

Palm Leaf

Church of the Palms

August 2017

Connect with God, find community, make a difference!
We are an Open and Affirming church—You are welcome here!

*For thus the LORD has told me,
"I will look from My dwelling
place quietly Like dazzling
heat in the sunshine, Like a
cloud of dew in the heat of
harvest."*

Isaiah: 18-4

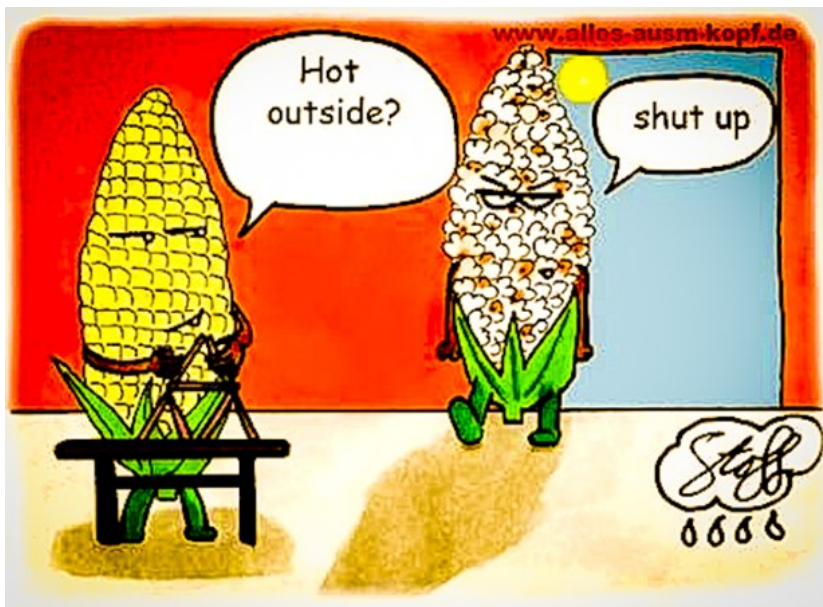
Pastor Paul Whitlock



It is August and it is hot! Our "snow birds" or as I like to call them, winter friends, have journeyed back home. For those of us remaining, each summer becomes a survival test: Drink enough water; Limit exposure to the sun; Park in the shade; Stop and rest often!

Summertime for The Palms is different as well. Some of our groups meet, some do not. Choir takes a sabbatical and we are blessed with individuals sharing their musical talents through voice and or instrument. The office is open less time. Staff is encouraged to use vacation time during summer. One of the main focuses for us as a church does not change: our mission work. Caring for the poor and marginalized people in this community and world is a 24/7/365 reality for The Palms! Especially in the heat of summertime! The people on the streets cannot always escape to the cooler north or into homes with air conditioning - like we can! The working poor are often hit with much higher bills and no way to pay them. Their survival hinges on paying the electric bill or buying food. Add to all of that is the fact that many school districts are about to start their school year. Costs for class fees, clothes, books, supplies, backpacks hit parents right in the middle of the other high costs of summer. Ouch!

I am so proud that we, as the church, don't take summer off. Each week, you can count on a worship service full of welcome and love and grace. As the weather heats up, our Social Justice ministry does, too, continuing our connection with this community with a water drive, backpack collection, and gatherings at ICE offices. I hope you can get away from the heat this summer. If you are in town, I hope you can gather and be what I proudly call a mission oriented church: The Church of the Palms UCC.

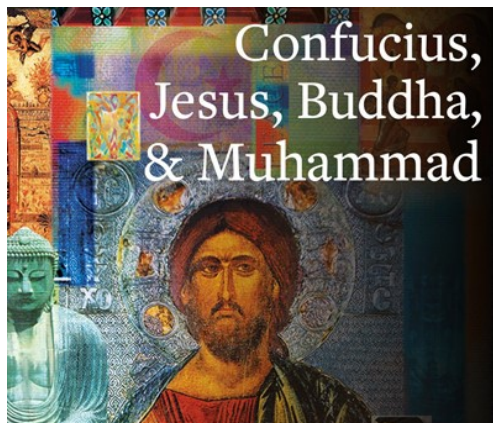


Sunday Bible Study presents:



**Confucius, Buddha,
Jesus, and Muhammad
Starting August 6, 2017
8:30 – 9:30 am**

Now, in "Confucius, Buddha,
Jesus, and Muhammad,"
award-winning Professor Mark
W. Muesse of Rhodes College
takes you deep into the life
stories and legacies of these
four iconic figures, revealing
the core, original teachings,
and thoughts of each, and
shedding light on the historical
processes that underlie their
phenomenal, enduring impact.



