



New Song Notes

July 2026
Issue 7

Happy July!

It is the month we celebrate the United States being an independent country for 250 years! How do we as Christians celebrate the nation? Can we be patriotic?



There is a difference between being patriotic at home and at church.

Let's start with being patriotic at church. We must ask why we meet as a body together. What is the purpose of church, a place set aside from the rest of the world? I believe we meet to worship God, study God's work and presence in the world, to thank God for God's interventions in our lives and to be in fellowship with a community grounded in God's love. Where does patriotism fit into these ideas? We should always thank God for our blessings, and sometimes we are reminded that our blessings are because a law was passed to help us, or give us freedom. We can thank God in church for blessings. We can celebrate the selfless nature of those who give their time and energy for the people who live in our country by recognizing and thanking those in our church at Veterans Day and remembering those passed at Memorial Day. We can hold in prayer those who are actively serving in the military and ask God to keep them safe.

At home we can celebrate the United States in ways that promote love and being good neighbors. Bring people in for a celebratory BBQ or picnic. Do something good for a neighbor or non-profit. We can also be critical of the ways our country has not always been kind, just or support the freedom of all peoples. It's okay to be critical of our leaders and the decisions that bind us. However, even our critique should not prevent us from seeing the blessings.

Jeff and I loved living in Japan and we love visiting other countries. We know that every country has its great parts, and also its weaknesses. In Japan, we benefited from great affordable healthcare. We appreciated the national concern over energy and renewable resources, the general relationship people have with nature and the turning of the seasons and the shared value of putting others first and thinking about the welfare of the many. However, the role of women was still decades behind the United States and I had to wonder what my daughter would learn about her independence and freedom by growing up in Japan. Also, the ideal of thinking about the welfare of the group sometimes meant that those who did not fit in, never got the help they really needed. I can be thankful that I live in the United States where, in general, advocating for human rights for all continues to be a priority for its people.

We can be patriotic and a Christian. We can love our country and know its weaknesses, and know that other countries are just as beautiful, wonderful and worthy of being loved. We do not worship our country, its leaders or the symbols that represent our country. We worship God. We know that all of humanity is invited to be citizens of God's Kingdom.

(cont. on pg 2)

Contact Us

623-584-9418 or 623-584-9656
Website: newsongsurprise.org

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New Song Surprise ([youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com))



New Song UMC Surprise AZ



New Song
United Methodist Church

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(Pastor's Message - cont. from pg 1)

Peter W. Marty wrote an inspiring article in the Christian Century last July. A part that caught me was this:

I preached on and around July 4 for four decades. I'm not sure I ever succeeded in moving large numbers of people to add informed critique to their obvious love of country. But what I'll never tire of believing is this: The role of religion in the public sphere is to be a loving critic of all things legislative, administrative, and judicial, submitting every policy, pronouncement, and law to moral and ethical scrutiny. The church is uniquely poised to declare that patriotism is no substitute for religion, that capitalism and militarism can never be confused with Christian-ity, and that our first loyalty is to the manger and not the throne. In Henri Nouwen's famous phrase, the church is to be a "living reminder" to the nation that it remembers its past sins, as the means of building a healed and whole future.

So, what kind of patriot shall we be? William Sloane Coffin liked to say there are three kinds, two bad and one good: "The bad patriots are the uncritical lovers and the loveless critics of their country. The good patriots are those who carry on a lover's quarrel with their country, a reflection of God's eternal lover's quarrel with the entire world."

<https://www.christiancentury.org/first-words/good-kind-patriotism>

How will you celebrate the country's 250th birthday? Send me an email and let me know.

Know that I am holding you and our country in my prayers.

Pastor Misty Howick

Mark your Calendar!

Blessing of the Backpacks is August 2 in worship.

Invite your children and grandchildren.



JULY SUNDAY SCHEDULE

8:45 am Praise Team & Other Music Rehearsals

10:00 am Coffee and Fellowship

10:30 am Worship, Sunday School for preschool, elementary children, and youth (start in Worship)

1st Sunday of the month - Communion is served, so youth and elementary children stay in Worship.

Preschool Sunday School is available every Sunday.

Stephen Ministry Q and A

What is Stephen Ministry? Stephen Ministry is a caring ministry of New Song UMC. Through Stephen Ministry, our church provides high-quality, confidential, Christ-centered care to people in our congregation and community who are experiencing life's challenges.

