



Annual Church Conference

November 5, 2025

Bishop Carlo A. Rapanut
The Phoenix Area

Rev. Melissa Rynders
Central East District Superintendent

Rev. Jeff Procter-Murphy
Lead Pastor

Rev. Michael Long
Associate Pastor

Rev. Shirley Wells
Minister of Spiritual Formation

Desert Southwest Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church Central East District

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2025 Church Conference Agenda

Call to Order	DS
Affirmation of Recording	DS, vote
Reflection - “A Healthy Church for a Healthy World: And Let it Begin with Me”	DS
Reflection on the Last Year	<i>Celebration of Ministry</i> video and written report
Finance and Stewardship	Rick Potts, Finance Chair and Nan Lawson, Stewardship Chair
Membership Report 1st Year List 2nd Year List	John Epps, Membership Secretary DS, vote
Ministry Plan for the Year Ahead	Suzanne Harbster, Lay Leader
Clergy Compensation	Anthony Contente-Cuomo, SPRC Chair, DS, vote
Nomination Report	Pastor Jeff, DS, vote
A Charge and a Blessing	District Lay Leader, DS
Adjourn	DS

Finance Committee - Nan Lawson

Dayspring's Finance Committee is responsible for the management of the church's financial assets. Other major responsibilities include preparing and monitoring the annual budget, analyzing and evaluating the monthly financial statements of the church, and planning and implementing stewardship campaigns and fundraisers.

In 2025, the total general budget for Dayspring was \$1,208,577. In addition to the general fund budget, the church holds dedicated funds and endowment funds to carry out the many ministries and mission projects. The endowment funds are invested and only the dividends and interest may be used for scholarships, missions and general use as specified by the donors. Dayspring UMC, Tempe and Arcadia, is debt-free with combined cash assets of \$780,950 as of 9/30/2025. Endowment funds account for \$572,403 and are invested at the Desert Southwest United Methodist Foundation. The balance of the assets are held at PNC Bank, TruWest Credit Union, and Gateway Bank and are used for general fund and dedicated fund expenses.

The Finance team began a new capital campaign in October 2024, "A Place for All – Enhancing Safety and Accessibility". A goal of \$250K was set to fund an ADA ramp to the chancel in the sanctuary, replace sprinkler heads in the Preschool building, replace the carpet in the Palo Verde room, update lighting and sound components in the sanctuary, make repairs to landscaping and irrigation system, create a reserve for HVAC replacements and donate funds to our mission partners: Project Hope Liberian Wells, Habitat for Humanity, and Tempe Community Action Agency. As of 10/20/2025, the goal has been exceeded as \$337K has been pledged and \$219K in donations have been received.

The finance audit committee, Scott Morrison and Bill Stenseth, both of whom are retired CPAs, completed a review of 2024 financial reporting and processes and submitted a report stating that financial operations and reporting for the church and preschool were found to have no material issues and fairly represent the accounts and financial reporting used to manage and track operations. There were recommendations to remedy possible internal control gaps that are being addressed by the finance team to update processes and procedures.

Dayspring has stayed current in paying monthly apportionments to the Conference and plans to continue to make payments monthly.

Respectfully submitted by the Finance Committee:

Rick Potts - chairperson of Finance
David Barnhouse – chairperson of Covenant Council
Carol McKnight – accountant
Carol Muggeridge – treasurer & SPRC rep
Terry Abair – trustees representative
Calvin Goin – member at large
Kurt Schulte – member at large
John Epps – financial secretary

Nan Lawson - controller/stewardship
Jeff Procter-Murphy – lead pastor
Kay Block – supervisor of counters
Scott Morrison – member at large
Suzanne Harbster – lay leader
John Brown – member at large
Cindy Sacha – member at large

Stewardship - Nan Lawson

2025 Operating Fund Pledges and Other Operating Fund Giving:

Total 2025 pledges are \$650,589 of which \$507,819 has been received through 10/23/2025 (78%). Dayspring UMC has also received \$175,395 in non-pledge offerings through 9/30/2025.

Overall, 2025 operating fund giving is down by -\$5536 (less than 1%) compared to the first nine months of 2024.

Additional Opportunities for Generosity

The congregation's focus on giving to outside mission agencies continues. The Dayspring family has responded to these needs by opening their hearts and wallets to assist folks with needed services through missions giving above and beyond the tithes and offerings that support the Dayspring general fund budget. In addition, mission giving is supplemented by gifts from the Endowment Funds. The extra missions gifts for 9/2024 – 9/2025 totaled \$125,471. In addition, through our conference apportionments, Dayspring contributed \$71,992 to World Services & Conference Benevolences of the UMC, \$1870 to the Black College Fund, and \$418 to African University. This brings the total missions giving to \$199,751.

The breakdown of extra giving to mission is as follows:

AZCEND - \$5000

AZ Justice for our Neighbors - \$500

Creighton Community Foundation - \$2500

Family Promise - \$6000

Give Ye Them To Eat (GYTTE) - \$2500

Habitat for Humanity - \$3500

Iglesia Aliento UMF - \$9000

Justa Center - \$9585

Liberia Well Project – \$14,000

Refugee Focus - \$3170

Samaritan Fund - \$4854

Save the Family - \$2500

Tempe Community Action Agency - \$4398

The Good Fund - \$1065

Tochi Medical Mission - \$13,205

UMCOR - \$18,514

UMOM - \$11,805

Valley Interfaith Project - \$9000

Wesley Community Center - \$2500

2025 Stewardship Campaign

As is the Dayspring custom, a stewardship campaign for 2026 will be held during the month of November. The stewardship focus will be "A Chorus of Generosity". Organized around Psalm 100's call to "Make a joyful noise to God", hymns become a way to participate together around generosity. A 30-day Challenge with calendar-style daily activities will be distributed to our households to keep generosity uppermost in our thinking during November.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES - Blake Sacha - Chair

Our Trustees Group is responsible for the physical care of both the Tempe and Arcadia properties. Nikki Smith has continued to do wonderful work as our maintenance manager. She has successfully applied for a number of grants and overseen significant growth in the rental use of both campuses. Several new Trustees have stepped up to take on additional responsibilities. 2025 was the first year of a 2 year capital campaign at the Tempe campus.

Summary of projects completed and ongoing in 2025

Completed at Tempe location:

1. Replacement of all of the toilets and bathroom fixtures as part of a grant with the City of Tempe to reduce water usage
2. Application of termicide under warranty
3. Improving of business process documentation
4. Installed hot water heater in Sacristy
5. Added AC to the Sanctuary sound booth to extend equipment life
6. Tempe campus became certified as a Resilience Hub for the City of Tempe
7. Multiple courtyard repairs including bulging pavers, electrical circuits and fountain
8. Preschool AC and plumbing maintenance

Capital Campaign projects completed:

- Providing wheelchair access to the Chancel area
- Sealing the parking lot
- Improving the parking lot lightings
- Improving the sound and lighting in the sanctuary
- Ongoing AC unit replacement
- Life safety improvements including sprinkler head replacement and fire panel upgrades
- Mission partner tithes

Ongoing projects at Tempe location:

1. Design and construction of a garden columbarium north of the two-story classroom wing (in subscription phase)
2. Reconfiguration of pews to increase ADA companion seating options
3. Palo Verde room flooring replacement
4. Implementation of electronic documentation organization and storage
5. Preschool Arizona Department of Health audit maintenance completion
6. Reorganization of campus storage areas
7. Update Preschool MOU

Completed at the Arcadia location:

1. Partial repair of the roof
2. Renegotiated cell tower lease
3. Multiple plumbing repairs primarily due to the age of the facility

Ongoing projects at the Arcadia location:

1. Dog park maintenance
2. Update Preschool MOU

Membership Report

As of November 4, we have 766 professing members, 8 affiliate members, and 3 associate members. Last year our membership was 811.

We added 31 new professing members (4 of whom were confirmands) and 2 new affiliate members in 2025. We had 19 deaths of members in the last year.

25 members were removed by the 2024 Church Conference action. 7 members transferred to other UMC churches and 1 member transferred to another denomination.

First Year Reading List (no report for this year)

Second Year Reading List

Barbara Appenzeller	Joanne Baca	Phyliss Bleakley
Paulette Campbell	Jay Carpenter	Laura Carpenter
Lance Cypert	Don Faulkner	Sue Faulkner
Rosemary Geary	Jeffrey Griffin	Peggy Griffin
Vanessa Ibarra	Adam Parkinson	Caitlin Parkinson
Caroline Parkinson	Simon Parkinson	Salimah Reece
Christopher Smith	Liz Smith	Monica Sorensen
Mary Warren	Diane Woodburn	Jeff Woodburn
Sandra Ziegler		

Ministry Plan for 2026

Dayspring UMC will build on the strength of this year's ministries by deepening discipleship, expanding community engagement, and listening for God's call into new possibilities.

Sunday celebrations will continue to inspire through thoughtful liturgy, diverse musical offerings, and creative expressions on Second Sundays.

We will complete and dedicate Phase 1 of the Dayspring Columbarium. We will continue to support and grow our relationship with our covenant church, Iglesia Aliento.

Faith formation will nurture spiritual growth across generations through short-term studies, intergenerational learning, and new small groups that connect faith with daily life. Youth will participate in regional service and leadership opportunities.

