



The Laveen Baptist Church Builder

Volume XLVII, Number 1

January 1, 2026

Notes from Harry Sexton, Assoc. Pastor

Happy New Year, Laveen Baptist Church! We've closed out an interesting year but one in which we've continually seen God's providence as new members and baptisms continue to happen. As many of you know, I'm a big Diamondback's baseball fan. Baseball managers base a lot of their decisions on statistics. Batting average, how a batter does against a left-handed pitcher, or how well they hit with runners in scoring position. And on and on because of the adage that "past performance is the best indicator of future performance." Of course, that doesn't always hold true where people are concerned. But the good news is that it 100% is true of God!

This is why I tend to the optimistic side. I can read about how God has acted in the past, and then when I combine it with how He has treated me in my own past, I'm completely confident in what the future is going to hold. I completely believe that "We know that all things work together for the good of those who love God, who are called according to His purpose" (Rom. 8:28).

So, as I look forward to 2026 with absolutely no clue as to what is going to happen, I know who is making it happen and I have complete trust in Him. Of course there is one caveat; I must be obedient to His will.

The same thing holds true for us as a church body. God's intention is to bless us so that His glory will be manifested even greater in Laveen, in Arizona, and around the world. But He requires us to be in willing compliance with His directives for both our daily and church life.

Whether or not you're a person who makes New Year's resolutions, would you consider resolving to be in even greater obedience to God this year than last? If so, then you can look forward to a new year in which God's blessings to you individually and to our church will exceed anything that we could have expected. Let's make 2026 a year to remember as we experience the faithfulness of God.

**In His service,
Pastor Harry**



Notes from the Youth Team

And just like that it's a new year.....again. It's a chance to look back on God's faithfulness through all the craziness that was 2025 and trust His plan for the year to come, whatever it may bring.

Some people will choose to make resolutions, hoping for great things in their lives. Of course, we know that most resolutions are broken within a few days or weeks of beginning them. Other people choose a word or concept to focus on during the coming year: words like authenticity, courage, growth, intentional, consistency, etc. For me, this works a little better than making a resolution, but it still fades as time passes.

In reality, you have two choices as you start a new year; following God or rejecting Him. Following God means a change of heart; a desire to know Him and let Him guide you; trusting Him not only for salvation but also wisdom, joy, and purpose in life. Rejecting God means following your own desires, rebelling against His law outwardly through immorality; stealing, lying, cheating, deception, etc., or inwardly by obeying the law without a change of heart; looking like a Christian but trusting yourself rather than God.

No matter which choice you make, only God knows what's ahead for you in the new year. Following Him means trusting that He is in control and is working out His plan (Romans 8:28). He is the refuge and strength for His children. He is the peace and assurance for those who love Him. "Yet I am always with You; You hold my right hand. You guide me with Your counsel, and afterward You will take me up in glory." (Psalm 73:23-24 HCSB).

But if you choose to reject what God has for you, you're on your own. You're trusting in other things and in yourself, and at some point, those things are going to fail. God never fails. Is He still in control? Absolutely, and He wants to live with you and walk with you during 2026. I hope you make the choice to trust Him as you face the new year, whatever it may bring.

Happy New Year!

"Commit your way to the Lord; trust in Him, and He will act." Psalm 37:5

Wednesdays: Worship and Bible Study; 6pm-8pm

Sunday, January 4th: Bonfire Afterglow

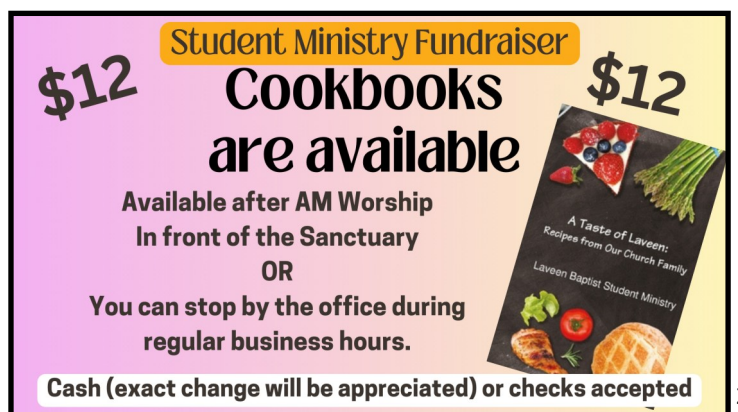
Sunday, January 11th: Parent Meeting after morning service;
lunch will be served