Who are Stephen Ministers? They are members of our church who have completed 50 hours of training to provide one-on-one, Christ-centered care. Each Stephen Minister is paired with a person who is facing a difficult time in life – men are matched with men, women with women – and meets weekly for an hour with that person to listen, encourage, pray, and provide compassionate support.

I'm going through a rough patch in my life – can a Stephen Minister help me? Stephen Ministers walk alongside people experiencing a wide range of challenges -- grief and loss, divorce or separation, job loss or transition, loneliness, illness or hospitalization, caregiving responsibilities, major life changes and other personal struggles. You don't have to face these challenges alone.

How can I connect with a Stephen Minister? To learn more or request a Stephen Minister, contact Pastor Misty or Chaplain Kathy. They will guide you through the process and answer any questions you may have. All requests and conversations are handled with care and confidentiality.

Interested in becoming a Stephen Minister? Training for new Stephen Ministers begins this September and includes weekly evening classes at the church. If you feel called to provide compassionate care to others, we invite you to learn more. To express your interest, sign up on the interest sheet or contact the church office. For questions, contact a member of the Stephen Leader Team: Ken Riddlesworth, Chaplain Kathy Norris, Pastor Kathleen Puntar or Pastor Misty Howick.

Where can I find more information? Visit the Stephen Ministry website to learn more about this caring ministry: stephenministries.org

Sometimes the most healing gift is having someone who will listen, care, and walk beside you. Stephen Ministry provides that support.



FAITHFUL FILMS

Join us for popcorn, drinks, treats and Friday night at the movies.

July 10: Harriet (2019) PG 13

The extraordinary tale of Harriet Tubman's escape from slavery and transformation into one of America's greatest heroines.

July 17: Encanto (2021) PG

The magic of the Encanto has blessed every child in the Madrigal family with a unique gift - every child except Maribel.

July 31: A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood (2019) PG

A cynical journalist gets acquainted with Fred Rogers while writing about him. In time they develop an unlikely friendship.





Animals 4 God



Animals 4 God would like to congratulate each and every person who has graduated, no matter where from, a blessed future!

As I mentioned last month, I have been trying to clear the enormous amount of “paper clutter” in my home. While doing so, I found the following “Last Will and Testament” from a dog’s point of view. The author is unknown, but I think every beloved pet on the planet would want to claim it as theirs.

A Dog’s Last Will and Testament

Before humans die, they write their last will and testament, give their home and all they have to those they leave behind. If, with my paws, I could do the same, this is what I’d ask...

To a poor and lonely stray, I’d give my happy home; my bowl and cozy bed, soft pillow and all my toys; the lap, which I loved so much; the hand that stroked my fur; and the sweet voice that spoke my name.

I’d will to the sad, scared shelter dog the place I had in my human’s loving heart, of which there seemed no bounds.

So, when I die, please do not say, “I will never have a pet again, for the loss and pain is more than I can stand.”

Instead, go find an unloved dog, one whose life has held no joy or hope, and give my place to him.

This is the only thing I can give...

The love I left behind.

CAN YOU HELP?

We are passionate about bringing the healing effect of dogs’ unconditional love into the lives of people in the community, especially those who are home-bound or in a medical facility. Becoming a therapy dog team involves a bit of work beforehand, but the effort is well worth it. If you or anyone you know is interested in becoming a Dog & Handler team for therapy work, please contact us at: Animals4God@gmail.com.

Interested in becoming a part of our ministry?

You don’t have to own a pet or be a member of New Song to join. You just need to have a desire to serve God by planning and participating in activities which enrich the lives of others by sharing our pets. We also strive to do God’s will as He challenges us to care for all the animals of the Earth by hosting educational activities with guest speakers and organizing collection events to donate to area shelters. We meet at the church on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 5:30 pm. We also host the Reading Program on the 2nd Tuesday at 6:00 pm when school is in session.



Care and Nurture Ministries



PREPARE FOR SUMMER IN ARIZONA

A little planning goes a long way.

1. Stay cool on purpose - High temperatures can sneak up fast. Drink water throughout the day, take breaks in the shade, and keep your home comfortably cool.
2. Time in the sunshine - Enjoy the outdoors when the sun is gentler - early mornings or evenings are best for errands and walks.
3. Cover up & use sunscreen - Lightweight clothing, a wide brim hat, and SPF 30+ sunscreen help protect your skin even on cloudy days.
4. Know your meds - Some medications react to heat or sun. A quick check with your care team can help you stay one step ahead. Reach out to your Pharmacy Services.
5. Stay connected - A daily check-in with a friend, neighbor or loved one adds peace of mind and a little joy!

