

WEEK OF SUNDAY, APRIL 26

THE STAR

Official Newsletter of Church of the Epiphany-Tempe

Pictured above: John Slaughter, Alex Davis, Keith Laidlaw, McKee Lundberg, Bruce Davis
Saturday Sod Squadders after a Mini Clean of the flower beds on Concorda



Creation Care Corner

**Offering ideas and inspiration
for sustainable discipleship**

Caring for creation is one of the ways we live out our life together in Christ—through small, faithful choices that reflect gratitude for what God has made. As we gather for coffee hour and shared meals, we invite you to join us in a few simple practices that help us reduce waste and care for our common home:

Choose what can be reused. You'll find metal flatware in the kitchen drawers and ceramic mugs ready for coffee. After using them, simply place them in the designated tubs for cleaning.

Use disposable items thoughtfully. Paper cups are available for cold drinks when needed. Our aluminum cups are reserved for special occasions since they require hand washing—but if you'd enjoy helping with that, we'd love to hear from you.

Help us keep our kitchen simple and sustainable. To reduce excess and waste, we're working from a consistent list of supplies. We ask that you check with a member of the Creation Care Committee, or the church office, before bringing in additional kitchen items for general use.

Each small choice adds up. Together, we can nurture a way of life that honors creation, reduces waste, and reflects the care we're called to offer the world.

Sunday Formation Group

Starting this Sunday, April 26 @ 9am

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.

Sunday at Epiphany

The Fourth Sunday
of Easter

Celebrant:

The Rev. Dr. Corey Meier

Lay Ministers 8:00AM

Greeter:

Andrea Stewart

Readers:

Carol Dalton

Acolyte:

Joe Moritz

Eucharistic Ministers:

John Slaughter

Lay Ministers 10:00AM

Greeters:

Lynda Woodson, Lynda Odell

Readers:

Barbara Acker, Cece Wilhite

Acolytes:

Jane Konrad

Eucharistic Ministers:

Pat Blackman

Subdeacon:

Ruth Lindsay

Music:

Dr. Miriam Hickman, Matt Flora,
Choir

A/V Ministers:

Cassandra Kariuki

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



Valley Interfaith Project

Making an Impact Across the Valley

There is powerful, faithful work unfolding across our region through Valley Interfaith Project (VIP)—and Epiphany is part of it. Here's a snapshot of what's happening right now:

Immigration & Community Protection

VIP leaders helped secure a major win in Phoenix: a new ordinance limiting the use of city property by ICE and strengthening accountability for civil rights protections. Leaders are now working with city officials and law enforcement to ensure these protections are implemented and expanded.

Workforce Development

Through Arizona Career Pathways, VIP leaders are researching emerging industries and building relationships with business and education leaders (including ASU) to help more people access stable, living-wage jobs.

Affordable Housing & Homelessness

- Mesa: VIP leaders are organizing around the Sunaire Housing Project, including a canvassing campaign to build community support ahead of a key City Council vote.
- Tempe: Clergy (including our own Fr. Hunter) are working with city leaders to address homelessness, expand affordable housing, and explore new policy solutions like YIGBY. A Candidate Accountability Session is scheduled for April 28 at St. Augustine's Episcopal Church at 7pm (1735 S. College Ave.) .

Neighborhood Safety

Leaders in West Phoenix are building relationships with community groups, churches, and local institutions to address crime concerns and strengthen neighborhood safety efforts.

Leadership Development

Clergy and lay leaders continue to be trained in relational organizing—deepening the capacity of congregations to build power and create lasting change in their communities.

Freedom Schools & Community Education

A new series of “Freedom Schools” is launching this spring, offering opportunities to learn about topics like housing, immigration, civic engagement, and how city budgets work.

Want to get involved?

VIP's work is grounded in relationships—and there are many ways to step in, from attending a training or Freedom School to joining local organizing efforts. If you're curious, speak to any member of the Epiphany VIP Core Team!

Worship | Serve | Love



Wanted: Seasonal Office Volunteers!

As we start to approach the Summer months, many members of our parish make plans to escape the heat. And some of our office volunteers seek to cool off too! We're looking for some folks to help out with some open volunteer shifts, Monday – Thursday from 10am-1pm or 1pm-4pm, during the months of May, June, July, August and September. 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!



Matthews Crossing is serving an average of 125 families every day so Epiphany's (and other churches and individuals)

donations of staple food, paper products, and personal care items are needed and appreciated. These donations are augmented by fresh meat, bread, and produce from local grocery stores and sent home with people who need some help to feed their families. Be a part of this Gospel work and donate to help our neighbors in need. The grocery cart is outside the west Parish Hall doors every Sunday. Thanks.



Church OF THE
Epiphany

Tempe

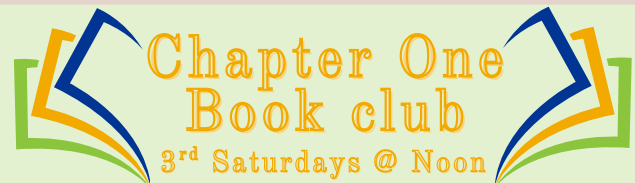


ARIZONA FAITH NETWORK

Be Together • Talk Together • Act Together

Heat Relief Cooling Center @ Epiphany: Taking donations of water, food, and hats!

The Cooling Center at Epiphany is opening next week, for the months of May through September. It will be open Monday – Saturday from 9am to 7pm in the education building. 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. We will periodically check in with Cooling Center staff to see what items are most needed & post them here.



Chapter One
Book club

3rd Saturdays @ Noon

Start Reading for May!

The May book pick is Bel Canto by Ann Patchett, the May meeting will be May 16. 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.



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, 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

Worship | Serve | Love

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!



HELLO MY NAME IS

Epiphany name tags are now made available by request through the church office. If you would like a name tag for church on Sunday mornings please fill out the form by clicking 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.

Diocesan Confirmation 2026

The Diocese of Arizona and Bishop Jennifer Reddall are pleased to invite you to our Diocesan Confirmation service:

Trinity Episcopal Church
on Saturday, May 16th, 2026,
beginning at 10 am.

If you are interested in being confirmed at this service, please contact Father Hunter at hunter@epiphanytempe.org or by calling the church office.

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 Nigeria
- **Diocesan Cycle of Prayer:** Saint Michael's & All Angels- Tucson
- **Parish Cycle of Prayer:** Beth Leicht
- **Parish Prayer List:** Ann, Avaiu, Bill & Lynda, Brady, Carol & Frank & Allen, Carol & Walt, Connie & Kathy, Cooper, David, Ellen & Richard, Father Bill, Jillian, Joe C., Judith, Katie, the Landin family, Linda & John & family, Lou, Lynda, Priscilla, Susan, Susan & Stuart, Tony, Wanda

This Week at Epiphany

- **Sunday, April 26-** ~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, April 27-** ~Morning Prayer at 9am in the Chapel. ~A.A. at 6pm in the Parish Hall.
- **Tuesday, April 28-** ~Morning Prayer at 9am in the Chapel. ~A.A. at 6pm in the Ed. Bldg. ~Men's A.A. at 6pm in the Church. ~VIP Meeting at St. Augustine's (1735 S. College Ave.) at 7pm.
- **Wednesday, April 29-** ~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, April 30-** ~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.
- **Friday, May 1-** ~A.A. at 6pm in the Parish Hall.

**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