



Experience the Way!

January 2026
Pastor Kathy Americano

Editor: Dee Ellis
Volume 33, Issue 1

January 1, 2026

From the Pastor.....

Happy New Year! 2025 has gone and 2026 holds many new promises for our lives and for The Holy Way. Before we move forward too fast, I just want to take a moment to say "Thank you" to all those that helped put the Christmas Eve Service together. I especially want to thank the choir and Jesus, Astrid and all the readers. Christmas Eve was my first Service as your new pastor of The Holy Way. It was a beautiful service and it was because of all of you. Thank You.

As we move into 2026, I already feel the support and the love that our church has a reputation for. God is moving here. My promise to you is not that I won't make mistakes....I will. My promise is not that I won't fail while trying to do my best.....I might. But my promise is this, I stand firm on God's promises and His great love. I will always try my best and when my best isn't good enough.....forgive me, as Christ has forgiven all of us. Together we are stronger. As the body of Christ, we move as one. Each person brings their creative individualism, yet is a vital part of the interconnection to the body of Christ. We are called to move and function in love, harmony, respect and in service to one another.

My prayer for the New Year is that God will search my heart and yours, truly know us intimately, and lead us in the way everlasting. (Psalm 139) Amen.

O Lord, you have searched me, and you know me.

You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
You discern my thoughts from afar. (1-2)

You hem me in--behind and before; you have laid Your hand upon me.

Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, it is so high that I cannot attain it. (5-6)

I praise You because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;
wonderful are Your works that I know very well. (14)

Continued.....

How precious to me are Your thoughts, O God!
How vast is the sum of them! (17)

Search me, O God, and know my heart;
test me and know my anxious thoughts.
See if there is any offensive way in me,
And lead me in the way everlasting. (23-24)

New Year's Blessings to Everyone! Please remember that we are never alone.
Immanuel. God is with us.....and He will never leave us.

Christ be with you always,
Pastor Kathy Americano



Meet Our New Office Manager

Dee Karuhe

Dee.karuhe.holywayoffice@gmail.com

January Happenings

January 6, 2026

Take down Christmas Decorations
after Bible Study.

January 11, 2026

Baptism
Installation of two Elders

January 18, 2026

Guest Speaker: Brad Munroe

January 25, 2026

Guest Speaker: Soren Perry
Annual Congregational Meeting
after service

January 31, 2026

Potluck

Looking Ahead

Mark your calendars now! **Dr. Astrid Chan** and **Jesus Jacquez** will honor us with another wonderful concert on May 2, 2026 at 3:00 p.m. In the Sanctuary. Donations will be accepted.

Also, Dr. Chan is having her annual student recital in the Sanctuary on Saturday April 25, 2026 from Noon-5:00 p.m.

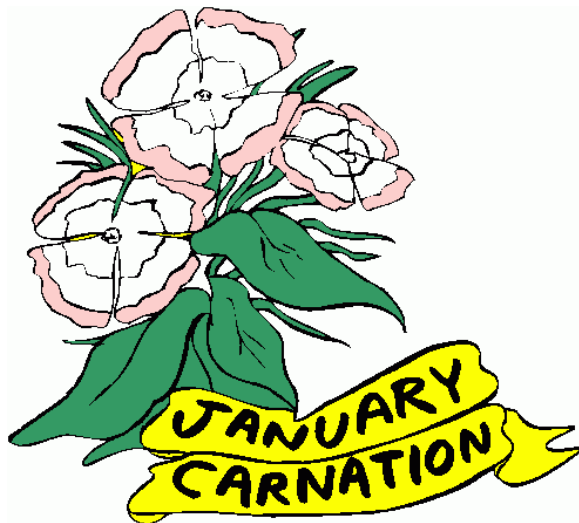


<i>Dana Keene</i>	<i>01/02</i>
<i>Marilyn Hilliard</i>	<i>01/11</i>
<i>Ray Weathers</i>	<i>01/13</i>
<i>Ginger Kinion</i>	<i>01/21</i>
<i>Jackie Riegert</i>	<i>01/24</i>

Is your Birthday or Anniversary missing from the Newsletter? If so, be sure to let the church office know or email dmtrellis@comcast.net so we can celebrate **YOU!!**

Hearing Issues???