Personal Summer Checklist

- ✓ Drink water often
- ✓ Dress light and cool
- ✓ Avoid peak sun hours
- ✓ Use broad spectrum SPF 30 or higher daily
- ✓ Rest in the shade
- ✓ Check in with someone

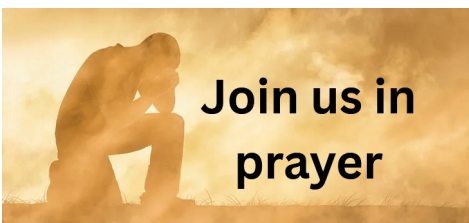


Above information from
ArchWell Health

From Amy Tarleton, Media Manager, on New Song's Facebook and Instagram on June 3

As temperatures continue to rise, let us focus our prayers:

- ⇒ Physical protection for outdoor workers, the unhoused and pets.
- ⇒ Safety from wildfires, especially for our Firefighters and First Responders.
- ⇒ Health and endurance for our elderly neighbors and others whose health may be impacted.
 - ⇒ Praise for the natural beauty of Arizona.
- ⇒ Alleviation of drought conditions through wise water management, sustainable practices, and a healthy monsoon season.
 - ⇒ Thanks for the person who invented air conditioning!



**Prayer Force
Mondays at
10:15 am**

Looking for a Stephen Minister?
Look for a person wearing
the blue name badge
before or after each service
or call the office.





Missions and Outreach



**As of May 31,
YOU have donated
\$2200
to Missions in 2026**

EVE'S COOKERS

Eve's Cookers are calling all you bakers out there to make dozens of brownies to take to Eve's Place this summer. Person abuse does not abate during the summer; it may even increase during these months. We hope you will help us fill Eve's freezer.

Year-to Date 2026	
Brownies	342 doz.
Casseroles	229

Our Brownie Angels bake at home providing dozens of brownies each month. *In June we delivered 54 dozen brownies.* We would love to have YOU join us in this 20+ year old Ministry that helps abused persons.

Financial help is also appreciated. Put Eve's Cookers in the memo. Eve's Cookers would like to THANK all our cooks, bakers and our financial helpers that keep this ministry going. Eve's Casserole Cookers will not be cooking May thru August. We will begin again with casseroles in September. If you are interested in helping, or have questions, please contact Ann Haggerty.

LOOKING FOR A SERVICE OPPORTUNITY?

Volunteer with other members of New Song at St. Mary's Food Bank the first and third Tuesdays of the month, **July 7th & 21st, from 9:45 am until noon.** We will continue to work through the summer. Newcomers welcome! Short learning curve!

IN THESE TIMES OF NEED, EVERY BIT HELPS. HERE ARE SOME WAYS TO DONATE:

- ◇ Plastic lids that have been washed for a project in Mexico.
- ◇ Change for the Noisy Offering where the children collect money and choose the mission they will support.
- ◇ Appropriate adult and children's books for our Little Free Library (wooden book house in front).
- ◇ Cases of water the first and second Sundays of the month for a hydration station.
- ◇ Non-perishable food items the first and second Sundays of the month for St. Mary's Food Bank.

KNIT WITS NEEDS YOUR HELP!

Knit Wits meet on the **first Thursday** of each month. Our next meeting will be on **July 2nd, from 1 - 3:00 pm** to create prayer shawls for our community.

Remember: If you don't know how, *we will teach you!*

Please consider joining us! We would love to see you!

For more information or if you'd like to get started sooner, contact Deanna Leon.

If you know someone who could use a prayer shawl, feel free to take one from the worship space to give them.



YOUTH MINISTRIES

It is time to go! The youth and adult volunteers leave **Saturday, July 11th** to travel to Altadena, California. Our group numbers around 50 people with 13 from New Song! We will discover the work we will do once we arrive. It may include hanging drywall, taping and mudding walls, installing baseboards, hanging doors, painting, or whatever other work needs to get done. And at least one of us will be feeding the entire group!



As we get closer to leave for It's Their Mission, we find that more and more prayer is needed.

- Please pray for safe travels and safe worksites.
- Pray for the youth who are going.
- Pray for the adults who will work with the youth.
- Pray for our hosts to be able to provide what the families need.
- Pray for the families we will help, who may have lost everything in last year's fires.