**NOTES FROM THE
BOARD OF WORSHIP AND FINE ARTS**

**FREE
SUMMER MOVIES**

1:00 p.m.
August 10th ,
"The Iron Lady"
September 7th
"Ruthless People"

"One in Spirit—One in Song"

Hosted in June at The Church of the Palms





*The UCC's 31st General Synod Highlights
Baltimore, Maryland.*

Wendy and I were thrilled to represent you and attend the General Synod of the UCC. For those who are interested in what resolutions were passed, here is a summary. You can read the complete report on ucc.org.

GENERAL SYNOD 2017

Minimum Wage:

Delegates to the United Church of Christ's General Synod 2017 voted in favor of a resolution advocating for economic justice, including calling for churches to support legislation that raises the minimum wages to \$15 per hour.

Adult Survivors of Child Abuse:

Noting that the Creator "implores us" to "open our mouths, judge righteously and defend the rights of the afflicted and needy," the United Church of Christ's General Synod 2017 called on the various settings of the church to publicly address "the healing needs of adult survivors of child abuse."

Gun Violence:

Guided in large part by the voices of youth, General Synod 2017 enthusiastically passed a resolution of witness urging the recognition of gun violence as a public health emergency deserving of federal funding for scientific research.

Change in UCC National Leadership:

After two lengthy years of conversation, deliberation and collaboration, delegates to General Synod 2017 approved a set of changes to the United Church of Christ's Constitution and Bylaws that will reshape the leadership of the church. Those amendments will allow the denomination's national setting to be more nimble, flexible, and adaptive as the church lives into the vision of creating a just world for all. Under the approved amendments, the leadership of the national setting will rest with a general minister and president, who is called by General Synod; associate general ministers would also be called by General Synod, and their scope of work will be determined by the general minister and president, with input from the UCC Board of Directors. The associate general ministers would not be specifically designated to one of the three covenanted ministries (Local Church Ministries, Wider Church Ministries, and Justice and Witness Ministries).

Climate Change:

The United Church of Christ, noting both the urgency of climate change and the continued debate over its existence, is "raising its prophetic voice" to urge the "healing of the Earth." The delegates of the General Synod passed a resolution that calls on clergy across the life of the church to preach about the moral obligation to protect God's creation, and appeals to its members to lead efforts to educate and advocate for legislation to reduce the human impact on the environment.

Election of Traci Blackmon:

The Rev. Traci Blackmon was elected the executive minister of United Church of Christ Justice and Witness Ministries by delegates to General Synod 2017 after serving in that capacity as acting executive minister for 19 months.

Shalom, Paul

*A Message from our Moderator
George Wall*

JOY INTO YOUR HEART

Read 1 Thessalonians 5:15-16

Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong, but always try to be kind to each other and to everyone else.

Be joyful always

Thought for the day: Put God and joy into your heart.

I belong to several organizations including my church and I am always volunteering by taking on projects, joining committees and just helping in anyway I can. My wife says I can't say no. This is a part of the truth, but the real truth is that I get tremendous joy from giving my time and knowledge to worthwhile endeavors.

For example:

When I drive the church bus and I see the happy smiles on the people I pick up, a joy runs through my heart.

When I lead a bird watching trip and point out to a novice a beautiful bird sitting in a tree, joy runs through my heart.

When I see the excited eyes of a group of Girl Scouts as they look and listen to a talk I'm giving them, joy runs through my heart.

God gave me this gift to lead, talk and help others and I will continue to do so; so, that joy runs through my heart.

