



VISION NEWSLETTER

Oro Valley United Church of Christ

OUR MISSION & VISION:

Mission

We are enthusiastic, spiritual followers of Christ practicing inclusive Worship of God.

Vision

Through covenantal relationships, we promote:

- benevolence
- mission and outreach
- justice for all

JULY/AUG/SEPT 2023
QUARTERLY REPORT

ORO VALLEY UNITED
CHURCH OF CHRIST



1401 East El Conquistador Way
Oro Valley, Arizona 85704
Email: office@orovalleyucc.org
Website: orovalleyucc.org

PASTOR'S LETTER

Pages 1-2

CHURCH COUNCIL

Page 3

OFFICE/I.T.

Page 4

FINANCE, PLANNING & ACCOUNTING

Pages 5-6

BUILDING/GROUNDS

Page 7

LAY READERS

Page 7

HOSPITALITY

Page 8

"NOTA BENE" CONCERT

Page 9

MEMORIAL & PRAYER GARDEN

Page 10

A MESSAGE FROM REV. DREW TERRY



Dear OVUCC,

Fall is a time of change. The transitional period is one of both celebration and grief. The northern hemisphere celebrates the season with harvests. There are gatherings of friends and families to feast the final collection of the year's fruits. Fall is when we come together bringing in whatever gifts God gives and celebrate life.

Fall is also the season of loss. The changing of colors marks the end of growth, the passing of spring and summer's vibrancy, and the coming of dormant and bare winter. Our southern Arizona fall witnesses welcome relief from the heat. Yet, paradoxically, this comes with longer, darker nights. This mysteriously divine balance of life and

loss makes one ponder as they say, "Tis the season."

Our church is living in God's seasons. We are at a time of transition from the ministry of 2023 to preparing for 2024. We mark the transition with a spirit of festivities celebrating the volunteers of our church, celebrating our staff, and concluding with the joyous journey of Advent to Christmas. I just finished reviewing the volunteer list for those we need to thank. Wow! What joy abounds! There are long time members who persist in doing ministry to make our church thrive. There are newer faces eager to answer God's call in harvesting all God's wonderful gifts.

Here are a few of the things we are grateful for: bible studies, building projects, children's worship, council business, ushers, singers, lay readers, sabbatical planners, mission and outreach, IT, finance, office volunteers, garden care, altar care, the revival of fellowship hour, and pastoral care support. I am confident I forgot something and pray you forgive me if I left it out. Clearly, we are surrounded with reasons to celebrate and give thanks.

Yet, thru the fall season, God shows us how our celebrations are meant to empower us to face loss. Our treasurer, Larry Lifer, is being called to step away and serve God in other ways. Larry is such a blessing to our community, and he is going to be missed. Thank you, Larry, for everything.

(continued, next page)
/PAGE 1

We are in the final quarter of the year on pace with our deficit budget we set in January. Our reserves are gone and now we enter an uncertain future. Our paradox of life and loss also comes in celebrating new members and friends while grieving the loss of members and friends. We recognize the mysterious flow of life, loss, and the search for renewal. Like a barren tree whose leaves now lay at its roots, we look at empty limbs eager for them to bloom again.

You are receiving this letter shortly after you have received this year's stewardship letter. First, I want to thank you. This church is a beacon of resilience, faith, and hope. You never give up and every time God calls you answer. Your generosity and love brought us to this marvelous place and time. Thank you.

I pray you take time to celebrate you, our church, and all God is doing through our shared mission.

I hope in this time of transition you prayerfully reflect once again on God's call upon you and our church. Please, join us in reflecting on the tree we call OVUCC. Give thanks for all the fruit it gives to you and this world. Lovingly reflect on how, like all God's trees, it goes through the changes of blooming beauty as well as moments of uncertainty and loss. You are the gardener. Your generosity of time, talent, and finances are what make us blossom every year. You bring God's beautiful love in Christ to shine in an otherwise barren world. I pray God continues to show us how we can again

feast and celebrate the Divine love of our community.