Building on strong community partnerships—including VIP, TCAA, AZCEND, AZIPL, and the City of Tempe as a Resiliency Hub—Dayspring will emphasize sustainable, relational service and deepen engagement in environmental care, housing equity, food insecurity, and advocacy education.

Our Congregational and Pastoral Care teams will expand lay visitation and prayer ministries, offering deeper spiritual companionship for those in need.

Fellowship and hospitality will foster belonging through shared meals, storytelling, and newcomer connections that help guests become family. Youth will have opportunities to build relationships with each other through fun and engaging activities.

Dayspring will continue to grow our membership, seeking additional ways to grow and support young families and young adults, while inviting them to engage more in the ministries and mission of the church.

Dayspring will also begin discerning a new long-range vision—developing leaders and staff and listening for fresh ways to serve God's world with compassion and hope.

Arcadia Campus Update - Pastor Michael Long

This past year has been one of renewed energy and steady growth for our Arcadia community. Transitioning to a single monthly worship service has proven to be a meaningful and sustainable rhythm for our congregation. The shift has allowed us to deepen our sense of community and worship intentionally, creating space for Spirit-led connection and shared joy even amid the challenges of having only one service a month.

The addition of Beth Lederman and Diana Lee Messana has brought new life to our worship experience. Their musical gifts have reawakened a sound and moved the Spirit that has been missing for some time, enriching our gatherings with depth, warmth, and creativity. The atmosphere at Arcadia feels alive again, hopeful, grounded, and filled with possibility.

We continue to strengthen our partnership with Mt. of Olives Lutheran Church, which has not only shared in preaching and worship leadership but also co-hosted joint services that have been well-received by both congregations. This ecumenical relationship is becoming a model of collaboration and shared ministry, reminding us that the body of Christ is bigger than any one denomination. Mt. of Olives has also expressed a willingness to partner with us in conversations around the future of the property and ministry presence on the Arcadia property and area, an exciting step forward as we discern what sustainable ministry looks like in this next season.

As we look ahead, we remain committed to cultivating a worshiping community that is open, Spirit-filled, and deeply rooted in love and justice. We believe God is still creating with Arcadia, and the seeds we are planting today are signs of the vibrant ministry yet to come in whatever form that takes.

Property and Facility Improvements / Community Engagement

This year, our focus on financial sustainability and community connection has led to significant progress across the Arcadia campus. We have continued to clean, refresh, and upgrade our facilities, making them more welcoming and functional for both church and community use. These efforts are part of a broader vision to maximize our property as a ministry resource, a place where faith, community, and creativity intersect.

Our rental program has grown steadily, with increased interest from community groups and organizations seeking space for events and gatherings. With the ongoing leadership of our Facilities Manager, Nikki Smith, we have strengthened operational systems, expanded rental offerings, and increased income from both campus rentals and the on-site preschool. These partnerships and lease agreements not only support our ministry financially but also help us live out our mission to be an open, inclusive presence in the Arcadia neighborhood.

The dog park continues to be a unique and vibrant point of community engagement. Through new partnerships, we've completed upgrades to entrances, gates, enclosures, and added flood irrigation to bring more green space for the dogs and the area. Enhancing both safety and accessibility. The dog park's online Facebook community now includes over 100 active members, connecting neighbors, fostering relationships, and drawing new people onto our campus each week. What began as a simple gathering space has become a ministry of presence, an example of how God meets people (and their four-legged friends) right where they are. Looking ahead, we remain committed to cultivating partnerships that both sustain our facilities and deepen our community impact, ensuring that our campus continues to serve as a place of welcome, joy, and connection for all.

Challenges and Opportunities

Dayspring Arcadia remains steadfast in our commitment to building a faithful, sustainable, and Spirit-led community. Our focus continues to be on cultivating genuine relationships with those in the Arcadia area, creating spaces where new and longtime members alike can experience belonging and the presence of Christ.

We recognize that growth takes time and also know that, whatever form growth takes, God will be glorified. And we are learning to celebrate faithfulness as much as expansion. Our congregation has remained strong and engaged through this season of discernment, showing deep dedication to one another and to the mission of the church.

Looking ahead, we are in conversation with our partners at Mt. of Olives Lutheran Church about the future of the Arcadia property, exploring the possibility of using the space for affordable housing to address the growing housing crisis in Phoenix. This discernment is an opportunity to reimagine how our campus can serve the community and live out the Gospel in tangible, justice-oriented ways.

We ask for your continued prayers and support as we move forward, trusting that the same Spirit who began a good work in us will continue to guide our steps.

2026 NOMINATIONS REPORT (*italics indicates to be elected*)

Covenant Council

Chair: David Barnhouse (2026)

Lay Leader: *Lindsay Olivarez (2028)*

Secretary: Nancy Creighton (2026)

Treasurer: Carol Muggeridge (2027)

Membership Secretary: *John Epps (2028)*

Chairs of Each Ministry Team

Professional Staff and Clergy

Lay Delegates to Annual Conference:

David Barnhouse (2026)

Bethany Lambrecht (2027)

Carol Muggeridge (2027)

Nikki Smith (2027)

Trustees (chair to be elected at first meeting)

Staff Liaison: Nikki Smith

2026	Blake Sacha	Ruth Boyle	Karen Hatton
	Dave Muggeridge	Terry Abair	
2027	Jim Chamness	Beth Swift	Sean Pyatt
	Chelsea Erwin	Jason Olivarez	
2028	<i>Erin Holmberg</i>	<i>Tom Brown</i>	<i>Dazz Crain</i>

Staff Parish Relations Committee: *Ed Johnson*, Chair

2026	Cori Holmberg	Suzanne Harbster	Ed Johnson
2027	Simon Thomas	Olivia Bruner	Sharon Ireland
	Julia Gunaraj		
2028	<i>Ev Taylor</i>	<i>Franklyn Zyriek</i>	<i>Lindsay Olivaras (lay leader)</i>
	<i>Renie Broderick</i>	<i>Faith Wagner</i>	

Nominations: Rev. Jeff Procter-Murphy, Chair

2026	Kris Kroeger	Michael Long	Kathleen Devereux
2027	Lynn Potts	Jane Ridgley	Kay Block
	Patie Hawley		
2028	<i>Lindsay Olivaras</i>	<i>Suzanne Harbster</i>	<i>Gary Lovejoy</i>
	<i>Nan Lawson</i>	<i>Marianne Lopez</i>	

Finance: Rick Potts, Chair Staff

Liaison: Rev. Jeff Procter-Murphy

Treasurer: Carol Muggeridge

Controller: Nan Lawson

Financial Secretary: *John Epps*

Counters: Kay Block

Permanent Endowment & Planned Giving Representative: Nan Lawson

Trustee Representative: Terry Abair

SPRC Chair: *Ed Johnson*

Covenant Council Chair: David Barnhouse

Lay Leader: *Lindsay Olivaras*

Members at Large

2026	Rick Standridge	Cindy Sacha	
2027	Scott Morrison	Calvin Goin	<i>John Brown</i>
2028	<i>Valerie Hernandez</i>	<i>Jacki Taylor</i>	<i>Roger White</i>

Permanent Endowment Team

John Brown (2028)

Randy Hamilton (2026)

Nan Lawson (2026)

Rev. Michael Long

Carol Muggeridge (2027)

Rev. Jeff Procter-Murphy

Dayspring Arcadia

Staff Liaison: Rev. Michael Long

Arcadia Vision Team

Ed Johnson, chair

Jackie Taylor

Randy Hamilton

Tom Brown

Staff Liaisons: Rev. Jeff Procter-Murphy, Rev. Michael Long, Nikki Smith

Communications: Kris Kroeger

Second Sundays

Dale Dauten, facilitator; Staff

Karen Spencer-Barnes, Celebrating the Divine Feminine; Bethany Lambrecht, Shepherds

Children's Ministries: Jessica Nuñez-Lamarre
Youth Ministries: JulieAnne & Sam Weisberg
Adult Ministries Staff Liaison: Rev. Shirley Wells
Church & Society Chair: Bethany Lambrecht
Staff Liaison: Rev. Jeff Procter-Murphy

Missions Team Leaders

Staff Liaison: Rev. Jeff Procter-Murphy

- Habitat for Humanity: Mark Boyle
- Family Promise: David Schildkret and Sue Griffin
- New Americans Ministry (formerly Refugee Focus): Janie Magruder
- Iglesia Aliento: Rev. Rosemary Anderson
- Liberian Well Project HOPE: Prince Mayson
- SSP: Sam Weissberg
- Community Garden: Chris Lueck, Bruce & Terri Noffke, Nancy Schmehl
- Borderlands Produce Rescue: Rev. Michael Long
- Tochi Medical & Dental Clinic: John VanVleet and Bev Muller
- Valley Interfaith Project (VIP): Bethany Lambrecht and Nancy Jamison
- Indian Bible Translators: Julia Gunaraj
- Prison Ministry: Chris Karber
- Tempe Community Action Agency: Mark Osman
- AZCEND: Trinity Donovan
- United Food Bank/Thanksgiving Food Drive: Andrew Marsh

Stephen Ministries: Ev Taylor, Dale Dauten, Carolyn Lee, Laura Hudson

Staff Liaison: Rev. Jeff Procter-Murphy

Memorial Team Angels: Tammy White

Compassionate Care Ministry: Jacki Taylor

Kitchen: Connie Harrison

Staff Liaison: Nikki Smith

Dayspring Stitchers: Elizabeth Winkler

Prayer Shawls Ministry: Rev. Susan Staley

S.A.G.E. (Spirited Activists for Greening the Earth)

Congregation Team Leader: Maureen Rojas

UWF President (elected by UWF): Dianne Roberson

Staff Liaison: Rev. Shirley Wells

UMM (elected by UMM) Co-President: Mark Kaiser & Bill Stenseth

Staff Liaison: Rev. Jeff Procter-Murphy

Dayspring Music Ministry - David Schildkret

As evidenced by the regular documentation in Dayspring's excellent newsletter, *KOINONIKOS*, 2025 was a vibrant and faith-filled year for the Dayspring Music Program, under the direction of David Schildkret and a team of dedicated leaders. This is a community where music, faith, and service intertwine, celebrating creativity, inclusivity, and shared joy throughout the church year.

