



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

The month of February 2021 spans two seasons in the liturgical church: Epiphany and Lent. The Season of Epiphany began January 6, as we celebrated the magi's gifts to the Christ child. The name Epiphany comes from the Greek *epiphaneia*, meaning "appearance." The season celebrates the light of Christ going out to the world – the whole world. The manifestations of that church is as wide as varied as the people who comprise our beautiful planet. How can you help share the light in a new way this month?



The season of Lent is, to my mind, the most unusual season of all. Advent, Christmas, & Epiphany are filled with expectation, warmth, and wonder. Easter is full of joy. The Day of Pentecost is filled with excitement. Ordinary Time (the time between Pentecost Sunday and Advent) describes much of my life – ordinary.

But Lent is different; it's a paradox. On the one hand, it is a quieter, more subdued season. The music is softer, the words are measured, the faces are reflective, the ashes linger. On the other hand, the time between Ash Wednesday and Easter is the most intense Christian time of all as we explore deep questions like:

- **What does it mean to be me?**
- **What does God want me to do with my life?**
- **How do I become a better person?**

Lent is also a time for the church to meditate upon the meaning of the cross in Christian faith and life. The height and depth of Easter joy is directly proportional to the intensity of our awareness of the cross. To help us begin our journey to the cross, we will be gathering virtually with our sister churches on Wednesday, Feb. 17, for Ash Wednesday. We will gather virtually with them again on Maundy Thursday, April 1, and on Good Friday, on April 2.

In whatever the manifestations we gather (virtually, over the phone, via written pieces), I am glad to be journeying with you. Namaste.

Shalom, Paul

Introducing COTP's new MOD(erator) Squad

By John Durbin, Moderator

Greetings. I'm not sure the size of Judy Jondahl's feet, but these shoes left to be filled are very, very large. Thank you, Judy, for your wonderful leadership during the tumultuous year of 2020.

I am humbled and honored to be serving as Moderator for 2021 and excited to share with you that we have a terrific Moderator Team in place. Jerry Lovell and Suzanne Boisclair will be serving as Vice-moderators.



From left: Suzanne Boisclair, John Durbin and Jerry Lovell

Jerry and husband Mike Witt joined the church in 2018. Jerry retired as the CPA and CFO of a small business in So Cal. He has competed and won in international bowling tournaments, enjoys Mah Jong, and loves to volunteer. Although he comes to "church stuff" later in life, he is drawn to Church of the Palms not by what we say but by what we do.

Suzanne Boisclair and husband Brian moved to Sun City in 2016, and Suzanne joined our church in 2017. Suzanne retired after a long career as an occupational therapist specializing in hand therapy. She enjoys hiking, running, playing golf and just being outdoors. She and Brian (Bo) have recently taken up RVing and they love it. Suzanne comes from a Catholic background but has found her new home at Church of the Palms.

Pat and I joined Church of the Palms in 1998; were married here and had grandkids baptized here. I retired a couple of times — once as a small school district superintendent and once as regional director of the Alzheimer's Association. Church of the Palms has become a large part of Pat's and my lives.

Jerry, Suzanne, and I will work as a team and look forward to working with the Pastors, Church Council and all of you in adjusting our sails and moving boldly into the future. Here are our priorities:

- Planning and implementing in-person worship services.
- Finishing (with the help of Judy Jondahl) a complete rewrite of the Church Constitution and Bylaws.
- Fully implementing the WISE Congregation for Mental Wellness Program
- Supporting and expanding the work of the Social Justice Action Team

We will be using this space in the Palm Leaf to keep you in the loop on our plans and actions moving forward. We take very seriously "Sharing God's unconditional love, justice, and extravagant welcome." Thank you for this opportunity!

WORSHIP THEMES FOR *FEBRUARY*

February 7: What is the most dangerous thing you do? Pastor Paul will be suggesting that prayer is the most dangerous thing. Read Isaiah 40:28-31 & Mark 1:35-39.

February 14: Andrew Ponder Williams, a member in discernment with the Southwest Conference of the United Church of Christ preach. He is currently the Minister of Youth and Young Adults at Desert Palms UCC and also represents the United Church of Christ on the campus of ASU. You will want to hear his message of love and support as he encourages students and future leaders to reach out in Faith Without Fear.

February 17: Ash Wednesday. We will have a virtual gathering of our sister churches in Sun City. More information to follow.

February 21: Pastor Jim will be preaching from Psalm 25 - What are the ways of God? Truth, mercy, steadfast love, humility, faithfulness. How can these five guideposts illuminate our path?

