



# 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

March 22 marks the one year anniversary. Some anniversaries are celebrated joyfully with cake, cards, and presents. Others are remembered quietly, somberly, with great reverence. This anniversary falls to the latter. March 22, 2020, we did not meet in our sanctuary (God's house) for worship at The Palms; we started videoing our worship because it was not safe to worship in-person for large groups. It's been one year.



I think I can say without reservation that it has been one of the most challenging years of my life – professionally and personally. Who would have thought it would go on this long? Who could have anticipated the sacrifices people made! Who could have imagined the death toll?

The year apart from in-person gatherings goes beyond worship and church - It crossed over into personal: No graduation ceremony for Ruthie; no birthday celebrations for me or Wendy; no family reunion and 70th wedding anniversary for my parents; no trip to see my out-of-state kids; no funeral gathering for my uncle Paul and then my father; no 30th anniversary celebration of my ordination. More times than I can count, I have felt deprived, longing to reconnect, and broken this year.

This past year has broken many things – but not your church! For I have also felt inspired by the teamwork from my colleagues on staff and the lay leadership at The Palms. I have been amazed at the faithfulness at our membership giving of time, talent, and treasure. Our mission of sharing God's unconditional love, justice, and extravagant welcome didn't stay locked within the sanctuary but went out on the streets. We adjusted our sails and God blessed us with a year full of ministry opportunities.

The lectionary text that first Sunday that worship went to video was Psalm 23 – arguably the best known of all the Hebrew scriptures. We have walked that valley of shadows and death this past year. We have not pitched our tent intending to stay but rather are on a journey THROUGH this valley of deep shadows. We shall continue our journey with no fear. God is with us; God's provisions endure the worst circumstances. When it will all end, I have no clue. But I do know God is on this sojourn with us until we shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever. Shalom, Paul

# Updates from the MOD(erator) Squad

Greetings,

Our Mod Squad (Suzanne Boisclair, Jerry Lovell and I) promised, using this section of the Palm Leaf, to keep you up to date on the progress we are making on our 2021 church priorities.

So, here we go:

**Planning and implementing in-person worship services.** Pastors Paul and Jim, Judy Jondahl (Faith Community Nurse), Jane Zukowski (Board of Worship), Bobbie Chapman (Board of Deacons), Eona Schulz (Board of Evangelism), Susan Hershberger

(researcher extraordinaire), and the Mod Squad met on Monday, February 22. Results of that meeting: We will continue to meet on a regular basis to plan the safest and most meaningful opportunities to come together for worship. Watch for a Special Edition of the Palm Leaf spelling out additional details.

**Supporting and expanding the work of the Social Justice Action Team.** Our Social Justice Action Team (SJAT) is doing amazing things. See related articles in this edition of the Palm Leaf. The I-HELP program has helped over 30 individuals get off the street and into permanent housing. The "Feet N More" shower trailer program held its first shower event with the homeless people participating. The Prison Ministry is picking up momentum with opportunities to assist women being released from Perryville Prison. But the big news is, thanks to a matching, \$50,000 anonymous-church-member donation for solar panels, our Creation Justice Team is working hard with the Boards of Trustees, Steward, and Finance and Investment to select the best solar company and to generate a minimum of \$50,000 in member donations to fully utilize the \$50,000 already in hand. Be watching for additional information on this opportunity to help our church "Go Green" by installing solar panels and reducing our carbon footprint.

**Fully implementing the WISE Congregation for Mental Wellness Program.** Our W.I.S.E. Congregation for Mental Wellness Team has developed a wonderful resource to promote mental wellness for all of us. We are asking that all of our church family members take an active role in helping that program reach its full potential. In a reading of the Tools2Thrive resource titled "Supporting Others," one learns that: *"While 1 in 5 people will experience a diagnosable mental health condition in their lives, 5 out of 5 people will go through a challenging time that affects their mental health. There are simple things that every person can say or do to help the people in their life who are struggling to get*



From left: Suzanne Boisclair, John Durbin and Jerry Lovell

...continued on page 3

# WORSHIP THEMES FOR *MARCH*

**March 7:** Pastor Paul will be turning over some tables metaphorically. What are the tables we cherish that we could see smashing to the floor? Read John 2:13-20.

