

# Experience the Way!

December 2025  
Pastor Elizabeth Lyman,  
Transitional Pastor

Editor: Dee Ellis  
Volume 32, Issue 12

December 1, 2025

## From the Pastor

Dear Holy Way friends,

*"For behold I bring you good news!"* We enter the season of good news – the birth of our dear Savior Jesus, Immanuel, God with us. The church is decorated, the choir is practicing the beloved Christmas music, all stands in readiness for the arrival of the Christ Child.

I will be with you until the Sunday before Christmas, the last Sunday in Advent. Pastor Kathy will lead you on Christmas Eve and from then on.

It has been a great pleasure and honor to walk with all of you during these past 15 months. We have been through a lot together. This will be my final role in a full-time pastoral position and I am glad it was at The Holy Way. You are a special congregation, truly caring for each other. I will never forget all of you. I will never forget my wedding here!

I will be moving to Silver City, NM in January. It is a new adventure for Gary and me. I will need to keep my distance from this church for a few years, however, know that I will continue in prayer for all of you and keep you all in my heart.

Christmas Blessings!  
With great love,

Pastor Elizabeth



# Christmas at The Holy Way

## **Advent Begins on Sunday, November 30.**

We will bring our Estimates of Giving to be dedicated that day. Pastor Elizabeth to preach

## **December 7—Second Sunday in Advent.**

Communion. Pastor Kathy to preach  
Baptism conversation after church.  
Coffee hour. Need volunteers to clean up

## **December 14—Third Sunday in Advent.**

Installation of Elders and Deacons.

## **December 21—Fourth Sunday in Advent.**

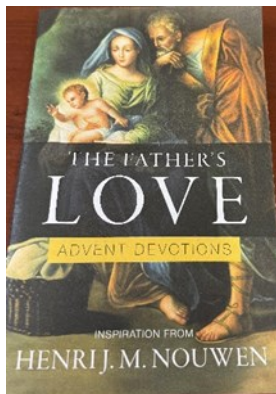
Pastor Elizabeth's final day. Reception in the ranch house to follow. Please bring cards of appreciation.

## **December 24—Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 5:00pm.**

Pastor Kathy to lead.

## **December 28—First Sunday of Christmas.**

Soren Perry to preach—Christmas Carol sing.



---

## **Bible Study in December**

Join us Tuesday mornings at 10 am, as we explore Henri Nouwen's powerful reflections on Advent and Christmas. Booklets are available on the table in the Narthex. We zoom these studies, so you can join us from wherever you are.

---

The Presbytery Committee on Ministry approved Kathy Americano to begin her role as designated pastor on January 1, 2026. She will be commissioned to that role in the spring, once she finishes her training, but has been approved to start her new ministry here before that time. Thank you, Jesus!



## january BAPTISMS

### New Members/ Baptisms

There will be a joyful celebration on January 11 – this Sunday we lift up the Baptism of our Lord. We will welcome 10 new members, and baptize two adults. A true celebration of the faithfulness of the Holy Way.



### Christmas Eve Service

Please join us for Lessons & Carols during our **Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 5:00 p.m on Wednesday, December 24, 2025.** Pastor Kathy Americano will be leading this service. If you would like to attend, but need a ride to or from the service, please let the office know by email or phone:

Kathy@holywaytucson.org  
520-965-2249

### 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

JESUS  
CHRIST  
Is Born



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.*





*Cathy & Greg Hershberger* 12/26

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) so we can celebrate **YOU!!**

*Joan Valenzuela* 12/3  
*Sheila Perry* 12/3  
*Bill Boals* 12/4  
*Mary Scillieri* 12/14  
*Dorie Scott* 12/23



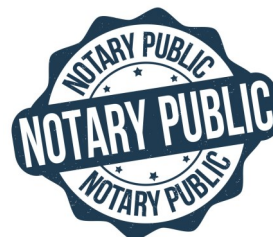
See Carol Portillo. The fee is sliding scale. All proceeds go to The Holy Way.

***Need a Notary Public?***

## *Practice the Pause*

*When in doubt, pause.*  
*When angry, pause.*  
*When tired, pause.*  
*When stressed, pause.*  
*And when you pause,*  
*Pray.*

*Toby Mac*



## 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.



### Santa's Workshop

We are a little late in announcing our annual toy drive for Three Points Fire Department. Every year the Fire Department sets out toys for parents to take for their children's Christmas. They also have tables for grandmothers as well.

