

Palm Leaf

The Church of the Palms May 2018



Pastor Paul Whitlock

A Letter from Paul

As we transition from our winter and spring activities into summer, we experience some changes around The Palms. One of the first things I notice is that our winter friends head to their summer homes. I confess that this year, for me, is a bit sadder than last year – I know the folks better: I know their stories; and they know me.

I recognized that they, too, feel the pain of goodbye and look forward, as do I, to the celebratory “Hellos” of the fall.

We pray for safe travel for all our winter friends and for warm reunions with their families and home churches. This transition into summer also means moving into our most expensive months. If you are a winter friend, can you consider a blessing gift as you go to help us through these costly months?

We had a great financial start to 2018 – we are \$2,200 in the positive.

Our Attendance is higher than last year at this time: up from 179 to 183.

We have already had twelve (12) folks join this calendar year.

We have more diversity in our programming than ever.

Great things are happening at The Palms. I am glad you are a part of it!

Shalom, Paul



Judy Pinter
Moderator

And so, summer begins. And with it the dreaded heat. And the rush of the Snowbirds leaving for cooler climes. And I'll be one of them.

While I'm sorry to leave the church family that I love, I'm happy to be with the family that I raised who are raising their families. Happily, Jeff Scruggs will take over for me until I return in October. Sadly, he is amazing and you may love him more than me! Unfortunately, I'm still returning to you in October and you're stuck with me!

Life is filled with hellos and goodbyes, people we love more and people we love less. The secret is to find the joy in each moment, each person. Occasionally, that presents difficulty. We are not all adorable all the time.

I call attention to the phrase, "Fake it until you make it." This is a great approach. I've experimented with this and I guarantee it works. I've only had one minor failure. The plan is to win the "difficulty" over with as much charm as you can muster. Charm is directly proportionate to the degree of difficulty, which can be daunting. There is only so much charm allotted to each person. But when you meet the obstacle, you smile and sincerely try to find a commonness. There's always something common among humans. Well, define "human".

This is a guarantee: pick the object of your experiment and smile and greet him/her warmly. Over time, you will feel the reward of a genuine response and you will feel the love God designed for us. Because humans crave love, and it comes in the person beside you, even if you once thought them difficult. The Church of the Palms is filled with loving people whom someone has at one time thought to be difficult. And they're smiling and welcoming with love.

Just try not to love Jeff more than you love me, okay?

Judy

DEBBY'S CORNER

April showers bring forth May flowers...

Come, Holy Spirit, Come...



Happy May Beautiful People! As I look at my calendar while I am writing this, there does not seem to be too much going on in May, but we all know how that changes in an instant. I love our Church and how there is a surprise around every corner!

Not too much going on.....except ORDINATION INTERVIEW MAY 14th!

Thank you everyone for all your love and support, prayers and goodwill on this journey of mine. We are making it happen!

Blessings,
Debby

I had the privilege of attending the Southwest Conference of the United Church of Christ Annual Meeting in Tucson. I was accompanied by Reverend Jim Alexander, Debby Stinton, Judy Jondahl and Abby Atkins.

This was my first experience at an annual conference. I truly enjoyed all that we were involved in.

The worship services were inspiring and very creative. The workshops were varied, and we attended several different ones. We met some wonderful people whom we will remain in contact with. We were also pleased to spend time with some old friends such as Reverend Len Silvester and Reverend Jim Meadows. I look forward to next year's conference which will be held in Phoenix.

Sincerely,

Jeff Scruggs
First Vice-Moderator

Your 2018 SW Conference Delegates:
Judy Jondahl, Debbie Stinton,
Pastor Jim Alexander and Jeff Scruggs



Pastor Jim contemplates the labyrinth at Rincon Congregational UCC at the SW Conference Annual Meeting. Tucson, AZ



Next Steps in Discerning COTP Involvement with the people of Israel/Palestine

The Church of the Palms Social Justice Action Team has begun a conversation on ways we might continue to learn about and engage with the people living in Israel/Palestine. 75 COTP members attended the fellowship breakfast in March at which Daoud Nassar spoke (founder of the Tent of Nations outside of Bethlehem). 20 members participated in a four week study group held in the spring of 2017. We would like to continue to build on the interest and support expressed by congregation members to these two events. The team came up with three possible ways of continuing our learning and ministry in this part of the world. (There may be others and you are welcome to suggest them.)