**March 14:** Read John 3:14-21. Life on earth is not possible without love. What difference does it make in your life? Pastor Paul will be preaching.

**March 21:** Do you like surprises? In what ways does your relationship with God surprise you? Read Jeremiah 31:31-34 and look for the surprising promises of God. Pastor Jim will be preaching.

**March 28:** Triumphal Entry. Read Mark 11:1-11. Pastor Paul will give a homily. Many people will share musical selections.

...continued from page 2

*through the tough times.*" These are indeed troubling times for us, for our families, for neighbors and friends. There is a wealth of great information and sage advice at our fingertips on our [Church of the Palms webpage](#). Please take a few moments to check this out. Go to our church webpage, click on [Tools2Thrive](#), find a topic that interests you, and expand your perspective. Then share this resource with someone you know.

**Finishing a complete rewrite of the Church Constitution and Bylaws.** In February of 2020, our Southwest Conference Minister, Rev. Bill Lyons, met with our church leadership to discuss the importance of having a constitution and bylaws reflective of who we are and what we are doing. His observation was that our existing documents were complicated, contradictory, and cumbersome (3 "C"s). He suggested that our documents should be streamlined, simplified, and strategic (3 "S"s). He further observed that we have too many people having to make too long a commitment and serving on too many boards and committees. To illustrate that point, we currently have over 90 constitutionally required board positions filled with individuals who have made a three-year commitment. And in addition, we have 40 positions on standing committees. Based on Rev. Lyons recommendations, Past Moderator Judy Jondahl pulled together a Constitution/Bylaws ad hoc rewrite committee. The Mod Squad has now joined that team and is moving forward. We will keep you posted on our progress.

Thank you for reading our little report. We will be sharing more information next month, so stay tuned.

Sending love,

Suzanne, Jerry & John



It has been about 18 months since I preached the sermon introducing the idea of The Palms becoming a WISE Congregation for Mental Health. The sermon was entitled The Possibilities are Endless. Hear it here: <https://hgt.e98.myftpupload.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/TPAE.mp3>

Since then, over 71 tips, Tools2Thrive, and mental wellness support helps have been shared with our congregation. They have come to you through our [Tools2Thrive page](#) of the website, the Orders of Worship, and the Palms Leaf newsletters. However, in the event that you may have missed one or two of these offerings, I thought it might be helpful to provide the links to all 71 in one place so that you can review and reflect on them. Who knows, you might even think of some folks with whom you would like to share this information.

Coming up in March and April, our Grief Groups will be meeting again. You can see all of the details for those opportunities within the article submitted by Shea Darian on page 7.

Additionally, Gordon Street, Commissioned Minister from First Phoenix UCC, will be offering a recovery support group beginning in April. Recovery encompasses many facets: recovery from substance abuse, physical/sexual abuse, emotional abuse and other traumatic events. Be watching for more details.

—Rev. Jim Alexander

## WISE and Tools2Thrive Resources for Mental Wellness

Title	Video link	Related link
Channel the Depressed Brain		<a href="https://bit.ly/3qMehSq">https://bit.ly/3qMehSq</a>
Be Gentle to Yourself, Others		<a href="https://bit.ly/37CEaw8">https://bit.ly/37CEaw8</a>
Grieving Our Losses, Creating New Traditions	<a href="https://bit.ly/37GEwlt">https://bit.ly/37GEwlt</a>	
January 2021: Start the New Year WISE		<a href="https://bit.ly/3kes15N">https://bit.ly/3kes15N</a>
God's Promises: S is for Shining Forth		<a href="https://bit.ly/3pP0VDn">https://bit.ly/3pP0VDn</a>
God's Promises: E is for Endued		<a href="https://bit.ly/37GhsDz">https://bit.ly/37GhsDz</a>
God's Promises: S is for Steadfast		<a href="https://bit.ly/3kebCye">https://bit.ly/3kebCye</a>
God's Promises: I is for Initiator		<a href="https://bit.ly/3smfpMQ">https://bit.ly/3smfpMQ</a>
God's Promises: M is for Mercy		<a href="https://bit.ly/3utq5BC">https://bit.ly/3utq5BC</a>
God's Promises: O is for Overture		<a href="https://bit.ly/3pQ4cCi">https://bit.ly/3pQ4cCi</a>

