



WEEK OF SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22

THE STAR

Official Newsletter of Church of the Epiphany-Tempe

Pictured above: Ash Wednesday 2026, Imposition of the Ashes

The Season of Lent

February 18 - April 2

Sundays in Lent - Starting February 22

Coffee Hour Formation 11:30am

Nurturing a Rule of Life: Being People of Worship, Service and Love. At its core, the term “Rule of Life” is not about duty to rules but about slowing down and structuring our lives in alignment with our deepest desires. It’s a set of practices and relational rhythms that create space to be with Jesus, become like him, and do as he did. [Watch this video to learn more!](#)

Wednesdays in Lent - Starting February 25

Evening Prayer 5:30pm

You are invited to leave the constant chatter of the world at the door and gather with us for a Lenten prayer service in the chapel.

Meatless Potluck 6:00pm

Bring your favorite meatless dish to share and join us in the parish hall to share a meatless potluck-style meal and fellowship time!

Lenten Formation Series 6:30pm

Encountering Faith Through Women in Scripture. Join us in this exploration of alternative bible lessons through stories of women in the Bible.

More info & “Lent at Home” resources are [found on our website](#)

Sunday at Epiphany

The First Sunday
in Lent

Celebrant:

The Rev. Hunter Ruffin

Lay Ministers 8:00AM

Greeter:

Andrea Stewart

Reader:

Andrea Stewart

Acolyte:

Carol Dalton

Eucharistic Ministers:

John Slaughter

Lay Ministers 10:00AM

Greeters:

Lynda Woodson, Priscilla DeMoss

Readers:

Barbara Acker, Kathy Carney

Acolyte:

Diane Spillum

Eucharistic Ministers:

Nancy Keith

Music:

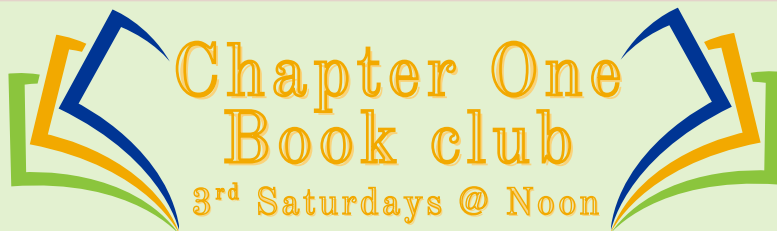
Dr. Miriam Hickman, Matt Fora,
Choir

A/V Ministers:

Alex Mather-Charles

Join us in-person at 8:00 or 10:00, or
[online at 10:00](#)

Worship | Serve | Love



The February meeting is this Saturday, February 21 at Noon via Zoom! The book for discussion is Olive Kitteridge by Elizabeth Stout. **The March pick is** A Prayer for Owen Meany by John Irving. Meeting March 21st at noon on Zoom. 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.

Coffee in the Courtyard



Sundays after the 10am service, starting this Sunday!

Join us outside! If you attended any of these gatherings last winter, you know they offered the chance for a fresh-air sit-down and relaxing chats. There will be sign-up sheets for snack donations and for the all-important putting-away-tables/chairs-task. Please take five minutes to help so we can all enjoy and be done by noon.

Small Group Conversation Series:



Following the Call
to Be Prophetic



The Epiphany VIP Team is launching a monthly house meeting series to help our parish live into its prophetic vocation of working for justice, equity, and love. Inspired by the biblical prophets who acted as "listening posts" for their communities, these small group conversations are designed to help us better understand the challenges facing our members and neighbors in maintaining their health, economic security, safety and well-being.

- **Dates:** Sunday, February 22, with subsequent meetings on March 22, and April 26. Dates for subsequent months to be determined.
- **Time:** 12:15 PM.
- **Campus Location:** Education Building, Room 3

Hospitality Committee 2026 Planning Meeting NEW DATE/TIME

The Hospitality Committee will hold a 2026 Planning Committee Meeting on *Saturday, February 21* from 2:00pm to 4:00pm (NOTE CHANGE OF DATE AND TIME). Beverages and dessert will be provided. Location: Pam Waterman's house - 2531 S Saratoga, Mesa 85202 (Price/Guadalupe). We will be figuring out details for the Ladies Tea (May 9) and many other events. All are welcome. (Contact Pam Waterman 602-686-1249 watermanpj28@gmail.com)

Worship | Serve | Love



Lenten Cereal Drive Starts Sunday!

