

New Song Notes

November 2025 Issue 11

Home

It is a complicated concept. Is home the place where you were born? The place you lived and want to return to? Is home the place you live right now? Is home even a place? Or is home a people? My husband joined me for the most recent New Member Class. I asked everyone to share where home was for them. Many shared about the place they live now, some the place they most recently moved from. My husband said, "winter." Yes we are a quirky family, but even I wondered aloud at that response. Could home also be a season?



The idea came out of our Children's and Youth Ministries. Where do we want to send our Joyful Noise Offering next? The kids wanted to help raise money for other kids. With the adoption of two of our beloved Sunday School participants into forever homes, we recognize how important foster care and the foster system is to the most vulnerable children in our communities. If that wasn't enough, one of our church youth is already supporting a cause through his high school that provides items of comfort for children in the foster care system. So, during November and December we will be working to support 3 agencies who care for children entering into, currently in, or exiting out of the Arizona Foster Care System.

- Sunshine Angels (an active recipient of care from Animals4God):
 How we will support them: We will collect gently used luggage of all sizes beginning October 26.
- 2. Department of Child Safety- Luggage of Love How we will support them: We will aim to collect 30 NEW carry-on sized roller luggage by Dec 31st. We can also collect blankets, pajamas, pillows and socks.
- 3. A Mighty Change of Heart (referred to us by Isaac Hoffman)
 How we will support them: Put together fleece blankets for kids in the foster care program with notes. (Our youth and children's ministry will be doing this. We invite people to come hulp put blankets together at the intergenerational Countdown to Christmas on December 5.)

Thanksgiving at New Song is November 23 at 4 pm.

This year- we are having a homey meal and will share stories at our "Thoughts of Thanks" Dinner on

(cont. on pg 2)

Contact Us

623.584.9418
Website: newsongsurprise.org

New Song Surprise (youtube.com)

New Song UMC Surprise AZ

United Methodist Church

IN THIS ISSUE

Page 1

Pastor's Message

Page 2

- Pastor's Message (con't)
- Sunday Schedule

Page 3

- Gr4ief Support
- Special Services
- Farmers Market

Page 4

Animals 4 God

Page 5

Care & Nurture

Page 6

Missions & Outreach

Page 7

- Children's Ministry
- Youth Ministries
- Adult Education

Page 8

- United Women of Faith
- Announcements

Page 9

- Our Vision
- Opportunities
- General Information

Page 10

- In Loving Memory
- Our Military
- Birthdays/Anniversaries

Page 11

Calendar

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

November 26th.

The most important part of the Thanksgiving Meal is not the food. It is the memories made, it is the sharing of stories, it is the gratitude for the gifts life has brought the past year. Food is a great way to tell those stories and celebrate our thanks!

Every year my family of origin would gather for Thanksgiving. My maternal grandmother would prepare the same dish. A cranberry jello salad. Every year we would hear the struggle that she had with finding the right flavored jello (cherry) and what vegetables and fruit she put inside of it (carrots, celery, apples and pineapple.) We would find out if this year it had nuts or not depending on how my grandmother felt. And it was delicious. After my grandmother was no longer able to make the salad, and after she passed, my family of origin moved to their own separate parts of the world. We no longer met every Thanksgiving. Only recently, having my own kids, and getting together with family, have I thought that there has been one thing missing. Cranberry salad. It's time to bring it back, to remember, and enjoy this sweet and healthy dish.

Perhaps you have a memory of a Thanksgiving dish that means a lot to you even today. November 23rd we invite you to bring a dish that holds a special place in your heart. Sign up sheets will be out on a table starting October 26th. We ask that if you sign up for a dish, you also write out a story about that dish. We will gather the stories and share them at our "Thoughts of Thanks Dinner."

Home can be a place, a people, maybe even a season. Home can be where the heart is. Come celebrate our stories of home at our Thoughts of Thanks dinner.

Pastor Misty Howick

Come, You thankful people, come.

Thanksgiving Dinner

Sunday, November 23 at 4 pm

Bring a favorite dish and a friend.