Seasonal Highlights & Worship Life

- **Advent and Christmas 2024** began with a rich calendar of events including the beloved *MESSIAH Sing-Along*, the contemplative *Longest Night Taizé Service*, children's musical *Sing With Us: The Christmas Story*, and *Christmas Eve services* featuring choirs, orchestra, and candlelit worship. The *DayspRingers* Handbell Choir also performed at the Desert Botanical Gardens' *Luminarias*.
- **Lent and Easter 2025** featured deeply spiritual music: Palm Sunday traditions, Maundy Thursday's cello-accompanied service, the moving *Seven Last Words* Good Friday program, and joyful *Easter celebrations* with brass, organ, and choir.
- **Spring and Summer 2025** showcased reflection and renewal. Members of the Dayspring Celebration Chorale joined members of Arizona Cantilena Chorale and others from the community to present *Schicksalslied* by Brahms and Bernstein's *Chichester Psalms* at Dayspring and at Carnegie Hall in May. Summer Choir provided opportunities for newcomers to participate.
- **Autumn 2025** marked the return to full activity: regular choir rehearsals, new leadership opportunities, and collaborative concerts with ASU choirs and community ensembles. The *Dorothy Schildkret Memorial Concert* honored David's mother and supported Liberty Wildlife.
- The year concluded with **November's "Chorus of Generosity" Stewardship theme**, tying music's spirit of unity and gratitude to the church's mission of compassion and community service.

Musical Growth & Community Involvement

At Dayspring, we celebrate and embrace musical diversity—from classical masterpieces and gospel to folk and contemporary pieces. The programs included:

- **Adult, youth, and children's choirs** led by JulieAnne Weissberg, Grace Templeton, and others.
- The **DayspRingers Handbell Choir**, directed by Cindy Van Vleet.
- Instrumental collaborations with local musicians, **Arizona Cantilena Chorale**, and **Burn City String Quartet**, Dayspring's quartet-in-residence.
- Guest performances by ASU musicians and community ensembles, reinforcing Dayspring's role as a hub of musical excellence in Tempe.

Faith, Reflection, and Inclusion

For Dayspring, music is clearly linked to spiritual purpose: it is a form of prayer and promotes justice and connection. From Black History Month's celebration of Black composers to outreach through various volunteer activities, including Christmas caroling at Friendship Village, the music ministry demonstrated that art and service are inseparable at Dayspring.

Gratitude, unity, and renewal underscore the ministry's philosophy:

"Through music, we explore every facet of our humanity... Above all, music is joyful."

Leadership & Legacy

Looking back over a year of *KOINIKOS* issues, we see a ministry sustained by love, resilience, and shared purpose, where "making a joyful noise" is both a calling and a celebration of life.

In Summary

Across the year, *KOINONIKOS* reveals a thriving, intergenerational ministry that unites musical artistry, spiritual depth, and community compassion. From candlelight carols to orchestral praise, from children's voices to Taizé chants, every note affirms Dayspring's mission: to build a world more peaceful, just, compassionate, and inclusive—through the gift of music.

Children's Choir - JulieAnne Weissberg

The Children's Choir meets on Wednesday evenings from 6:00-6:45 in room 207. This choir is open to all students in 1st-6th grade. We work on 2 part music and learn skills for proper singing in an ensemble. All of this is accomplished through a great deal of fun and silliness. We sing in service once per month. In 2024, the Children's Choir led a traditional Christmas Pageant focusing on the story of Christ's birth. This pageant includes many of the traditional Christmas hymns and intentionally teaches these standard songs. This year in December of 2025, the children will put on the musical, *Arrest These Merry Gentleman* by Steve Moore, Rob Howard and David Guthrie. As always, we finished our year by celebrating at Organ Stop Pizza for a musical dinner together!

Cherub Choir was led by Grace Templeton in the 2024-2025 school year. It was a slow start and only had 2 children attending. Grace resigned in July, but we are thrilled to have hired Kristen Hull, Dayspring member and bell ringer. The first rehearsal was on Oct. 15, 2025 and there were 8 singers!

Youth Choir - JulieAnne Weissberg

Youth Choir meets on Wednesday evenings from 6:45-7:30 in room 207. This choir is open to all students in 7th-12th grade. We work on 2-3 part music and as this group grows, the difficulty level of the music also increases. We sing in service once per month. This group has doubled in size since last year!

Retired Pastor - Rev. Charles E. Winkler, Retired United Methodist Minister

I continue to appreciate Dayspring as a place of worship and service. I am involved in the following ways:

- - Attend Sacred Space worship, 2nd Sunday Divine Feminine worship, and 10:00 am Service. Delivered Stitchers Christmas Bags to UMOM

Assisted with communion

Called regularly on several Dayspring members.

MISSIONS - Tammy White

Dayspring UMC is a mission-oriented church. There are opportunities for participation in the church's mission activities for every age group. People of all ages have numerous opportunities to volunteer for mission projects. Between October 2024 and September 2025 Dayspring has contributed \$199,751.00 to various missions including \$74,280.00 to Conference apportionments.

Here are some of the things that Dayspring contributed to in 2025:

UMOM – (Seeking new committee) - \$11,875.00 donated between October 2024 to September 2025.

Indian Bible Translators – Julia Gunaraj – Nothing to report

Family Promise – David Schildkret & Sue Griffen - \$6,500.00 donated between October 2024 to September 2025

Dayspring hosted 3 times in 2025, as well as offering our campus to Phoenix Church of Christ who needs the space for overnights. We welcomed 2 – 4 families each week, giving them a room for each night for a week as well as a home cooked meal. Dayspring volunteers set up, helped cook each meal, visit with our families and share Dayspring hospitality as well as tear down, clean up and even laundry. 2 people were tasked each night with spending the night in case the families needed anything. Volunteers offered activities to the families which consisted of playing games, nail polishing, even a Sing-along! In August, Dayspring members volunteered 309 hours throughout the week.

Received from Family Promise:

On behalf of our entire team at Family Promise and the families we serve, THANK YOU, truly and wholeheartedly, for opening your doors and hearts to us. Your willingness to welcome our families with such grace and generosity is a living example of Christ's love in action. The meals you prepared, the fellowship you offered, and the safe space you provided will not soon be forgotten. You gave far more

than shelter. You gave dignity, hope, and a reminder that God's people are never alone. We are deeply grateful for the ways you served our families. Once again, thank you for being the hands and feet of Christ in such a tangible way. We are so blessed to walk in partnership with you.

Many thanks to the groups who helped: Boy Scouts, United Women in Faith, Girl Scouts and all the individuals who gave of their time and talent to make our guests feel safe. It truly takes a Village, and Dayspring Village shares God's LOVE each and every day!

Memorial Team Angels - Tammy White

This

is a mission of passion open to all church members, and the community. This team provides support for grieving families after a loved one passes away. The team will provide help with distributing bulletins, ushering visitors into the sanctuary, as well as a reception as small or large as the family requests. The team's job is to make sure the family is available to visit with guests during their time of grief without having to worry about being the host. In 2025 there have been 20 services to date, with more scheduled. This is a Mission of Love and Respect.

2025 Dayspring Habitat for Humanity – Mark Boyle - \$3,500 donated Oct 2024 to Sep 2025. In 2025, Dayspring again partnered with the Mighty United Methodist Coalition to help build a house for the Herbert Family in Phoenix. Nicole Herbert is a single mom of 6-year-old Jasmine. They are from Mesa, AZ. Because of scheduling conflicts and construction delays, Dayspring was able to participate in only two build dates, but as usual, Dayspring really stepped up. In addition to our budgeted annual donation to Habitat, the Dayspring congregation donated an additional \$1500 over the course of the year. Our 2026 build is scheduled to begin in January.

Tochimilzoco Annual Mission – John Van Vleet & Bev Muller - \$13,205.00 donated between October 2024 to September 2025 (salary payments for doctors at clinic – shared with Grace UMC) Every year for the past nearly 4 decades (with the exception of two years during COVID, a joint team from Dayspring and Grace UMC in Olathe, KS, fly to Mexico City the Tuesday after Easter, then two hours by bus to Puebla, MX to organize, count pills and pack, and finally, two additional hours to Tochimozolco, a remote village of <1,000 inhabitants on the slopes of Popocatepetl (Popo), an active volcano towering to almost 18,000 feet.