February 28: Pastor Paul will be bringing some Cross words for us. Read Mark 8:31-38.

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.

Sign up to Provide a Meal for our I-HELP Guests

To help, contact Laurie Cathey at 623.238.3826 or spkplg1941@hotmail.com.

Meals are needed on the following dates in February:

Dinner: February 15th
Breakfast: February 16th
Lunch: February 23rd



HART Pantry Food Drive

Saturday, February 6, 2021

9:00—11:00 AM

Sun City Lion's Foundation

9451 N 99th Ave.

Current HART Pantry Needs:

Peanut Butter (10-16 oz jars)

Protein Bars

Toaster Pastries

Pudding or Fruit Cups

Juice Boxes

Ramen Noodles

Assorted Canned Pasta



For your safety, masked volunteers will empty your trunk of donated items.

Monetary donations are also appreciated!



Meet the 2020 Church of the Palms Social Justice Champions: Max and Kay Klinkenborg

By John Durbin

Each year, the Social Justice Action Team selects an individual or individuals to receive the Social Justice Champion Award. The person(s) chosen best exemplifies our guiding scripture: *"And what does the LORD require of us but to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with our God"* Micah 6:8. The criteria for the award include: being a member or friend of The Church of the Palms, being active in church leadership roles, a history of being active in social justice ministries, personal actions challenging injustices and affecting change through education, advocacy, activism, and demonstrating the belief that everyone deserves equal economic, political, and social rights and opportunities. Max and Kay meet all of these criteria and then some.



Max and Kay Klinkenborg

Rev. Max Klinkenborg (Retired)

Max was born on a farm in central Missouri and walked to a one-room schoolhouse. He graduated from the University of MO and Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. Here are a few of his social-justice efforts spanning his life so far: Led church members of a small town church to establish a "Clothes Closet" to recycle used clothes for children and adults; served free food along with Kay and son Erik in a small soup kitchen to poor and homeless in Columbia, MO; made two work trips to Baton Rouge with Habitat for Humanity, post Katrina, for those displaced from their homes; participated in the renovation of a church in Turrialba, Costa Rica sponsored by American Baptists; organized and led 10 youth mission trips to Bacone College in Muskogee, OK, learning the true story of the relocation of the five civilized tribes along the Trail of Tears; worked monthly at

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Social Justice Champions Max and Kay Klinkenborg


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the Micah Ministry of Independence Blvd. Christian Church to provide meals to the homeless and food insecure in the northeast area of Kansas City, MO; worked weekly at Harvesters Food Bank in Kansas City that served 26 counties in Missouri and Kansas; and shed blood for the sick, donating 320 pints of blood and counting. And of course, since joining Church of the Palms, Max has launched two programs for the homeless: I-HELP and the Shower Trailer "Feet and More" ministry.

Kay Klinkenborg

Kay was born in Missouri as the oldest of three children. She worked as a nurse and hospital administrator prior to returning to school to obtain a graduate degree in marriage and family therapy. She has done training in the fields of domestic violence, sexual abuse and women's counseling. The following are some of Kay's social-justice activities: along with Max and son Erik, served monthly meals to the homeless in Columbia, MO; co-led with Max "Clergy Response to Domestic Violence" and "Spouses Support Group" for men whose wives were victims of childhood or adult sexual-assault; founded "Women of the Corn" in Jacksonville, IL (support group for building positive self-esteem and psychological development); pro-bono counseling for Women's Shelter in Jacksonville, IL.; wrote and produced the video: "ACT: Communication Steps & Tools for Advocates Working with Elder Abuse"; volunteered for PORA (Positive Options, Referrals and Alternatives) remodeling old houses for transitional housing to non-street living in Springfield, IL; served as chair of "VOICES in Action" (International Conference for Survivors of Sexual Assault); coordinated "Senior Tuesday Lunches" for Ray and Clay Counties (education, meal, B/P and foot care clinic) in Lawson, MO; coordinated "Dresses for Africa" (dresses and boys shorts shipped to Africa, Haiti, Kenya), volunteered for Project Linus (made over 280 blankets for children in hospitals, shelters or homeless), KC, MO; coordinated public seminar (LGBTQ Issues & Faith"); volunteered monthly at Harvester's Food Bank and Micah Ministry, KC, MO. (prepared and served meals for 600-800 people). And since Kay has joined Church of the Palms, she has provided spiritual counseling to several church members, has led groups and taught marvelous education programs spanning a wide variety of social-justice topics.

