

Palm Leaf

Church of the Palms

April 2017

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

Easter is Coming!!

REWRITING

THE
LORD
IS MY

SHEPHERD

HE
LIES
DOWN

IN GREEN
PASTURES

HE
GUIDES
ME
ALONG
THE
RIGHT
PATHS

BECAUSE
OF
YOUR
NAME
I
WALK
THROUGH
THE
VALLEY
OF
SHADOW
OF
DEATH

I
WILL
FEAR
NO
EVIL

FOR
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ARE
WITH
ME
YOUR
ROD
AND
YOUR
STAFF
THEY
COMFORT
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Pastor Paul Whitlock

Thank you for all the gifts you give, O God, even when I forget they come from you.

Forgive me for all the grievances that I nurture and remember too readily.

Save me from self-pity, self-centeredness, hard-heartedness, and having to have things done my way or not at all.

Guide me, if I'm willing; inspire me, if I am not; into the ways of togetherness, companionship, and partnership.

Give me wide-eyes to see how mission can be expanded beyond my own imagination.

Give me a heart full of possibilities, and a heart that sees my neighbor's needs and gifts.

Give me ears to hear joys and concerns, to be silent and truly listen, and understanding to comprehend fully.

Give me voice to proclaim peace and possibility in the midst of confusion and difficult issues.

Dull my envy which is quick to complain and rip others into a thousand pieces.

Keep me honest and open enough to heal, tough enough to be healed of my hypocrisies, and willing to re-learn so that I might walk with you.

Match my appetite for your grace, justice, and inclusiveness with a stomach that can commit to those core values.

Teach me hospitality that I might give and receive your welcome and recognize that we are all on holy ground.

As we transition from Lent to the season of resurrection, breathe on us as you did your disciples long ago. Embolden us with courage to make something new, something which expands our mission, something that gives us a new awakening and understanding of joy you have given us. Resurrect us!

Shalom,
Paul

P.S. To all of our Winter Friends who are journeying back to their summer homes: Thank you! Your presence, gifts of time, talent, and treasure are a tremendous blessing to The Palms and to me! We pray for a safe trip and wonderful summer. We look forward to your return to us. Please give us your summer address so we can keep you informed on the exciting things God is doing at The Church of the Palms.

Our Journey to Easter

We are accepting Easter plant and Spring Flower orders now until April 12th, in the amount of \$10 per plant. If you would like to purchase an Easter remembrance in honor of a loved one, please fill out your Giving envelope or coupon and make sure it is in the church office by April 12th. The flowers will be placed throughout the Sanctuary on Easter morning and available for you to take home or share with a homebound member.

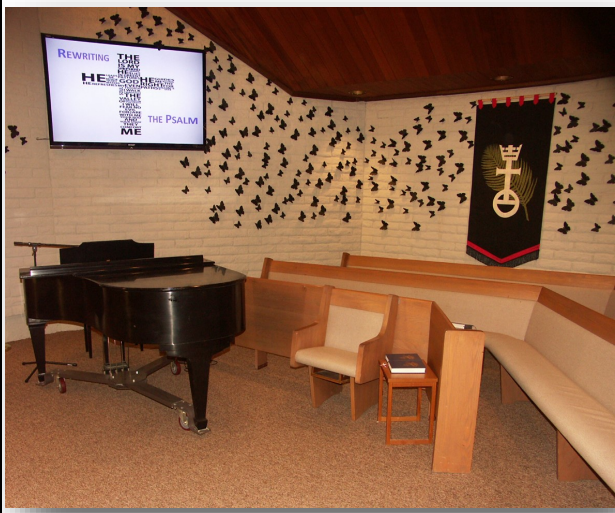
Worship Services in April

*Maundy Thursday
April 13th
The Church of the Palms
1:00 p.m.*

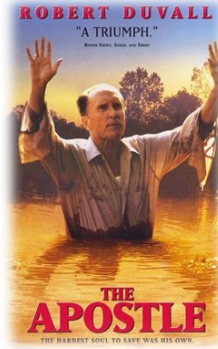
*Good Friday
April 14th
United Church of Christ
Sun City
1:00 p.m.*

*The Church of the Palms
Easter Sunday
April 16th*

*Sunshine Service: 8:30 a.m.
Regular Service: 10:00 a.m.*



Cosmic Christians in April



The Cosmic Christian Discussion Group is pleased to announce that on April 4th 11:30 am Jack Evans will be showing the movie, "The Apostle" with Robert Duvall, to our group as an enhancement to our discussion of the parable "Hidden Treasure" Matt. 13:44.