Please take a minute to email me (Beth Moore) at ebmoore1@live.com to let me know if you are interested in any, or all of the following. Your response at this time is not a final commitment, but a way for us to hear from those of you who have an interest. Please include your full name in your email to me as I may not recognize just your email.

Learning:

Engaging in additional learning opportunities about Israel/Palestine.

For example a four week study using a text/written materials, or a DVD/film followed by discussion.

Advocacy:

Being part of a group to receive email updates from Beth on events in Israel/Palestine (approximately monthly) with a request to take "action". This usually means making a call to congressional representatives to express your opinion/thoughts about the issue. Often "talking points" are provided if you wish to use them.

Travel:

Participation in a 10 -14 day trip to the Holy Land that would include opportunities to hear from both Israelis and Palestinians about their search for a just peace, as well as visits to some of the historical holy sites. This would also include a visit to the Tent of Nations with opportunities to volunteer. Timing to be decided but could be Fall of 2019 or Spring of 2020.

Fundraising:

Contributing to or helping to raise funds for a special gift to the Tent of Nations - for example olive or fruit trees, or a piece of equipment they need. This might be done in conjunction with a planned trip and could be taken by the group travelling to the farm.



A woman from Ecuador displaying her new shop, which was started through a microcredit program of Global Ministries partner, FEDICE.

Dear Friends:

Thank you very much for being a Top 10% donor to Global Ministries in year 2017! Your generosity is an important element in creating a world where togetherness and sharing in God's abundant life are valued. Today, we celebrate a strong and vibrant global church, through which your gifts nourish their vital ministries of witness to the Good News. Thank you for your decision to weave your support and care with global families, churches, and communities around the world, and for doing so by making gifts to Global Ministries.

Thank you once again for the profound and lasting difference you are making around the world. It heartens us to know there are so many in the Global Ministries family who are committed to being present with brothers and sisters around the world.

Sincerely,

Reverend Julia Brown Karimu
Co-Executive, Global Ministries
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Reverend Dr. James A. Moos
Co-Executive, Global Ministries
United Church of Christ



Lake Pleasant Cruise Saturday, May 12th

BOWFA
Mary Funck-Tour Leader

Saturday, May 12th 11:15 a.m.

Board of Worship and Fine Arts Cordially Invites you to
Lake Pleasant Scenic Cruise

Admission: \$18

Parking: \$6

(If you take your own car)

There is a and \$2 parking charge per person for buses.

Questions?? Contact Mary Funck 713-248-9728

Hard to buy for family members or friends?? Gift cards make a great gift for any occasion. birthday, Christmas, anniversary, get well, or thinking of you. Use gift cards for your everyday purchases; groceries, gas, or restaurants.



The Church of the Palms has joined the Shop with Scrip Program. Purchase a gift card (s). The church receives a percentage. See the list of gift card choices, over 300 available.

Members of the Board of Stewards will be available before and after church to meet with you. Go to www.shopwithscrip.com and click on the retailer list to view all the gift cards available or stop by the table to pick up a copy. We have a limited supply of gift cards available for purchase on Sundays,

The next order needs to be in the scrip box with a check by Sunday May 6th.

Jack Evans Presents:
"Pages to Projector"

3rd Friday of each
month until July
9:30 a.m.

This series of films will focus on stories that have moved from the written page to the movie screen. Our last two "Morning Movies" are from novels set in the 50s, 60s and 2000s. Robert Harris' taut thriller "The Ghost Writer" and Julian Barnes' Man Booker Prize winner "The Sense of an Ending,"

Anyone who is interested may also read the corresponding fiction before viewing but it is not necessary for the enjoyment of watching these finely crafted cinematic works of art.

Friday, May 18th
The Ghost Writer

Friday, June 15th
The Sense of an Ending

Coming in July and August
BOWFA Summer Cinema!