It is hard to imagine the devastation that the fires brought in 2025.

It is our goal to bring hope.



Children's Ministries

We are starting up our Prayer Partners again at the beginning of the 2025-26 school year. Before that, we would like to do some training (very short training!) The training is scheduled for **July 25th** from **10am to 12pm**. Please sign-up at the Information Center if this sounds good to you. If you are out of town, you can even join us on Zoom.

The purpose of Prayer Partners is to connect the older generations with the younger generations, and to teach children to pray and support each other. Along with the sign-up sheet, there is a Prayer Partner Job Description at the Information Center. If you have any questions, contact Leslie Oredson or Pastor Misty.



Adult Education

There are several opportunities at New Song for adults to learn more about our faith.

- ♦ **Women's Bible Study** meets **Wednesday mornings at 9:30 am**. The summer book is *Devotional Classics* by Richard J Foster. If you have questions, ask either Sally Hamill or Ann Haggerty.
- ♦ **The Men's Breakfast and Bible Study** meets on **Friday mornings at 8:00 am** in the dining room at Fellowship Square (right next to New Song). We have a delicious breakfast buffet for only \$5 and lots of good fellowship. At approximately 8:45 am, we walk a short distance to the Catalina Room for the study. We are done between 10:00 and 10:30 am.
- ♦ **Adult Sunday School**: Adult Sunday School is taking a summer vacation. Classes will start again on **September 6th**. Contact Jo or Flynn Fuller at joflynnnomad@yahoo.com with any questions.



Announcements

MARRIAGE FELLOWSHIP

Whether newly married or getting ready to celebrate multiple decades together, you are invited to join the Marriage Fellowship. Our next meeting will be **Sunday, August 9**. Come join us!
Contact Kendra Hoffman for details.

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

United Women in Faith is going out to lunch! All ladies of the church are invited to join us on **Saturday, July 11 at 11:30 am** as we meet at Angela's Kitchen in the Grand. To sign up, please contact Janet Rummel or Paulette Holler so reservations can be made.

FOREVER FRIENDS

Want to get out of the house?
Meet with friendly people?
Come to Forever Friends **at 11:45am on Thursday, July 9th**. Bring your lunch as well as your own beverage and table setting. Games after lunch. Bring a favorite game if you like.
Questions: contact Myrna Bishop.



Summer Pick-Up Choir
Next Practice: **Sunday, July 26th at 9:15 am**
Sing the same day

PRAYER REQUESTS ON OUR NEW SONG WEBSITE!

You can send a prayer request electronically and it will go straight to our Pastoral Assistant, 24/7, and no one else. Go to our website at newsongsurprise.org. Scroll down to the box that says **"Request A Prayer."** Fill out the form and hit the **"Submit"** button. That's all! Give it a try!

BOOK BUDDIES

We will be discussing *The Borrowed Life of Frederick Fife* by Ana Johnston on **Monday, July 27th at 1:00 pm** at Jacque Laats' house. We hope all that love to read will join us.

Upcoming books include:

- 8/24 *The View from Lake Como* by Adriana Trigiani
- 9/28 *The Extraordinary Life of Sam Hell* by Robert Dugong
- 10/26 *Go as a River* by Shelley Read

CARD MAKING MINISTRY

People make cards for our Card Ministry and for sale. They make the cards at home on their own schedule. For more information, contact Eileen Johnson.

CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP

Are you a caregiver? Would you like the opportunity to share with others who are also caregivers? If so, join us at the Caregiver Support Group! We meet the **2nd and 4th Mondays of the month at 10:30 am** at Starbucks on Grand and Reems in Surprise. This month that is **July 13 & 27**. Look for Pam McNeal Laue and Sabine Kruse (who will be wearing their name tags) and introduce yourself when you arrive. If you have questions, please contact Pam Laue or Sabine Kruse.

OUR VISION ...

is to become a great church that builds the kingdom of God by making disciples of Jesus Christ and by making a difference in the world.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL AGES

We offer many different ways for service and fellowship with other New Song members and friends: Animals 4 God, Book Buddies, Card Making, Care & Nurture, Caregiver Support, Celebration Choir, Children's Ministry, Dinners for 8, Eve's Cookers, Forever Friends, Handbells, Hospitality Team, Knit Wits, Ladies Hand and Foot Cards, Marriage Fellowship, Meet & Greet, Men's Breakfast and Bible Study, Missions, Needlers, New Member Classes, Praise Team, Prayer Force, Preschool Ministry, Reach Team, Stephen Ministries, Sunday School (for children, youth and adults), UWF (United Women in Faith), Women's Bible Study, Youth Ministry and more.