Friday – Sunday, January 16th – 18th: Winter Retreat

Wednesday, January 21st: Youth serve dinner

Sunday, January 25th: Churchwide Testimony Night and Chili Cook-Off

Saturday, January 31st: Laveen Parade



Notes from the Worship Leader

Happy New Year Church! I am ready to lose fifty pounds this month, read ten books per month, and run five miles every morning. I'm kidding! There is no way I can do that in one month, at least for now; but I can lose a few pounds a month, read one or two books per month, and run a quarter mile per day. This doesn't only make my goals more reachable and realistic; it also helps me to celebrate those small victories. Reading one or two books is better than none. I might not lose the fifty pounds this month, but at least I'm losing a few and taking care of my health and body that God gave me.

The point is, at least I'm doing something about it rather than not doing anything at all. The point is not to give you a motivational article, but I think sometimes as a church we expect so much that we either don't do it all because we think it's unattainable; or if we do it, we don't celebrate small victories. We then become unsatisfied like the people of Israel in the wilderness (Exodus 16:2). I know for us at LBC this year has been a rollercoaster ride, but I would like for you to take a minute to celebrate the small victories or just victories in general because any victory in God is a big victory. We had new people walking through our doors, people who became members of our church and others who got baptized. Our youth did multiple events, and our worship ministry led not only within the four walls, but in other churches and events. Our Women's ministry met every month and had Bible studies and other events. Our church is moving forward. Maybe not the way you expect it to but it's moving, and that's one milestone after another. The worst thing we could have done was not do anything at all. In other words, let's not just complain, let's do something. Don't wait for others to do something, you can be the spark to get it started. I mean, it only takes a spark or two to get the fire going. Give thanks in all circumstances as mentioned in 1 Thessalonians 5:18.

Church, I appreciate every single one of you. You are a blessing to my family as well as to the church family.

God Bless you,
Cesar

25th Annual Laveen Parade
Sat, Jan. 31st

Sign up to help or walk by scanning the QR code or by signing up in Bldg. B



-Help is needed to design & build our float
-Volunteers needed to Walk in the parade

Sunday School Teacher
Sound Booth
Fun & Fellowship
Children's Church
For more Information

Find Your Spot

Wednesday Night Kitchen Crew
Welcome Cart
Adventure Club
Youth Ministries
Contact the Church Office

serve
BE the church

NEW Starting January 4, 2026
Young Professionals Sunday School
Building B, Room 2 - 9:00 am



Chili Cook-Off & Testimony Night
Sun, Jan 25th @ 5:00 pm
Beginning in the Sanctuary
Please bring chili to Bldg B by 4:45 pm

UP COMING EVENTS




vitalant[™]