We have hearing devices available for the hearing impaired. See Greg at the AV booth.



Need a Notary Public?

See Carol Portillo [(480) 686-5531]. The fee is sliding scale. All proceeds go to The Holy Way.



As we bring 2025 to a close and the loss of Pastor Elizabeth due to her retirement and the addition of a new Pastor, and office manager, Dee Karuhe, let's reflect on the end of 2025.



Dec. 21, 2025
She finally has all her ducks in a row!



**Welcome 2026!
May the Peace of Christ be with you all.**

*As we end 2025 and enter into 2026, please
join me in remembering the people who have
come and gone in the past year and those
who will bless our lives in 2026.*

Train of Life

Life is like a journey on a train, with its station
change of route, differing scenes, and accidents!
At birth we boarded the train and met our parents,
and we believed they would always travel at our side.
However, at some station down the line our parents stepped
off, leaving the train and us alone to continue on our own.
As time passed, other people boarded the train;
and they were significant: siblings, friends, children,
and even the Love of our life.
Many will step down and leave a permanent vacuum.
Others will go so unnoticed that we didn't realize
that they had vacated their seats.
This train ride will be full of joy, sorrow, and fantasy,
expectations, hellos, goodbyes, and farewells.
Success consists of having a good relationship with all the
passengers. . . requiring that we give the best of ourselves.
The mystery to everyone is: we don't know at which station
we ourselves will be asked to step off. So, we must live
in the best way—Love, forgive, and offer the best of whom
we are. It is important to do this, because when the time
comes for us to exit, leaving our seat empty, we should
leave behind beautiful memories for those who will
continue riding the train of life without us.

I wish you a joyful journey for the remaining years on
your train of life. Reap success, give lots of love, and
be happy. More importantly, be thankful for your journey!
Lastly, thank you for being one of the passengers
On my train.

Author Unknown



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

And you can access the Order
of Worship at:

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
2. **Click** on **“Sermons”**



Sunday Fellowship

Here's the schedule:

- 01/04: After Service, Ranch House
- 01/11: Guillermo's Double L
- 01/18: After Service, Ranch House
- 01/25: On your own

In order to continue after church fellowship, we need **volunteers** to help set up, clean up, make coffee and bring goodies. A sign up sheet is in the back of the Sanctuary. Instructions are posted in the Ranch House. Fellowship will be cancelled for the Sundays no one signs up.



Handcraft Group

Every Monday, 10 am-noon
Conference Room

Choir Rehearsal

Thursdays 10:45 a.m.-11:45 a.m. &
Sundays 8:30 a.m.-9:15 a.m.

Congregational Life Committee

Sunday, January 4, 2026
10:45 a.m., Conference Room

Session

Tuesday, January 13, 2026,
1:00 p.m., Conference Room

Outreach/Mission Committee

Sunday, January 18 2026
10:45 a.m., Conference Room

Deacons

To Be Determined
10:45 a.m. Ranch House

Finance Committee

To Be Determined
10:30 a.m. Conference Room

Worship Committee

January 15, 2026
9:30 a.m., Conference Room

Buildings & Grounds Committee

On hold

Come meet in the
Conference Room

Tuesday Mornings
10:00 a.m.—11:00 a.m.
Coffee provided and sometimes
there's snacks!



National Hugging Day is celebrated annually on January 21. This day encourages people to express affection through hugs, promoting emotional well-being and connection among individuals. It was created by Kevin Zaborney and aims to help everyone show more emotion in public.

Be aware that you may need to ask permission for some people.