Thank you. You are a blessing.

*Blessings,
Rev. Drew Terry*

CHURCH COUNCIL REPORT FROM MODERATOR, KATHY WESSELS

In the third quarter of 2023, the church council continued to focus on increasing membership, our financial outlook as we approach 2024, and our staffing needs.

Georgine Hurst continues to write articles which are published in the OV Style magazine, a free magazine distributed to all in Oro Valley. Her latest article features our long time member Priscilla Small and her linguistics career which took her around the world. In return, we have secured free advertising for our church in this monthly magazine. This will continue with several more articles. In addition, our church continues to advertise in the weekly Explorer newspaper.

The visitor gift bags have been a big success, and have kept Reverend Drew busy connecting with those visitors that fill out the yellow information cards in their gift bags. We are seeing new faces at church service every Sunday, and also repeat visitors, which is a promising trend toward increasing our membership.

New members were received at a ceremony on September 3rd. A huge

thank you to Georgine for her efforts. Also many thanks to Reverend Drew and all of our members who make our visitors feel welcome each Sunday.

Preparations of the 2024 budget have begun. A crucial part of this process is our Stewardship Campaign. Our theme is “Because of You, Our Church Changes Lives.” This year our campaign will begin on Sunday October 29th and continue through Sunday November 19th. A stewardship campaign letter has been sent to everyone, everyone, everyone beginning of the campaign. The success of our campaign will determine our ability to continue our community mission and outreach programs and to continue to operate within our existing Pastor and staffing structure.

Due to a lightning strike earlier this summer, several repairs and updates were needed. The council approved a required Fire Panel replacement contract. We are currently still waiting for parts to complete the work. Thank you to MaryAnn Warren for her work on this. There was also damage to the copier. The copier is working now but the Council has agreed to a new to us replacement copier with a new and improved and much less expensive maintenance contract. Thank you to Larry Lifer for arranging this. It was also discovered that our Sanctuary roof was in need of some tile repair. That work will be completed in November. Thank you, Suzanne Toms, for making that happen.

(continued, next page)
/PAGE 3

We continue to be in need of volunteers for committees and staffing. We held a Volunteer Fair and potluck lunch on October 15. Attendance at the event was good and Conveners were able to share information about their respective committee work. At the time of this printing, our most urgent need is for a treasurer to begin training as soon as possible. We are also in need of an office assistant volunteer to cover church office hours, 3 hours per week. We will also be searching for three new council members to serve in 2024. Please consider putting your talents to good use in any of these roles.

Thank you and blessings to all,

Kathy Wessels

Council Moderator

OFFICE/I.T. REPORT FROM JADE TERRY

As the office continues to build and grow, we could always use volunteers for special projects, mail outs and general presence in the office during office hours once a week. If this is something you are interested in or have more questions about please email the church office. I want to give a big thanks to Suzanne Toms who has provided invaluable help in the church office.

We continue to receive wedding inquiries to host couples in our beautiful sanctuary. The wedding industries does prove to show its details and intricacies and we continue to host wedding couples. Thanks to our wonderful publication's volunteers, the community is learning more about our lovely space and want to experience their special day in our space. We are still learning about what it means to be a wedding chapel and how to fit the community's needs, while also making sure the church has the support to do so.

Online worship continues to be a thriving space for those who worship from home. We gain viewers as the weeks continue; on average I would say we have about 15 - 20 views each Sunday on YouTube. I was to give a big thanks to Todd Evan for jumping into recording and organizing the tech for Sunday mornings.

The office continues to publish two newsletters. "Church=Connections" is published every Wednesday. This newsletter is a great way to stay updated on what's going on in the church regarding special events, mission work, stories, and other connection pieces. The second newsletter goes out every Saturday and this is an "Invitation to Worship". This newsletter is a great space for online worshippers to access worship information, bulletin, and prayer list. This is also an excellent space for those who are worshipping in-person to begin to connect

(continued, next page)

/PAGE 4

to the Sunday experience. If you would like to be on the newsletter email list, please email the church office.