The movie presents the theme of being seduced by what we think is good into action with an immoral outcome. Jack tells us that the movie also gives us a different and sympathetic perspective on fundamentalists. We invite anyone who wishes to come to join us. For more information, contact Linette Stenberg (623-334-9197) or curlinsten@msn.com

Welcome New Members!

We are continually delighted by the new folks coming into our church life! Our next class of new members will be received on April 30th, with an orientation session and dinner on Wednesday, the 19th of April at 3:30 p.m.

If you have been considering membership or associate membership, we would love to include you! Give the office a call or sign the Covenant Book in the entry area on Sunday.



Our great
looking new
Recycling Center!

Thank you
Ron Schultz



We had 17 guests join in the trip to the Musical Instrument Museum. There were many new exhibits to enjoy as well as the ongoing exhibits. The Irish Musical Festival was in full swing. Many of our folks enjoyed traditional corned beef and cabbage in the Allegro Cafe. This is definitely a destination place for local residents as it is for visitors from all over the world. Jim Alexander and Elaine Bunney are going to do a piano/frog scraper duet soon.



Lydia Circle

You are invited to join the members of the Lydia Circle on Wednesday, April 12th at 1:00 p.m. for a showing of a timely and Inspirational film titled My Son, My Savior. Mary's participation in the life of Jesus.

*April 2017
Fellowship Breakfast*



Frog scraper
China, 20th c.

At our April Fellowship Breakfast, Tuesday, April 11th 8 a.m., Pastor Francis, from Solutions Church, will be sharing his experience from his church which ministers with refugees from Africa. Solutions Church is one of the outreach projects that our Board of Mission and Outreach sponsors.



Len Silvester, who was the one who got us first connected with Pastor Francis, will be here to give us a history of the relationship with Solutions church.



Pastor Paul and John Durbin will also be at hand to share their thoughts. And, of course, George Wall and his crew will fix a delicious breakfast.





Hi all,

The Singles Fellowship had a fun game day at the Church of the Palms which began at 11:30. Thank you, Peter for setting up card tables in the Board Room. We had a total of 9 who enjoyed card games, board games including Yahtzee, Crazy 8's etc. etc.... too much fun! We had snacks & conversation. Join us next game day on Saturday April 1st, 10:00am-12:30. Bring a snack to share & your own beverage, a favorite game ...and a friend! Debi Martin was kind enough to help update our e-mailings list & we had a few newcomers to our group which was a joy! Bring a friend – ALWAYS.

Our next game day will be on Saturday, April 1st (No Kidding!)
10 a.m.-12:30.

Singles Fellowship will get together on the 1st Saturday and
3rd Wednesday of each month.

Information and Events Coming Up

Cactus High School presents: The Arizona Winds Concert Band Sunday, April 2,
the concert begins at 3pm

Cactus High School is located at 6330 W. Greenway Rd., Glendale AZ. Only 5.5 miles
from Sun City! Off 67th Ave. Between Bell & Thunderbird.

~

April 7th and April 8th - Spring Festival at Bellevue Heights Church
9440 W. Hutton. Phone 623-977-8308

~

Are you interested in a current movie at a local theater?

Let the Singles Fellowship know, and a few of us can go together!!

Do you have an event or function you think would be a great idea for the Singles
Fellowship? Don't keep it to yourself...Contact Debby Stinton
602-809-3229 or Linda Wilson 623-486-4217.

Ruth Ann Bilkey would like to start
up EUCHRE Card Games at her
home. contact her if you are
interested. Her number is listed on
the members list.
or church directory.

Nancy Esty would like to join in our
game days. She needs a ride.

Nancy is near
Bell Rd. & 99th
623-977-1637



No matter who you are or where
you are on
your life's journey,
you are
welcome here!



(the two newest members of
The Church Of The Palms family!)



Reverend Ruthann Bilkey (Retired)

Ruthann Bilkey, long time leaderhead of our Care Team will be stepping down from this post in April. During her tenure we have added many new programs to make our Homebound members feel they are still a welcome and necessary part of our church. From all your volunteers, members of The Church of the Palms and friends, Thank you Ruthann for your years of service and devotion to a real team effort!