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

FRIDAYS 1:00 - 3:00 through July
The Church of the Palms 623-977-8359

If you have any questions contact
any of the Pastors or
Gordy Funck 623-583-7260

Help and encouragement after the death
of a loved one GriefShare is a special
weekly seminar and
support group designed to help

you rebuild.
GRIEF SHARE

May Birthdays 2018

05/02 Richard Kuelbs
05/05 Bertie Fitch
05/05 Stella Garcia
05/06 Marabeth Malmgren
05/07 Inez Laramy
05/07 Diana Berry
05/07 Judy Pinter
05/08 Marimae Roder
05/10 Judy Green-Davis
05/13 Malinda Case
05/14 Linda Wilson
05/15 Beth Moore
05/16 Opal Wille
05/19 Glenn Modeen
05/21 Nancy Tsuchiya
05/22 Roy Spaulding
05/27 Jane Zukowski
05/28 Sharon Pitts
05/29 Marcia James
05/29 Shirley Spotts
05/29 Betsy Kindinger
05/30 Liz Adler



HART Pantry
May

FOOD ITEMS NEEDED!

Toaster Pastries
Oatmeal
Small Bags of
Peanuts/Raisins
Ritz Crackers
Feminine Hygiene Products

Please extend to the congregation of Church of the Palms our sincere thanks for the donations I picked up at the church on 4/25/18. There were 200 food items as well as many toiletries and sanitary supplies. The generosity of your church family to our At-Risk teens is overwhelming. Please know you are a cherished donor to HART PANTRY.

Sincerely,
Ruth Langford

Thank You!!!



1st Quarter Financial Report

Total Income: \$76,786 (27.57% of budget)

Total Expenses: \$74,520 (25.48% of budget)

Gain \$ 2,266

How are you sharing your
time, talent, and treasure?

Let's Try SOMETHING NEW

Sunday Afternoon Lifelong Learning
starts June 24th (1:30-3 PM)

White Privilege Part 1 led by Debby
Stinton...Do you work during the
week? Would this group be of interest
to you? Join us for the first class and
let us know! We are hoping this day
and time will be of interest to those
who work during the week.

This class will begin on June 24th
and run for 5 weeks.

All Are Welcome!

Helen Safford
1914 /2018

Mavis Treher
1925 /2018

Pat Waterman
1924/2018

Calvin D. Lane
1930 /2018



LOVING MEMORY

More Great Fellowship and Learning Opportunities!

Life Long Learning-Monday's 10-11:30 a.m.

May 7th

"Jesus for the Non-Religious" by John Shelby Spong

In this lecture, Spong explores the meaning of 'Christ,' images of Messiah, how Christ has been experienced through the ages, and how the divinity of Christ has its ultimate expression in a fulfilled humanity.

May 13th

"Eclipsing Empire: Paul, Rome and the Kingdom of God"

Join preeminent New Testament Scholars Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan on location in Turkey as they trace the Apostle Paul's footsteps throughout the Roman Empire. This study explores fresh insights into Paul's message of Kingdom of God, its challenge to Roman imperial theology, and the apostle's radical relevance for today.

"Inchworms" Bible Study Tuesday's 10 a.m.

Gene Klatte is showing the Great Courses DVD on the New Testament

"Cosmic" Christians Tuesday's-11:30 a.m.

Lloyd Geering's book, Tomorrow's God.

"Jump Start" Tuesday's-3:30 p.m.

Service Craft Project Group Wednesday's-9 a.m.

Women's Friendship Group 1st and 3rd Friday of the Month-10:30 a.m.

Bridge Group 1st and 3rd Friday of the Month-Noon

Second Tuesday of Each Month

Summer Continental Breakfast and Program

Sunday Afternoon Lifelong Learning June 24th (1:30-3 PM)

White Privilege Part 1 led by Debby Stinton.

Each of these groups welcomes and encourages you to visit and find just the group that calls to your interests and spirituality.



