. **For every one dollar donated, the Bank is able to purchase three dollars worth of product.** If you wish to help continue this worthy cause, you can donate money (cash or check) or bring in adult incontinence products. Earmark your check or place cash in an envelope to: "Diaper Bank." Kathy can collect the funds. If you have adult products to donate, either bring them to the church or let Carol Portillo know—or contact Kathy in the office.

People who have Food Stamps cannot use them for feminine products.

There is a large box in the narthex where you can drop off products, or call Carol Portillo.

We invite everyone to submit articles of interest to the congregation. If you have an idea but can't put it on paper, you can send your thoughts by email or phone call to Kathy or Dee Ellis. **The deadline for submission is always the 20th of each month.** The deadline for the January Newsletter is:

**December 20, 2024**



# Tzedakah Box

**Tzedakah** is the Hebrew word that means charity, and at its heart it means righteous, fairness, and justice. These boxes are used to **collect donations** for a **specific charity**, and our box will be used to collect donations for upcoming community events.

Our **Tzedakah box** is in the Narthex on the table next to the office door. Currently, all donations received at this time are earmarked for **Christmas toys**.

## Prayer Shawl Ministry

Many of you are aware of our Prayer Shawl Ministry. The shawls are to help people cope with many of life's struggles as well as the many life's blessings that come our way. The Deacons are aware of needs from their flock and let Dee Ellis [(520) 270-8367] know who needs a shawl. If you feel you would like to have a shawl, contact Dee.

These shawls are always hand made (knit or crochet) while saying prayers for the recipients, never to be purchased, and donated by anyone who would like to keep our supply adequate to meet our needs. We encourage anyone interested to make and donate shawls.

Call Dee (520.270.8367) if you know of someone who would benefit from the spiritual comfort these shawls provide.

The Prayer Shawl squares remain in the basket in the Narthex. Anyone desiring one can take their choice of the many colors available. These serve the same purpose as the prayer shawls, only more portable.

## SESSION at THE HOLY WAY Presbyterian Church

| <u>Committee Name</u>  | <u>Elder</u>    | <u>E-Mail</u>                        | <u>Telephone</u> |
|--|-----------------|--------------------------------------|------------------|
| <i>Worship Music Committee</i>                                 | Terry Saxton    | tsaxton@xtensible.net                | (612) 396-7099   |
| <i>Worship Service Committee</i>                               | Jeannie Hollis  | holliscj@aol.com                     | (520) 461-6779   |
| <i>Christian Education</i>                                     | Dearwyn Knittel | mdknittel@gmail.com                  | (520) 400-5306   |
| <i>Buildings &amp; Grounds</i>                                 | Larry Breuer    | LRBreuer@gmail.com                   | (740) 444-9168   |
| <i>Congregational Life</i>                                     | Bill Boals      | boalsesrher21@gmail.com              | (520) 543-2119   |
| <i>Outreach/Mission Committee</i><br><i>Joe Riegert(Chair)</i> | Mary Marsch     | richomars@cox.net<br>jgr_jkr@msn.com | (520) 240-9850   |
| <i>Finance/Stewardship</i>                                     | Marcel Eisma    | marceleisma@hotmail.com              | (425) 765-8917   |
| <i>Personnel Committee</i>                                     | Jeannie Hollis  | holliscj@aol.com                     | (520) 461-6779   |
| <i>Treasurer</i>   | Char Bowring    | dncbowring@bcglobal.net              | (520) 883-1642   |
| <i>Clerk of Session</i>  | Larry Breuer    | LRBreuer@gmail.com                   | (740) 444-9168   |

### BOARD OF DEACONS THE HOLY WAY Presbyterian Church

| <u>Deacon</u>            | <u>E-mail</u>                | <u>Telephone</u> |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|------------------|
| Janie Saxton (Moderator) | janielovesaz@gmail.com       | (612) 387-7756   |
| Rick Dees                | blessed4life26@gmail.com     | (520) 730-4300   |
| Marilyn Hilliard         | mhilliard50@yahoo.com        | (763) 516-7686   |
| Paulette Johnson         | PJ-Scorcher-65@Live.com      | (480) 789-9423   |
| Mary Langerak            | Langerak@paulbunyan.net      | (218) 766-1774   |
| Sheila Martin            | denshem11@MSN.com            | (520) 576-3722   |
| Janet San Nicholas       | franjan@hughes.net           | (520) 235-3769   |
| Lori Thurman             | tinkerbelle30386@gmail.com   | (520) 304-1355   |
| Sherry Wittenberg        | sherrywittenberg@comcast.net | (763) 416-6546   |

## Prayer Chain

| <u>Leaders</u>   | <u>E-Mail</u>                | <u>Telephone</u> |
|------------------|------------------------------|------------------|
| Jan Martin       | <u>MartinJR146@yahoo.com</u> | (707) 438-5716   |
| Marilyn Hilliard | <u>Mhilliard50@yahoo.com</u> | (763) 516-7686   |