Prayer: Dear Heavenly Father, help us bring joy to our hearts by helping others.

*New Member Orientation
Wednesday, August 16 3 p.m.*

More folks have reached the point where they wish to become members. Wonderful! How about *you*?

Our next group of new members will be welcomed on Sunday, August 20th. The orientation and new member supper will be on Wednesday, August 16th, in the King Hall, starting at 3 p.m.

You may join as a member or an associate member (where you keep your membership in a church somewhere else). Either way, you have full voice and vote.

Let us Make You a Memory!

Have you seen the pillow on the event table in the narthex? When someone passes away, it is great to have a visual reminder of them - something that brings back pleasant memories as you



walk by and notice it. A memory Pillow is a great and practical reminder. Give us the shirt or blouse of the

loved one who has passed on and the Service Project Craft Group will make it into a pillow. What a great gift for a friend who has lost a loved one - or for your children who have lost a parent and for yourself.

See Carol Reynolds or come by the BR where we meet each Wed from 9 - 11. We'd love to make a pillow for you.



Debby's Corner....

August Greetings!

Has the summer been busy so far? It has been for me. I enjoyed lunching with the Women's Discussion group and the Lydia Circle and then dining with



DEBBY'S CORNER

the Singles and Solos. To work off all that eating, I went walking the mall with some of our folks and set up the Wii at a Singles and Solos Fellowship time. I have been blessed to be a part of most of the Sunday morning worship services and even preached on July 2nd. My curiosity has been very active and my questioning in full force. My most frequent question has been "What has the Church done in the past that you miss?" And from what I hear, Social Activities are always a big hit. As we vision for our future, what other kinds of things can we make happen here at Church of the Palms? Where do you want to feel God active in your life? Let me know.

I am here for you!

Blessings, Debby



Social Justice Meet and Greet!

July 8, 2017

We had a great Social Justice Team meeting in July. Members of the community came and we made lots of new friends and contacts. Special thanks to [Debby Stinton](#) for her leadership. What a great group of caring people providing an extravagant welcome!



The Board of Evangelism presents:

PAINTING THE STARS

Science, Religion and an Evolving Faith

When I have a terrible need of – dare I say, 'religion'? – then I go outside at night and paint the stars."

-- Vincent Van Gogh

Celebrating the communion of science and faith, *Painting the Stars* explores the promise of evolutionary Christian spirituality. Featuring over a dozen leading theologians and progressive thinkers, the seven-session program includes a downloadable/printable participant reader (written by evolutionary theologian Bruce Sanguin) and a facilitator guide with discussion questions.

Themes:

1. Toward Healing the Rift
2. A Renaissance of Wonder
3. Getting Genesis Wrong
4. An Evolving Faith
5. Evolutionary Christianity
6. Imagining a Future An Evolving Spirituality: Mysticism

Starting Monday, August 7th 10:00 – 11:30 am

We all know that the power of prayer really and truly works. My tests have all come back negative and I am cancer free! I thank you all for the many cards and calls and prayers that you sent my way before and after my surgery. I thank God for being part of a church community where people are so concerned and are so willing to give you a helping hand, it is a great gift. You are all very special to me.

God bless and keep you always!

With much love,

Deb Martin



Welcome to the
Singles & Solos
Fellowship, Games,
Entertainment

Dining out & Mall Walking Events.

1st Saturday of each month =
walk the mall 7:30 & Game Day
10am -12:30pm

3rd Wednesday of each month =
walk the mall 7:30 & game day
11:30 a.m.-2 p.m.

Day trips, Dining, & events are
planned monthly. If you have any
ideas please bring
them to our
attention.

Friends are welcome.

For More Info contact
Debby Stinton - Staff Liaison at
623-977-8359

Mall
Walkers



A small group of us had a splendid time at our event at Lee Lee's Oriental Market. Many different and unusual items: spices, teas, rices & noodles, seafood fresh-frozen, fresh produce & different foods from nearly every country in the world. Oriental dishware & cooking woks, pots, candies and cookies. We enjoyed a nice relaxing little lunch there-even learned how to "custom wrap a fresh spring-roll with rice!"



