

WEEK OF SUNDAY, MAY 3

THE STAR

Official Newsletter of Church of the Epiphany-Tempe

Pictured above: Easter Egg Hunt 2026, photos by Grace Noel, [Grace Avery Designs](#)



ARIZONA FAITH NETWORK
Be Together • Talk Together • Act Together



Heat Relief Cooling Center @ Epiphany Opens May 1

Taking donations of water, food, and hats!

The Cooling Center at Epiphany is opening tomorrow, May 1st. It will be open Monday – Saturday from 9am to 7pm in the education building through the month of September. These cooling centers provide a refuge from the intense desert heat for people and their pets as part of a shared ministry with Arizona Faith Network and the City of Tempe. We are now collecting donations of bottled water, hydration/electrolyte packets, nutritious snacks, and dog food/treats. **New this year**, we will also be collecting baseball type hats (new or gently used) to offer to those who come to the Cooling Center to help provide a little personal shade when they are outside. These items should serve well to help them hit the ground running. Donations brought on Sunday mornings can go in the designated area just inside the parish hall wooden doors. Weekday donations must be dropped off directly at the Cooling Center. The easiest way to access the Cooling Center is from the North entrance to the education building. We will periodically check in with Cooling Center staff to see what items are most needed & post them here!



Wanted: Seasonal Office Volunteers!

Right now we are searching for a volunteer to come in on Mondays from 10am-1pm, during the months of May through October.

Basic tasks include answering the phone, transferring calls, checking and sorting mail. More tasks are available depending on your comfort level with technology, but they are not required! If you have been thinking of volunteering in the office and want to test the waters, or maybe you want to turn off your own A/C for some time and enjoy the cool air in the Farmhouse, contact christian@epiphanytempe.org with your availability!

Sunday at Epiphany

The Fifth Sunday
of Easter

Celebrant:

The Rev. Hunter Ruffin

Lay Ministers 8:00AM

Greeter:

Andrea Stewart

Readers:

Stanlie James

Acolyte:

Joe Moritz

Eucharistic Ministers:

Stanlie James

Lay Ministers 10:00AM

Greeters:

Cece Wilhite, Dylan Westbrook

Readers:

Karen Ford, Mary Harthun

Acolytes:

Nancy Keith

Eucharistic Ministers:

Jeanne Trembeth, Diane Spillum

Subdeacon:

Ruth Lindsay

Music:

Dr. Miriam Hickman, Matt Flora,
Choir

A/V Ministers:

Alex Mather-Charles

Join us in-person at 8:00 or 10:00, or
online at 10:00

Get Your Tickets to the
Annual Ladies Spring Afternoon Tea!
Saturday, May 9 @ 12pm

Each year, the women of our community don their favorite tea dresses and hats (not required!), with some even hosting beautifully set tables featuring their own china! Together, we gather to enjoy a delightful afternoon of traditional tea, sweet treats, and warm fellowship.

[Get your tickets online](#)
[by clicking here!](#)

Contact Pam for more info at
WatermanPJ28@gmail.com
or 602-686-1249

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Sunday Formation Group
Sundays @ 9am in the Ed. Bldg.
Join us in the education building for a book group as we seek to deepen our lives in Christ.

The book being used is **Christian Proficiency** by Martin Thornton, a resource for those who are looking for guidance to make further progress in their spiritual proficiency. Available through your preferred book retailer, or on Amazon by clicking here. For more information contact Father Hunter.



The number of Arizonans receiving SNAP (food stamp) benefits has dropped by 47% as requirements for participation have tightened and difficulty getting application assistance has increased in the last 10 months. At Matthews Crossing, and at every food bank in the state, we are seeing the result of this as more of our neighbors are facing food insecurity. Your generous donations of staple food, paper products, and personal care items help stock the shelves so more families can be helped. The grocery cart is outside the west Parish Hall doors for your donations every Sunday. Thanks!

MEN OF EPIPHANY

(MORE FAMOUSLY KNOWN AS "MOE")

THE MEN OF EPIPHANY GROUP MEETS EVERY OTHER MONDAY AT 7PM IN THE ED BUILDING FOR BIBLE STUDY AND FELLOWSHIP.

THEIR NEXT MEETING IS:

MONDAY, MAY 4 @ 7:00PM!