●●●●●

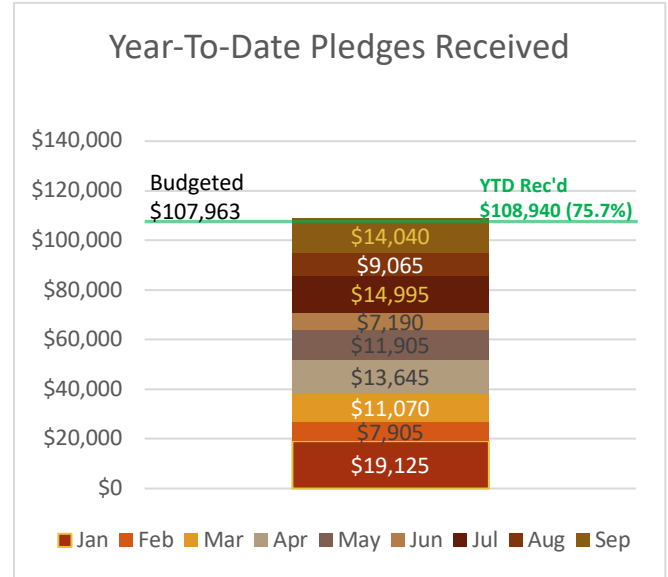
Phone: 520-742-7333 (Please leave a voicemail, voicemail and email are checked daily and will be responded to within 48 hours)

Email: office@orovalleyucc.org

Office Hours: Tuesdays 10:00 am–1:00pm

*Blessings,
Jade Terry, Office Staff
& Volunteers*

The information below is as of September 30, 2023:



The pledges received through the end of September totaled \$108,940 which is 75.7% of the annual estimated pledge amount.

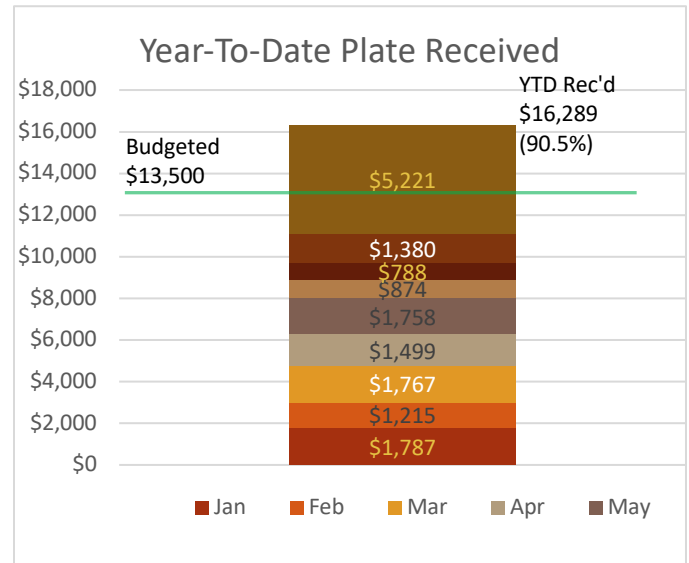


Plate offerings through the end of September totaled \$16,289 which is 90.5% of the annual estimated plate amount.

(continued, next page)

FINANCE, PLANNING & ACCOUNTING FROM LARRY LIFER

Dear Congregation:

As this may be my last newsletter article, I wanted to extend my appreciation for allowing me to be of service to everyone that is a part of the church. You are a special group that I pray for only the best in the future.