AUGUST EVENTS

August 1 & 16 - Walk Mall & Game Day

SWEET TOMATOES Buffet Mid-day-lunch - Tuesday August 8. with senior discount prices includes drinks and taxes . Under \$9.00 each. Meet at church to carpool at 1:45 - or meet at Sweet Tomatoes on Bell at 2:00. Senior price begins at 2pm.

DANCE rock & roll to 50's 60's 70's D.J. Music - Saturday August 19 - Meet at church to carpool at 5:30 or go to Fairway Rec Center in Sun City. Cost is \$6.00. Bring your own snacks & beverage.

The Ecumenical Renewal Retreat XIV

September 5 - 8 of 2017

Chapel Rock Conference Center, Prescott, Arizona



Church of the Palms is the primary sponsor for this year's retreat which will focus on: "Our Worship Music thru the Ages"! On Wednesday Rabbi Nina Perlmutter will lead the retreat and present the music from the Jewish tradition. On Thursday Jim Alexander will lead us in a look at the traditional and contemporary music from the Christian perspective. Mary Whitlock will lead us in Retreat Hymns throughout the retreat.

You can expect to do some singing and some listening and lots of enjoying! Music is, at its essence, the sound of spirit. When created from the heart and with truth and pure intention, music is a spiritual expression of the most universal nature and the highest order. The spiritual nature of music cannot be defined by religion, culture or genre. Music precedes and transcends all of those frameworks. What a better way to spend the hot late summer days than to be in the beautiful cool pines of Prescott, listening to and singing spiritual sounds of Judeo-Christian music.

*Rabbi Nina Perlmutter
Rabbi Emerita, Congregation Lev Shalom,
Faculty Emeritus, Yavapai College*

*Jim Alexander
Church of the Palms,
Minister of Worship & Arts, Assistant Pastor*

*Mary Whitlock
Member Church of the Palms,
Retreat Organizer and Bible Study Leader*

For more information contact
Debby Stinton dstinton@thepalms.org or John Durbin jst4us21@cox.net



august
birthdays
2017

- 08/01 Scott Patrick
- 08/03 James Clark
- 08/03 Terry Murphy
- 08/06 Marjorie Gornall
- 08/07 Larry Koncelik
- 08/07 Abbey Atkins
- 08/08 Phil Detienne
- 08/10 Nancy Esty
- 08/11 Bonnie Wyman
- 08/13 Chuck Eckstein
- 08/16 Linette Stenberg
- 08/18 Carl Adrian
- 08/19 Terry Starr
- 08/20 Erick Ahokas
- 08/22 Peter Lewis
- 08/27 Freda Ganther
- 08/28 Carolyn Modeen
- 08/29 Warren Pinter



Art Show
2018

The Board of Worship and Fine Arts is giving you a years' notice of The Palms' Art Show.

In February of 2018 we will be featuring creative people in our own Congregation. We will host the show on Saturday with a follow-up viewing on Sunday morning until noon. All Media are welcome. Space consideration in King Hall will determine size restrictions for individual showings.

Look for more information on this popular event in early Fall 2017.

Get Your Creative Juices Flowing!
Judy Beal

Celluloid Psalms



Jack Evans is our guide through a series of four films that draw their inspiration from four different faith sources.

These are not "religious" films but are instead films that derive their stories from characters and themes based on the tenants of Buddhism, Christianity, Islam and Judaism.

9:30 a.m. Boardroom
August 18th
Tender Mercies

September 15th
A Separation

October 20th
A Serious Man

November 17th
Spring Summer
Fall Winter and Spring

Services in August

Lord's Day Service each week at 10 a.m.
Fellowship Time in King Hall at 11 a.m.

For bus pick-up:
Please Call Mary Kennicott: 623-249-8999
or the church at 623-977-8359



August 6: Read Matthew 14:13-21. This story tells of the feeding of 5,000. Pastor Paul will be preaching. What is the real miracle of this story? Could it be changing stingy people into grateful sharing people? Come and find out. Plus, somehow, someday, the beginning of the school year will be worked into all of this.