The **Deadline is December 8, 2025**, but we can accept toys beyond this date. These are to be unwrapped. Gift certificates and cash can also be accepted. Gift certificates are great for teenagers. Please keep the cost under \$25.

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, 2025**

## Church Cleanup



### Please Help.

We desperately need volunteers to give a couple of hours twice a month to clean the sanctuary and Ranch House. Call the office if you are willing to put in some time.



**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 **"Sermons"**



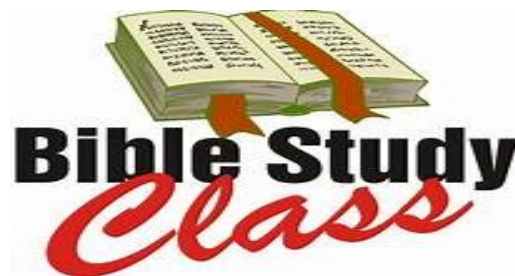
## **Sunday Fellowship**

Here's the schedule:

- 12/7: After Service, Ranch House
- 12/14: Guillermo's Double L
- 12/21: After Service, Ranch House
- 12/28: On your own

**In order to continue this event,** 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 Sunday's no one signs up.





Come meet in the  
**Conference Room &  
On Zoom**

[https://us06web.zoom.us/  
j/89894298024?  
pwd=jCrRhRWcbbw81KGI2ujd  
pB4HTaEhZm.1](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89894298024?pwd=jCrRhRWcbbw81KGI2ujdpB4HTaEhZm.1)

Tuesday Mornings  
10:00 a.m.—11:00 a.m.

### **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, December 9, 2025,  
1:00 p.m., Conference Room/Zoom

### **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 & Music Committee**

January-TBD  
1:00 p.m., Conference Room/Zoom

### **Buildings & Grounds Committee**

On hold







Each year during the Advent and Christmas season, we lift up past, present, and 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 provides support for Presbyterian church workers and their families in their time of need and leadership development, and education for communities of color at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping

communities of color.

50% of our gifts smooth the path for current and retired church workers and their families in their time of need. 50% of your gifts prepare students to learn and grow in faith at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.

We will be collecting this offering on Christmas Eve.

## Thanksgiving Food Boxes

Once again our congregation has been very generous. Ten boxes of food and ten turkeys were distributed to Vesey School. Each box contained everything needed (except eggs) to prepare a complete Thanksgiving meal. Thank you all.

Dee Ellis



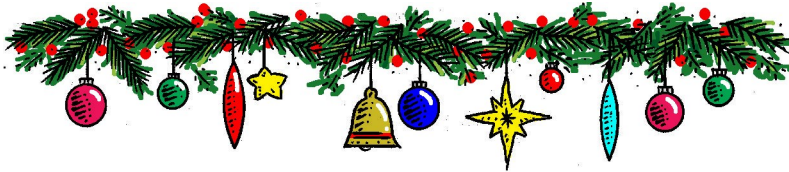




Volunteers decorating  
after church on  
November 23, 2025

# 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. In 2023, \$3,527.50 was sent to The Presbytery. The Holy Way owes \$3,527.50 for 2024. We realize that not everyone can afford their Per Capita amount. For those who are able to give a little more than your Per Capita, any funds over your would be appreciated. Per Capita for 2025 was \$43.75.



As of  
November 12,  
2025,  
we have:  
Pledged:  
\$38,170  
and  
Received:  
\$37,480.00

## 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.*

---



*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.*



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:



Planning ahead. A church potluck is  
scheduled on Saturday, January 31,  
2026 at noon. It will be held at the Cop-  
per Crest Clubhouse. The last potluck  
went well at this facility. After lunch, we  
can play games.





# Kingdom Seekers

We are happy to announce that we have new Sunday School teachers: **Alyssa Americano & Chris Toresdahl** will be teaching on the first Sunday of the month; **Karen Jacquez** will be our new teacher the other Sundays.



After studying Luke 17:11-19, the Kingdom Seekers talked about everything they are thankful for.

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.