Wow, we are blessed to have the Klinkenborgs as members of Church of the Palms.



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.

Brenda Heick	2/1
Fred Plumb	2/4
Mark Funck	2/7
Allan Gott	2/7
Hellen Bishop	2/11
Mildred Hofer	2/11
Linda Kehl	2/11
Susan Thacker	2/13
Jack Evans	2/14
Clint Reynolds	2/14
Marcia Hollingsworth	2/18
Randolph Omahana	2/20
Earl Peterson	2/21
Kay Klinkenborg	2/23
Judy Jondahl	2/27



FEBRUARY
birthdays



Christmas Blessings

Margaret Carpenter,
in memory of husband Philip

In honor of Pastors Paul and Jim and all
those dedicated to making our online
worship services spiritual and meaningful

Jan and Chuck Eckstein,
in honor of our parents and siblings

Jane Lane, in memory of Cal Lane

John and Pat Durbin,
in honor of the Durbin/Wilson family

Suzanne and Brian Boisclair,
In loving memory of Roland and Evelyn
Boisclair, and Henry and Claire Grady

Bob and Sandy Krueger

Pat Anderson

Jane Zukowski

Clint and Carol Reynolds

Mildred Hofer

Corinne Weiss

Terry Star

Mo Goodrick

Dolores Krull

Jan Alexander

Linda Rouches





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
<https://thepalms.org/Tools2Thrive>

We are excited to announce that The Church of the Palms is now recognized nationally as a WISE Congregation for Mental Wellness. Our church will be listed on the [United Church of Christ Mental Health Network website](#), we will be introduced as a WISE Congregation at the 2021 General Synod of the United Church of Christ and, most importantly, we will continue to grow into the congregation that God has called us to be: Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive, and Engaged.

In the weeks ahead, our WISE Steering Committee will be putting together some Tools2Thrive materials along with some support activities that will be available on our Bridges platform. We pray that these will be helpful as we continue to navigate through the challenging times in which we find ourselves. Until then, I offer you this article from Rev. Dr. Rachel Keefe. She is an author, blogger, and pastor within the United Church of Christ. May we all be mindful and careful with ourselves and each other.

*May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,
 so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Romans 15:13*

My baseline of existence is fairly accepting of people, places, and circumstances. I have little patience for technology that doesn't work the way it is supposed to, and even less for individuals who are purposeful in causing harm. However, I've recently had cause to remember just how many things contribute to our sense of emotional, spiritual, and physical wellbeing. Usually, February is a hard month for me. This year, January was rough.

In early December, I became the proud owner of a pacemaker. By January, I had recovered sufficiently to be miserable. I wasn't recovered enough to go to yoga classes or shovel snow or pick up grocery bags. There were physical limits while my body continued to heal. In addition, January was the cloudiest month on record in Minnesota, and I felt the lack of sun. And then, there were all these unanticipated feelings about needing (and having) a pacemaker at the age of 52. Throw in hot flashes, and we'll just say that January was an unpleasant month.

In short, I was impatient with everything and everyone. I was irritable and irrational and I knew it. I was, and continue to be, grateful for the technology that brings my heart rate into normal range and the access I have to healthcare. Yet, nothing really soothed my disturbed being. I couldn't help but think about the fact that some other human being

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had touched my heart, and my heart responded poorly. There were complications during this routine procedure that surprised the surgeon and distressed my wife. I didn't know about this for a few days, but once I knew, I couldn't let it go.

As the month wore on, I relaxed a bit. I've adjusted to dietary changes (mostly) and I've been able to resume yoga. I still experience some physical discomfort as I continue to heal. What I've noticed, though, is how many factors there were in my grumpiness. I was physically recovering from surgery. There was a lack of sunlight. My hormones were shifting. I was adjusting to a new diet. I had unexpected emotions about the pacemaker. In the midst of this, one of our beloved cats died, which added a layer of grief. I kept saying that I didn't know what was wrong or why I was so impatient with the world. Looking back, it seems obvious that there was just too much going on for me to find any kind of balance.

As frustrating as it was to be so unsettled in mind, body, and spirit, it reminded me of just how little control we have over life. Even positive events can cause stress. Even successful, necessary medical treatment can provoke unwanted feelings. Healing takes time and it has many dimensions.

There's no lesson here, really, except to remember that there is little we can actually control in our lives. Sometimes too much piles up (physical health issues, grief, gray winter weather, hormones, dietary changes, etc.) and our sense of wellbeing tips over. It's okay. We are all human and more fragile than we would like to admit.