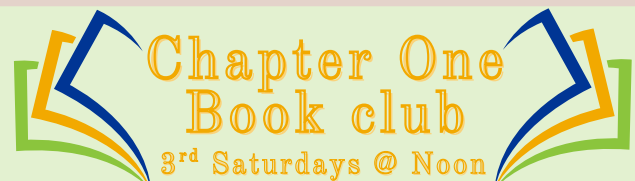
FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT BILLYWALTERS51@GMAIL.COM

Creation Care Corner

Offering ideas and inspiration for sustainable discipleship



Even though they are too small to see, microplastics may increase the risk of big health problems. These micro-monsters are impossible to avoid entirely, but you can reduce the amount you unknowingly ingest. Check out these tips, and follow the ones that feel doable for you. Every smart swap helps! stopmicromonsters.org



Get your Summer reads on!

The May book pick is Bel Canto by Ann Patchett, the May meeting will be May 16. The June book is Culpability by Bruce Holsinger, meeting June 20. If you would like to join the book club, need the Zoom link, or have any questions, contact Gillian Murphy at: (480)907-4933 or gillian@kirkyhomes.com.

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EPIPHANY CLASSIFIEDS

JOB OPENINGS:

Director of Music - Church of the Epiphany is seeking a Director of Music to lead and nurture our music ministry in partnership with the Rector, organist, staff, and choir. We are looking for a person of both professional musical skill and lived Christian faith — someone who understands music not merely as performance, but as a ministry of prayer, formation, and communal life. Responsibilities include selecting and leading hymnody, psalmody, and choral music for weekly 10 AM services and principal feasts; directing weekly choir rehearsals; hiring instrumental musicians for major holy days; and planning the full liturgical music calendar from August through summer. Check out the full job description, share it with a friend, or submit your application [by clicking here!](#)

Got something for the classifieds section? Email it to christian@epiphanytempe.org by the Monday of the week you'd like to get it on here!

Cards for Matt Terry

As many of you may know, Matt's wife Anne passed away unexpectedly early in April. Matt and Anne both worked with our youth and younger kids many years ago. Anne was our Church School director for a while, Matt was our lead tenor in the choir, and many other things over the years.

Matt was also the soloist at Jessie Williams' funeral.

If you would like to send Matt a card during this difficult time, please bring them to the church office and we will be mailing them to him in the coming weeks.

First Sunday Offering Rector's Discretionary Fund April Update

The theme for the month of April has been one word: gasoline. Gas prices have nearly doubled over the past 4-6 weeks. Over 10 individuals and families have stopped by looking for assistance to fill their gas tanks. A number of these folks are living out of their cars, meaning that their main form of shelter and air conditioning is now costing them almost twice as much to keep running. This is a huge blow to these folks that were already struggling with resources. Of course, we have also had the usual requests for assistance with groceries, utilities, and rent. Each month on the first Sunday, the loose plate offerings go to the Rector's Discretionary Fund. Your gifts help us be the merciful hands of Christ.

Attention Thew Note-Writers!



This month's notes to the teachers and staff of Thew elementary are due this Sunday, May 3!



PROPERTY MINISTRY TEAM MEETING NEXT SUNDAY

The Property Management Committee team meeting is next Sunday, May 10, at 9am in the education building.

They meet on the 2nd Sunday of each month to discuss current and future projects around the parish. Many of these projects are taken on by the Saturday Sod Squad, which is open to all who would like to spiff up the Epiphany Campus. They clean-up the Courtyard and entryways for Sunday mornings and sometimes do minor repairs to save on costs of the pros. If you're interested in giving your talent to this ministry, the team meeting this Sunday is a great way to learn more and get involved!



Valley Interfaith Project

A M o m e n t t o S h o w U p

There is powerful, faithful work unfolding across our region through the Valley Interfaith Project—and Epiphany is part of it.

This Sunday, we have an opportunity to take part in that work together.

Following the recent Candidate Accountability Session in Tempe, we will gather as a parish to reflect on what we did together—how our presence helped shape the conversation in our city, and where we sense God may be leading us next.

Join us this Sunday at 11:15 AM in the parish hall.

No preparation is needed—simply come and be part of the conversation.

