

Palm Leaf

Church of the Palms

January 2017

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

*HAPPY
NEW
YEAR!*

Come to the Palms annual meeting!

The annual meeting of the Church of the Palms will be held on Saturday, January 28, in King Hall at 10 a.m. Everyone is invited to come and to participate in the business of our church.

During the meeting, we will review the past year. You will be able to pick up a copy of the annual report in the

Among the important business to be addressed is the election of officers for the coming year and the budget for 2017.

Because our church operates in a congregational mode, each member is able to vote and have their voice heard on church business.

This is a long-standing core value of the United Church of Christ. Your voice is always heard.

Pastor Paul's message



Well, we managed to make one more trip around the sun. For just about everyone, this year brought a shroud of uncertainty with health, loved ones, and/or the future. Often these times bring on a sense of worry. The gospels tell us not to worry. Yet, it is hard to expect anyone not to worry at least some during this time; So, if we're going to worry, I suggest we just worry about *worthy things*.

Things ***not to worry about***:

- Perfect plans (or trying to be perfect for that matter);
- Wrinkled clothes or wrinkled faces;
- Scores (especially if you're a fan of Phoenix area teams);
- Burnt stuff (tell folks that it's Cajun) or enough time (there never is enough);
- Newsletter article deadlines and Spelling.

Things ***to worry about***:

- Did I say a least one kind thing to the people in the market, in my house, and/or church?
- Does everyone in my family (including those not related by blood) know that I love them?
- Is there gentleness, forgiveness and patience (or at least one of the three) in my heart?
- What am I doing to help the poor and the marginalized in this community?
- How do I provided an extravagant welcome to visitors?

I want each and everyone one of us to seriously examine how God can help us make this wonderful church home even better. What will it take? What are you willing to do to make it happen?

If you are reading this, know that we love you and wish for you a less worrisome new year. We are glad to be journeying with you at The Church of the Palms.
God Bless you.

Shalom,
Paul and Wendy Whitlock



Life Long Learning

Mondays January 9th, 16th, 23rd
10:00 a.m.

*"Let food be thy medicine and
medicine be thy food"*
Hippocrates

Jan 9th & 16th

In this series of classes, we will explore whether Hippocrates had it right. Through videos, presentations and class discussions, we will look at which populations around the world have the healthiest and longest lives and what we can learn from them. We will look at the dietary recommendations from the USDA and how to incorporate them into our lives. We will examine the claims by medical doctors and researchers that many of our contemporary degenerative diseases such as diabetes, hypertension and obesity can be controlled and possibly reversed through dietary and lifestyle changes. We invite you to come with an open mind and prepare to learn some new things. Facilitators are Church of the Palms members, Pam Clark and Carol Bryan

Jan 23rd 10 a.m.

Organ Transplants. Speaker Kevin Cabrera from the Research for Life Foundation is our speaker for this interesting and informative class. Facilitated by Jeff Scruggs.



Cosmic Christians December Schedule



The Cosmic Christians meet as usual every Tuesday of the month through

December. The discussion group begins at 11:30 and goes to 1 p.m.



Bible Study

Tuesdays, 10 -11:20 A.M. Guided by Mary Whitlock. Our next study will be the Stillspeaking Bible Study. "In this brief *Stillspeaking Bible Study*, nine different voices interpret nine different biblical passages that urgently say one thing: *"We serve a living, loving God who is still speaking, who is not finished yet, who has more truth and light to break forth, and who is calling you and me to respond this day. Right now."*

FROM THE STILLSPEAKING WRITERS' GROUP...The Stillspeaking Writers' Group is made up of United Church of Christ ministers, pastors, and authors who collaborate on a variety of resources for people in the church, outside the church, and not so sure about the church. Their motto: "Hearing God where you live (and other surprising places)."



The Church of the Palms donations to The Hart Pantry, were enormous! Caroline Modine helps to load the Loot!

Through Mission and Outreach our church also made Christmas bright for the infants and toddlers at New Life Center.



Old Friend, Pastor Len stopped by to speak at our Dec. Fellowship Breakfast. It was a toss up as to what was the bigger treat..Pastor Len...or George's Breakfast!

Ruthie Whitlock volunteers for Welcome Wagon duty! We may keep her full time!



Bonnie Tweedy turns 90! A wonderful Celebration for a wonderful lady!

A Gift of Hope! A spectacular day of music and fellowship! Thank you Jim Alexander, The Sanctuary Choir, our Bell ensemble and Doris Gott!



The Church of the Palms Christmas 2016

Come to the January Fellowship Breakfast



**Jan. 10—8:00 a.m.
KWANZAA!**

The Board of Evangelism will again offer an uplifting program at our Fellowship Breakfast on Tuesday, January 10, at 8 a.m.

Barbara Arnold, church member and author, is our speaker for his interesting and fact filled program.

Kwanzaa is a Swahili word that means "first" and signifies the first fruits of the harvest. From December 26 to January 1, many people of African decent in America-celebrate Kwanzaa.