Title	Video link	Related link
God's Promises: O is for Overture		<a href="https://bit.ly/3pQ4cCi">https://bit.ly/3pQ4cCi</a>
God's Promises: R is for Ready		<a href="https://bit.ly/2ZGp6JF">https://bit.ly/2ZGp6JF</a>
Introduction to God's PROMISES		<a href="https://bit.ly/3qMLFbj">https://bit.ly/3qMLFbj</a>
God's Promises: P is for Proclamation		<a href="https://bit.ly/3bzAfRU">https://bit.ly/3bzAfRU</a>
Writing the Psalms Part One	<a href="https://bit.ly/2ZIff61">https://bit.ly/2ZIff61</a>	<a href="https://bit.ly/3r0mh2d">https://bit.ly/3r0mh2d</a>
Writing the Psalms Part Two	<a href="https://bit.ly/3aM11az">https://bit.ly/3aM11az</a>	<a href="https://bit.ly/3dIF6mu">https://bit.ly/3dIF6mu</a>
Strength Over Silence: You are Not Alone	<a href="https://bit.ly/3skTOV0">https://bit.ly/3skTOV0</a>	<a href="https://bit.ly/3aJVSzI">https://bit.ly/3aJVSzI</a>
Strength Over Silence: Discovering my Superpower	<a href="https://bit.ly/3sml6KE">https://bit.ly/3sml6KE</a>	<a href="https://bit.ly/2ZLZwCM">https://bit.ly/2ZLZwCM</a>
Strength Over Silence: Tackling Mental Health Stigma	<a href="https://bit.ly/3qMJIM1">https://bit.ly/3qMJIM1</a>	<a href="https://bit.ly/2ZIztMV">https://bit.ly/2ZIztMV</a>
October is Mental Wellness Education Month		<a href="https://bit.ly/2MiHntr">https://bit.ly/2MiHntr</a>
WISE Moment for Mental Health		<a href="https://bit.ly/2ZWioiV">https://bit.ly/2ZWioiV</a>
Intense Feelings: Defuse them	<a href="https://bit.ly/3pOfYNu">https://bit.ly/3pOfYNu</a>	<a href="https://bit.ly/2OWNCUA">https://bit.ly/2OWNCUA</a>
WISE Moment For Mental Health		<a href="https://bit.ly/2MmbINc">https://bit.ly/2MmbINc</a>
WISE Mental Wellness Moment		<a href="https://bit.ly/3skJiqf">https://bit.ly/3skJiqf</a>
Checklist for Preparedness at Home		<a href="https://bit.ly/3kiewC3">https://bit.ly/3kiewC3</a>
Grief as a Creative Life Force	<a href="https://bit.ly/37DZYaA">https://bit.ly/37DZYaA</a>	
WISE Moments for Mental Wellness: Preparedness		<a href="https://bit.ly/2P6fPbK">https://bit.ly/2P6fPbK</a>
Invigorate, be Valiant, Exhilarate Yourself & Others		<a href="https://bit.ly/3urVgqs">https://bit.ly/3urVgqs</a>
Self Talk - Self Thinking		<a href="https://bit.ly/3bA650j">https://bit.ly/3bA650j</a>
Treat Yourself!		<a href="https://bit.ly/3qMbIPW">https://bit.ly/3qMbIPW</a>
Optimal Grace and Generous Self Care		<a href="https://bit.ly/3pOjqHW">https://bit.ly/3pOjqHW</a>
Ideas for Finding Calm		<a href="https://bit.ly/3qMbSXy">https://bit.ly/3qMbSXy</a>
Self Talk: Identifying, Challenging, Changing		<a href="https://bit.ly/3siGlni">https://bit.ly/3siGlni</a>
When is Grief a Problem		<a href="https://bit.ly/3qMVGfH">https://bit.ly/3qMVGfH</a>
Anger: Styles of Communication		<a href="https://bit.ly/2OWO8Sw">https://bit.ly/2OWO8Sw</a>
Grief: Letting Yourself Heal		<a href="https://bit.ly/2NAuziH">https://bit.ly/2NAuziH</a>
Processing Anger; Managing Grief		<a href="https://bit.ly/3smjBMp">https://bit.ly/3smjBMp</a>
Comfort in a Basket	<a href="https://bit.ly/2ZIq5jb">https://bit.ly/2ZIq5jb</a>	
Overcoming Anger		<a href="https://bit.ly/3aMDGp7">https://bit.ly/3aMDGp7</a>
Understanding Grief		<a href="https://bit.ly/3aNhbRe">https://bit.ly/3aNhbRe</a>
Managing Anger - A WISE Thought		<a href="https://bit.ly/3bsWIFI">https://bit.ly/3bsWIFI</a>
WISE Moment for Mental Health		<a href="https://bit.ly/2NNVjvP">https://bit.ly/2NNVjvP</a>
WISE Moment for Mental Health		<a href="https://bit.ly/3aNhfAs">https://bit.ly/3aNhfAs</a>
WISE Moment for Mental Health		<a href="https://bit.ly/3qZUEWE">https://bit.ly/3qZUEWE</a>
LGBTQ Pride and National Hunger Awareness Month		<a href="https://bit.ly/3kqIR4S">https://bit.ly/3kqIR4S</a>
After the Rain		<a href="https://bit.ly/3utfwb1">https://bit.ly/3utfwb1</a>
After the Rain		<a href="https://bit.ly/3dCI3VB">https://bit.ly/3dCI3VB</a>
Finding the Positive After Loss		<a href="https://bit.ly/3dC8TNK">https://bit.ly/3dC8TNK</a>
TONGLEN	<a href="https://bit.ly/3qPhK2e">https://bit.ly/3qPhK2e</a>	
Supporting Others		<a href="https://bit.ly/2ZKSKxs">https://bit.ly/2ZKSKxs</a>
Eliminating Toxic Influence		<a href="https://bit.ly/37GROyq">https://bit.ly/37GROyq</a>
Transform Negative Emotions Into Positive Thoughts	<a href="https://bit.ly/3qRm1m2">https://bit.ly/3qRm1m2</a>	
Creating Healthy Routines		<a href="https://bit.ly/37J6Sf0">https://bit.ly/37J6Sf0</a>
Owning Your Feelings: What's Underneath?		<a href="https://bit.ly/37J6Sf0">https://bit.ly/37J6Sf0</a>
Do You Know Your Tools2Thrive		<a href="https://bit.ly/3bA7DI7">https://bit.ly/3bA7DI7</a>
May is Mental Health Awareness Month		<a href="https://bit.ly/3aObsu4">https://bit.ly/3aObsu4</a>

