



THE PALM LEAF

Church of The Palms
 EST 1969
 14808 N Boswell Blvd
 Sun City, AZ 85351



CELEBRATING THE PAST;
 EMBRACING THE FUTURE

A Letter from Paul

*I will light candles this Christmas,
 Candles of joy despite all the sadness,
 Candles of hope where despair keeps watch,
 Candles of courage for fears ever present,
 Candles of peace for tempest-tossed days,
 Candles of grace to ease heavy burdens,
 Candles of love to inspire all my living,
 Candles that will burn all year long.*

—Howard Thurman



The Season of Christmas is twelve days long – lasting December 25 to January 5. The Day of Epiphany (celebrating the arrival of the magi) is January 6. How are we to celebrate these holy days?

A Baptist pastor, Howard Thurman, pondered just such a question. He led a delegation of African-Americans to India in 1935 to meet Mohandas Gandhi. Gandhi's influence led Thurman to understand Jesus as liberator and bring together the gospel and non-violence resistance to combat white racism.

This is what Thurman wrote concerning what we are to do and be about after the Season of Christmas. It is our core ministry as a church.

*The Work of Christmas.
 When the song of the angels is stilled,
 When the star in the sky is gone,
 When the kings and princes are home,
 When the shepherds are back with their flock,
 The work of Christmas begins:
 To find the lost,
 To heal the broken,
 To feed the hungry,
 To release the prisoner,
 To rebuild the nations,
 To bring peace among others,
 To make music in the heart.*

How will we make music in the heart of our world when the work of Christmas actually begins? When the gifts are unwrapped, Christmas dinner is over and the company has gone home, how will we keep the candles burning? When the needles have fallen from the tree, how will we continue to offer the olive branch? When prisoners are released, how will we reach out and care?

I don't have exact answers to the above questions. I am, however, grateful to be journeying with you as we explore the work of Christmas at The Palms. —Shalom, Paul

Everything In Moderation



By Judy Jondahl

It has been my pleasure to serve as Moderator at the Church of the Palms this year. Each of you has contributed to another successful year of being the church, although it was not always easy nor in the usual manner.

When I think about 2020, I can get discouraged. Then, I stop myself and think about the positive things that happened. Here are some of those positive memories I will cherish from this year:

1. While we missed seeing each other face to face, we learned to use technology in ways we had never imagined. (A) Thank you, Pastors Jim and Paul, for thinking out of the box and going the extra mile to produce meaningful worship services. Thanks, too, to those in the congregation who participated in these worship services. (B) With the awesome assistance of the pastors and Lindsey, we continued to hold Council, Board and Committee meetings on the Bridge. To the best of my knowledge, no one fell off the bridge. (C) Thank you, Kay and Linette, for continuing to bring our Life Long Learning meaningful and timely classes to the membership via the Bridge.
2. While some churches struggled financially, the Church of the Palms has been blessed with a positive budget flow. Thanks to all of you for your continued stewardship to make this happen.
3. If you have not been to the church during this healthy hiatus, you will be pleased to enter through the new automatic doors that have been installed for the Narthex and King Hall entries. And in King Hall you will find new doors that open and close for the storage area.
4. Thanks to Pastor Paul and Bertie, our Treasurer, we were recipients of a Payment Protection grant so the Pastors and staff could continue to be paid without interruption as recommended by your Personnel Committee.
5. I-Help has continued to thrive and graduate individuals who are now employed and living in their own residences. Thanks to all those who provide assistance with this ministry.
6. The church's reputation as a social justice church continued to bring new members at the Church of the Palms.
7. A review and revision of Constitution and Bylaws has begun with a goal of bringing these documents consistent with who we are in today's world and allow us to grow and add ministries more easily as needs arise.
8. The recent purchase of the Shower Trailer has been applauded by communities surrounding Sun City, as they join in this ministry and provide support for its continuation. Our Social Justice Team is always reaching out.
9. The Church of the Palms is expanding its outreach giving, with more money being donated toward our outreach programs and the adding of a prison ministry, providing clothing for individuals when they are released. Thank you, Jane Zukowski, for heading up this project.
10. We are completing the process for becoming recognized as a W.I.S.E. (Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive, Engaged) congregation for mental health. Thanks to Pastor Jim and the members of the W.I.S.E. steering committee. We have a core of church members who have completed the training to be certified in Mental Health First Aid.