Check the calendar each month for schedule information and additional opportunities.

PRAY FOR IN JULY

Each month we are encouraged to pray for different churches in our district.

In July, please pray for:

Chino Valley UMC, Chino Valley AZ
Christ Community UMC, Avondale AZ
Community Church of Buckeye, Buckeye AZ

LET'S GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER!

There are many ways to do this!
Check out the Prayer bulletin board by the double doors and add your response.

Leave a note on the Congregational Engagement doors and read what others wrote.

Wear your nametag.

ARE YOU RECEIVING THE BLAST?

If you are not receiving the weekly Blast, first check your spam mail folder. If you cannot find it there, then sign the Blast Sign-up Sheet at the Information Center. Once you have been added, you should receive the weekly

Blast on Thursdays and the monthly newsletter on the last Friday of the month. If you have any questions, contact the office at newsong.surpriseaz@gmail.com or 623-584-9418.

REMINDER

The office email address is newsong.surpriseaz@gmail.com.
The office phone number is 623-584-9418 or 623-584-9656.

If you send something to church or have your offering sent by your bank, please use this address:
New Song United Methodist Church
16303 West Bell Road
Surprise, AZ 85374

MINISTERS OF NEW SONG

The ministers of New Song are its members.

The staff members who assist them are:

Pastor: Rev. Misty Howick

Pastoral Assistant: Chaplain Kathy Norris

Director of Music: Jeffrey Conger

Sunday School Supervisor: Rhonda Easa

Office Manager: Joanne Croft

Office Assistant: Leslie Oredson

Treasurer: Amy Tarleton

Financial Secretary: Scott South

Marketing & Web: Amy Tarleton

Accompanist: Alex Lunardi

Facilities Manager: Nicolas Hermans

IN LOVING MEMORY

2025

07/08 Terry Locke
 07/09 LeRoy Messenger
 07/16 Jerome K. Johnson
 08/08 Phyllis Russell
 08/15 Aileah Carlson
 08/17 Shane Hill
 08/26 Helen Park
 09/01 Beth Brashers
 10/13 Ken Kraft
 10/28 Kelly Quinn
 10/28 Donna Doede
 12/15 Norma Lawson



12/27 Juanita Howard
 12/27 Joanne Wilson
 12/30 Terri Nekvinda

2026

01/03 Raymond Drake
 03/13 Thelma Rush
 03/13 Darlene McSparran
 03/27 Gladys Kelley
 04/02 Tony Kalinski
 04/22 Elaine Cooper
 04/24 Dave Hoffman
 05/08 Mona Parmar
 06/12 Ed Rockwell



OUR MILITARY



A1C Morgan Ailsieger, ANG
Spec Matthew Farris, US Army
SSgt Kathryn Jones, USAF
WO1 Wesley Meadows, US Army
LCDR Brent Pavel, US Navy

E-5 Nicholas Rinker, US Navy
TSgt Malika Sengsavath, ANG
SSgt Kyler Sengsavath, Air Force
Cpl Trayton Stewart, Marines
E-3 Echo Smith, US Navy