Enjoy a full, hot breakfast provided by our always smiling kitchen team of Maria and George Wall and Bonnie Green. Invite a friend or neighbor! There is never a charge for breakfast, but a giving basket will be out for donations .

Equal Exchange
2nd Sunday of each month

Equal Exchange products from small farmers is embraced by twelve denominations. When coffee (or other products) are purchased by church members in each denomination, the denominations get money back for their projects. Our purchases count twice-ask your members of Board of Missions that are selling coffees the second Sunday of each month. (Narthex, before and after church)



January Birthdays!

1/02	Lynn Jacobson
1/03	Christine Bauknecht
1/09	Pam Clark
1/10	Lois Chaffee
1/10	Susan Hershberger
1/10	Carol Reynolds
1/12	Amy Alves
1/13	Ruth Skaar
1/16	Vicki Nichols
1/18	Jamie Krauss
1/19	Clint Brown
1/21	Frank Bauknecht
1/27	Elaine Bunney
1/28	Damien Baker-Webster

Ice Cream Social



**Monday, January 23,
2:00 p.m.**

**WEEK OF PRAYER
For Christian Unity 2017**

NOON TO ONE O'CLOCK

January 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20

If ever there was a need for Christian Unity, it is now! As our country and our world seem to be becoming more divisive it is good that we focus on, and pray about, the theme of this year's week of prayer: "Reconciliation – The Love of Christ Compels Us". Please join us during the week of prayer services listed below. Each lay lead service last one hour, from 12:00 noon to 1:00PM, with a church service starting at 12:00 and concluding with lunch from 12:30 to 1:00.

Sunday 15th

Christ's Compelling Love

Prayers in each Congregation for God's Blessings on the 2017 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Celebrations and the movement toward world-wide unity of all God's People!

Monday 16th, At First Presbyterian Church

12225 N. 103rd Ave. Sun City

One Has Died for All

Offering: Jams/Jellies

Tuesday 17th, At ST. Elizabeth Seton Catholic Church

9728 Palmeras Drive Sun City

Live No Longer for Self

Offering: Bags of Rice

Wednesday 18th, Here, at The Church of the Palms

14808 N. Boswell Sun City

Regard Not from Human Point of View

Offering: Peanut Butter-Large Jars

Thursday 19, At All Saints of the Desert Episcopal Church

9502 W. Hutton Drive Sun City

Everything Old Has Passed Away

Offering: Pasta

Friday 20, At First United Methodist Church,

9849 N. 105th Avenue Sun City

Everything Has Become New

Offering: Tuna

All food offerings go to the Valley View Food Bank

Partnering Churches: Shepard of the Desert, Saint Joachim and St. Anne and Faith Presbyterian
The "Week of Prayer for Christian Unity" provides an opportunity to join in prayer and fellowship with our Christian brothers and sisters from other churches in the Sun City area.

For more information, please speak with Debby Stinton or Pat & John Durbin.

Here's what's coming up

From the Life-Long Learning team

Learning and growing events planned for the coming months include:

Our Sunday Morning Lifelong Learning video and conversation is brought to you by Professor Bart Ehrman of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and our very own Debby Stinton, M.Div from 8:30 – 9:30 am in the Board Room. We are learning about the New Testament from a historical perspective and then answering some questions or chatting about what stood out as the most intriguing idea to each of us. Come be in conversation and relationship! Our upcoming lectures are:

January 8: Jesus the Apocalyptic Prophet

January 15: The Acts of the Apostles

January 22: Paul – The Man, the Mission, and the *Modus Operandi*

January 29: Paul and the Crises of His Churches – First Corinthians

February 5: Pauline Ethics

February 12: Paul's Letter to the Romans

February 19: Paul, Jesus, and James

February 26: The Deutero-Pauline Epistles

*In Loving Memory
Les Bunny*

December 31, 2016

Memorial date: January 5, 11 a.m.

(cont.)

March 5: The Pastoral Epistles

March 12: No Class. Debby in Ireland

March 19: The Book of Hebrews and the Rise of Christian Anti-Semitism

March 26: First Peter and the Persecution of the Early Christians

April 2: The Book of Revelation

April 9: Do We Have the Original New Testament?

Annual Report 2016

Statements due soon!

If you are the chair of a church board, it's time to get started writing your report of activities during the past year. Please submit your report to Pastor Paul or the office mail at manger@thepalms.org by January 10th .

We need to get everything together in order for the report to be ready for the church Annual Meeting in January. Thanks in advance, for your timely response to this .

Monthly visitors sought to call on those at home

The Care Team Ministry knows of several members of our congregation who are no longer able to get out to church.

We'd like to have someone visit them once a month to let them know that their church still remembers and care about them.

If you can help please see Ruthann Bilkey, 623-875-5125.

Thank you for serving in this way.

***NEW SUNDAY FLOWER MINISTRY
Starts in January***

COTP will begin a new Sunday flower ministry beginning in January.