As my year as your Moderator comes to an end, I thank each of you for allowing me the pleasure of serving as your moderator – something good did happen. As I wrote this, I found myself thinking about Matthew 25:40, "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'"

Annual Report / Meeting - Saturday January 30 (sort of)

Our Annual Meeting will be different this year! Because it is not safe to gather for an in-person meeting, and because some of our members do not have access to computer technology, we are adjusting our sails and the results are that the meeting will be unique. Part technology, part old-school - we hope that everyone's voice will be heard. We will not have a meeting day, per se, but it will be held from January 16 to 30.

For those who do technology, the annual report, 2021 ministry budget, and the ballot of nominations for board members and council officers will be mailed electronically on or about January 16. We will also have on our Bridges platform a Q and A with Pastor Paul, Bertie, our Treasurer, and our Moderators where we can address your questions. Those dates are yet to be determined.

For those who do not do technology, the annual report, 2021 ministry budget, and the ballot of nominations for board members and council officers will be mailed on or about January 16. Return stamped envelopes will be included. Pastor Paul and the leadership of the church will be available for in-person Q and A sessions on Sundays, January 17 & 24 from 9 to 11 a.m.

It is our hope that all of our members will have their voices heard.

I-HELP Needs Overnight Volunteer Monitors

Are you a night owl or a morning dove? Here is an Interfaith Homeless Emergency Lodging Program (I-HELP) late-night or early-morning volunteer opportunity for you: I-HELP needs overnight monitors.

Volunteer time-slots are 10:00 p.m.-3:00 a.m. or 3:00-7:00 am. The I-HELP guests are usually weary and sleep soundly during these hours. Usually, there are 12 guests. There are 2 monitors for each shift.

Worried about COVID? We are limited to 7 guests during this time. All I-HELP participants have tested negative for COVID to enter the 90-day program, are retested when needed, and they are temperature screened when they enter COTP. There is almost no interaction with the guests between 10:00 p.m. and 6:30 a.m.

You must obtain a State of Arizona Level One Fingerprint Clearance card, which requires a bit of paperwork. Registration is easy, and the \$65 cost will be paid by COTP. I-HELP has just celebrated its first year. Over 25 people have found housing. You can help make a difference in the lives of others in Year 2. If you are interested in volunteering, contact Nancy Mueller at 608.838.3575 or Vickie Ashenbrenner at 831.233.2548.

Would you Like to Provide a Meal for our I-HELP Guests?

Those who sign up to bring food for the dinners can drop it off if they wish (monitors will serve the meal). Bagged lunches may be brought the night before. To help, contact Laurie Cathey at 623.238.3826 or spkplg1941@hotmail.com. Meals are needed on the following dates in January:

Dinner: January 8, 18, 29
Breakfast: January 5, 9, 19, 30
Lunch: January 5, 9, 12, 19, 26, 30

WORSHIP THEMES FOR *JANUARY*

Pastors Jim and Paul will be filming worship throughout January.

January 3: Pastor Paul will be giving a fireside chat from his home. Read John 1:1-18. One of his top-ten lists just might make an appearance.

January 10: Mark 1:4-11 and Genesis 1 are our themes. God sends a blessing to us – even before we have done anything. Pastor Paul will be preaching.

January 17: Pastor Jim will be preaching on Psalm 139 1:6 and 13-18. God knows every fiber of our being. We can begin a new year with renewed strength because God goes before us, behind us, and beside us.

January 24: Have you ever tried to run from God? Jonah sure did and he ended up on a beach covered in whale...well...you know. In all likelihood, we all know. Pastor Paul will be focusing on Jonah 3:1-5, 10. But, read the whole book – it's short (unlike Pastor Paul's sermon!)

January 31: Pastors Jim and Paul will be doing something a little different today. Read Mark 1:21-28.

JANUARY Birthdays



Scott Hanson	1/2
Lynn Jacobson	1/2
Chris Bauknecht	1/3
Ruby Butterweck	1/3
Charline Hunt	1/3
Pam Clark	1/9
Kurt Hoffman	1/9
Susan Hershberger	1/10
Carol Reynolds	1/10
Ruth Lampi	1/11
Amy Alves	1/12
Ruth Skaar	1/13
Frank Bauknecht	1/21
Richard Crapo	1/21
Sandy Krueger	1/21
Ruth Gross	1/24
Elaine Klauser	1/27
Don Oelke	1/27



January 2021
Start the New
Year

Church of the Palms
United Church of Christ
Sun City, AZ
www.thepalms.org

Important Phone Numbers

National Alliance on Mental Illness Help Line

1-800-950-6264 <https://www.nami.org/help>

Suicide Prevention Lifeline 800.273.TALK

Veteran's Crisis Line 800.273.8255 press 1

Pastoral Care—Pastor Jim Alexander 623.792.5295

With each new year comes the opportunity to do things differently. I am not talking about making resolutions that we all know will go by the wayside by January 31! I am talking about doing things that will help you remain calm, focused, and set for 2021.