NOVEMBER SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9:00am Adult Sunday School, Music Rehearsals

10:00 am Coffee and Fellowship

10:30am Worship, Sunday School for elementary children,

youth and preschool (start in Worship)

11:45am Handbells (all), Youth Group (2nd & 4th Sundays)

1st Sunday of each month - Communion is served and Sunday School youth and elementary children stay in Worship. Preschool Sunday School is available every Sunday.

Grief Support



Surviving the Holidays is a one day presentation for those grieving a loss, whether the loss is through death, divorce, moving or other life change. There are two days and times available, either Tuesday, November 18 from 1 - 2:50 pm or Monday, November 24 from 9:30 - 11:30 am. Both sessions will be held at Fellowship Square in the Granite Mountain Room. Please sign up for the class with either Chaplain Kathy Norris or on the sign-up sheets in our information station.

New this year: Sunday at 4:00 pm on December 21st we will hold a special "Longest Night Service." Whether we are grieving a loss, struggling economically, or overwhelmed with personal and family situations, it is good to remember that the first Christmas was also difficult and that the light of Christ "shines in the darkness." Perhaps we may feel very alone in the midst of all the Christmas celebrations. At this service, join with us to hear words of hope and scripture, offer prayers, and listen to music that acknowledges that God's presence is for those who mourn, for those who grieve, for those who struggle. On this longest night of the year, anyone in the Surprise area is invited to a simple time of Worship on Sunday, December 21 at 4 pm at New Song United Methodist Church.

Grief Support for 2026 is Scheduled!

The Grief Group is facilitated by Kim Riddlesworth, Chaplain Dan Brookey and Chaplain Kathy Norris. Held at Fellowship Square in the Granite Mountain Room (GMR 2nd floor), it starts at 1:00 pm on Wednesday, January 7, 2026, is held once a week on Wednesdays until April 1, 2026.and runs about 2 hours.

We use the GriefShare Program, which has a subject video then a break, and then small group discussions. Workbooks will be provided, and a \$20.00 donation would be appreciated. If you would like Grief Support, please put this on your schedules. Sign up on the clip board "Grief Support 2026" in the information racks so that we will have enough supplies. We look forward to seeing you there.

Farmers Market
at New Song
Saturdays
3 pm - 7 pm
Parking Lot
by Events4All



All Saints Weekend

New Song will remember our saints during a special service Saturday November 1 at 6pm on the patio, weather permitting, and again on Sunday, November 2 in our worship space at 10:30 am. The services will include reading those who have passed in the past year and luminaria celebrating anyone who has died.

Coming Soon: MacDougal Street West

Tuesday, December 9 at 2:30 pm Songs from the 60's through the 70's. Great music with five voices, keyboards, two guitars, bass and assorted instruments!

Blessing of the Animals

Saturday, November 22 at 2 pm



Please bring your pet either leashed or in a carrier.





Animals 4 God





As we prepare for Thanksgiving, **Animals 4 God** would like to express how thankful we are for all of your support! It has been estimated that dogs have worked with humans in hunting, herding, and guarding for at least 15,000 years. There is evidence of service dogs being around since 74 CE during the Roman Empire. Introduced in 1785 was the use of dogs to help those with visual impairments.

Today, it is not uncommon to see a service dog when we are out in public. We recognize the vest they wear when they are working, and the majority of us understand that we cannot pet them when they are working.

So, let's start with the Service Dog. A Service Dog is a dog that has been trained to perform specific tasks for people with disabilities. The purpose is to help those with disabilities to live their daily life with more independence and greater ease. They can guide the visually impaired and alert deaf people to sounds such as doorbells or alarms. Service Dogs can also help those with seizure disorders, diabetes, mental health challenges, and mobility issues. Service Dogs can be of any breed and undergo rigorous training before they can be considered a Service Dog.