Serena Project

The Serena Project is dedicated to providing some reassurance and comfort to children during times of emergency. Small stuffed toys provided by The Holy Way are given to first responders to hand out.

A big **thank you** to Caroll Portillo for heading up this Outreach Project. Let's make sure Carol knows she is appreciated.



The Holy Way 40th Anniversary

The History of **The Holy Way 40th Booklet** is now available in the narthex. Pick up one today! If you can donate a dollar to cover the costs, that would be helpful.



The printed **Church Directory** is now available. They are in the Narthex. The directories are free; however, if you are able, we would appreciate a donation of \$1.00/directory to cover the cost of production.

If you would like to have the directory emailed to you, let Dee Ellis know: dmtrellis@comcast.net or call (520) 270-8367.

Also let us know if there are any changes/corrections that should be made to the directory.

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 Dee Ellis. **The deadline for submission is always the 20th of each month.**

The deadline for the **February** Newsletter is:

January 20, 2026



A big thank you to all the cleaning volunteers. Your efforts have made a big difference!

Per Capita

Each February 1st The Holy Way Presbyterian Church is required to send our church's Per Capita amount to the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). **Each member** is responsible for their Per Capita amount. For 2023 we owed \$3,527.50, but we were unable to pay our per capita. For 2024 we owed \$3,945.60. We negotiated with the Presbytery and we paid \$2,000, but we only received \$1,569.28 from members; therefore, the \$430.72 deficit came from the church's general fund. So far for 2026 we have received \$225.00. We realize that not everyone can afford their Per Capita amount. For those who are able to give a little more than your Per Capital, any fund over your amount would be appreciated.

Your Generosity is Amazing!

The Christmas Joy Offering brought in \$579.00! Thank you!!!! The next PCUSA offering will be the **One Great Hour of Sharing** on Easter Sunday. This offering will focus on disaster relief, hunger, poverty, climate change, and immigration issues.



As of
December 30,
2025,
we have:
Pledged: \$38,170
and
Received:
\$37,630.00

Our Capital Campaign Continues!

It is not too late to send in a pledge for the

***Jim Kinion Memorial
Air Conditioning Fund.***

We are hoping to have enough pledges over three years to cover the \$75,000 needed to replace the 30-year-old air conditioning/heating system in the sanctuary. Please be as generous as you can be. Pledges can be a one-time pledge or spread over three years.





*Want to outlive a
Saguaro???*

*Please include us in your
Legacy giving.*



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:



A church potluck is scheduled on Saturday, January 31, 2026. Set up and building unlocked at noon. Plan to eat around 12:30 p.m. It will be held at the Copper Crest Clubhouse—7700 Bopp Road. Go down Kinney from Ajo. Turn left at the first stoplight. Go 2.8 miles on Bopp Road to 7700 Bopp Road. This will put you on Coal Crest Road. Go through the gate and straight to the clubhouse. We recommend you bring your own table servings. Coffee will be provided.



Just to clarify—when writing checks to The Holy Way, be sure to indicate on the memo line where the contribution is to go: i.e., tithe, mission project, Jim Kinion AC fund, Diaper Bank, etc.

Resurgence of Faith, Stability, Hope: A Borderlands Perspective

Alfonso Valenzuela ©December 2, 2025

The restoration of First Presbyterian Church in Douglas, Arizona, is akin to a common phrase associated with the concept of “rebirth.” Viewing the images of a church sharing space with three others on the same block, after the arson fire on May 22, 2023, was shocking and sad. Yet, more than two years later, First Presbyterian Church is in the process of “rising from the ashes,” a reference to the Phoenix bird known for the ability to be reborn from its own ashes.

In ancient Greek and Egyptian mythology, “the Phoenix bird symbolizes immortality, resurrection, life after death and associated with the sun god....It is often used to represent hope, renewal and the possibility of a fresh start,” according to two online sources.