The Care Team is a group of volunteers who faithfully visit, send cards, telephone or help out in some other way to members of our congregation who can no longer attend church. Some visit care centers or in personal homes. Many lives are touched by this on-going ministry. Another part of the care ministries is "comfort food". This is a group of volunteers who are willing to fix meals for people coming home from the hospital or rehab center and need that extra bit of help for a few days.

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- 04/05 Deb Martin
- 04/07 Pat Mochnick
- 04/07 Margaret Carpenter
- 04/09 Pastor Paul
- 04/09 Ken Russ
- 04/09 Bob Urqgart
- 04/09 Roy Meyer
- 04/10 Bill Reeves
- 04/11 Ralph Williams
- 04/12 Roger Allen
- 04/12 Jeff Scruggs
- 04/14 Janet Alexander
- 04/15 Bernice Fintelmann
- 04/16 Ruth Mallett
- 04/18 Jan Hutchins
- 04/20 Wendy Whitlock
- 04/20 Joyce Spaulding
- 04/21 Diane Worth
- 04/22 Marilou Soncrant
- 04/23 Chris Jensen
- 04/24 Shirley Fowks
- 04/27 Bob Carlson
- 04/28 Viola Hustedt
- 04/28 Barb Hartley
- 04/29 Cernyw Kline
- 04/30 Deborah Lane

Services in April

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



April 2: John 9:1-41. (This is the lectionary gospel passage from last week). The good news is that Jesus brings healing. And the more we deal with our faith, the more we think through our belief system, the stronger it grows! Pastor Paul will be preaching.



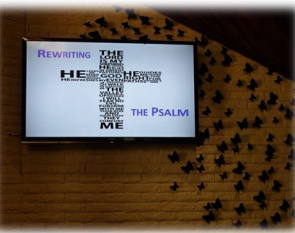
April 9: Palm Sunday. There were two parades that day; One for Pilate and the other for Jesus. Choose the right parade. Matthew 21:1-11. Pastor Paul will be preaching.



April 13: Maundy Thursday, 1:00 p.m. We will join with Faith Presbyterian and United UCC and gather here at The Church of the Palms. We will have special music. Paul will be preaching on John 13: 1-17.



April 16: Easter Sunday. 8:30 service –
Jim Alexander: Walking with Jesus; The Emmaus Monologue based on Luke 24:13-35.



*April 16: Easter Sunday. 10:00 service –*Matthew 28:1-10. Pastor Paul will be preaching. What are our Easter dreams? For this church, this nation, this world. It is time to get onto the streets and enact the dreams of God.



April 23: John 20:19-31. Do we believe more or less? Pastor Paul will be preaching. The face of the risen Christ is seen on you and me, if we have eyes to behold.

April 30: Soulful Renaissance. Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19. Debby Stinton is preaching.

Moderator's Message



I'd like to thank the church membership for electing me as your new Moderator. I just hope I can do as good of job as Eona did in these past two years.

I was Moderator in 2011, but things were a lot different then and a lot has transpired since.

For those who don't know me, I was born in Los Angeles, California, in 1936. I joined the Air Force as an enlisted man as soon as I turned 18 and stayed in for 30 years attaining the rank of Chief Master Sergeant (E9). In the Air force, I worked with computers. When I retired in Montgomery, Alabama in 1984, I worked for a computer company as a manager for 11 years. I moved to Sun City in May of 1999.

My first recollection of a church was attending a church revival about 1947. In the years since I've been a member of the Presbyterian Church, non-denominational at military bases, a Baptist Church in Texas where I was baptized. I joined a 7,000 member Methodist Church in Montgomery, Alabama in 1979, where I remained a member until May 1999 (20 years). During that time, I managed the Wednesday night kitchen servers (40) in order to serve about 1000 to 2000 people each Wednesday night.

I joined the Church of the Palms in March of 2005 and almost immediately Maria and I started helping Doris Gott in the kitchen at the Tuesday breakfast when Doc Mathews left.

I'm an avid bird watcher and have traveled to 46 countries mostly bird watching or taking a cruise with my wife.

I love the Church of the Palms.