# *Christmas Concerts*

*By*  
*Jesus Jacquez*

**December 6, 2025 @ 7:00 p.m.**

Old Pueblo Brass Band at Grace St. Paul's Episcopal Church (FREE)

Jesus will be conducting.

The concert is a mix between Spanish and Latin America inspired music and Christmas classics.

**December 10, 2025 @7:00 p.m.**

Sonora Winds at Catalina Magnet High School (FREE)

Jesus will play the bassoon with this group.

The concert is full of Christmas music (sometimes in surprising arrangements).

**December 14th, 2025 @ 3:00 p.m.**

Tucson Concert Band at Rincon Country East RV (\$15)

Jesus will play the clarinet and conduct 1/3 of this concert.,

The concert is full of Christmas music in new contexts (minor instead of major, mixed with cowboy themes, sing-alongs, etc.)

**December 18, 2025 @ 6:00 p.m.**

Tucson Concert Band at Tucson Mall (FREE)

This concert is the same program as the December 14th show.

**December 20, 2025 @ 6:00 p.m.**

SaddleBrooke Winds and Strings at Desert View Performing Arts Center (\$15)

Jesus will be conducting.

A celebration of the holidays and animation. Music from flintstones, looney tunes, video games and other animated classics in addition to music from the polar express. Half of this concert is a tribute to a deceased band member in which we celebrate their life through Christmas carols and beautifully composed music.



Our church veterans. Thank you all for your service.



Dana Keene is presenting  
a Marine Corps 250th  
Birthday coin to Ray  
Groves (age 101) on  
11/10/25.







## Scams

Scams keep evolving. We all need to be on alert. AARP has a Fraud Watch Network. This site informs you how to spot a scam, what to do if you are scammed, and how to make your internet experience safer. You can speak to a Fraud Specialist: 877.908.3360.

Do not open email you are not sure is safe. Never give out personal information on the phone. If you are not sure the caller is who they say they are, look up the number and call back. Never ever give out banking 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.

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 .



## *12 Days of Christmas and Christianity*

What in the world do leaping lords, French hens, swimming swans, and especially the partridge, who won't come out of the pear tree, have to do with Christmas?

From 1558 until 1829, Roman Catholics in England were not permitted to practice their faith openly. Someone during that era wrote this carol as a catechism song for young Catholics. It has two levels of meaning: the surface meaning plus a hidden meaning known only to members of their church. Each element in the carol has a code word for a religious reality which the children could remember.

The partridge in a pear tree was Jesus Christ

Two turtle doves were the Old and New Testaments.

Three French hens stood for faith, hope, and love.

The four calling birds were the four gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

The five golden rings recalled the Torah or Law, the first five books of the Old Testament.

The six geese a-laying stood for the six days of creation.

Seven swans a-swimming represented the seven-fold gifts of the Holy Spirit: Prophecy, Serving, Teaching, Exhortation, Contribution, Leadership, and Mercy.

The eight maids a-milking were the eight beatitudes.

Nine ladies dancing were the nine fruit of the Holy Spirit: Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self Control.

The ten lords a-leaping were the Ten Commandments.

The eleven pipers piping stood for the eleven faithful disciples.

The twelve drummers drumming symbolized the twelve points of belief to the Apostles' Creed.

So, there is your history for today. And, now you know how that strange song became a Christmas Carol.



## SESSION at THE HOLY WAY Presbyterian Church

<u>Committee Name</u>	<u>Elder</u>	<u>E-Mail</u>	<u>Telephone</u>
<i>Buildings &amp; Grounds</i>	Dennis Toresdahl		
<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>Congregational Life</i>	Bill Boals	boalsesrher21@gmail.com	(520) 543-2119
<i>Finance/Stewardship</i>	Carol Portillo	waterbug1966@yahoo.com	(480) 686-5531
<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>Personnel</i>	Jeannie Hollis	holliscj@aol.com	(520) 461-6779
<i>Treasurer</i>	Char Bowring	dncbowring@bcglobal.net	(520) 883-1642
<i>Worship Music Committee</i>	Dearwyn Knittel	mdknittel@gmail.com	(520) 400-5306

### BOARD OF DEACONS THE HOLY WAY Presbyterian Church

<u>Deacon</u>	<u>E-mail</u>	<u>Telephone</u>
Emma Buglewicz	mbuglewicz@aol.com	(520) 444-3266
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
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