August 13: Pastor Paul is preaching on Matthew 14:22-33. This story has Jesus and Peter trying to walk on water. One did; one did not. Fear was the great inhibitor for Peter. It is for us, too. What can we do if we put fear aside and depend upon faith?

August 20: Jim is preaching on Matthew 15:10-28. How great is your faith? Can you imagine what would happen if we fervently sought Jesus, relying on God's grace and mercy?

August 27: We live in a multicultural society. How do we relate to those of other faith traditions who are our co-workers, neighbors, friends? What do we do when we see people who have different ways than ours? Pastor Paul will be preaching from Matthew 16:13-19.



PFLAG
phoenix

7 p.m.
Monday,
August 21st
First Congregational
United Church of
Christ, UCC

Sign-Up Today!

Parents, Families and Friends ^{And} ~~of~~ Lesbians and Gays
(and Bisexual, Transgender, and "Questioning" People)

Singles and Solos Game-Fellowship Days & Hours:
First Saturday of each month from 10:00 AM to 12:30pm
and the Third Wednesday of each month from
11:30am to 2:00pm.

Greetings all! Our Singles Group here at Church of the Palms invites all you "Solos" to come and socialize, play games, and be in fellowship too. Debby Stinton is an example of a "solo," she is married, but her husband works and does not do the social things she likes to do.

Upcoming Events

Singles and Solos going to some Plays...

Sun City Players Community Players at Mountain View Auditorium
at 2:00 pm

10/29/17 Blythe Spirit (by Noel Coward)

1/14/18 Making God Laugh

3/11/18 Nunsense

All 3 Plays cost \$25.

Individual Plays are \$10.



Ruthann Bilkey will be purchasing tickets for row 1 to 3 on August 1st. If you would like to be a part of the group, please get a check payable to Ruthann Bilkey as soon as possible. There is small discount if we get 10+ people for season tickets.

Let's go have some fun!





LIFE LINE SCREENING®

The Power of Prevention



Life Line Screening
Monday, August 7th 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Life Line Screening, a leading provider of community-based preventive health screenings, will offer their affordable, non-invasive and painless health screenings at Church of the Palms on 8/7/2017. Five screenings will be offered that scan for potential health problems related to: blocked arteries which is a leading cause of stroke; abdominal aortic aneurysms which can lead to a ruptured aorta; hardening of the arteries in the legs which is a strong predictor of heart disease; atrial fibrillation or irregular heart beat which is closely tied to stroke risk; and a bone density screening, for men and women, used to assess the risk of osteoporosis. a Wellness Package which includes 4 vascular tests and osteoporosis screening from \$149 (\$139 with our member discount).

All five screenings take 60-90 minutes to complete. In order to register for this event and to receive a \$10 discount off any package priced above \$129, please call 1-888-653-6441 or use the sign-up sheet in the Narthex.





THE CHURCH OF THE PALMS SOCIAL JUSTICE TEAM REPORT

Our Social Justice Team has been very active this summer with a number of activities. Following is a statement and prayer written by Michael Curry, our service leader July 16th, and read by members of Shadow Rock and Church of the Palms, pictured below, at the ICE Office, Phoenix on July 17th, 2017.

"Here we are in the sweltering heat of the Arizona summer standing together on the threshold of the Immigration and Customs Enforcement office to offer a statement and prayer with the ongoing hope that we will one day experience immigration reform for all of God's beloved children.

Our heart is heavy this morning as there is no new information in the cases of Ismael Delgado and Sixto Paz who are still in sanctuary at Shadow Rock United Church of Christ in Phoenix as they can only wait as with pray for them and their families that they may no longer be separated by the confines of the walls of Shadow Rock. We continue to pray for Marco Tulio and his family as we journey and join with them in the fight to bring him home to his wife and children.



If you use Facebook, you are invited to "like" Church of the Palms and become a friend of the church.