George Wall

Board of Mission and Outreach adopts the Hart Pantry

Penny Magic and Hart (Help At Risk Teens) Pantry have a connection this year. Your Board of Missions and Outreach decided to adopt H.P. for our Penny Magic this year and H.P.

decided to request monthly the needs for collection that month. As they expand

April
Food Items Needed
POP TARTS (TOASTER PASTRIES)
AUSTIN CRACKER/COOKIE PACKETS
4 GRAM PROTEIN BARS
CUP OF NOODLES INSTANT LUNCH

into Glendale High School homeless youth, the needs add to the Peoria high school youth. The hope is that, with a lift up, they will be able to graduate and go on to higher training to acquire skills for employment. Each month we will share our awareness with you as to the featured collection of the month. A box will be in the narthex for your giving.

Jack Evens and the Board of Life Long Learning Presents:

"Filmmakers of the 20th Century"

Every third Friday of the month, throughout the Summer our good friend Jack Evens will treat us to a film presentation in this series.

With the coming of the French New Wave in the late 1950s and into the 1960s, a new emphasis was placed on the concept of the director as the auteur or author of each film he or she produced. The theory formulated was that certain filmmakers, through style and vision, left a highly individualized signature on each movie they made. The French saw in the work of specific directors this most important aspect of film art. Singled out for praise were several directors, including Charlie Chaplin, Alfred Hitchcock and John Ford. Over the course of this year we will look at the work of a variety of filmmakers who have left their mark on the art and history of film in the past century.

City Lights, a silent film made by Charlie Chaplin in 1931, was our first showing in March. The film was a real hit with our members and guests! Join us on Friday, April 21st at 9:30 a.m. for Alfred Hitchcock's 's Notorious.

Great films and
Great fellowship!

Friday, April 21st
9:30 a.m.



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

The Holy Spirit speaks many languages; among them the languages of art in all its forms.

— Frank Griswold —

Please...

**Donate to Valley View
Community Food Bank**

**Shopping Cart for
donations located
in the narthex**



Thank you!

The logo features the word "Valley" in a large, elegant, black cursive script. Below it, the words "WOMEN'S ENSEMBLE" are written in a smaller, black, all-caps serif font. The entire logo is set against a white background.

Valley
WOMEN'S ENSEMBLE



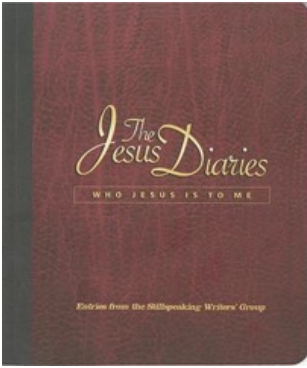
A Free Concert
Sunday, April 23, 2017 ~ 2:00 p.m.

The Church at Cactus
8133 West Cactus Road ~ Peoria

The Bus will leave from the
Church of the Palms at 1:15 p.m.

The Ensemble will present a varied program of
music for women's voices. Come and enjoy!

Jim Alexander ~ Artistic Director



INCHWORMS

Tuesdays 10 – 11:15 a.m.

Led by Mary Whitlock

Consider what Jesus means to you as we read and discuss these nine, original, short essays from the Stillspeaking Writers' Group. Includes blank pages at back to write your own words about who Jesus is to you. 48 pages. Paper.

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)."

Finishing "The Way"

April 4: Chapter 5 Sinners, Outcasts, and the Poor

April 11: Chapter 6 The Final Week, Epilogue

Tentative Schedule for Discussions:

April 18th: "INCONSISTENT ON JESUS" by Lillian Daniel ... Lillian writes of different ways she perceives and experiences Jesus ... imagines a long table to which Jesus has welcomed all sorts of "sinning misfits," including her...

April 25th: "NOT ASHAMED OF JESUS" by Tony Robinson ... Tony says he was accustomed to the idea that he was to help others, but less accustomed to and comfortable with the idea that he might need help.

May 2nd: "JESUS AND THE CHURCH IN CONFLICT" by Kenneth Samuel ... He tells the story of his childhood friend, Stevie... writes of his decision to deviate from the formula for a successful mega-church.

May 9th: "OF WINDOWS AND BODIES" by Quinn Caldwell ... How the church strengthened and confirmed Quinn's faith in ways that neither study nor emotions managed to do...

May 16th: "SAVED EARLY BY JESUS" by Donna Schaper ... Donna mentions a particular person, Pastor Witte, who showed Jesus to her. ... she goes on to say what that ancient term, "Lord" means for her.