Besides the [Tools2Thrive](#) Page, the [Daily Devotionals](#), our [Bridges to Learning](#) classes, and our weekly [On-Line Worship](#) services, here are several tips for Mental Wellness I highly encourage you to incorporate into your life. You may be thinking, "I have seen all this before." While that may be true, have you been able to make any of these tips habits within your daily activities? You may find that just one or two might make all the difference in your outlook and mental wellness. Happy New Year!

- I will commit myself to being physically active each day. Studies have shown there is a link between mental and physical health.
- I will resolve to be mentally healthy in the upcoming year. Seeking the aid of one of the agencies listed above, you may be able to sort through the mental or emotional concerns you might be having. This is one of the healthiest things we can do.
- Relax! Commit yourself to carving out some time each day to "shutting down" and doing something for yourself that helps you rest and recharge your mental and emotional batteries.
- Diligently speak nicely about yourself and treat yourself with respect. All good things begin from within, and a positive outlook on ourselves is a key to attracting more positivity into our lives.
- Don't be too hard on yourself. Remind yourself daily that as a human, you will make mistakes or miss goals, and that is okay. What is important is going forward in these situations in a positive manner.
- Stay mindful and in the moment. Don't dwell too much on the past or spend too much time fixating on the future. Remember to live in the here and now and enjoy all that life has to offer.
- Act instead of reacting. Rather than allowing yourself to get caught up in reacting to the actions of others that push your buttons, be prepared with a mental list of disarming statements to counteract the negative statements of others.
- Do not allow yourself to be defined by a label. Instead of thinking and speaking of yourself as being overweight, anxious, depressed, etc. ... say instead "I have depression and today I will exercise to help manage that."
- I will strive to become the person I want to be. View life as a journey full of adventures rather than a series of obstacles you have to overcome. Enjoy the ride that life is, rather than focusing on the bumps in the road.

Personnel Committee Requests Your Help

The Personnel Committee is conducting its annual evaluation of our Associate Pastor. We are asking you to complete a short evaluation form to make this process successful. If you have email, you will receive the evaluation form in that format in the next few days. So, please be on the lookout for it. If you do not have email, we are asking you to stop by the office to pick up a copy or call 623-977-8359 to request that the form be mailed to your home. We would like to have this process completed by Monday, January 11. But please know your input is very valuable so we are happy to receive your input at any time. Help us by completing and returning the evaluation following the direction on the form itself.

Thank you – Church of the Palms Personnel Committee

Life Long Learning in January

LLL classes continue [online](#).

- ◆ **Current Issues & Faith**, Tuesdays, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Facilitated by Kay Klinkenborg. DVD series with Dr. Robert P. Jones on his book: "White Too Long: The Legacy of White Supremacy in American Christianity." Dr. Jones is the 2020 Rutgers Distinguished Lecture in Religion. Jones is the CEO and founder of Public Religion Research Institute (PPRI) and a leading scholar and commentator on religion, culture and politics. He won the 2019 Grawemeyer Award in Religion for his book: "The End of White Christian America." Three (3) class sessions on this topic.
- ◆ **Jump Start**, Tuesdays, 4:00-5:00 p.m. Facilitated by John Durbin. **Prep for Sunday Sermon with Scripture/Discussion.**
- ◆ **Spiritual Growth**, Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m.-noon, except for the first Wednesday of the month, when class meets 11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Facilitated by Kay Klinkenborg. The new topic will be: "Human Spiritual Development: The Human Spirit and the Times We Live In," by Fr. Richard Rohr. Rohr integrates the work of Graves, Beck and Ken Wilbur with a theological framework of human's path and hunger to know the Divine in a deeper way. He discusses the stages of human development in depth. Four (4) sessions followed by Q & A with Rohr and Sr. Joan Chittister.
- ◆ **Cosmic Christians**, Thursdays, 10:00-11:30 a.m. Facilitated by Linette Stenberg. Discussion of the book "Begin Again" by Dr. Eddie Glaude, Jr. The author examines the writings of James Baldwin and his impact on challenging racism in the USA.
- ◆ **Sunday Morning Conversations with Debby Stinton**, Sundays, 8:30-9:30 a.m.