During Lent, we will be collecting boxes **June Crane** and bags of cereal for the food banks at Matthews Crossing and Paz de Cristo. Cereal is one of most asked for items by families and it has become an Epiphany Lenten tradition to help these two food banks fill their cereal shelves. So please shop for cereal and bring it to the grocery cart or specially marked box that will be outside the west Parish Hall doors every Sunday in Lent. Of course, other donations of staple food, paper products and personal care items for Matthews Crossing are always welcome in the grocery cart. Last year we collected 677 boxes, so let's try for 700 this year. Thanks!



Join us for our Parish Spring Clean Day as we spruce up our church home and prepare our campus for newcomers and the season ahead. Whether you can lend a hand for an hour or the whole morning, your help makes a difference. There are always tasks for all comfort levels. Save the date, more details are coming soon!

Join the Altar Guild!

Curious about what happens behind the scenes on Sunday mornings? The Altar Guild is a welcoming, hands-on ministry—open to everyone—that prepares the altar for worship and keeps the Sacristy organized and cared for.

Each team serves just one weekend a month, and all training is provided. No prior experience is needed. This is a simple, meaningful way to deepen your spiritual connection at Epiphany. Long-time members have even created a beautifully detailed how-to binder with photos, step-by-step instructions, and a helpful vocabulary guide for those new to Episcopal traditions. Our ministry is aging, and we're especially hopeful for younger members who can help keep this important work vibrant and strong.

If you'd like to see what we do before committing, feel free to join a team after worship and observe. If you feel called to this ministry, we would love to welcome you. For more information, contact Pat at (480)322-7359

Capital Project Update: Farmhouse Roofing Postponed

The Farmhouse roofing work has run into delays due to difficulties in matching the roof tiles of the Farmhouse. The work is tentatively expected to begin next week, with an official date yet to be announced. When the time comes, we will be relocating office operations to the Education Building. The Wednesday Discipleship group, and other meetings regularly scheduled to meet in the Farmhouse, will also be relocated to the Ed. Bldg. or Parish Hall if they coincide with the roofing work schedule.

As many of you know, the roof replacement was made possible through support of the Diocese. Thanks to your generosity, we have raised over \$15,000 so far! Every contribution—large or small—helps us to continue our ministry in the City of Tempe, and celebrates our shared mission and ministry.

Thank you for your continued generosity, understanding, and care for Epiphany. Please keep the workers, our campus, and one another in your prayers.

A Sometimes Overlooked Mission

—Anonymous Author

There is a mission our parish has championed for a number of years that truly supports our core values of Service, Justice and Inclusivity. Here's some background: In February of 2017 a group of folks from the Sunset Alcoholics Anonymous group contacted Epiphany about the possibility of renting space here for their meetings. By the end of the month, they began holding two meetings a week on Tuesday and Thursday evenings, and are still doing so to this day. They really liked Epiphany's facilities but mostly they appreciated the way they were made to feel welcome. Other AA groups learned that Epiphany was a welcoming place and now, nine years later, 12 AA and Al-Anon groups regularly meet here on our campus. Several of those meetings attract hundreds of attendees and the Church Bldg., Ed. Bldg. and the Parish Hall are often full of folks who have come to share their recovery stories and hear speakers discuss recovery and sobriety. Those meetings, by the way, are open to anyone who is interested in checking them out.

Alcoholics Anonymous has a 90-year record of providing excellent support for those seeking help in their struggles with substance abuse and addiction. The program works. It is life changing and life saving. The secret sauce is the fellowship – the sharing of experiences and hope at meetings. And of course, one fundamental ingredient to good meetings is a safe, reliable, welcoming meeting space. Our parish has provided this in spades! It's a quiet but super important way Church of the Epiphany has provided service and done justice for those who are often stigmatized and marginalized because of their challenges with alcohol.