In Mexico, children are off school for both Holy Week as well as the week after, which is why the medical mission is planned for that time. From Thursday through Sunday, a medical clinic with multiple healthcare providers (physicians, Nurse Practitioners, nurses and EMTs) receive and process hundreds of patients. The dental clinic, now with 6 full chairs (including a new recently donated state-of-the-art surgical chair) is staffed with local dentists, an oral surgeon, and multiple student dentists from the local university receive and serve an equal number of patients. Meanwhile, Jane Ridgely and her crew help to outfit hundreds of patients with reading glasses and dark glasses (cataracts are an occupation hazard due to the altitude

and unrelenting sunshine). Finally, a crew of local cosmetologists provide haircuts, braiding services, and other touch ups to those waiting for appointments. Larry Butler, one of the charter members of this mission endeavor said, "When we first made the journey, the dental crew mainly pulled teeth; however, after 3+ decades of dental health education, now the dental team is filling cavities and applying fluoride sealer treatments."

Dr. Oscar Zecua has clinic hours Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 4:00-8:00pm. An added bonus is Dr. Oscar is part of Public Health and can refer patients needing deeper care than what is available at the Eben'Ezer Clinic. Dr. Veronica Caballero has office hours on Tuesdays and Thursdays and routinely visits local schools to do dental checks and refer patients to the clinic.

Thanks to generous donors, we were able to support more participants, cover the cost of another air compressor and the installation of a donated dental chair and additional instruments for the dental clinic, support the participation of a prominent oral surgeon and his students, and buy the clinic a refrigerator for insulin. Our new clinic doctor, Dr. Oscar Zecua, is a public health physician who can connect our patients with necessary local resources. We thank Dayspring for its support for this important mission, now nearing 4 decades of service.

Participants in Tochi April 2025 Medical Mission Trip:

US Team AZ (13) - KS (15): for a total of 28 US participants

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| - 1 Pastor | - 2 Pharmacist |
| - 4 Family Practice Physician | - 1 Physical Therapist |
| - 2 Nurse Practitioners | - 4 Translators |
| - 4 Nurses | - 5 Mil Usos - Jack of all trades |
| - 2 EMT | |

Mexico Team

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| - "Project Human" (Give Ye Them To Eat) of México: 7 | |
| - BUAP (local dental school) Student Dentists: 14 | - Mexican doctors and dentists: 8 |
| - Church Leadership: 5 | - Mexican translators: 5 |
| - Kitchen Staff: 11 | - Clinic Housekeeping Staff: 3 |
| - Food Serving Staff: 12 | - Clinic Maintenance Crew: 3 |

Total US and Mexico Participants: 106

Between Thursday April 24 and Sunday April 26, the team saw the following distribution of patients:

Medical Clinic – 360; Dental Clinic – 641; Eyeglass Clinic – 426; Barber/Beauty Parlor – 45

Total patient points of touch - 1,472

The Children's Ministry sponsored a toothbrush drive for Tochi during Lent. They also collected travel size toothpaste and floss.

We look forward to returning April 7-13, 2026.

Sierra Service Project (SSP) – Sam Weissberg

Dayspring Youth participated in the Sierra Service Project at the San Diego South Bay site in June 2025. The group participants included 8 high school students and 2 middle school students from our youth program. The youth ranged from 7th grade through 12th grade. Most of our youth were from the Tempe and Chandler area as well as Gilbert. Our adult participants included 2 parent volunteers and a former Dayspring Youth who had participated as a teen and returned to travel with us. Each year continues to bring fresh experiences, challenges, and a sense of community. SSP is an organization rooted in service and justice—traditionally repairing or building homes for families who cannot afford professional labor. Youth are entrusted with the work, learning new skills while building confidence, compassion, and resilience.

This year looked different. Due to funding shortages, the program shifted from individual home repairs to partnering with community organizations in San Diego and along the U.S.–Mexico border. Our focus expanded into environmental restoration, food justice, and community gardening. In South Bay, we framed our service and learning around the intersection of immigration, wealth inequality, and the environment, working alongside city governments and nonprofits near the international border.

Cultivating Friendship in the Garden

Being the first group on site meant starting from scratch. We cleared overgrowth, leveled flood-prone ground, and hauled tens of thousands of pounds of dirt by wheelbarrow to shape the plot. Along the way, we discovered nine massive concrete fence-post footings—each nearly a foot wide and several feet deep—that had to be dug out by hand. It was dirty, backbreaking work, but our youth stayed focused, determined, and collaborative. The effort did not go unnoticed by the community.

The Friendship Garden itself carries a powerful history. Once a binational symbol of resilience, it was known for the “pinky kiss” exchanged through the border fence by friends and loved ones. In 2018, our own Dayspring Youth attending SSP traveled to Tijuana to participate in service on the Mexican side of the binational garden. In recent years, much of the U.S. side was bulldozed by Border Patrol, leaving deep wounds. Yet through partnerships like SSP’s, new growth is taking root in the Tijuana River Valley Garden Plots and the newly established Resilience Satellite Community Garden. These efforts not only nurture the land but also sustain the vision of a day when the original Friendship Garden can flourish once again.

Lessons at the Border

Several other groups worked in the same park, primarily on invasive species removal—cutting down towering castor trees and hauling them away tested the endurance of everyone involved, but the challenge became part of the lesson.

Serving Beyond the Gardens

Service extended beyond outdoor work. Groups worked at a local library, a park, and the city’s July 4th celebration. In National City, youth helped at a community food bank and kitchen by clearing out expired

donations and reorganizing shelves to make distribution more efficient. While the tasks seemed simple, the impact was tangible.

Gratitude and Hope

This year's SSP reminded us that service is not limited to hammer and nails. It is about resilience, compassion, and solidarity. Our youth learned that helping a community thrive can be as simple as clearing invasive plants, reorganizing a food pantry, or listening to a gardener's story.

On behalf of all who participated, we would like to thank the Dayspring community for your support through donations, fundraisers, ideas, and prayers. You made this trip possible, and we carried your encouragement with us every step of the way.

Project Hope (Liberia Well Project) – Prince Mason - \$14,000.00 donated in November 2024 for Four new Pumps/Wells through the Children ministry and members of the Church.

Well/Pump were placed in

1. 12th Street, Montserrado County
2. Pewence Town, District 1, Grand Bassa County
3. Logan Town, Monserrado County
4. Nakipah Town, Bomi county

Note: Maintenance needs to be done on some of the older wells/pumps.

Giving Garden – Chris Lueck

October finds the garden with 23 adopted beds, and 2 garden team pollinator beds, and 2 beds available for adoption.

In 2025, we sponsored the following gardening events:

April	Desert Friendly Bulbs with Pam Perry
May	Creative Container Gardening with Jo Setliff
May 24	Dayspring Seed Swap with Phoenix Seed Swap group
July	Monsoon Gardening with Melissa Kruse-Peebles
September	GG Garden Prep Day for Cool Season
October	GG Garden Planting Day – Cool Season

Looking forward to 2026

Our next February gardening event will be bigger and better than ever. In collaboration with Phoenix Seed Swap and Melissa Kruse-Peebles, we are hosting a Spring Festival on February 28th from 10-2 in the garden with around 20+ vendors and a history of drawing 300+ attendees. This will be an excellent opportunity for Dayspring to shine with many people on our campus for the first time. Look for a "Hold the Date" flyer coming soon!

After 8 years, our garden team has changed a bit since we started. New members are always welcome! We meet every Wednesday starting around 7 or 8am, depending on the time of year. Garden chores

include tending the pollinator beds, tidying up the garden, turning the compost and maintaining the irrigation. We have been known to visit a bit, too.

Borderlands Produce Rescue - Pastor Michael Long

During the 2024/25 Borderlands Produce Rescue season, our Dayspring Arcadia host site distributed approximately 732 boxes of fresh, rescued produce. This effort helped prevent 57,460 lbs of food from going to waste, kept 86,191 lbs of methane gas from entering the atmosphere, and provided over 172,381 servings of fruits and vegetables to local families and the community.

Each month, we were blessed with fantastic volunteers who arrived at the crack of dawn to pack boxes and carefully sort produce, ensuring that we distributed only the highest-quality items. They also made sure that every guest at our site experienced the core values of Dayspring: peace, justice, compassion, and inclusivity—all offered with a friendly smile.

To every volunteer who joins us, whether consistently month after month or just once, we couldn't do this work without you. Our site is entirely volunteer-run, and your presence directly impacts the amount of produce we can rescue and the number of families we can serve.

If you haven't yet volunteered with Borderlands, we invite you to join us on the 4th Saturday of each month from November to June at our Arcadia campus. Start and end times vary depending on the time of year. It's helpful if volunteers can be on their feet for most of the morning. The available tasks include:

- Sorting produce
- Packing boxes (assembly-line style)
- Accepting donations
- Directing traffic and answering questions
- Loading boxes into vehicles

Not only is this a fantastic way to connect with fellow Dayspring members, but we also welcome volunteers from the broader Borderlands community, allowing us to meet new people and serve alongside a diverse group.

Dayspring Stitches – Rev. Susan Staley & Elizabeth Winkler

The Stitches group continues under the leadership of Susan Oliver, to make many blankets and pillowslips for Foster Care kids and Family Promise guests. We are continuing to hold quilt camps and give the sewers from our church a chance for Christian fellowship and time to complete bigger projects. We are always looking for others who would like to join us.