'FEET-N-MORE' is Name of COTP Shower Ministry

By Max Klinkenborg

A seven-member shower trailer committee has been meeting weekly for the last two months to establish protocols for use of the trailer, decide on the "wrapping" for the trailer, to pick a name for the shower ministry and much more. The name comes from the Biblical story of Jesus taking on the role of a servant and washing the disciples feet. Church of the Palms is offering a shower trailer to be used by the homeless and needy of the North West Valley, following the pattern of service of Jesus.

In partnership with city governments, churches and non-profit service providers, we will provide showers that preserve human dignity, contribute to health and prepare them for employment. We are currently working with the City of Surprise, the Salvation Army and are in communications with the cities of Peoria and El Mirage. We will be taking the trailer to sites in the NW Valley beginning in January. We will be approaching other NW Valley cities with the shower trailer in 2021, particularly as it becomes safer for guests and volunteers to be together.

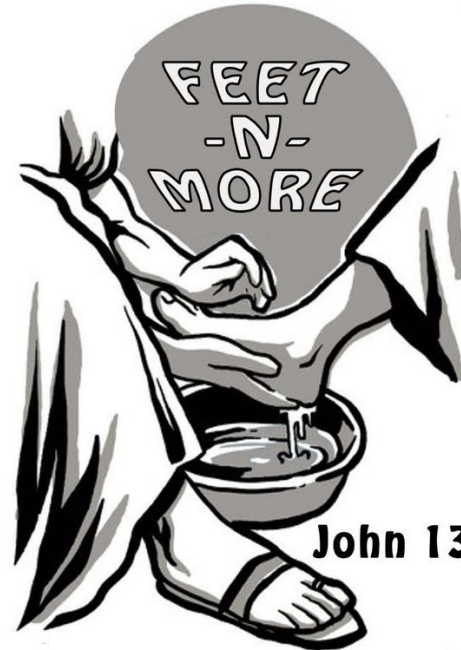
"FEET-N-MORE" will be focused on offering showers, but we are inviting other service providers to be present with us when we are serving the homeless. Trevor's Vision is preparing a hair cutting trailer and they want to be with us when we offer showers. Chance Shelter provides for the pets of the homeless while they are showering. We hope to provide medical and dental services on occasion and to distribute food and clothes on an emergency basis. We will be inviting Social Service Agencies that are focused on helping the homeless to be present. It is only limited by our imagination.

We will be dedicating the shower trailer for ministry and commissioning our volunteers on Sunday, January 3rd, at 11:30 a.m. The service will be in the parking lot with the shower trailer in the background.

Volunteers to work with the shower trailer are always welcome. We will need three to four volunteers for 4-6 hours each time the trailer goes out. A variety of jobs need to be done each time and there will be training for your job. Contact the church office (623.977.8359) or Max Klinkenborg (816.377.4618) if you are interested.

Church of the Palms

Shower Ministry



John 13:5

By Dawn Delaney



BLOOD DRIVE WITH THE RED CROSS

CHURCH OF THE PALMS
14808 N BOSWELL BLVD
SUN CITY, AZ 85351

BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

**JANUARY 27, 2021
9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.**

SIGN UP

ONLINE
REDCROSSBLOOD.ORG

CALL
1-800-RED CROSS

OR TEXT
BLOOD APP TO 90999

The *Service Project Craft Group* was thrilled to discover that our recent donation of sewn, knit, and crocheted items to various places was noted in the weekly newsletter of the SW Conference of UCC, letting everyone in UCC's SW area know of our work!

In all, we have donated over 280 items to HART, Justa Center, various care centers, and I-HELP in November and December.

If you enjoy crafting of any sort, whether for yourself or to donate, we invite you to be part of our group. Contact Carol Reynolds for more information. For now, we meet online via Bridges twice monthly to share ideas, projects, and keep each other "up" in these COVID days.



The Gift Card program, *Scrip*, is alive and well. If you need to place an order, please email Doug Hughes at dhphx83@yahoo.com. You will need to drop payment off at the church office and specify it's for gift cards. You can also submit payment electronically and place a memo that the funds are intended for gift cards.