Whoever Has Ears, Let Them Hear

Sometimes we need a bit of help too! If you find that you need assistance hearing what is going on in the services, please visit with one of our ushers when you arrive. They will be able to provide you with one of the twelve receivers.

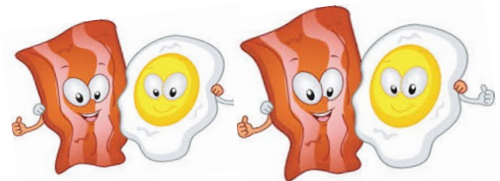
These devices function in a variety of ways that can amplify the sound for you.

The LISTEN devices pictured here are used in many theaters, and performance venues in the Valley. If you are interested in purchasing your own for use here or anywhere you need sound reinforcement, please see Pastor Jim. He will give you all the details.

May Fellowship Breakfast

"What is a Spiritual Director/Companion?"

Speakers: Kay Klinkenborg and Debby Stinton



Join us on Tuesday, May 8th at 8 a.m. for our last "Full on" breakfast until September. George and his happy helpers will be cookin' up their usual hearty fare and Debby Stinton and Kay Klinkenborg will give a presentation on the role of a Spiritual Companion/Director.

What is the role of a Spiritual Companion/Director; how can you deepen your spiritual walk with God; are you interested in learning new tools that can enrich your faith journey? Maybe you are facing a major life transition or choice, a Spiritual Companion can travel this path with you. Kay is a Spiritual Companion/Director for over 18 years and remains an active member of Spiritual Directors international. Debby and Kay have just returned from the annual conference of Spiritual Directors International in St. Louis, MO. They will share some of the highlights of their experience.



Something new this Summer!
Second Tuesday of the Month
June, July and August
Fellowship Continental Breakfast and Programs



All Are Welcome!

The Church of the Palms
Social Justice Action Team - LGBTQ Equity
Seeking justice through prayer, action, love, ministry & support

32 members and guests from Church of the Palms marched in the Phoenix Pride Parade on April 8. The decorated church bus and the marchers in all their finery were part of a large joyful and loving crowd. Our church banner "Jesus didn't reject people. Neither do we" was a big hit with the other participants and parade goers, with many pictures taken and many "thank you's!" shouted out. Our group, along with the LGBTQ clubs from Sun City, Sun City West and Sun City Grand truly seemed to have a supportive impact, especially with the younger people there. It was great to be part of such a positive event and the participants are already making plans for next year!

The marchers from Church of the Palms certainly were evidence that God is still speaking!





SINGLES & SOLOS

Singles and solos will meet Thursday, May 10th and 24th at 1:00pm, in the Boardroom at The Church of the Palms. Debby Stinton will be leading games and fellowship.



SERVICE PROJECT CRAFT GROUP

Do you sew?

If you enjoy using a sewing machine, the Service Project Craft Group would love to have your help. There are several items that those who come to our church use regularly including walker bags, neck cooling wraps, and adult bibs. We have the patterns and material – we need someone to sew them!

Come on in at 9A.M. to 11 a.m. Wednesday mornings to pick up supplies, sew at your leisure at home, and bring the projects back whenever you they are ready. If you can't come in on Wednesday AM, call Carol Reynolds (623-815-1471) and we will make arrangements for other times.

Thanks for your help!



Services in May

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

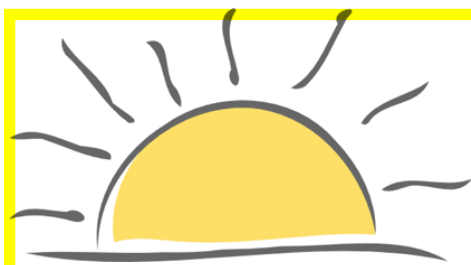
For bus pick-up:
Please Call Mary Kennicott: 623-249-8999
or the church at 623-977-8359

Sunday, May 6: Pastor Paul will be preaching. Read Psalm 98. How can we make our lives a joyful noise? Three keys: Reflect, risk, and do more that will live on after death.