BLOOD DRIVE

Thursday, Jan 15th 2pm - 7pm

Sign Up Online
or
Call the Church Office



LAVEEN BAPTIST CHURCH
5036 w Dobbins Rd.
Laveen, AZ 85339
602-237-4885

LAVEEN BAPTIST CHURCH



QTR 1 Church Family Meeting

January 25, 2026
Following AM Service

Pick Up Your Agenda
In the Foyer

January 11th

Crafting in Ruth's Footprints

2nd and 4th TUESDAYS OF THE MONTH
January 13th & 27th
9:30 AM
BLDG B Room 2







Monthly Meeting
After AM Service
Room 2

Join Us
Jan 11th
All Welcome

YOUTH WINTER RETREAT

JAN 16-18

\$40

SIGN UP BY
DEC 31ST





Ladies Monday AM Bible Study

Revelation

Starting: January 19th
8:00 am to 9:30 am
Bldg B, Room 7

Ladies PM Bible Study

Proverbs

The Wise / The Fool / The Wicked
by Cherie Wagner

Monday 6:00 - 8:00 pm
Starting January 19th
Sign Up on line or in Building B

Questions See Kris Williams



Available on Amazon \$15





JANUARY

1 st	Peter Nowell George Mungai	9 th	William Cleveland Dan Quihuis	21 st	Bruce Marston Velia Aguirre
3 rd	Andrew De La Cruz		Leah Fearn	23 rd	Karen Williams
4 th	Cynthia Sexton Jack Cannon Ernest Chavez	15 th	Charley Martin Faven Yohannes Israel Kiyogera	24 th	Adam Pepiton
5 th	Lisa Medeiros Matthew Downs	18 th	Chance Southern	25 th	Rommel Ramos Kayleen Mbonyingabo
6 th	Kathleen Seavers	19 th	Rudy Ruacho Joaquín Quihuis	26 th	Brittney Downs
				30 th	Mary Bowden



JANUARY

3 rd	William & Alex Jenkins
6 th	John & Donnel Horn
9 th	George & Louise Richrdson
10 th	Thierry & Claudine Kiyogiera
20 th	Rudy & Julie Ruacho

We Want To Hear From You:

E-mail prayer requests to: lbc@laveenbaptistchurch.org

Call us at: 602-237-4885

See what's happening & Register for events:

www.laveenbaptistchurch.org





January



Regular Events

SEPTEMBER - MAY

SUNDAY

Sunday School Classes	9:00 am
Fellowship	10:00 am
Worship Service	10:15 am

MONDAY

AM Ladies Bible Study –Revelation	8:30 am
PM Ladies Bible Study –Proverbs	6:00 pm

TUESDAY

Victorious Overcomers Support Group	6:30 pm
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WEDNESDAY

Dinner	5:00pm
Adventure Club	6:00 pm
Youth Bible Study	6:00 pm
Prayer Hour	6:00 pm
Ladies PM Bible Study, room 3	7:00 pm
Men's Bible Study, room 2	7:00 pm

THURSDAY

GriefShare (August 7th - November 6th)	10:00 am
College/Young Adult Bible Study -off Campus	6:30 pm
AA Meeting	6:30 pm

FRIDAY

AA Meeting	6:30 pm
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Special Events

JANUARY

Jan 4th Laveen Parade Planning Meeting	11:45 am
Youth Bonfire Afterglow	5:00 pm
Jan 5th Elder Meeting	6:00 pm
Jan 7th All evening events resume	5:00pm
Jan 9th Ladies Fellowship Potluck	6:00pm
Jan 11th Mission Team Meeting	11:30 am
Jan 13th Crafting in Ruths Footprints	9:30 am
Jan 16th – 18th Youth Winter Retreat	
Jan 18th Farewell to Deskos—Potluck	11:30 am
Jan 19th Ladies Mon AM Bible Study -weekly	8:30 am
Elder Meeting	6:00 pm
Ladies Mon PM Bible Study - weekly	6:00 pm
Jan 24th Baby Shower for Hannah Hicks	10:00 am
Jan 25th QTR 1 Business Meeting	11:30 am
Testimony Night & Chili Cookoff	5:00 pm
Jan 27th Crafting in Ruth's Footprints	9:30 am
Jan 31st Laveen Parade	10:00 am

Welcome New Deacon & Elder



On December 28, 2025 Elder Bonifacio Ramirez & Deacon Alex Ponce (seated left to right) were ordained into their official positions.

Elders Steve Worley, Matt Downs, Jimmie Creekmur, Dana Desko & Harry Sexton prayed for them.