January 1-16, 2021

1 Friday	4:00 pm (KH) I-Help	2 Saturday	
3 Sunday	8:30 am (B2L) Conversations w/ Debby Stinton 9:00 am (SA) Open prayer 11:00 am (BR) Holy Grounds Coffee with Pastor Paul 11:30 am (PL) Shower Trailer Dedication JOIN US ONLINE AT https://thepalms.org/online-worship-services/	4 Monday	4:00 pm (KH) I-Help
5 Tuesday	10:30 am (B2L) Current Issues & Faith: “White Too Long: The Legacy of White Supremacy in American Christianity” 4:00 pm (B2L) Jump Start	6 Wednesday	9:00 am (B2B) Personnel Committee 10:00 am (B2B) Board of Evangelism & Growth 11:00 am (B2L) “Human Spiritual Development: The Human Spirit and the Times We Live In” 2:30 pm (B2B) Constitution & Bylaws Taskforce
7 Thursday	8:30 am (B2B) Prison Ministry 10:00 am (B2L) Cosmic Christians	8 Friday	4:00 pm (KH) I-Help
9 Saturday	8:30 am (KH) Shower Trailer Ministry 2:30 pm (B2B) Constitution & Bylaws Taskforce	10 Sunday	8:30 am (B2L) Conversations w/ Debby Stinton 9:00 am (SA) Open prayer 11:00 am (BR) Holy Grounds Coffee with Pastor Paul JOIN US ONLINE AT https://thepalms.org/online-worship-services/
11 Monday	1:00 pm (MG) Mary Lou Pelletier Interment 2:00 pm (B2B) Board of Trustees 4:00 pm (KH) I-Help	12 Tuesday	10:30 am (B2L) Current Issues & Faith: “White Too Long: The Legacy of White Supremacy in American Christianity” 4:00 pm (B2L) Jump Start
13 Wednesday	10:30 am (B2L) “Human Spiritual Development: The Human Spirit and the Times We Live In” 1:00 pm (BR) Service Project Craft Group	14 Thursday	10:00 am (B2L) Cosmic Christians
15 Friday	Palm Leaf Deadline	16 Saturday	9:00 am (B2B) Council Meeting

SA=Sanctuary, KH=King Hall, BR=Bridges, B2L=Bridges to Learning (online), B2B=Bridges to Boards (online), MG=Memorial Garden, PL=Parking Lot

January 17-31, 2021

17 Sunday	8:30 am (B2L) Conversations w/ Debby Stinton 9:00 am (SA) Open prayer 11:00 am (BR) Holy Grounds Coffee with Pastor Paul JOIN US ONLINE AT https://thepalms.org/online-worship-services/	18 Monday	4:00 pm (KH) I-Help
19 Tuesday	10:30 am (B2L) Current Issues & Faith: "White Too Long: The Legacy of White Supremacy in American Christianity" 4:00 pm (B2L) Jump Start	20 Wednesday	9:00 am (B2B) Board of Mission and Outreach 10:30 am (B2L) "Human Spiritual Development: The Human Spirit and the Times We Live In"
21 Thursday	10:00 am (B2L) Cosmic Christians	22 Friday	4:00 pm (KH) I-Help
23 Saturday		24 Sunday	8:30 am (B2L) Conversations w/ Debby Stinton 9:00 am (SA) Open prayer 11:00 am (BR) Holy Grounds Coffee with Pastor Paul JOIN US ONLINE AT https://thepalms.org/online-worship-services/
25 Monday	4:00 pm (KH) I-Help	26 Tuesday	10:30 am (B2L) Current Issues & Faith: "White Too Long: The Legacy of White Supremacy in American Christianity" 4:00 pm (B2L) Jump Start
27 Wednesday	9:00 am-2:00 pm (KH) Red Cross Blood Drive 10:30 am (B2L) "Human Spiritual Development: The Human Spirit and the Times We Live In" 1:00 pm (BR) Service Project Craft Group	28 Thursday	
29 Friday	4:00 pm (KH) I-Help	30 Saturday	
31 Sunday	8:30 am (B2L) Conversations with Debby Stinton 9:00 am (SA) Open prayer 11:00 am (BR) Holy Grounds Coffee with Pastor Paul JOIN US ONLINE AT https://thepalms.org/online-worship-services/		

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