Next, there is the Therapy Dog. A Therapy Dog's job is to provide support and comfort to a broader audience. Found in schools, nursing homes, disaster relief areas, and hospitals, they offer companionship and emotional support to people of all ages. **Animals 4 God** has seen foster children improve their reading skills exponentially. The dogs do not judge the child as he/she reads, which helps build confidence in their reading ability. All the dogs ask is to be petted and loved!

"Unlike service dogs, therapy dogs do not have the same legal rights to access public spaces, but they play a crucial role in enhancing the well-being of people in various settings" (Petspiration: Pet Facts). Therapy dogs promote healing, help reduce anxiety and stress, and during tough times, they provide emotional support. "They can be particularly beneficial for children facing medical treatments or individuals undergoing challenging life experiences. The presence of a therapy dog can create a calming atmosphere and facilitate communication and interaction" (Petspiration: Pet Facts).

Interacting with dogs can improve overall mood and lower stress levels, studies show. "Spending just a few minutes petting a dog can release oxytocin, the 'love hormone,' in both humans and dogs' (Petspiration: Pet Facts)!

The training for both Service Dogs and Therapy Dogs starts with basic obedience and is a labor of love. It "requires patience, dedication, and expertise" (Petspiration: Pet Facts). Then the Service Dog in Training "progresses to specialized tasks tailored to the needs of their future handlers" (Petspiration: Pet Facts).

The Therapy Dog's training focuses on temperament and socialization. "They need to be comfortable in a variety of environments, including busy hospitals or crowded schools. Socialization helps ensure that therapy dogs remain calm and friendly, even when faced with unexpected situations" (Petspiration: Pet Facts).

Working dogs are not just pets. "They are heroes that make a significant difference in the lives of people around them. Whether they are guiding their handlers through life's challenges or providing comfort in times of need, their contributions are immeasurable. As we learn more about the profound bond between humans and dogs, it's essential to recognize and celebrate the incredible work these animals do every day" (Petspiration: Pet Facts).

CAN YOU HELP?

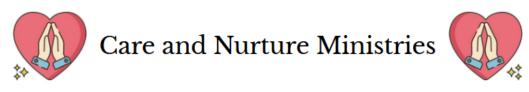
effect of dogs' unconditional love into the lives of people in the community, especially those who are home-bound or in a medical facility.

Becoming a therapy dog team involves a bit of work beforehand, but the effort is well worth it.

If you or anyone you know is interested in becoming a Dog & Handler team for therapy work

Interested in becoming a part of our ministry?

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



Holiday Food Boxes

Three times each year, New Song collects food for local families in need. Twice each year, these include gifts as well. Food and gifts are provided to families in the Dysart School District and in our local community. Donations are to support families during the holidays: Easter,

Thanksgiving and Christmas. If you would like to help, Contact Myrna for information and questions, who leads the mission with help from Kathi White.

From Kathi White: I work with Myrna Bishop in food box distribution. This involves door to door collection, sorting the contributions, dividing the contributions among the various families on the master list, and making the deliveries. This year, we implemented some organizational changes to make this operation more efficient, thanks to Brenda Donaldson and Shaun White. Myrna continues to be the contact person for the families, as she has done for many years. Every time I have had the privilege to work on this project, I am overwhelmed by the generosity of our neighbors and our church family, and the amazing speed with which our volunteers on distribution day are able to sort, pack, and deliver the food boxes to those in need in the Dysart Unified School District, and others in our community. Watch for announcements in the Blast or Bulletin for when collections will occur and what is being collected.



Friends Calling Friends

As a congregation, we are called to care for one another. Friends Calling Friends is one way we would like to show this care. The goal is to check in with members and friends in our directory on a regular basis to see how they are doing. This takes people to make the calls! If you might be interested in joining this ministry, you can ask Barbara Garvin any questions you have because she leads the group. There is also a sign-up sheet in the information station.

Coloring Group

The Meet, Greet and Color Group will meet on the fourth Thursday of the month from 1:00pm to 3:00pm at New song. Everyone is invited! This is a great opportunity to meet and greet new people. If you have questions, ask Janet Rummel, who is in charge of the group.