Anyone familiar with the history, architecture, economy, growth and development of Douglas, should be proud of the determined effort by many and different sources, to ensure the rebirth of this cultural community icon. The loss of a major source of revenue from the Phelps Dodge Smelter, had a crippling effect. Many families dependent on the mining industry were forced to move elsewhere, including members of FPC. De-

spite the change in demography, church leadership and membership remain steadfast in their service to the community.

Photographs of the church as it once stood in the past, resemble the architecture of churches built in Europe, surviving—perhaps miraculously—the constant bombing during World War II. Some were completely demolished, leaving remnants later incorporated in the restoration process. Such is the case with First Presbyterian Church of Douglas.

The design, materials, labor and time involved in the construction of this beautiful church, is a testament to its survival. Even after the disastrous results of a criminal and senseless act, observers wonder in amazement. This majestic emblem has survived in spite of the fiery remains, awaiting to be reconfigured to a semblance of its original state.

Resurgence of Faith, Stability, Hope: A Borderlands Perspective continued—

Still, there is an obvious factor to the process of renewal: the determined effort by a small group of people responding unselfishly to a catastrophic disaster. This collaboration requires an emboldened spirit of teamwork extending beyond the confines of the church.

News coverage by local and other media outlets helped stimulate response by people feeling hurt, disappointed, offended and angry, after hearing and seeing the graphic images of a church they consider to be a large part of their lives. Here in this place, members and their families, visitors, and strangers alike, have come to worship, pray, sing, mourn or rejoice, just as other places of worship have done for centuries.

First Presbyterian Church has weathered major challenges to its existence. Undoubtedly, the unique characteristic of this relic, is the craftsmanship in the design, construction and decorative elements which have withstood total destruction. The capacity to flourish in spite of unexpected changes in the past, FPC has not relented. The collective spirit and pride of ownership by a declining membership, has resisted any notion of giving up...closing its doors to the public. Thus, pride of community, collaboration, faith, and hope of a better future is alive and well.

The descriptor “remarkable craftsmanship” is applicable to people and organizations actively engaged in preserving and nurturing the legacy of an institution too precious to render asunder—literally and metaphorically.

The oft-quoted phrase “This is who we are,” a popular slogan to define the principal feature of a corporate product, might be tempting to apply to a church. The founding principle and essence of a church is relegated to serving the public as a sanctuary, and responding to the needs of a community through specific programs. It is a spiritually uplifting endeavor worthy of praise and support. Obviously, this characterization does not minimize the “universal role” of a church.

The history of the Southwest is replete with ruthless and bloody encounters, like those occurring in other parts of the world. The upheaval and human suffering wrought by war has a profound effect on innocent victims, such as the ongoing horror and atrocities in Ukraine, Gaza, Sudan and other regions. The sense of compassion for men, women and children denied their human rights and used as pawns, extends beyond the borders of warfare, to us here in the Borderlands.

Evil forces and machinations by publicly-elected officials contributing to the disenfranchising and disintegration of our brothers and sisters, must be met with resilience. The natives of these Borderlands, have witnessed dramatic changes affecting their health, welfare, happiness and future of generations to come. Cross border experiences have not always been peaceful, favorable or justifiable. Ignorant, uninformed or misinformed people who denounce efforts by individuals advocating social justice, equality, freedom and liberty as “Anti-American” or “Un-American” are sadly

Resurgence of Faith, Stability, Hope: A Borderlands Perspective continued—

mistaken. This misconception must be met with a variation of “This is who we are,” as an integral part of our character—one attuned to public service in pursuit of the common good.

In an effort to aptly portray the ongoing process of renewal at First Presbyterian Church and next door neighbor, St. Stephens Episcopal Church, a quote by John Ruskin serves to accurately define the “This is who we are.”

When we build, let us think that we build forever. Let it not be for present delight nor for present use alone. Let it be such work as our descendants will thank us for; and let us think, as we lay stone on stone, that a time is to come when those stones will be held sacred because our hands have touched them, and that men will say, as they look upon the labor and wrought substance of them, 'See! This our fathers did for us.'