Sunday May 13: *Mothers Day!* Pastor Jim is preaching "What role does a mother play in the shaping of the future of her children?" Read 2 Timothy 1:1-7 and reflect on the great faith and service of mothers and mothers at heart.

Sunday, May 20: *Pentecost!* A cast of characters will present their thoughts on Pentecost. Read Romans 8:22-27.

Sunday, May 27: Trinity Sunday. Read Isaiah 6:6-8, and Romans 8:12-17. Pastor Paul will be preaching. How do you define the trinity? Do you relate to one part of it more than another?



As we say "Have a great Summer, come back to us safe!" to our Snowbirds...the church begins it's Summer shift into HOTTER, shorter days! On May 14th the office hours will change to Monday-Friday 8 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Some of our weekly events will go on hiatus and some will continue through the Summer. If you are the head of any Board, Group or Committee and your meetings are coming to an end until September, Please contact the office. If your group is continuing and meets after the change of hours, we also need to know, to make sure you have access to the building. Your help with this process is greatly appreciated.

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

New!

The Palms Community Photo Album - share your photos of church events!

goo.gl/u2QtrE

www.thepalms.org

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

Friday- 8am to 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 comes 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 Pastor

Jim Alexander, Associate Pastor

Debby Stinton, Assistant Pastor

Deborah Martin, Secretary

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
THE CHURCH OF THE PALMS, UCC MAY 2018  PENTECOST						
6 8:30AM Sunday Discussion 9:15 Choir Warm-up 10 Worship/Communion 11 Fellowship(KH)	7 10:00AM Life Long Learning 4PM Board of Trustees	8 8AM Fellowship Breakfast: "What is a "Spiritual Companion/ Director" Presented by: Kay Klinkenborg and Debby Stinton 10 "Inchworms" Bible Study 11:30 "Cosmic" Christians 4PM "Jump" Start Bible Study	9 9AM Service Project Craft Group (BR) 9:00 Board of Evangelism and Growth (KH)	10 10am Neuropathy Support Group (last of the season) (BR) 2:30PM Choir Rehearsal (MR)	11 9:30AM Social Justice Team (KH) 1-3PM GriefShare (BR)	12 Lake Pleasant Cruise Bus leaves the Church at 11:15 a.m.
13 Equal Exchange Products 8:30AM Sunday Discussion 9:15 Choir Warm-up 10 Worship (SA) 11 Fellowship (KH) <i>Happy Mother's Day!</i>	14 10:00AM Life Long Learning Office Hours Change Monday-Friday 8 a.m. to 12:00	15 10AM "Inchworms" Bible Study 11:30 "Cosmic" Christians 4PM "Jump" Start Bible Study	16 9AM Service Project Craft Group (BR) 9 Board of Missions and Outreach (CP) (Last Meeting till Sept.) 10:30 Women's Friendship Group	17 10AM Care Team Ministries (BR) (Last until Sept. 20th) 2:30PM Choir Rehearsal (MR)	18 9:30AM Jack Evans: Pages to Projector "The Ghost Writer" 12 Bridge Group 1-3PM GriefShare	19 9AM Church Council (Last Meeting until Sept.)
20 Pentecost Sunday 8:30AM Sunday Discussion Choir Warm-up 10 Worship 11 Fellowship (KH) RED <i>Is the color of the Day!</i>	21 10:00AM Life Long Learning	22 10AM "Inchworms" Bible Study 11:30 "Cosmic" Christians 4PM "Jump" Start Bible Study	23 9AM Service Project Craft Group (BR)	24 1PM Board of Lifelong Learning (BR) 2:30 Choir Rehearsal (Last rehearsal for the season)	25 1-3PM GriefShare (BR)	26 PLEASE BRING FOOD TOMORROW FOR OLIVE BRANCH SENIOR CENTER
27 8:30AM Sunday Discussion 9:15 Choir Warm-up 10 Worship (SA) 11 Fellowship (KH)	28 MEMORIAL DAY OFFICE CLOSED	29 10AM "Inchworms" Bible Study 11:30 "Cosmic" Christians 4PM "Jump" Start Bible Study	30 9AM Service Project Craft Group (BR)	31		