FINANCE, PLANNING & ACCOUNTING REPORT *(continued)*

Year-to-date revenue and expenditure estimates and actual amounts through September show:

1. Revenues exceeded Expenditures by **\$6,475.82** for the month, but still deficit spending for the year at **\$4,631.97** for the year. (Keep in mind that the budget passed for 2023 reflected a deficit of **\$23,839.39**.)
2. Revenues received were \$4,550.91 above Year-To-Date estimate
3. Expenses were \$738.33 below Year-To-Date budget

As a reminder, if you would like to receive your annual giving statement through email, please email Rachel Koch at RachelMKoch14@gmail.com or notify

the office and we will indicate your preference on your account.

We are approaching our annual stewardship drive for 2024 operations. Please watch your inbox/mailbox for important information that will be forthcoming soon!

Thank you again for your support of our church and its missions. We are grateful for the many ways people are able to donate. If you would like to make a

donation, you may do so through any of the following ways:

- Plate offering (during church)
- Through our website using the “My Offering” button
- Mailing in donations to:
1401 E. El Conquistador Way,
Oro Valley, AZ 85704

If you need assistance, please feel free to call the Office at 520-742-7333 and leave a message or email me at Treasurer@OroValleyUCC.org and I will be happy to assist.

*Larry Lifer,
Treasurer*

BUILDING & GROUNDS REPORT FROM SUZANNE TOMS

It has been a challenging summer and monsoon season!

Our first challenge was our Prayer and Memory Gardens. Due to a major pipe leak our sprinkler system was turned off. Thankfully, several church members came once or twice each week to hand water both gardens. However, with excessive heat it was very difficult to keep up with hand watering and

unfortunately, several plants were lost. A huge shout out to Grace Berg! With the assistance of her gardener and friends, she redesigned and planted both gardens. *(See last page of this issue)*

Our second challenge was a nearby lightning strike. This strike disrupted not only our copier and technology infrastructure, but our fire alarm panel. We are currently in the process of installing a new fire alarm system. Thank you, MaryAnn, for overseeing this huge task.

I look forward to moving into the final quarter of the year with ease and grace....

Suzanne Toms

/PAGE 7

Lay Readers Oct, Nov, Dec

Lay Readers Oct, Nov, Dec				
October 1st	October 8th	October 15th	October 22nd	October 29th
Priscilla Small	James Corcoran	Pari Foster	MaryAnn Warren	Lana Wilson
November 5th	November 12th	November 19th	November 26th	
Suzanne Toms	Nancy Weimer	Suzanne Toms	Pari Foster	
December 3rd	December 10th	December 17th	December 24th	December 31st
MaryAnn Warren	Nancy Weimer	James Corcoran	Lana Wilson	Priscilla Small



YOU ARE INVITED TO FELLOWSHIP TIME!

After church each Sunday, we share fellowship and friendship, conversation and light refreshments in Fellowship Hall. Occasionally, we host a special Sunday, like our October 15 Potluck or our luncheon for Annual Meeting. Please come and enjoy each other's company!

Hosts: A sign-up sheet is in Fellowship Hall, if you would like to help host a Sunday by yourself or with another church member. (We now have a helpful "cheat sheet" for our volunteer hosts. Email Karen or Suzanne for a copy.)

It is a great way to become a part of the OVUCC community. If you have questions, Karen Gatlin or Suzanne Toms, Co-Convenors of Hospitality, will be happy to answer your questions! We also welcome anyone who wants to become a member of this team!

SORO VALLEY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST PRESENTS



Holiday Magic!

with

Nota Bene



CELEBRATE THE SEASON WITH
ELENA GALBRAITH, SOPRANO
SANDY SCHWOEBEL, FLUTE
MARIE SIERRA, PIANO



December 17, 2023

3:00 p.m.

1401 E El Conquistador Way

Oro Valley, AZ 85704

Love offering
taken at the door



Oro Valley UCC Memorial & Prayer Gardens Refreshed and Re-planted!

Special “Thank you” to:

Grace Berg, Mugs (Margaret) Olson &
other Friends of the Garden!