In observance of the progress in the restoration of two neighboring churches, let us honor their history and legacy; let us embrace their willingness to challenge injustice and hatred; let us follow exemplary people who serve others unselfishly; let us act with intention and purpose...all in the pursuit of the common good. Setting a good example sets us apart from hypocrites, and depicts us as “This is who and what we are.”

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Written by Alfonso Valenzuela, writer and former broadcast journalist, in honor of the Open House Reception December 6, 2025, at First Presbyterian Church, in Douglas, Arizona.

Mural by Mexican artist Yadira Camacho, unveiled December 6, 2025, in honor of the First Presbyterian Church Agape Fellowship Hall Open House, Douglas, Arizona.





Kingdom Seekers

Karen Jacquez is our permanent Sunday School Teacher. Thank you so much! This Sunday's lesson was from Jonah 2:1: From the inside of the fish Jonah prayed.



**Homeless
Education
Program**



SCHOOL STABILITY SAFETY

McKinny-Vento Program

The Outreach/Mission Committee is also supporting another very important project in the Altar Valley School District. It is a program that supports the many homeless school children in that school district. This is a federal program that ensures displaced children have clothing, transportation and educational opportunities that their school counterparts have available. Monetary contributions are appreciated. We recently donated a backpack, several knitted hats and a check for \$262.50.

Food Assistance Needs

As we age we sometimes we lose the ability or urge to cook for ourselves. Good nutrition is important for healthy bodies (even though they ache!). Consider Mobile Meals of Southern Arizona for nutritious meal delivery. You can contact them by phone (520-622-1600), by mail (3355 S. Sixth Avenue, Tucson, AZ 85713) or go online at mobilemealsoaz.org. Their office hours are Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Also, if you would like to volunteer to deliver meals, you can contact them at the above information.



Food Bank Needs

The need for food in our community is great. Our church has been very generous. However, with the migration of the snowbirds, our food supply is low.

Once a month a batch of donated food is given to Sells Presbyterian Church. Ten boxes were delivered in December.

The demand from food insecurity families has increased. Your generosity is much appreciated by the recipients. When you go food shopping, pick up a can or two extra for the Food Bank. Thank you for helping the Sells Presbyterian Church and community.

We keep a cabinet of food in the Ranch House that is available to our church members and anyone in the community who needs food.

Be sure to check expiration dates!

LOCAL FOOD BANKS

For those in need of regular food assistance, there are other food banks in our area in which there is an additional source of obtaining food:

Tucson Mountain Baptist Church

Food Pantry Mission
5757 West Ajo Highway
(529) 883-1234
Tuesdays & Thursdays
3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Community Food Bank

3003 S. Country Club Road
(520) 622-0525
Tues & Wed: 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
Thursdays: 9:00 a.m.-5:30 p.m.
4th Saturdays: 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Community Hunger Resources

For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me. Matthew 25: 35

- ♦ How to find local food banks: Go online to **feedingamerica.org**. Learn more about their hunger relief programs.
- ♦ Get a **FoodFinder** app for your phone to find local food pantries.
- ♦ **www.findhelp.org** can help you find food programs and other community resources.
- ♦ Call or text 211 where you can get help finding food assistance and other support services in our area.
- ♦ 1-866-348-6479 to locate nearby meal sites, food banks, and social service programs.
- ♦ If you have problems with transportation, DoorDash will deliver one million meals for free through their "Project DASH" network.

Diaper Bank

Be sure to remember donations to the Diaper Bank. We accept feminine hygiene products as well as adult incontinence products, including moist towelettes. If you would rather donate money (they can buy \$3 worth of product for every \$1 in cash), please earmark your check "Diaper Bank."

You can drop off your donations in the Narthex or in the Ranch House.

Tzedakah Box



Tzedakah (Tzeh-dah-KAH) is the Hebrew word that means *charity*. Some households will designate a container in which to place money. When the box is full, they give the container of money to a favorite charity or family in need.