Prayer Force meets Mondays at HAVE YOU 10:15 am to pray for the needs of individuals and the church. All are welcome to come and pray with us.



PRAYER REQUESTS ON OUR **NEW SONG WEBSITE!**

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

Many thanks for the continuous generosity of our New Song Congregation. Your donations of material goods and of labor are much appreciated.

We will continue collecting non-perishable goods (St. Mary's Food Bank) and cases of water (A New Leaf) on the first and second Sundays of each month. Also, toilet paper rolls (H.E.M.P. foundation) and plastic lids (project in Mexico) are collected every Sunday.

You are welcome to donate time and effort at St. Mary's Food Bank on the first and third Tuesdays of each month, 9:45 am until noon, no experience needed!

EVE'S COOKERS

The Cooker's were excited to get back and put together 48 casseroles for Eve's Place in September.

Our Brownie Angels baked 52

dozen brownies that we took down in Sept. We would love to have YOU join us in this 20+ yr old Ministry that helps abused persons. Our Brownie Angels bake at home providing dozens of brownies each month.

If you like to bake, please consider baking brownies for Eve's Place. If you are interested in helping please let Ann know.

We appreciate all financial help too. Put Eve's cookers in memo Questions call Ann Haggerty

KNIT WITS NEEDS YOUR HELP!

Knit Wits meet on the **first Thursday** of the month, **October 2**, from 1 - 3 pm to create prayer shawls for our community. The more shawls we make, the more we can donate.

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

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

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



Did you know...

It is a sad fact: the 2025 Point-in-Time Count revealed a 28% spike in unsheltered homelessness across Maricopa County.

to Missions in 2025.

The needs are many and we are few, yet collectively we can make a difference!

To all who donate time, food, water, or money. **Thank you.**

NEEDLERS

If you are a quilter, we'd like you to join us. If you have sewn but not quilted, check us out. We make bags (similar to pillowcases) to wrap the quilts. We have fabric, some simple patterns and batting you can use. We all work on our quilts at home and bring them to our monthly meetings to be blessed. The quilts are then given to people in need.



Needlers meet at 10:00 am on the **third Saturday of the month** from October through June. They meet at Diane McQuery's home. If you have questions, contact Sheryl Messenger.

We would love to have you join us! Happy Quilting!



Children's Ministries

Have you stopped to think how grateful you are that we have children at New Song?

In November, as you are listing things that you are grateful for, include all the children in your life and those who work with them. At New Song we are grateful for all our children and youth, as well as the adults who give their time and energy to work with them.



November and December are busy months for everyone, particularly our youth.

We have youth who play sports in city leagues, are involved in school plays and musicals, and come faithfully to church at New Song.

These youth are participating in the REACH Community food drive on November 9. Are you willing to stay after church that day, have lunch with us and join us? If you don't want to walk, we also need drivers so we are not constantly carrying cans. All are welcome.

We will invite you to join us for a project in December as well. Watch for details, which are coming soon.



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

- Adult Sunday School: We are starting a new unit on Nov. 2 titled Letters for Living, in which we will explore passages from 1 John, 2 John, 3 John, and Jude. We meet every Sunday from 9:00 to 10:00 (choir members leave at 9:45). Come dig into the scriptures looking at meaning, cultural context, and relevance to today's situations. Flynn and Jo Fuller
- Women's Bible Study meets Wednesdays at 9:00 am and again at 10:30 am. The book being used is *Unexplainable Jesus* by Erica Wiggenhorn.
- The Men's Breakfast and Bible Study meets on Friday morning at 8am in the dining room at Fellowship Square (right next to New Song). We have a delicious breakfast buffet for only \$5 and lots of good Fellowship. Approximately 8:45 amwe walk a short distance to the Catalina Room for Bible study. We are done between 10:00 and 10:30 am. Bring your favorite Bible (I use the Bible App on my phone). We participate in most of New Song's Lenten and Advent studies and also use materials from Max Lucado. Contact Kim Riddlesworth for more info.