Prayer Shawl & Prayer Blanket Ministry - Rev. Susan Staley

"Together as followers of Jesus, we are striving to make God's world more sustainable, peaceful, just, compassionate, and inclusive." - Dayspring UMC Mission Statement

Creating, crafting, praying, freely giving God's love and comfort: this is the purpose of the Prayer Shawl and Prayer Blanket Ministry. We embrace the Mission statement of Dayspring and add God's love and comfort.

This ministry includes:

- direct communication and supervision with Pastor Shirley each week.
- anyone who is 12 or older and crochets, knits, or sews.
- anyone who is 12 or older and want to learn to knit or crochet.
- each person can contribute and participate at their own pace.
- no membership or church affiliation is required.
- 15 active creators
- 5 people considering contributing
- 5 people learning to crochet
- yarn is available thru a donation fund (we don't receive money from the church budget)

Offerings that we make:

- Prayer Shawls
- Prayer Blankets
- Prayer Buddies (handmade stuffed animals for children)
- Prayer Baby Blanket
- Infant Baptism Blanket
- Prayer Pockets (for older children can write their prayer to God and put it in the pocket)

We give 5 offerings a week through a delivery system. There are 5 drivers who will deliver prayer items to people's homes, hospitals or rehab centers).

Offering Data from January 202:

- Prayer Shawls = 120
- Prayer Blankets = 60
- Baby Blankets = 15 (AZ Foster Care)
- Infant Baptism Blankets (new and ready to start)
- Prayer Buddy = 3
- Prayer Pockets (new and ready to start)
- 70% of what we give is to church members and their families
- 30% are those whom we pray for and give to (if we have their contact info)

This ministry is all about saying "YES" to people. It's become my retirement vocation, of which I wasn't looking for, but God had other plans. Blessed Be!

Prison Ministry – Chris Karber

Dayspring Prison Ministry is a ministry that focuses on serving female inmates at Perryville Women's State Prison Complex in Goodyear, Arizona, as well as after their release. Our mission is "Transforming one another through outreach between Dayspring, female state prison inmates, and women in post-release." Thanks to the generosity of Dayspring, we have been able to supply both houses with some of the women's basic needs – toiletries, laundry soap and other needs to help them get back on track. Dayspring's ministry collaborates with the non-profit Bridges Reentry, through St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Litchfield Park, Arizona. Bridges has now had two transitional houses (Magdalene Houses) with support programming for women recently released from Perryville.

United Food Bank – Thanksgiving Food Drive – James Farley \$430.00 donated between October 2024 and September 2025.

Led by The Children's Ministries – the Thanksgiving Food Drive collected 3,652 pounds of non-perishable food PLUS 72 turkeys! Members of the congregation are very generous to those in our community giving food and money to donate to the United Food Bank!

BeTween (4th – 6th grade) - Jessica Nuñez-LaMarre

- Earned \$1,045 with a carwash in October and used the money buying Christmas presents for children in foster care, refugee children, and children from low-income families through Lutheran Social Services.
- Collected over \$1,400 for the Tempe Community Action Agency Food Pantry in February through the Souper Bowl of Caring.

Asylum Seekers – Mimi & Dan Burkholder, May 2025

The Welcome Center in downtown Phoenix had been run by the International Rescue Committee (IRC) and had served the needs of legal Asylum Seekers, who came from all over the world and traveled through the Welcome Center on their way to their sponsors in their final USA city destinations. The Welcome Center had offered a warm welcome, a change of clothes, a shower, meals, medical assistance, and overnight accommodations (if needed) before the Asylum Seekers would continue their journey to their sponsors.

There had been opportunities for volunteers from Dayspring, and other interfaith coalitions and non-profit organizations, to volunteer at the Welcome Center and provide for the many needs of the Asylum Seekers. However, as of May 2025 and the recent changes in the US Government's border policies, the IRC's Phoenix Welcome Center has permanently closed and shut its doors. Just prior to closing, the Welcome Center held a Volunteer Appreciation Celebration Event, filled with gratitude for the remarkable volunteers who had dedicated their time to assist our 163,000 clients over the past 5 years. Their

compassion and commitment to our community were the driving forces behind this vital work. Since the Welcome Center doors first opened in 2019, they had welcomed over 2,000 volunteers, each contributing to the mission. As they had to bid farewell to a building that holds countless cherished memories, they embraced the closing of the center as a bittersweet moment, but one with hope. The IRC's journey will continue, somewhere else where it's needed, and together with community support they will rise again to meet new challenges ahead.

The closing of the center had also left dozens of stray and feral cats without regular food and water in the building's outdoor premises. Under the coordination of Mimi and Dan Burkholder and Saving One Life (Cat Rescue Organization), many cats were spayed & neutered, and some friendly cats are in the process of being adopted out to welcoming homes. In addition, Mimi and Dan have been coordinating volunteers to continue to provide food & water support on a rotating schedule to these beautiful & vulnerable creatures, just outside of the Welcome Center's locked gates. If you are interested in helping in this ongoing mission, please contact Mimi Burkholder (503-317-9403). For any additional questions, please contact Dayspring members, and longtime IRC volunteers, Dan and Mimi Burkholder.

New Americans Ministry (formerly Refugee Focus Ministry) – Janie Magruder - \$3,170.00 donated between October 2024 to September 2025.

In April, Dayspring restarted its Refugee Focus team and became the church co-sponsors of Abigail and her four young children from Nigeria. The family arrived in the U.S. in early January and were welcomed initially by Lutheran Social Services of the Southwest. Abigail's husband, a physician in the Cameroon refugee camp where they lived for 10 years, died four years ago of an illness. She was left to raise their son and three daughters alone, but she still made the brave decision to come to America.

The family lives in an apartment in Phoenix, where a team of Dayspring volunteers are frequent visitors. Abigail started working in May as an assistant teacher at a preschool/daycare center that is near her home. As a farmer in her homeland, she'd never held a traditional job, but she has acclimated nicely, and says she loves her job. The two younger children, 4-year-old twins, go to work with her.

The older children, ages 9 and 6, attend a local public elementary school, and are in third grade and kindergarten. After school, and over the summer, they loved making new friends and having fun at a Boys and Girls Club branch near their apartment. They have good health care through the State of Arizona and have been treated by doctors and dentists since arriving in Phoenix.

The family's native language is Hausa, but Abigail's comprehension of English is good, and her ability to speak it improves every day. Over the summer, some of Dayspring's team tutored the older children in reading and writing five mornings a week before they headed off to the BGC. As a result, the children were significantly more prepared to start the new school year.

Other team members hold regular music time with the children, singing, banging on pots, pans and other noisemakers, and dancing around the living room. The children have visited a children's museum, swimming pools and the public library, been introduced to pizza, donuts and animal crackers, and were

special guests of the Phoenix Mercury at a recent WNBA game. There, they met star player Monique Akoa Makani, who is from Cameroon, and treated them like royalty.

Abigail and the children also attend Second Sundays at Dayspring, where they have been warmly welcomed and embraced by you. The congregation has supported in myriad, wonderful ways our New Americans ministry (the name recently was changed to reflect the inclusion of Iglesia Aliento, a south Phoenix UMC church that helps asylum seekers and has a covenant with Dayspring). In addition to donating household goods, clothing, toys and books, and other items, Dayspring members have generously contributed to the family's rent and other basic needs.

As of Sept. 30, the congregation has donated over \$5,000 to Abigail and her children. She watches her money like a hawk and has a bank account where she deposits the bulk of her paychecks into a savings account.

Over the coming months, the family will be learning to ride their bicycles and tricycles, which were refurbished and donated to them by a downtown Phoenix church. As they continue down the path to self-sufficiency, they'll master riding public transportation. Abigail also is excited to learn to use a sewing machine and notions that were given to her by a Dayspring member.

We would love to have you join us on the New Americans team to continue moving this beautiful family forward into their new American lives. Abigail would rejoice in meeting you on 2nd Sundays. Please email Janie Magruder at jbmagrud@gmail.com to learn more. Thank you!

Tempe Community Action Agency – Mark Osman - \$4,398.00 donated between October 2024 to September 2025. Dayspring shows its generosity every 4th Sunday by donating non-perishable food items. These items are delivered to help fill the TCAA food pantry.

Community Outreach – Nikki Smith

At

Dayspring United Methodist Church, we remain steadfast in our mission to serve our neighbors and demonstrate God's love through action, compassion, and community support. Over the past season, our congregation has come together to meet the tangible needs of those most affected by hardship, extreme weather, and economic challenges within our community.

Through the generous support of our members and partners, Dayspring UMC provided the following assistance:

- Donated **36 bottles of detergent** and **over 100 hygiene items** to **City Hope, Tempe**
- Supplied **4 cases of diapers and wipes** to families in need to **City Hope, Tempe**
- Contributed **100 food items** and **15 cases of water** to support community meal programs and outreach efforts to **City Hope, Tempe**

· Partnered with local **Cooling Station Reliance Hub** organizations by delivering **games, socks, sunscreen, and bottled water** to help those seeking relief from extreme heat. We gave 45 blessings bags for our street friend's needs.