Photos from events and outings reposted there.



www.thepalms.org

We offer:

- Sermon Gallery
- Paul at the Palms
- News and Events
- The Palm Leaf Newsletter
- Monthly Calendar
- General Synod News
- Photos



The Church of the Palms
14808 N. Boswell Boulevard,
Sun City, AZ 85351
Phone (623-977-8359)



Summer Office Hours: Monday-Fri. 8am-Noon
Office e-mail: manager@thepalms.org
Website: www.thepalms.org

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



Drawn together by the Holy Spirit, we are a distinct and diverse community of Christians that come together as one church, joining faith and action.

In covenant with the church in all of its settings, we serve God in the co-creation of a just and sustainable world as made manifest in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

"That they may all be one," Jesus, speaking in prayer. —John 17:21

Palm Leaf is a monthly newsletter from the Church of the Palms that makes it easy for you to keep up with opportunities, events, and friends at church.

Articles deadline: 15th of each month

You may submit an article or information for an article by:

Email (manager@thepalms.org)
Phone (623-977-8359),
Or drop it off at the church.

Office Staff:
Pastor Paul Whitlock, Senior Minister
Jim Alexander, Assistant Pastor
Debby Stinton, Pastoral Assistant
Deborah Martin, Secretary

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
AUGUST 2017 <i>in The Church of the Palms, UCC</i>						
6 8:30AM Sunday Discussion A Quartet of Sages 10 Worship/Communion 11 Fellowship (KH)	7 8-5PM Life Line Screening (KH) 10:00 Life Long Learning presents: Painting the Stars <i>Toward Healing the Rift</i> (BR)	8 10AM Inchworm Bible Study-Last till 9-12-2017 (BR) 10 Board of Evangelism (CP) 11:30 Cosmic Christians	9 9AM Service Project Craft Group (BR)	10 11:30AM Dementia Seminar Meeting (BR) Personnel Committee Meeting BOARD OF WORSHIP AND FINE ARTS Free Summer Movies August 10th 1:00 p.m. "The Iron Lady"	11 11:30AM Dementia Seminar Meeting (BR) Personnel Committee Meeting BOARD OF WORSHIP AND FINE ARTS Free Summer Movies August 10th 1:00 p.m. "The Iron Lady"	12 7:30AM Singles and Solos Mail Walk 9 Communion Preparation 10:00 Singles and Solo's Game Day and Fellowship
13 8:30AM Sunday Discussion Confucius's China 10 Worship (SA) 11 Fellowship (KH) 3PM ONE IN SPIRIT ONE IN SONG 1 ST PRESBYTERIAN 12225 N. 103 rd Ave	14 10:00AM Life Long Learning presents: Painting the Stars <i>A Renaissance of Wonder</i>	15 11:30AM Cosmic Christians	16 7:30AM Singles and Solos Mail Walk 11:30 Singles and Solo's Game Day 3PM New Member Orientation (KH)	17 7:30AM Singles and Solos Mail Walk 11:30 Singles and Solo's Game Day 3PM New Member Orientation (KH)	18 9:30AM Jack Evans presents: CELLULOID PSALMS "Tender Mercies"	19 9:30AM Jack Evans presents: CELLULOID PSALMS "Tender Mercies"
20 Welcome New Members! 8:30AM Sunday Discussion Becoming a Sage 10 Worship 11 Fellowship	21 10:00AM Life Long Learning presents: <i>Getting Genesis Wrong</i> 7PM PFlag Phoenix Field Trip to First Congregational United Church of Christ, UCC	22 11:30AM Cosmic Christians	23 9AM Service Project Craft Group (BR)	24 9AM Service Project Craft Group (BR)	25 9:30AM Jack Evans presents: CELLULOID PSALMS "Tender Mercies"	26 PLEASE BRING FOOD TOMORROW FOR OLIVE BRANCH SENIOR CENTER
27 8:30AM Sunday Discussion No Discussion 10 Worship 11 Fellowship	28 10:00AM Life Long Learning presents: Painting the Stars <i>An Evolving Faith</i>	29 11:30AM Cosmic Christians	30 9AM Service Project Craft Group (BR)	31 9AM Service Project Craft Group (BR)	For thus the LORD has told me, "I will look from My dwelling place quietly Like dazzling heat in the sunshine, Like a cloud of dew in the heat of harvest." <i>Isaiah: 18-4</i>	