February is an excellent month to be to be mindful and intentional and extra careful with our hearts, our minds, our bodies, and our spirits.

**[Check out our
Tools2Thrive
Page](#)**

Ash Wednesday, February 17, 11:00 a.m.

LIVE Streaming Worship

On Ash Wednesday this year we will join our sister congregations — United Church in Sun City, Sun City Christian in Sun City, and Desert Garden in Sun City West — for a LIVE Streaming Worship Service.

To join the worship, go to our website to the Bridges platform. Click on Ash Wednesday.

It will be a time of scripture and brief mediations where clergy from each church will share their thoughts on the Lectionary passages for the day.

Since this service is over the internet, we will not be doing ashes or communion in the service. However, The Palms has individual communion sets and we have individual ash containers with ashes for our membership pick up ahead of time to use at your convenience. Just self-administer; the theology of the priesthood of all believers makes this possible within the church. In the hallway outside the church office there is a station where you can pick up communion and ashes for you to use.



2021 Giving Envelopes

Pick up your giving envelopes for 2021 in the church Board Room during normal office hours:
8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Monday—Thursday,
or when the sanctuary is open for prayer,
9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Sundays.



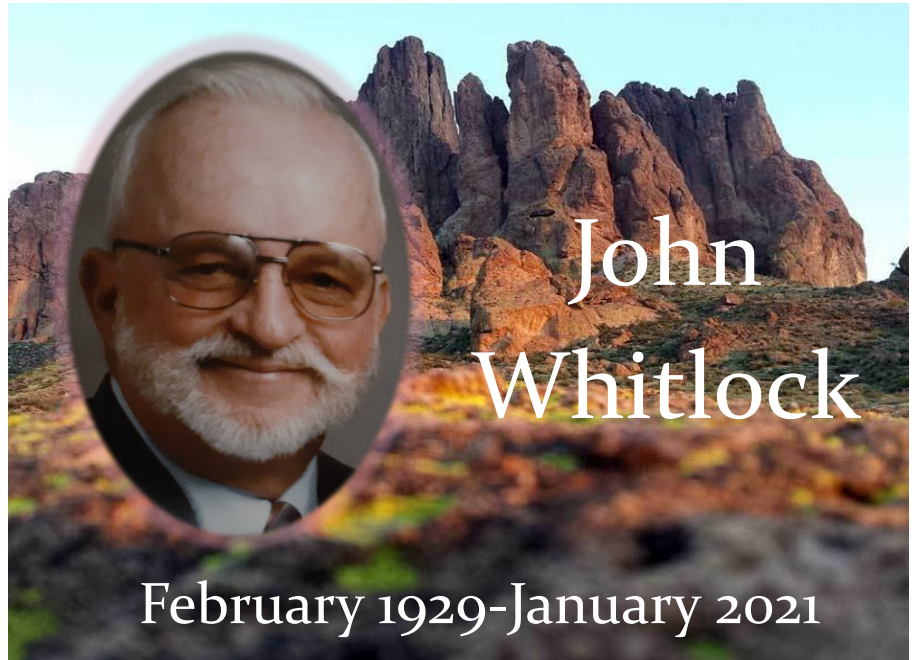
CLOTHING NEEDS AT NEAR-EMERGENCY LEVELS FOR WOMEN LEAVING PERRYVILLE PRISON

Each day, women leave Perryville Prison after having served their time, often without clothes to reenter society. THANK YOU to all who have responded to our calls for donated clothing! There is still a huge need for clothing of all sizes, but particularly pants of all types: jeans, sweat pants, leggings, slacks, etc. No undergarments, sleepwear or shoes, please.

Donations can be boxed or bagged (no hangers) and delivered to The Church of the Palms, 14808 N Boswell Blvd., Sun City. For more information, call Jane Zukowski at 623-584-8225.