These acts of service reflect our ongoing commitment to being the hands and feet of Christ in our community. We believe that small acts of kindness, when multiplied by many, create a lasting impact on the lives of those we serve.

We extend heartfelt thanks to everyone who donated, volunteered, and prayed over this mission. Together, we continue to build a stronger, more compassionate community rooted in faith and love.

S.A.G.E. (Spiritual Activists Greening the Earth) – Maureen Rojas

Vision/Mission Statement

*Together we responsibly care for God's sacred creation
by working for environmental health and justice.*

Focus Areas and Accomplishments (Nov. 2024 to Oct. 2025)

Worship and Liturgy

· **Sacred Earth Sunday, April 27** – SAGE teamed up with the Divine Feminine liturgy team to lead an Earth Day service celebrating Native American spirituality with its reverence for the sacred feminine and God's creation. Following the service, over 20 members signed up to receive updates about saving Oak Flat, a beautiful area in the Tonto national forest used by the Apache and other Native American nations for sacred ceremonies for hundreds of years. Information was also shared on ways to take action to save God's sacred creation.

· **Academy for Spiritual Formation in April** – Maureen Rojas took part in the 3-day Academy sponsored by the Desert Southwest Conference of the United Methodist Church. The theme of this Academy, held during the week of Earth Day, was "Singing the Earth's Song."

Education

· **Koinonikos articles** included:

¾ February (two articles): *Majority of Arizonans Want Action on Climate and Air Pollution* (based on a public opinion poll by the American Lung Association); and *Join us on February 12 for Environmental Day at the Capitol*

¾ April: *Saving the Earth and Ourselves: Our Voices Matter Now More Than Ever* (on the importance of public action for the planet with examples from previous generations who succeeded in achieving regulations related to lead, automotive safety and unfair labor practices).

¾ May: *5 Steps to Effective Communications* (from EcoAmerica and Blessed Tomorrow)

- **Heat Relief** – Worked with an AZIPL work team to update handouts and the website with information on: how to get help with and reduce utility bills; recognizing signs of heat illness; how to find cooling centers; and what to do both before and when you have a problem with your home A/C unit.
- **September UWF meeting** – Maureen Rojas shared an update and information with Dayspring members of United Women of Faith at their September monthly meeting.
- **Reflections articles** – Submitted 10 articles for the weekly Reflections email on various topics.

Faithful Advocacy

- **Feb. 12 Environmental Day at the Capitol** – Team members Maureen Rojas and Nancy Jamison, plus Pastor Jeff, participated in this annual day of action at the Arizona legislature including meetings with our respective House and Senate representatives.
- **June Petitions to members of Congress not to pass budget bill** – Following the June 15 service, gathered signatures petitioning Arizona members of Congress not to pass the budget bill that eliminated the solar tax credit and many other clean energy initiatives.
- **Maricopa County Air Quality hearing on June 16** – Maureen Rojas testified against expansion of the APS Redhawk natural gas power plant which having been approved, will exacerbate the current health and climate crisis caused by oil & gas emissions.
- **July Petitions to EPA Not to Repeal Carbon and Mercury Rules for Power Plants** – Every Sunday in July, SAGE team members gathered postcards and petition signatures urging the EPA not to repeal stronger pollution rules for power plants (which have unfortunately been repealed).
- **September Petitions to EPA Not to Repeat Endangerment Finding** – On two Sundays in July, SAGE team members collected nearly 100 signatures urging the EPA not to repeal the endangerment finding (the determination that greenhouse gas emissions endanger the public health and welfare of current and future generations). With that repeal, EPA is proposing to also repeal greenhouse gas emission standards for vehicles.
- In support of the campaign to **Save Oak Flat** from a massive new copper mine:
 - ¾ The April 27 Sacred Earth Sunday service included an appeal to Save Oak Flat on the basis of religious freedom and environmental justice.
 - ¾ Sent six action alerts and updates to Dayspring members interested in saving Oak Flat, including a letter-writing campaign immediately following the April 27 service.
 - ¾ Maureen and Rudy Rojas took part in the May 6 Oak Flat march and prayer vigil at the U.S. District Court in Phoenix.
 - ¾ Several Dayspring members attended a morning prayer service on August 6 prior to a hearing at the US District Court in Phoenix.
- **Action Alerts** – To date, about 49 members have signed up to receive action alerts primarily focused on faithful advocacy (including the topics listed above). The SAGE team has issued eight action

alerts to Dayspring members in the past 12 months. (This is in addition to the six Oak Flat alerts sent to this list as well as the 22 members who signed up for that campaign).

Community Engagement

- **Second Sundays** – SAGE took part in the Feb. 9, March 9, and May 11 Dayspring open house events, getting sign-ups for our Action Alerts and sharing information on ways to protect our sacred earth.
- **Extreme Weather People's Hearing, June 26** – Maureen Rojas testified with other activists, local leaders, scientists and health experts at an event held at South Mountain Community College on the impact of extreme weather and the current rollbacks of climate protections. Several Arizona legislators and officeholders were on hand to hear and respond to the testimony.
- **Peace with Creation interfaith event Sept. 9** – Dayspring members took part in an interfaith "Peace with Creation" service at Desert Botanical Garden during the Season of Creation, a time in the Christian liturgical calendar to celebrate, honor and care for Creation.
- **"SunDay" Sept. 21** – Dayspring hosted the Valleywide "SunDay" event on the Fall Equinox. We collaborated with AZIPL, the Arizona Youth Climate Coalition and Poder LatinX on this national day of action celebrating the power of clean energy. About 50 attendees heard success stories from students in Tucson and Phoenix school districts. Dayspring member and Professor Clark Miller from the ASU College of Global Futures shared the message that "solar energy is winning" around the world, representing 70% of all new capacity. It is now the cheapest form of electricity generation in history and the fastest solution (taking just one year to build a new powerplant).

Flu Shot Clinic – Bev Muller

Healthwaves was present September 28, 2025. 29 flu vaccines were administered. 12 were administered to persons aged 70-79. 6 were administered to persons 80 years or older. The rest ranged in age from 9-70.

Stephen Ministry - Ev & Jacki Taylor

Dayspring UMC is a Stephen Ministry Congregation. Our Stephen Ministry mission is to bring God's loving care through confidential, non-judgmental, one-on-one listening to anyone going through a tough time in their lives. This is accomplished through a cadre of highly trained and supervised laity from the church. Dayspring Stephen Ministry is led by 5 people: Dale Dauten (Communications Coordinator), Laura Hudson (Referrals & Community Resources Coordinator), Ev Taylor (Training & Crisis Contact Coordinator), Carolyn Lee (Team & Recruitment Coordinator) and John Epps (Supervision Group Coordinator). All leaders have been trained as Stephen Ministers. 2 have been trained as Stephen Leaders and 1 leader is currently going through leadership training.

We currently have a total of 14 trained Stephen Ministers.

This past year we served a total of 6 Care Receivers. The duration of these relationships has ranged from 1 month to over 2 years. 2 relationships have been closed out. 4 remain active.

Pastor Michael provides clergy support to the Stephen Ministry team.

As a group, we remain deeply committed to serving as support to our clergy in meeting the emotional needs of our Dayspring family.

AZCEND – Trinity Donovan & Shelley - \$5,000.00 donated between October 2024 and September 2025

Chair Yoga - Connie Stultz

Dayspring's weekly chair yoga class now has ten regular students. Most of them attend Dayspring but a few come from the community, and there is always room for more! The class meets every Thursday year-round, 10:30-11:30 am, in the Palo Verde Room. In chair yoga, we practice meditation, breathwork and postures, mostly while sitting in a chair, although standing for part of the time is an option.

The class is accessible to all, and everyone is welcome. Our certified yoga instructor, Connie Stultz, gives each student individual attention, and the regular students are warm and welcoming, which creates a sweet, supportive community. Connie's motto is "yoga is for every-body". Some of the benefits of yoga are improved physical health, a calmer mind and more peaceful emotions. In addition, Connie and many others find that yoga can help to deepen their relationship with Jesus.

The first class is free for all, and the regular price is \$10 per class or \$30 per month. With that said, nobody will be turned away due to lack of funds. One student is currently receiving a dispensation from class fees.

Dayspring also supports/provides meeting space for:

- 1 Boy Scouts Troop
- 3 Cub Scouts Troop
- 2 Girl Scouts Troops
- 1 NA Group
- 1 AA Group

Other Mission Oriented Programs

AZ Justice for our Neighbors \$500; Creighton Community Foundation \$2500; Give Ye Them to Eat (Mexico) \$2500; Justa Center \$9585; Iglesia Aliento UMF (Support to new church in South Phoenix) \$9000; Samaritan Fund (Grocery and rental assistance for local needy persons) \$4854; Save the Family \$2500; The Good Fund (special fund to help people) \$1066; UMCOR \$18,514; Wesley Community Center \$2500

Dayspring Church & Society – Bethany Lambrecht

\$10,875.00 donated to Valley Interfaith Project between October 2024 and September 2025

The General Board of Church and Society (GBCS) umcjustice.org

What We, the United Methodist Church, care about:

Economic Health and Gender Justice -Civil and Human Rights

Environmental Justice - United Nations and International Affairs

Our Dayspring Church & Society (C&S) is broadly involved with addressing needs and issues that emerge from our community and our congregation. Dayspring members work in partnership with many local agencies and churches to help create a more just world.