AA groups often meet in churches, so Epiphany's willingness to host is not unique but what is remarkable is the commitment and effort our parish leadership has made to be a faithful host for AA gatherings. As more groups have expressed interest in meeting here over the years, Fr. Hunter, Pastor Carmen (retired), and now, Christian, have worked hard to figure out ways to accommodate their needs. This commitment became even more evident during the COVID pandemic when many churches in the valley, and all over the country for that matter, restricted or prohibited meetings of any kind at their locations. This left many recovering alcoholics without a place to meet and deprived them of the fellowship that is so important to their sobriety. Epiphany was unique in that AA groups were permitted to continue to meet here at Epiphany during the pandemic, provided they observed recommendations regarding masks, social distancing and so on. A seemingly small gesture on the part of the leadership of our parish that was a really big deal for those impacted by it.

Fr. Hunter was overheard saying "Sometimes doing justice and providing service is as simple as offering hospitality." Our friends in AA would heartily agree!

Worship | Serve | Love

**Being
With**



Only 10 spots
are available
per course!

Being With - Regular Course

RSVP

Sundays, starting April 12 through June 21, 6pm-7:30pm

Would you like to explore your faith with us? We are using a 10 week course developed by St. Martin's in the Field, London that explores the Christian faith from an inclusive and positive understanding of the Christian faith. It's particularly constructed for those who are exploring for the first time or after a significant break.

Being With - End of Life Course

RSVP

Wednesdays, starting April 8 through June 10, 6pm-7:30pm

Join us for a course that creates space for honest conversation, practical planning, and faithful reflection—for those making plans for themselves or navigating recent loss.

Together, we will explore questions of mortality, legacy, grief, and Christian hope—grounded in prayer, Scripture, and the assurance of God's abiding presence.

**Being
With**

**Exploring
Life and Faith
Together**

GET LUCKY
CHANCE TO WIN
\$10,000



Be Someone's Lucky Charm and You Could Win BIG!

Donate March 1-April 5 and you'll be automatically entered for a chance to win a \$10,000 gift card.* Your donation is a lucky charm for patients in need. Schedule today.

Make an appointment at vitalant.org or call 877-25-VITAL

Use blood drive code: **churche**

Church of the Epiphany Episcopal BLOOD DRIVE

SUNDAY, MARCH 1ST, 2026

8:30 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.

LOCATED IN ROOMS 7 & 8

2222 S PRICE RD ~ TEMPE

To schedule an appointment, visit vitalant.org (Enter Blood Drive Code: churche) or scan the QR code. For questions, contact Andrea Stewart at (480) 577-2949.



*Terms and condition apply; see vitalant.org/LuckyGiveaway.

Find us @vitalant:     

vitalant 

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 Church of Ireland
- **Diocesan Cycle of Prayer:** Saint Augustine's - Tempe
- **Parish Cycle of Prayer:** Jerry Liddy, Michael, Hanas, Susan Tong, Pat Blackman
- **Parish Prayer List:** April, Barbara, Belinda & family, Beth, Carol & Frank & Amanda & Allen, Carol & Walt, Connie & Kathy, Cooper, David, Dwight, Fifi, Jenn, Jillian, Kathi, Katie, Levi & family, Linda & John & family, Melinda, Michael, Patrick, Sara, Spencer, Stuart & family, Susan, Tony, Wanda

This Week at Epiphany

- **Sunday, February 22-** ~Lenten Formation at 11:30am in the Parish Hall. ~VIP Meeting at 12:15pm in the Ed. Bldg. ~HELIOS Concert at 3pm in the Church. ~A.A. at 4pm in the Parish Hall. ~Al-Anon at 5:15pm in the Parish Hall.
- **Monday, February 23-** ~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, February 24-** ~Morning Prayer at 9am in the Chapel. ~A.A. at 6pm in the Ed. Bldg. ~Men's A.A. at 6pm in the Church.
- **Wednesday, February 25-** ~Eucharist at 10am in the Chapel. ~Discipleship Group at 12pm in the Farmhouse. ~Lenten Series: Evening Prayer at 5:30pm in the Chapel, Potluck & Formation follows in the Parish Hall. ~Men's A.A. at 6:30pm in the Ed. Bldg.
- **Thursday, February 26-** ~Morning Prayer at 9pm 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, February 28-** ~A.A. at 4pm in the Parish Hall.

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