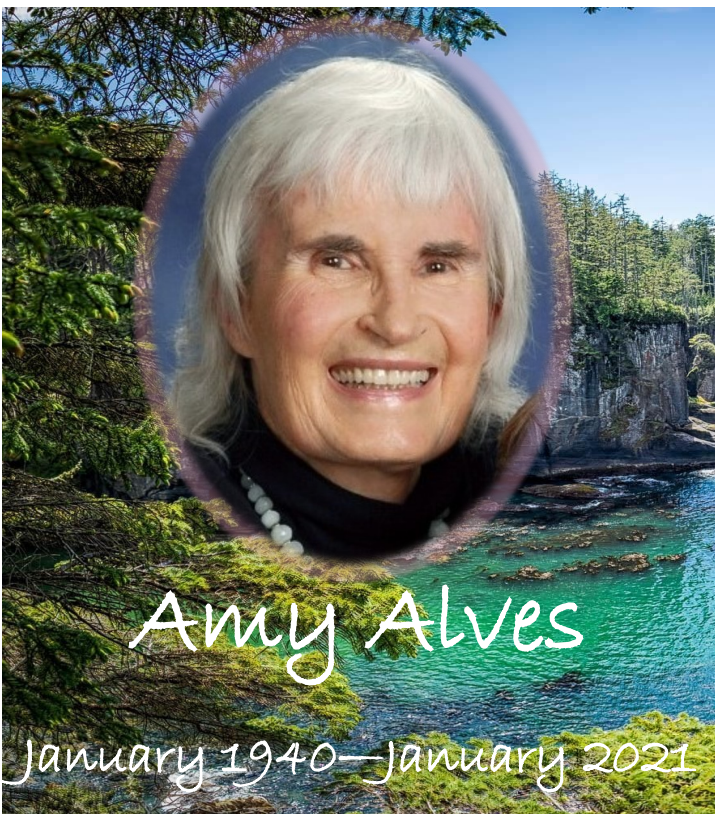


In Memoriam



John
Whitlock

February 1929-January 2021



Amy Alves

January 1940—January 2021



Ruthann Bilkey

October 1945—January 2021



Fleur Benjamin

December 1934—December 2020

Life Long Learning in February

LLL classes continue [online](#).



- **Shared Conversations**, Sundays, 8:30-9:30 a.m. Facilitated by Bobbie Chapman. Use Bridges on the church's [website](#) to join the group.
- **Current Issues & Faith**, Tuesdays, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Continues the study of Robert P. Jones, PhD, who wrote "White Too Long: The Legacy of White Supremacy in American Christianity." The next study will be a DVD on the book: "Caste" by Dr. Isabelle Wilkerson. Facilitated by Kay Klinkenborg.
- **Jump Start**, Tuesdays, 4:00-5:00 p.m. Prep for Sunday Sermon with Scripture/Discussion. Facilitated by John Durbin.
- **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. Continues with Fr. Richard Rohr's "Human Spiritual Development: The Human Spirit and the Times We Live In." Facilitated by Kay Klinkenborg.
- **Cosmic Christians**, Thursdays, 10:00-11:30 a.m. Discussion of the book "Dancing in God's Earthquake: The Coming Transformation of Religion," by Rabbi Arthur Ocean Waskow. Dancing is a metaphor for how we deal with change (earthquake) and religious understanding. The relationship between theology and ecology and the universality of all life dominates. Facilitated by Linette Stenberg.

Tuesday Breakfast in Your PJs is February 9th

The Social Justice Action Team (SJAT) Prison Ministry group is providing an exceptional opportunity to hear from women who were incarcerated in Perryville Prison and have turned their lives around in spite of the obstacles. Please join the Social Justice Action Team for a Tuesday Breakfast in your PJs with a presentation by the **Arouet Foundation Storytellers** on **Tuesday, February 9, 8:30-9:30 a.m.** to hear their stories and understand their challenges. To participate, log on to COTP's webpage www.thepalms.org, select Bridges, then click on **Breakfast in Your PJs welcomes the Prison Ministry Group.**

Some background: One mistake can change a life. Did you know that ANY felony conviction can be a "life sentence," even for a small amount of marijuana in AZ? Once you have been incarcerated, every time you apply for an apartment or a job or to vote, you are asked about convictions. It is easier to *buy* a house than *rent*—EXCEPT for the cost, something which is difficult with poor job prospects. The cycle continues. Even though people have "paid their debt to society," they can be denied school loans and government benefits, be more likely to have their children placed in the foster-care system or even be denied the right to accompany their children on school field trips or help with the school bake sale.