Why this matters

Across the Valley, Valley Interfaith Project is helping communities act with courage, clarity, and faith:

- **Immigration & Community Protection** - Leaders helped secure a Phoenix ordinance limiting the use of city property by ICE and strengthening civil rights protections—and are now working to ensure those commitments are carried out.
- **Workforce Development** - Through Arizona Career Pathways, leaders are building partnerships with educators and employers (including ASU) to expand access to stable, living-wage jobs.
- **Affordable Housing & Homelessness** - In Mesa, leaders are organizing around the Sunaire Housing Project. In Tempe, clergy and lay leaders are working with city officials to expand affordable housing, address homelessness, and explore new policy solutions.
- **Neighborhood Safety** - In West Phoenix, leaders are building relationships across communities to address safety concerns and strengthen local partnerships.
- **Leadership Development** - Clergy and lay leaders are being trained in relational organizing—deepening the capacity of congregations to build power and create lasting change.
- **Freedom Schools & Community Education** - New “Freedom Schools” are launching this spring, offering formation in housing, immigration, civic engagement, and public life.

Want to get involved?

VIP’s work is grounded in relationships—and it begins with showing up.

Join us this Sunday to take the next step together, or speak with a member of Epiphany’s VIP Core Team to learn more.

This Week's Prayers

We are all invited to pray for these people in our personal prayers throughout the week.

- **Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** The Anglican Church of North India
- **Diocesan Cycle of Prayer:** Saint Philip's in the Hills - Tucson
- **Parish Cycle of Prayer:** If we are missing our birthday, please contact the church office. We want to pray for you!
- **Parish Prayer List:** Ann, Avaiu, Bill & Lynda, Brady, Carol & Frank & Allen, Carol & Walt, Connie & Kathy, Cooper, David, Ellen & Richard, Father Bill, Jan, Jillian, Joe C., Judith, Katie, the Landin family, Linda & John & family, Lou, Lynda, Priscilla, René, Susan, Susan & Stuart, Tony, Tony S., Wanda

This Week at Epiphany

- **Sunday, May 3-** ~A.A. at 4pm in the Parish Hall. ~Al-Anon at 5:15pm in the Parish Hall. ~Being With: Regular Course at 6pm in the Farmhouse.
- **Monday, May 4-** ~Morning Prayer at 9am in the Chapel. ~A.A. at 6pm in the Parish Hall. ~Men of Epiphany at 7pm in the Ed. Bldg.
- **Tuesday, May 5-** ~Morning Prayer at 9am in the Chapel. ~A.A. at 6pm in the Parish Hall. ~Men's A.A. at 6pm in the Church.
- **Wednesday, May 6-** ~Eucharist at 10am in the Chapel. ~Discipleship Group at 11am in the Farmhouse. ~Being With: End of Life Course at 6pm in the Farmhouse. ~Men's A.A. at 6:30pm in the Ed. Bldg.
- **Thursday, May 7-** ~Morning Prayer at 9am in the Chapel. ~Business Networking International Meeting at 9am in the Parish Hall. ~A.A. at 6pm in the Parish Hall. ~Choir Rehearsal at 7pm in the Church.
- **Saturday, May 9-** ~Ladies' Spring Afternoon Tea at 12pm in the Parish Hall. ~A.A. at 7pm in the Church.

****The Heat Relief Cooling Center operates in the Education Building weekly, Monday through Saturday, from 9am to 7pm, from May through September.***

Vestry Leadership

Jan Wagner – Senior Warden
Senior_Warden@epiphanytempe.org

Jerry Adwell – Junior Warden
Junior_Warden@epiphanytempe.org

Ann Neal – Treasurer

Andrea Stewart – Clerk

Aaron Van Briesen

Heidi Thomas

Pat Blackman

Kathy Carney

Beth Hunt

Johnny Sullivan

Barbara Peterson

Alex Mather-Charles

Floyce Chavez

Clergy & Staff

The Rev. Hunter Ruffin – Rector
hunter@epiphanytempe.org

The Rev. Martha Seaman – Deacon

The Rev. Tamara Noel – Deacon

The Rev. Canon Steve Schaitberger –
Seasonal Assisting Priest

The Rev. Dr. Corey Meier – Assisting Priest

Dr. Miriam Hickman – Organist, Pianist

Matthew Flora – Choir Director

Jeanne Trembeth – Sexton

Nellie Lichtenstein – Nursery Attendant

Christian Rodriguez-Ortiz – Parish
Administrator & Assistant to the Rector
christian@epiphanytempe.org

Contact the office: 480-968-4111 or
office@epiphanytempe.org