Projects and involvements through 2025 include:

1. George Gervin (S. PHX) and Frank Elementary (Guadalupe): creating an ongoing relationship with 2 schools in lower income communities. We have provided gift cards for families in need, joined school visits and some have come to Dayspring 2nd Sunday.
2. Valley Interfaith Project (VIP) - Founding members (30 years) of this broad community action organization working with churches across the Valley to address community needs. We share a long history of working on justice issues of immigration rights, community safety, affordable housing, mental health and beyond. Actions, small and broad, within VIP come out of real needs within the communities. House meetings, community actions and trainings are all part of the impact VIP has across Maricopa County. VIP recently welcomed a new lead organizer, Cameron Connor, who grew up in Washington state, but comes to us from Texas.
3. Dayspring C&S received a General Board of Church & Society Grant award *for our Soul Force Peace Project*. We are the recipients of funding to work with young people in the community nurturing anti-violence. We first screened the film *Ahimsa* at Dayspring, a chronicle of the stunning model of Gandhi's life. Our original project vision has been expanding. We have been collaborating with the Tempe mayor's office and other community leaders with this work. In seeking understanding in this outreach we have uncovered other traumas within our community and with youth of all ages. Testing the drum circles at Dayspring as beginning steps has been a joyous and healing time. Stop by on 2nd Sundays after church.
4. Bright Stars of Bethlehem is a rare place of hope in Palestine. The work of Rev. Dr. Mitri Raheb has been our window to both the history and an authentic view of current events there. A noted statesman, author and founder of Dar Al-Kalima University in Palestine, we have studied his books, met with him via zoom and supported the university. We are now to be honored with his visit in person at Dayspring Tuesday, Nov. 18. (brightstarsofbethlehem.org)

5. We are called as peaceful supporters of justice and “Good Trouble”. Members and pastors have been at the capitol for demonstrations, prayer vigils at ICE headquarters, court hearings for Apache Stronghold cases and ICE detainees. More to come..

What keeps you up at night? What is heavy on your heart?

Church and Society and our sister organizations are places where we can take actions together. Dayspring C&S meets the 1st Tuesday of each month at 5:30 in the Palo Verde Room.

Children’s Ministry - Jessica Nuñez-LaMarre

This year was one of renewal and foundation-building for the Children’s Ministry at Dayspring UMC. We are grateful for the work of Andrea and previous Dayspring Ministry Coordinators, as our ministry has many fun, family-filled traditions that build faith and service. The ministry’s focus since August has been on strengthening Sunday School structure and curriculum, expanding volunteer support (including new training videos), relaunching our website, and continuing meaningful service opportunities—such as Snow Cone Sundays, a Car Wash to raise money for families in need at Christmas, and the joyful Blessing of the Stuffed Animals. The children have experienced church as a place where they know they are loved by God and have witnessed a congregation that follows Jesus’s message and cares about others, especially those in need—a congregation that continues to show up for the local community, communities worldwide, and our Children’s Ministry. For that, the Children’s Ministry is eternally grateful.

Leadership & Transition

We also welcomed Jessica Nuñez-LaMarre as our new Children’s Ministry Coordinator. Jessica is deeply grateful for the warm welcome, support, and thoughtful insights shared by the Dayspring staff and community.

Communications & Website

We launched a new Children’s Ministry webpage as a central hub for class information, schedules, and volunteer sign-ups: <https://dayspring-umc.org/ministries/children-2/>

We continue weekly announcements through the weekly email, direct email to Children’s Ministry families, weekly slide updates, and the monthly Children’s Ministry updates for the Koin to keep the families and congregation informed and connected to ministry life.

We began building a video resource library for Sunday School teachers, families, and volunteers to support consistency and structure in classrooms and beyond.

Building a Strong Foundation for Kids, Families, and Volunteers

Our children’s ministry is more than just a Sunday experience—it’s about partnering with families and empowering volunteers to nurture spiritual growth that carries into everyday life. Here’s what we have put

into practice:

Structure in the classroom — We are working to create consistent routines in the classroom as research shows that predictable rhythms support children's nervous systems. This foundation helps kids feel safe, calm, and ready to learn about God's love. Given that volunteers may change weekly, the Children's Ministry has built a structured classroom environment. These clear routines help kids feel calm, brave, and ready to learn.

Following is the structure we use weekly for all classrooms. Please note that the content in each classroom is adjusted to be age-appropriate.

- Welcome
- Opening Prayer (Student Prayer Leader)
- Lesson of the Week
- Activity / Group Project
- Game / Movement
- Reflection
- Closing Prayer & Pick-Up

We are working to build a partnership with parents/guardians so families can carry on conversations of faith, justice, and love beyond Sunday mornings. When families bring their child(ren) to Dayspring Sunday School, they can expect lessons that connect with the wider message of our church, creating opportunities for families to learn, share, and grow in faith together. This is implemented by the Children's Ministry Coordinator working with the lead Pastor of the week to ensure the weekly sermon and the Sunday School lesson align.

Teachers and assistants receive weekly slide decks, teacher guides, and short training/prep videos to support smooth delivery and shared best practices.

As our Sunday School teachers are bright and creative, we collaborate on Sunday School lessons when teachers have ideas that they want to implement.

While our Nursery Staff is typically available every Sunday, we brought on a substitute nursery staff member to support as needed.

Volunteer Development & Care

We are proud to say that our volunteers continue to return to the classroom almost every Sunday! This is huge, as without our Sunday School volunteers, we would not have a program.

A training curriculum is developed weekly for volunteers, ensuring they feel supported, valued, and equipped to lead with confidence. This includes supportive curriculum videos, slides, and teachers' guides for Sunday School so our volunteers can prepare and show up to share their unique gifts with our children.

Recruiting, onboarding, and support for teachers and assistants include one-on-one time with the Children's Ministry Coordinator, access to the Google Drive with Sunday School curriculum, Safe Gatherings training, background checks, and clear role expectations.

Orientation and micro-training videos for volunteers, along with coordinated sign-ups and schedules, and feedback forms are all available to our Sunday School teachers.

For events, families have been great at stepping in to help where needed.

Service, Fellowship, & Special Events

BeTween (Grades 4–6) meet on Wednesdays (6:45–7:30 p.m.) — Our BeTween group continues to thrive on Wednesday evenings! It's such a joy to see our preteens exploring faith through games, lessons, and service projects. They are learning what it means to live their faith out loud—with compassion, courage, and service.

One of the highlights of August was Step-Up Sunday, when our children moved into their new grade levels for both school and Sunday school.

We held 3 Snow Cone Sundays where the children served the congregation and raised funds for Project Hope to build clean-water wells in Liberia, learning that small acts can make a big difference.

October was a busy month for the Children's Ministry. We held a car wash where our kids rolled up their sleeves for the car wash fundraiser—and what an incredible effort it was! We raised funds to purchase Christmas gifts for families in need this holiday season.

October was also blessed with stuffed animals. The Blessing of the Stuffed Animals fits beautifully into Dayspring's outreach by creating a warm, inclusive, and relatable way for children to experience God's love together. It connects faith to something tangible and familiar—children's beloved stuffed friends—helping them understand that love, comfort, and connection are treasures that live within our hearts. And in October, we had the joy of presenting Bibles to our third graders during worship. This special milestone celebrates our children's growing faith and reminds them that the stories of love, courage, and hope within Scripture belong to them, through their words and their works.

Looking Ahead (Aligned with the Church Year)

We are looking forward to running the following events within the Children's Ministry this year!

- Thanksgiving Food Drive
- Family Fellowship events (Family Holy Week, Church Picnic, etc.)
- Mom Meet-ups
- Toothbrush Drive for the Tochi Mission (during Lent)
- Summer — Vacation Bible School (VBS)

Closing - Deep appreciation to everyone — the kids, families, congregation, and of course our Sunday School faculty, the nursery team, and ministry volunteers. Thank you to the clergy and church staff for their partnership and continued support of Children's Ministry, and to families for entrusting Dayspring with their children. We celebrate a year of faithful transition and foundation-building, and we look forward to nurturing a ministry where every child experiences belonging, joy, and the boundless love of God.

Youth Ministry - Sam and Julie Weissberg

The Dayspring Youth (7th-12th grades) is currently under the direction of Sam and Julie Weissberg. Our goal is to create a fiercely inclusive and welcoming group that supports each other in their faith explorations. We seek to build a vibrant and active community that is fully present in the life of the church that routinely participates in service activities as well as fellowship events.

Formation: Formation is Youth Sunday school. It takes place on Sunday mornings in room 111 at 10 a.m. We personally check in with each student, sing songs that align with the lesson, provide announcements and read that Sunday's scripture together. Our lessons are based on the Youth Lessons found on the [UMC Lectionary](#). We are currently averaging 13-20 students attending Formation, and have been welcoming new faces every week. We are excited watching this grow!

Youth in Service and Around Campus: Our current goal is to make the youth more visible and present in the life of the church. Youth attend worship services once per month when the Youth Choir is singing in service. This Sunday is not a set Sunday of the month, but follows the music calendar. Additionally, the youth attend communion as a group on the first Sundays of the month. Youth are also tasked with leading Kids Church on 2nd Sundays that includes activities, songs, scripture readings, and skits.