Title	Video link	Related link
Being WISE During the COVID 19 Crisis		<a href="https://bit.ly/2NOFwqi">https://bit.ly/2NOFwqi</a>
A New Way of Doing Grief		<a href="http://bit.ly/3kefhMu">http://bit.ly/3kefhMu</a>
Being WISE During the COVID 19 Crisis		<a href="https://bit.ly/3dFRJif">https://bit.ly/3dFRJif</a>
Being WISE During the COVID 19 Crisis		<a href="https://bit.ly/3qMdHnm">https://bit.ly/3qMdHnm</a>
Being WISE During the COVID 19 Crisis		<a href="https://bit.ly/2ZK4Fve">https://bit.ly/2ZK4Fve</a>
Staying Calm and Healthy During Coronavirus Isolation		<a href="https://bit.ly/3dEI5wd">https://bit.ly/3dEI5wd</a>
Common Warning Signs of Mental Illness		<a href="https://bit.ly/3dEI5wd">https://bit.ly/3dEI5wd</a>
Being WISE During the COVID 19 Crisis		<a href="https://bit.ly/3qMeaG8">https://bit.ly/3qMeaG8</a>
March is Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month		
March is Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month		
March is Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month		
February Self Esteem Wrap-up		
CureStigma		<a href="https://www.curestigma.org/">https://www.curestigma.org/</a>
February is International Boost Self-Esteem Month		
February is International Boost Self-Esteem Month		<a href="https://bit.ly/3aMGiTX">https://bit.ly/3aMGiTX</a>
January is Mental Wellness Month		