**Let us always bear in mind that
 freedom is not free.**

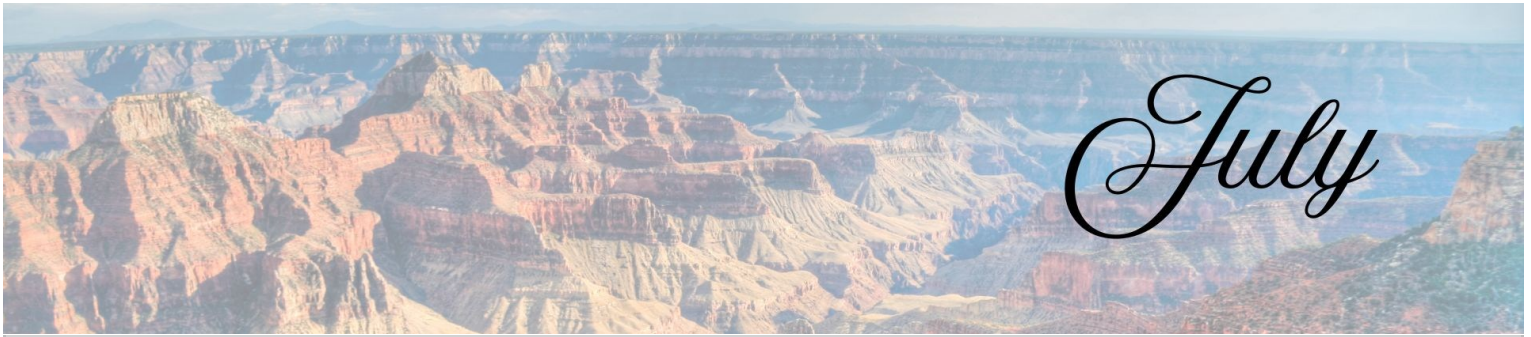


7/3 Dayna Cinader	7/8 Richard	7/16 Bobbi Holmes
7/3 Jeff Howick	Holdsworth	7/16 Ken Martin
7/3 Cherise Kiel	7/11 Keith Messenger	7/18 Jonathan Hawk
7/3 Michelle Ferguson	7/12 Andy Garbacz	7/20 Renae Wyrick
7/5 Ruth Ellen Cooper	7/12 Lisa Barnes	7/21 Janet Rummel
7/6 Nella Tjeerdsma	7/13 Tyler Kiel	7/29 Janice Slater
7/7 Scott South	7/14 Todd Haubrich	7/30 Peter Park
	7/16 Margaret Sims	7/31 Meri Carlson



*Happy
 Anniversary*

7/3 Ron & Cindy Conwell
 7/8 Scott & Dawn Bethke
 7/16 Jeff & Sue Wilson
 7/18 Sidney & Madonna Thomas
 7/18 Dale & Debbie Tietz
 7/24 Bill & Nancy Carlson
 7/30 Kim & Judy Riddlesworth
 7/30 Richard & Marilyn Holdsworth



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Blue = Offsite Activities			1 9:30 am Women's Bible Study	2 1 pm Knit Wits	3 OFFICE CLOSED 8 am Men's B'fast and Bible Study	4
5 10:30 am Worship, Communion, PreK Sunday School	6 10:15 am Prayer Force	7 9:45 am <i>Serve at St. Mary's</i> 1 pm Staff Meeting 4 pm Trustees	8 9:30 am Women's Bible Study	9 10 am Children's Ministry 11:45 pm Forever Friends	10 8 am Men's B'fast and Bible Study 6 pm Faithful Film NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	11 11:30 am UWF Lunch <i>It's Their Mission</i>
12 10:30 am Worship, Elem, Youth, PreK Sunday Sch	13 10:15 am Prayer Force 10:30 am <i>Caregiver Support</i> 6 pm Boy Scouts	14 1 pm Staff Meeting	15 9:30 am Women's Bible Study	16	17 8 am Men's B'fast and Bible Study 6 pm Faithful Film	18
<i>It's Their Mission</i>						
19 10:30 am Worship, Elem, Youth, PreK Sunday School Possible Safe Sanctuaries training	20 10:15 am Prayer Force 6 pm Boy Scouts	21 9:45 am <i>Serve at St. Mary's</i> 1 pm Staff Meeting 4 pm Finance	22 9:30 am Women's Bible Study	23	24 8 am Men's B'fast and Bible Study	25 10 am Safe Sanctuaries Training
26 9:15 am Pick Up Choir Rehearsal 10:30 am Worship, Elem, Youth, PreK Sunday School 11:45 Youth lunch & meeting	27 10:15 am Prayer Force 10:30 am <i>Caregiver Support</i> 1 pm <i>Book Buddies</i> 6 pm Boy Scouts	28 10 am Church Council	29 9:30 am Women's Bible Study	30	31 8 am Men's B'fast and Bible Study 10 am Pew Buddies 6 pm Faithful Film	

July 2026 Newsletter



Thoughts of July



Church Office:
Monday thru Friday 9:00am - 2:30 pm
Phone: 623-584-9418 or 623-584-9656



**Newsletter Editor: Joanne Croft at newsong.surpriseaz@gmail.com.
Please send all August newsletter articles by July 10th.
If you have items for the Blast and/or for the bulletin,
please submit them by Tuesday each week.**



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PLACE
STAMP
HERE