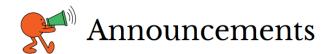
United Women of Faith



Please join us for an exciting "World Thank" gathering on November 8th at 10 am. Kym Stutzman, Janet Rummel's daughter, will share her story as we enjoy a Fashion Show highlighting clothing from her shop, *Just Be Youtiful*.

Brind a salad to share as we enjoy a pot luck salad lunch and discuss which outfits were the most popular.

We hope you'll join us for a fun gathering!!



BOOK BUDDIES

We will be discussing *Finding This Must Be the Place* by Maggie O'Farrell on **Monday**, **November 24** at 1:00 pm at church.

We'd love it if you would join us!

Dec 15 Our Souls at Night by Kent Haruf
Jan 26 The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks by
Rebecca Skloot

USHERS ARE NEEDED!

New Song has always been known for being a friendly church. We want to make our first impression really count. Are you friendly? Helpful? Are you willing to be an usher?

Contact Sue Wilson to usher at 1957suewilson@gmail.com or in person. It is a pretty easy job and you get to talk to people while you work!

CARD MAKING MINISTRY

The Dabblers make cards for our Card Ministry and for sale. They make the cards at their homes on their schedule. For more information, contact Carolyn Garbacz.

FOREVER FRIENDS

Forever Friends will meet at noon on **Thursday**, **November 12**.

Bring a salad for a salad potluck as well as your own beverage and table setting.

Games after lunch. Bring a favorite game if you like.

Questions: contact Myrna Bishop.

Looking for a Stephen Minister?

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





OUR VISION...

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

OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL AGES

We offer many different ways to serve while having fellowship with other New Song members and friends:

Animals 4 God, Book Buddies, Care & Nurture, Caregiver Support, Celebration Choir, Children's Ministry, Dabblers, Dinners for 8, Eve's Cookers, Forever Friends, Handbells, Hospitality Team, Knit Wits, Ladies Hand and Foot cards, Men's Breakfast and Bible Study, Missions, Needlers, New Member Classes, Praise Team, Prayer Force, Preschool Ministry, Reach Team, Stephen Ministries, Sunday School (for children, youth and adults), UWF (Women United in Faith), Women's Bible Study, Youth Ministry and more.

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

REMINDER

The office email address is
newsong.surpriseaz@gmail.com.
The office phone number is 623-584-9418.
If you send something to church or have your offering sent by your bank, please use this address:
New Song United Methodist Church
16303 West Bell Road, Door #5
Surprise, AZ 85374

LOST YOUR NAME BADGE/ NEVER HAD ONE?

Get a new name tag or badge by signing up on the list at the Information Center. Name badges will be posted on the Information Center once we receive them. The cost is \$8.50. You can put a check in the offering basket. Put Name Tag in the memo line. Or pay at the church office.

PRAY FOR IN NOVEMBER

Sunrise UMC, Phoenix, AZ Trinity UMC, Phoenix, AZ



ARE YOU RECEIVING THE BLAST?

If you are not receiving the weekly Blast, first check your spam mail folder. If you cannot find it there, then sign the Blast Sign-up Sheet at the Information Center. Once you have been added, you should receive the weekly Blast on Thursdays and the monthly newsletter on the last Friday of the month. If you have any questions, contact the office at newsong.surpriseaz@gmail.com or 623-584-9418.

MINISTERS OF NEW SONG

The ministers of New Song are its members.