Rev. Debby Stinton is now leading at West Liberty UCC in Ohio. Her new address:  
 216 W. Newell Street  
 West Liberty, Ohio 43357



Our sendoff parade for Jan "Hutch" Hutchins was Feb. 23. Hutch's new address:  
 60055 Agate Road  
 Bend, OR 97702

# Doing Grief in Real Life: Ministry Program at COTP



A new ministry program is being offered by Shea Darian, a grief educator and spiritual director who teaches holistic grieving as a *life-skill* to help you heal your grief – past, present and future. Whoever you are and no matter what types of losses you harbor, Shea offers a new way to think about grief and grieving that will help you learn to use your grief as a life force for healing.

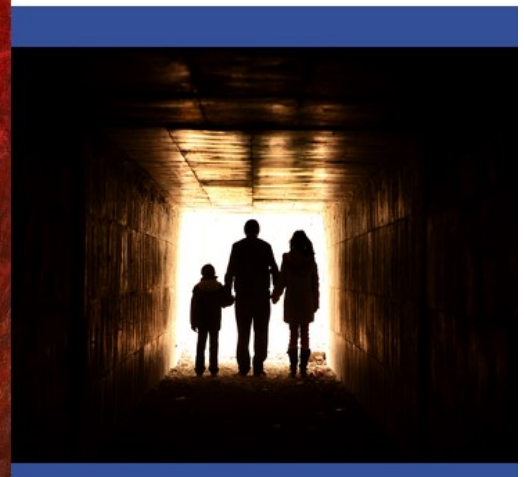
*Initially, this ministry will be conducted primarily online due to Covid-19 and will be on a first-come first-served basis.* Members and friends of Church of the Palms are invited to participate in one or all of the following offerings:

## The Healing Circle: Sacred Listening Small Groups

Healing Circles are confidential small group encounters to explore personal grief and healing by engaging in a contemplative conversation with three or four others. More than a support group, Healing Circles provide an opportunity for participants to share personal stories of loss, grief and healing. Interludes of quiet contemplation create a deep listening experience that a past participant describes as an “expanded form of listening” in which “the listening and sharing give each in the circle profound energy, joy, gratitude and an expanded connection with being human.” Small groups meet weekly, biweekly or monthly. Participants commit to 4-5 sessions at a time. Dates and times depend on participants’ preferences and availability as groups are formed.



Above all else,  
guard your heart,  
for everything you  
do flows from it.  
Proverbs 4:23



# Doing Grief in Real Life: Ministry Program at COTP

## One-on-One Spiritual Care

For those who prefer one-on-one sharing, Shea is available as a listening companion – biweekly, monthly or on an occasional basis. If this seems like a better fit for you, contact Shea to schedule a time to ask questions and get more information.

## Educational Offerings

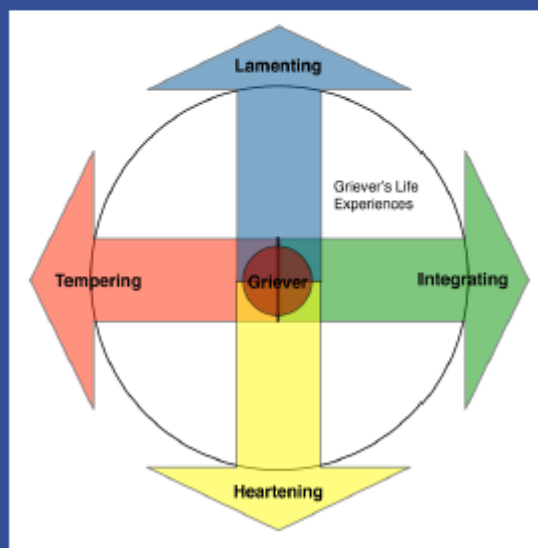
This spring/summer, Shea will offer a talk and workshop on holistic grieving – based on her Model of Adaptive Grieving Dynamics (*Illness, Crisis & Loss, Vol. 22, 2014*). Shea's model illustrates four types of responses to grief that are essential for healing grief-related suffering. These dynamic four are Lamenting, Heartening, Tempering and Integrating. Together, they can serve as your compass to navigate all kinds of losses, and help you become more aware of your preferences, strengths and growing edges as a griever and a healer. Check back for dates and times.