Youth Group Fellowship: Currently, our youth group meets twice per month on Sunday evenings from 5-7. The location is determined based on the plans of the evening, but we usually meet at Dayspring. Since July, we have had a craft night, a lock-in overnight retreat, a pool party, volleyball with 1st Gilbert UMC's youth, camping in Greer, and a Youth party. We have many more exciting plans including a Youth Retreat at Mingus Mountain over MLK weekend. Our average attendance at these events has been 20. We choose activities based on youth and parent feedback.

Fall Festival: We are currently in the planning stages for the Fall Festival. We hope to break even or earn a small amount of money from this event. We plan on having food, sweet treats, games, crafts, activities and more. We are excited to have a Daz original photo backdrop!

SSP: Dayspring Youth participated in the Sierra Service Project at the San Diego South Bay site in June 2025. The group participants included 8 high school students and 2 middle school students from our youth program. The youth ranged from 7th grade through 12th grade. Most of our youth were from the Tempe and Chandler area as well as Gilbert. Our adult participants included 2 parent volunteers and a former Dayspring Youth who had participated as a teen and returned to travel with us. Each year continues to bring fresh experiences, challenges, and a sense of community. SSP is an organization rooted in service and justice—traditionally repairing or building homes for families who cannot afford professional labor. Youth are entrusted with the work, learning new skills while building confidence, compassion, and resilience. This year looked different. Due to funding shortages, the program shifted from individual home repairs to partnering with community organizations in San Diego and along the U.S.–Mexico border. Our focus expanded into environmental restoration, food justice, and community gardening. In the South Bay, we framed our service and learning around the intersection of immigration,

wealth inequality, and the environment, working alongside city governments and nonprofits near the international border.

Some participants worked on cultivating the Friendship Garden. We cleared overgrowth, leveled flood-prone ground, and hauled tens of thousands of pounds of dirt by wheelbarrow to shape the plot. It was dirty, backbreaking work, but our youth stayed focused, determined, and collaborative. The effort did not go unnoticed by the community. Several other groups worked in the same area, primarily on invasive species removal—cutting down towering castor trees and hauling them away tested the endurance of everyone involved, but the challenge became part of the lesson.

Service extended beyond outdoor work. Groups worked at a local library, a park, and the city's July 4th celebration. In National City, youth helped at a community food bank and kitchen by clearing out expired donations and reorganizing shelves to make distribution more efficient. While the tasks seemed simple, the impact was tangible.

Confirmation: Confirmation 2025 occurred in the spring and we had 4 confirmands. Confirmation lessons were taught by Pastor Jeff, Pastor Michael, Pastor Shirley and Sam and Julie. We look forward to having conversations with church leadership about what went well for Confirmation and goals we have for the program. We want it to be a meaningful experience for youth that helps youth learn what it means to be a United Methodist. Our current number of 7th graders is smaller than last year, but since several youth were not ready to commit to Confirmation last spring, we hope we see some 8th graders choosing to be confirmed this year as well.

Youth Sunday: Youth Sunday occurred January 26, 2025. Youth led the entire service centered on the theme of hope. As in years past, we had seniors (Jenna Hatton and Kate Pyatt) provide inspiring messages around the theme. We are also thankful to have such talented musicians as their contributions were especially powerful! Both junior and senior high students wrote and participated in skits designed to promote acceptance in our community. This year, Youth Sunday will occur on February 22, 2026. In January and February we will take time in Formation to plan for Youth Sunday service and have one dress rehearsal on a Saturday morning.

Graduation Sunday: We celebrated Graduation Sunday on May 18, 2025 honoring Jenna Hatton and Kate Pyatt.

Fundraisers:

Last year we held several fundraisers to help support the youth and Sierra Service project. In October, our Fall Festival broke even. We are trying to determine if ticket prices need to increase since bounce house rentals and food costs have increased. Or, if we want to just accept that this event is a community offering and is not expected to turn a profit.

In November, we sold ButterBraid pastries and earned \$900.

In December, our youth sold Hot Cocoa after service and raised \$320.

In February, we held a Parents Night Out in honor of Valentine's Day. The youth hosted several children and led games, crafts, movies and fun. We earned around \$300.

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH Beth Cadman

The Dayspring United Women in Faith organization is doing well. We continue to support the missions of the church through our giving, education, and participation in hands-on missions. Our focus remains helping women, children, and youth in a supportive capacity - either monetarily or through hands-on mission projects.

During 2025 we hosted programs for: Honduras Mission Trip by Anne Kneuss, Tochi mission team, Family Promise, S.A.G.E Dayspring and our Christmas potluck where we host Family Promise. The annual Mission u program in the summer was on "Living the Kin-dom – Drawing Closer to God and One Another." Our hands-on projects included: Women4Women hygiene product bags and hosting the Family Promise group for a meal and fellowship in December.

Our fundraiser in 2025 was called "Shoes for Missions." Church members were encouraged to bring used and new shoes for the month of March – we made \$350 in funds for missions! At the 2025 East District celebration we were awarded with the Faith, Hope and Love in Action award for meeting several award criteria. We hope to meet those requirements and receive the Faith, Hope and Love in Action award in 2025.

We continue to struggle to get members to show up for programs. We hope that some of the 2026 programs will inspire the church to attend as well as our members. For more information about United Women in Faith e-mail: uwf@dayspring-umc.org.

UNITED METHODIST MEN (UMM) - Mark Kaiser and Bill Stenseth

The Dayspring UMM provides opportunities to meet for Christian fellowship. All are welcome, men and women. It is not necessary to be a member of Dayspring to attend. Meetings are held on the first Saturday of the month at 8:00 AM in the Palo Verde Room with coffee and a 'light' breakfast, followed by music from the UMM Guitar Pickers, then a short program led by a volunteer. Discussion topics are selected to help us learn more about the world around us, and about issues directly affecting our lives. We have top subject matter experts and professionals on the agenda. The UMM celebrates diversity, different perspectives, and kindness. Meetings are filled with friendship, information, fellowship, music and lively discussions.

UMM leadership publicizes the UMM meeting schedule, topics, and annual retreat through regular emails to the UMM Distribution List, by publishing articles in every issue of Dayspring's Koinonikos Newsletter, and by distributing a color brochure covering what the group is about, meeting schedule, and topics. The annual Lee Cook Memorial Recognition is presented during the main Sunday service in front of the entire congregation.

Meeting attendance is in the range of 20-30 persons.

UMM Meeting Schedule and Topics Carried Out for 2024-2025:

October 5, 2024 - Program was led by Rick Standridge, M.D. - The Inner Workings of Medical Insurance. Dr. Standridge is an insurance expert and has valuable insights and tips for dealing with insurance providers.

November 15-17, 2024 (Friday-Sunday) - Program was led by Pastor Jeff Procter-Murphy and Scott Bennett - UMM Annual Retreat at the United Methodist Center at Mingus Mountain. This two-and-a-half-day retreat featured discussion on Henri Nouwen's book "Life of the Beloved." It is a deeply spiritual book that originated from Nouwen's attempt to explain Christian spirituality to a secular friend.

December 7, 2024 - Program was led by UMM Leadership - Christmas musical featuring the Squires Voice Students in Fellowship Hall. The Squires Christmas performance and the traditional tamale breakfast.

January 4, 2025 - Program was led by Anthony Contente-Cuomo - Intergenerational Relationships. Anthony described pathways to stronger cross-generation relationships, and opportunities we all can explore.

February 1, 2025 - Program was led by Pastor Michael Long - His Life Journey. Pastor Long offered perspectives on faith and his journey to Dayspring.

March 1, 2025 Program was led by Tom Swift – Desert Plants and their Adaptations. Tom talked about how desert plants thrive in unrelenting Mojave Desert heat.

April 5, 2025. Program was led by Dick Watt - Musical performance by acclaimed singer Tony Joseph, with his remarkable voice in top form. Tony was a former member of the legendary vocal group, The Crests. He performed classic Crest favorites.

May 3, 2025. Program was led by Mark Kaiser and Bill Stenseth – Presentation of the Annual Lee Cook Memorial Award. This award celebrates community leadership and the memory of Jesse Lee Cook. Dayspring's own Bethany Lambrecht was the 2025 recipient and was recognized for her dedication to social justice.

Dayspring Preschool & Kindergarten - Kim Shown and Sally Logsdon

Dayspring Preschool and Kindergarten had a great start to the year. Although we are full in some classes, we still have space in our 3's classrooms. The students and families are enjoying our new playground equipment that was installed last year and we are so grateful for all the wonderful school family donations that helped make this new addition possible.

This school year, we have 103 students and approximately 26 staff members (this includes our contract labor staff such as Lunch Bunch teachers, and Spanish and music teachers). It's exciting we have so many long-term teachers on our staff. Last year we celebrated a 25th, two 20th, and a 10 year anniversary and this year we have three staff members celebrating their 20th and 10th years here at Dayspring Preschool and Kindergarten!

We are planning the 2025 Annual Holiday Boutique which is scheduled for November 21st and 22nd. This will be the 40th annual boutique and we are looking good with lots of exciting vendors with many more returning this year!

This is our 52nd year in the community! We are grateful for all that Dayspring represents and we are so thankful for the amazing support of the church and community. We are blessed in so many ways and we are so proud to lead this gem of a school.