The staff members who assist them are:

Pastor: Rev. Misty Howick

Pastoral Assistant: Chaplain Kathy Norris

Interim Directors of Music:

Richard Messenger & Alex Lunardi

Interim Sunday School Leader: Rhonda Easa

Interim Office Manager: Joanne Cox Croft

Treasurer: Amy Tarleton
Financial Secretary: Scott South
Accompanist: Alex Lunardi

Media Manager: Jesus Cazarez

12/08 12/14	Patricia Seabert Mark Campbell Jay Harris Eleanor Auseth	IN LOVING MEMORY	04/28 05/03 05/05 06/13	
01/10 01/31 02/04 02/10 03/03 03/05 03/08 03/11	Larry Wiggs Jean Jack Marlene Shirley Guenther Kruse Richard Kosier Charles DeWall Tom Olsen Barbara Shumate S. Joan Johnson Carol Hanes	Loved Ones may leave this world but they will never leave Our Hearts	06/18 06/27 07/08 07/09 07/16 08/08	Ione Bartells Gary Kelley Terry Locke LeRoy Messenger Jerome K. Johnson





11/04 Jo Fuller
11/07 Phyllis Hall
11/24 Gerri Binette
11/09 Alitzia Hawk
11/12 Linda Leichtnam
11/12 Carolyn Garbacz
11/12 David Jones
11/14 Randy Matthews
11/23 Don Pierce
11/24 Gerri Binette
11/24 Sue LeCount
11/26 Carol Gove
11/27 Rozanne Malaise
11/30 Nancy Gordon
11/14 Randy Matthews

11/18 John Rousselle

Happy Annivsersary

11/21 Bob & Sue Sans



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Blue = Offsite Activities						1 3 pm Farmer's Market 6 pm All Saints Service
2 Communion Sunday 9am Adult SS 10:30am Worship, Communion, PreK Sunday School 11:45 Handbells 12:15 pm Worship	3 9 am UWF Leaders 10:15am Prayer Force 10:30 Caregiver Support 6 pm Boy Scouts	4 9:45 am Volunteer at St. Mary's 4 pm Trustees	5 9 & 10:30am Women's Bible Study 1 pm Staff Meet 6 pm Choir 7:30 pm Praise Team	6 10am Hospitality 1 pm Knit Wits	7 8am Men's B'fast and Bible Study 1 pm SPRC	8 10 am UWF Large Group 3 pm Farmer's Market
9 9am Adult SS 10:30am Worship, Kids, Youth, PreK Sunday School 11:45 am Handbell, Reach Food Drive	10 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 10:15am Prayer Force 6 pm Boy Scouts	11 OFFICE CLOSED FOR VETERANS' DAY 5:30 pm A4G 6 pm A4G Reading	12 9 & 10:30am Women's Bible Study 6 pm Choir 7:30 pm Praise Team	13 10 am Children's Ministry 12pm Forever Friends	14 8am Men's B'fast and Bible Study 1pm - Ladies Hand & Foot	15 8 am Eve's Cookers 10 am - Needlers 3 pm Farmer's Market
16 Thanksgiving Collect 9am Adult SS 10:30am Worship, Kids, Youth, PreK Sunday School 11:45 Handbells	17 9 am Food Box Sort & Deliver 10:15am Prayer Force 10:30 Caregiver Support 1 pm Book Buddies	18 9:45 am Volunteer at St. Mary's 1pm Staff Mtg 4 pm Finance	19 9 & 10:30am Women's Bible Study 1 pm Missions 6 pm Choir 7:30 pm Praise	20 10 am Stephen Ministry 1 pm Coloring Group	21 8am Men's B'fast and Bible Study 10 am Pew Buddies	22 2 pm Blessing of the Animals 3 pm Farmer's Market
23 & 30 9am Adult SS 10:30am Worship, Kids, Youth, PreK SS 11:45 Handbells (23) 4pThanksgiving Dinner	24 10:15am Prayer Force 6 pm Boy Scouts	25 10 am Church Council	26 9 & 10:30am Women's Bible Study 6 pm Choir 7:30 pm Praise Team		28 CLOSED FOR KSGIVING	29 10 am Hanging the Greens 3 pm Farmer's Market

November 2025 Newsletter



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



Newsletter Editor: Joanne Croft at newsong.surpriseaz@gmail.com. Please send all December newsletter articles by November 10th.

If you have items for the Blast and/or for the bulletin, please submit them by Tuesday each week.

New Song Church 16303 West Bell Road, DOOR 5 Surprise, AZ 85374

PLACE STAMP HERE