Several years ago, our Mission Committee purchased a Tzedakah Box so that members and guests of our congregation can place money (coins or folded type) in it. The monies collected go toward supporting upcoming community events.

Since Covid 19 many people do not carry much cash with them. If you would like to support the Tzedakah box idea but do not have any cash burning a hole in your pocket, you can designate your monetary support by writing Tzedakah box on your check .

Volunteer Opportunities

Holy Way offers many opportunities to volunteer, especially to serve on committees

Building and Grounds

Dennis Toresdahl heads up this committee. Much help is needed to keep the church and grounds neat, clean and repaired. The cleaning of this facility is under Building and Grounds. He can use anyone with handyman skills, cleaning, or just to pick up debris from the grounds. Dennis can be reached through the office (520-965-2249).

Congregational Life

This committee hosts fellowship opportunities, such as second Sunday lunch, prayer shawl ministry, and potlucks. If you would like to join and help us find more opportunities for fellowship, call Dee Ellis at 520-270-8367 or email at dmtrellis@comcast.net.

Finance Committee

Jesus Jacquez has bravely agreed to head up this committee. We have a great need for volunteers to help with this committee. The church's financial health is important. Even if you don't have a head for numbers, you can still contribute to the action of this committee. You can contact Jesus through the office or call (520) 582-5489. His email is jesusjacquezmusic@gmail.com.

Outreach/Mission

This is a busy committee. Some of our activities are sponsoring the food bank, Serena Project, Christmas Toys, Diaper Bank of Southern Arizona, McKinney-Vento Program, Back to School Supplies for Three Points, Trunk or Treat, Concert, Way of Warmth. If you are interested in joining or just helping with any individual project, call Joe Riegert at (520) 861-5390 or email at jgr_jkr@msn.com.

Worship Committee

Phil Hollis heads up this committee. Anything related to worship goes under this heading—music, ushers, communion servers, etc. You can call Phil at (520) 461-6538 or email at pdhollis@gmail.com.

Romans 8:28—And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.

SESSION at THE HOLY WAY Presbyterian Church

<u>Committee Name</u>	<u>Elder</u>	<u>E-Mail</u>	<u>Telephone</u>
<i>Buildings & Grounds</i>	Dennis Toresdahl	b23electra@gmail.com	(207) 756-4294
<i>Christian Education</i>	Dearwyn Knittel	mdknittel@gmail.com	(520) 400-5306
<i>Clerk of Session</i>	Sheila Perry	PerrySheila1959@gmail.com	((707) 419-2585
<i>Clerk of Session pro tem</i>	Dee Ellis	dmtrellis@comcast.net	(520) 270-8367
<i>Congregational Life</i>	Dee Ellis	dmtrellis@comcast.net	(520) 270-8367
<i>Finance/Stewardship</i>	Carol Portillo	waterbug1966@yahoo.com	(480) 686-5531
<i>Personnel</i>	Jeannie Hollis	holliscj@aol.com	(520) 461-6779
<i>Nominating Committee</i>	Carol Portillo	waterbug1966@yahoo.com	(480) 686-5531
<i>Outreach/Mission Committee</i>	Joe Riegert	jgr_jkr@msn.com	(520) 861-5390
<i>Treasurer</i>	Char Bowring	dncbowring@bcglobal.net	(520) 883-1642
<i>Worship Committee</i>	Phil Hollis	pdhollis@gmail.com	(520) 461-6538

BOARD OF DEACONS THE HOLY WAY Presbyterian Church

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Emma Buglewicz	mbuglewicz@aol.com	(520) 444-3266
Paulette Johnson	PJ-Scorcher-65@Live.com	(480) 789-9423
Mary Langerak	Langerak@paulbunyan.net	(218) 766-1774
Soren Perry	sorenperry@hotmail.com	(707) 704-1296

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