Matthew 25: 34 & 36 — "Then I, the King, shall say to those at my right, 'Come, blessed of my Father, into the Kingdom prepared for you from the founding of the world. ...I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'"

February 1-14, 2021

1 Monday	10:00 am (B2B) Lifelong Learning Board 4:00 pm (KH) I-Help	2 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
3 Wednesday	10:00 am (B2B) Board of Evangelism & Growth 11:00 am (B2L) “Human Spiritual Development: The Human Spirit and the Times We Live In”	4 Thursday	10:00 am (B2L) Cosmic Christians: “Dancing in God’s Earthquake: The Coming Transformation of Religion” 1:00 pm (B2B) Board of Worship and Fine Arts
5 Friday	9:30 am (B2B) SJAT—Criminal Justice 4:00 pm (KH) I-Help	6 Saturday	
7 Sunday	8:30 am (B2L) Shared Conversations 9:00 am (SA) Open for prayer 11:00 am (BR) Holy Grounds Coffee with Pastor Paul JOIN US ONLINE AT https://thepalms.org/online-worship-services/	8 Monday	2:00 pm (B2B) Board of Trustees 4:00 pm (KH) I-Help
9 Tuesday	8:30 am (B2L) Breakfast in Your PJs 10:30 am (B2L) Current Issues & Faith: “White Too Long: The Legacy of White Supremacy in American Christianity” 4:00 pm (B2L) Jump Start	10 Wednesday	9:00 am (B2B) Personnel Committee 10:30 am (B2L) “Human Spiritual Development: The Human Spirit and the Times We Live In” 1:00 pm (BR) Service Project Craft Group
11 Thursday	10:00 am (B2L) Cosmic Christians: “Dancing in God’s Earthquake: The Coming Transformation of Religion” 12:00 pm (KH) Board of Finance & Investment	12 Friday	9:30 am (B2B) Social Justice Action Team 4:00 pm (KH) I-Help
13 Saturday		14 Sunday	8:30 am (B2L) Shared Conversations 9:00 am (SA) Open for prayer 11:00 am (BR) Holy Grounds Coffee with Pastor Paul JOIN US ONLINE AT https://thepalms.org/online-worship-services/

SA=Sanctuary, KH=King Hall, BR=Bridges (www.thepalms.org/bridges), B2L=Bridges to Learning (online), B2B=Bridges to Boards (online)

February 15-28, 2021

<p>15 Monday Palm Leaf Deadline</p>	<p>4:00 pm (KH) I-Help</p>	<p>16 Tuesday</p>	<p>10:30 am (B2L) Current Issues & Faith: "White Too Long: The Legacy of White Supremacy in American Christianity" 2:00 pm (B2B) Board of Stewards 4:00 pm (B2L) Jump Start</p>
<p>17 Wednesday</p>	<p>10:30 am (B2L) "Human Spiritual Development: The Human Spirit and the Times We Live In" 11:00 am (BR) Ash Wednesday LIVE streaming worship w/ sister congregations</p>	<p>18 Thursday</p>	<p>10:00 am (B2L) Cosmic Christians: "Dancing in God's Earthquake: The Coming Transformation of Religion" 1:00 pm (B2B) Care Team</p>
<p>19 Friday</p>		<p>20 Saturday</p>	<p>9:00 am (B2B) Council Meeting</p>
<p>21 Sunday</p>	<p>8:30 am (B2L) Shared Conversations 9:00 am (SA) Open for prayer 9:30-10:30 am (PL) Jan Hutchins' Goodbye Parade 11:00 am (BR) Holy Grounds Coffee with Pastor Paul JOIN US ONLINE AT https://thepalms.org/online-worship-services/</p>	<p>22 Monday</p>	<p>4:00 pm (KH) I-Help</p>
<p>23 Tuesday</p>	<p>10:30 am (B2L) Current Issues & Faith: "White Too Long: The Legacy of White Supremacy in American Christianity" 4:00 pm (B2L) Jump Start</p>	<p>24 Wednesday</p>	<p>10:30 am (B2L) "Human Spiritual Development: The Human Spirit and the Times We Live In" 1:00 pm (BR) Service Project Craft Group</p>
<p>25 Thursday</p>	<p>10:00 am (B2L) Cosmic Christians: "Dancing in God's Earthquake: The Coming Transformation of Religion"</p>	<p>26 Friday</p>	<p>4:00 pm (KH) I-Help</p>
<p>27 Saturday</p>		<p>28 Sunday</p>	<p>8:30 am (B2L) Shared Conversations 9:00 am (SA) Open for prayer 11:00 am (BR) Holy Grounds Coffee with Pastor Paul JOIN US ONLINE AT https://thepalms.org/online-worship-services/</p>

SA=Sanctuary, KH=King Hall, BR=Bridges (www.thepalms.org/bridges),
B2L= Bridges to Learning (online), B2B=Bridges to Boards (online), PL=Parking Lot