May 23rd: "THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT JESUS" by Ron Buford ... Ron writes of himself as "black, orphaned, adopted, gay and liberal." Ron writes, "What is it about a living Jesus who defies the limits of cultural packaging?"

May 30th: "SEEING JESUS IN THE NIGHT SKY," by William Green ... He compares Jesus to a telescope that helps us to see, and understand, the distant God...Bill distinguishes between "the faith of Jesus" and "faith in Jesus."

June 6th: "THE GIVER OF SECOND CHANCES" by Christina Villa ... Tina describes Jesus on the cross as "some kind of ultimate protest, a refusal to accept," and later says that Jesus is "the ultimate champion of the underdog."

June 13th: "GOD WITH A FACE" by Martin Copenhaver ... God can seem vague, like a "sacred blur," writes Martin. But Jesus is "one who makes God real for me."



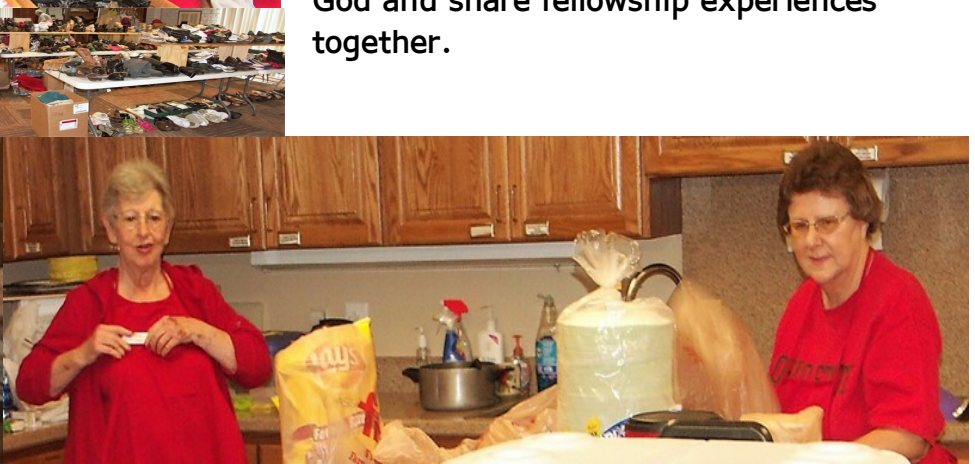
**RUMMAGE
AND
BAKE SALE**

Spring!

Benefits of a Rummage Sale

So, who really benefits from a Church of the Palms Rummage Sale and all that hard work (and laughter & fun)? Here are some of the beneficiaries: New Life Shelter (domestic violence victims), HART Pantry (homeless teens), Justice Center (homeless seniors), Disabled Veterans, Downtown Phoenix homeless shelter, Solutions Church (African refugees), Navajo Reservation, Children First Academy (homeless elementary children in the greater Phoenix area), Valley View Community Food Bank & Thrift Shop (serving Sun City and other west valley communities), Charity Recycling (supporting Boys & Girls Clubs). Oh, by the way, don't forget 20% of the proceeds of the sale go to our Board of Mission and Outreach and all the other organizations they support.

But what are the benefits to the Church of the Palms? The Rummage Sale, like our Community Thanksgiving Dinner, allows us to "Be the Church". These events build and strengthen the sense of community that permeates the fabric of our church. These activities help us make new friends and build relationships. But what about the money? Well, 80% of the proceeds, or about \$9,000 this sale, stays with our church and is used to maintain and improve the building in which we all gather to worship God and share fellowship experiences together.



Once again, Warren Pinter proves he will do anything for The Church of the Palms!
Goaded on by the Rummage Sale crew, Warren is bet he won't wear a red dress with matching hat and ride a bike around our Sanctuary Sunday morning! Warren's response?
"Donate five dollars to the Church and I will!"
The money rolled in! Being a man of his word...well...The proof is for all to see.
(Joni and Barbara look kinda scared!)



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

Check out our Website
(click here)

We offer:

Sermon Gallery

Paul at the Palms

News and Events

The Palm Leaf Newsletter

Monthly Calendar

General Synod News

Photos

Welcome New Member Dates



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



Office Hours: Monday-Thur. 8am-2pm
Fri. 8am-12

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, Minister

Deborah Martin, Secretary