Instead of purchasing flowers from a florist, Jeff Scruggs has offered to create vase arrangements for every Sunday. Sun City Florists and Joni Babbitt, (who supplied flowers at no cost...whenever she was needed!) have been doing a fine job. However, this program will be less expensive and hopefully more reliable. Members are currently paying \$40.00 per arrangement. The cost will be reduced to \$30.00. Flowers may be ordered through the office as usual. Jeff will try to honor any reasonable special requests whenever possible. If someone just has to have a chartreuse bunch of roses that may not happen.

When you place your order, please let us know the occasion; i.e. anniversary, memorial, birthday, etc. We will also begin offering single bud vases in celebration of new babies in your life. The cost of the bud vases is \$5.00.

The flowers always belong to whoever is purchasing them. If you choose to take the arrangement home, please return the vase for reuse if at all possible. This will help keep costs down. If you would like to donate your flowers, the arrangement will be given over to our CARE team. They will then make sure that they are taken to an appreciative member who could use a flower to brighten their day.

Please try to have your order placed no later than Thursday of the preceding week. Last minute requests cannot be guaranteed.

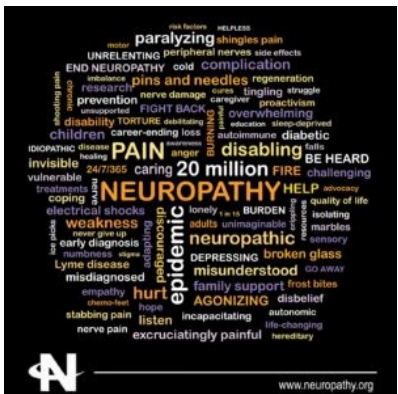
If you should have any special orders that you would like to discuss with Jeff, please contact him directly. Cell: 623-810-8044
Email: dzlbug@cox.net

This is a special thank you to everyone that came out to celebrate my 90th birthday. My family and friends made it very special for me and I will never forget the love that everyone showed me. Again, thank you from the bottom of my heart for celebrating my special day!
May God bless you all

Bonnie Tweedy

We would like to thank our Church Family for all the calls, cards, e-mails and prayers which helped so much after my accident. Thanks to your prayers I am very much on the mend and with the Lord's help I will be able to serve our Church and Church Family again soon. We love you all.

Maria and George Wall.



Neuropathy & Pain Support Group. Thursday, January 12, at 10 a.m. This is an active support group and all are welcome. The group meets the 2nd Thursday of each and is led by Scott Patrick.

Services in January

Lord's Day Service each week at 10 a.m.

Fellowship Time in King Hall at 11 a.m.

For bus pick-up:

Call Mary at 623-249-8999

by noon Friday for Sunday pick-up



January 1: Matthew 2:13-23. Right from the very beginning, Jesus was a refugee. Herod was slaughtering innocent children and the Holy family ran for their very lives. Sounds like what the people of Aleppo are doing this very day. Pastor Paul will be preaching.

January 8: Remember and be changed. Remembering Jesus' and our baptism and how we are changed by it. Jim Alexander will be preaching.

January 15: 1 Corinthians 1:1-3. All I am saying, is give peace a chance. On this MLK, Jr., weekend we will be exploring how we can be peacemakers. Pastor Paul will be preaching.

January 22: Our own, Debby Stinton, will be preaching. We will be celebrating Laity Sunday.

January 29: Micah 6:6-8. What are God's requirements for us. Here we have it in clear terms: do justice, love kindness, walk humbly with our God. Pastor Paul is back in the pulpit this week.



Donation Bin

Located in the Narthex,
Please give generously!

A simple prayer: "Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us be mindful of those who are without a bowl of soup to eat" is inspiring a youth-led movement to help hungry and hurting people around the world.

This prayer, delivered by Brad Smith, then a seminary intern serving at Spring Valley Presbyterian Church in Columbia, SC, gave birth to an idea.

Why not use the time leading up to Super Bowl weekend, a time when people come together for football and fun, to also unify the nation for a higher good: collecting canned food for the needy, soup kitchens, food banks and other charities in communities across the country. In addition, hundreds of thousands of people have experienced for themselves the joy and satisfaction of giving and serving, inspiring people of all ages to follow their generous example.

PLEASE DONATE CANNED FOODS!
All Donations Go To
Valley View Food Bank

The Board of Worship and Fine Arts Invites you to:

“Blind Dinner”

Saturday January 21st at 4:00 p.m.

Church of the Palms

The purpose of the “Blind Dinner” is not to perfectly recreate blindness. Instead, it allows people to interact, trust each other, and experience community in an entirely new way. In the dark, there are no uncomfortable glances, no self-consciousness about what you’re wearing or what you weigh, no distinction between the sighted and blind.



For further information,
please contact:

Paul Hiles: 480-297-3838



Never Be Afraid To Trust An Unknown New Year To A Known God.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!



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



**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, Minister

Deborah Martin, Office Manager