***Grief-striking losses come in many forms:*** death, illness, injury, family dysfunction, conflict, injustice, addiction, loneliness, trauma, social or political ills... Grief can descend in good times, too. It's so mixed up with love and happiness, it can impact us even when it seems we have nothing to grieve.

***If you are interested in participating or have further questions, please contact Shea at [info@sheadarian.com](mailto:info@sheadarian.com) or 602.315.8480.***

“Moving beyond suffering is learning to live with and without the pain in more ways than one.”

~ Shea Darian



**Shea Darian, M.Div.,** is an author, grief and family educator, and multi-faith spiritual director. In her work as minister, chaplain and retreat guide, Shea serves those of all faiths and philosophies. She is an award-winning author of books of family spirituality, including *Seven Times the Sun*, *Sanctuaries of Childhood* and *Living Passages for the Whole Family*. Shea's new book, *Doing Grief in Real Life: A Soulful Guide to Navigate Loss, Death and Change* will be released in 2021. Shea is a Member in Discernment for ordination with the Southwest Conference of the UCC. She and her partner, Andrew, are members of The Church of the Palms.



## Creation Justice: Stop Junk Mail to Reduce Carbon Footprint

By Andrea Stefanov

The Creation Justice committee has been working with the Board of Trustees to reduce the Church's carbon footprint. We have surveyed the lighting, windows, and are working to help get estimates on solar.

The Creation Justice team thought it might be helpful to inform the congregation of The Church of the Palms on a way to reduce junk mail, including catalogs, flyers, etc., that you want to stop receiving. We have found a website called [catalogchoice.org](http://catalogchoice.org). It is free to sign up. There is a place to send a donation to them, but that is your choice. You do not have to send them a donation for them to help you.

Here is what they say about themselves when you go to their [webpage](#):

*"Catalog Choice's mission is to stop junk mail for good. For the past 8 years, Catalog Choice has been passionate about helping protect natural resources and helping you simplify your life. Use this free service to cancel specific catalogs and other types of paper mail you no longer wish to receive. ..."*

*Please note that signing up for this service will not stop all of your incoming paper junk mail in one fell swoop, as Catalog Choice does not have the capacity to stop mail from your local USPS or from prospecting lists. Catalog Choice recommends that our users sign up for DMA choice in tandem with our service to take your name off of these prospecting lists, because many catalog merchants share lists of personal information with other merchants."*

You will need to create a login using your email and a password. If you need further assistance, you can contact Andrea Stefanov at [ajstefanov@gmail.com](mailto:ajstefanov@gmail.com).

## In Memoriam



### **Rev. Dr. Arthur Ellersieck** **1933—2021**

We are holding the family of the Rev. Dr. Art Ellersieck in our prayers following his recent passing. He served all three UCC churches in the Sun Cities:

- Senior pastor at Church of the Palms, 1990-1997
  - Interim pastor at the United Church of SC, 2004-2005
- Part of a 2-person interim team at Desert Garden UCC, where he retained his membership, 2008-2009

His wife, Grace, welcomes prayers and cards — address is 15455 N. Boswell Blvd., Sun City 85351.

As a follow up to our compelling Breakfast in Your PJs with Arouet Storytellers from Perryville prison, please check out this poem written after spending time facilitating a class with women at Perryville. It reveals the humanity, not just statistics.

### WOMEN IN ORANGE

They gather around the tables together  
 Laughing, talking, greeting one another  
 Telling friend of their day  
 Going out of their way  
 To be kind and considerate of each other  
 These Women in Orange.

With raptured attention a speaker is heard  
 As she tells the story of her life.  
 They listen and share  
 And sometimes compare  
 Their growth as they moved through their strife.  
 These Women in Orange.

The room is alive with laughter and tears  
 Applause bursts forth as they share  
 With candor and wit  
 Just the smallest bit  
 Of decisions and events that brought them here.  
 These Women in Orange.

The laughter is real as are their tears  
 When someone shares deep from within.  
 New ways of relating  
 Supporting and caring  
 Seeing others where they've also been.  
 These Women in Orange.

They are counting the time when they will be leaving  
 To face a new world "outside."  
 A life to rebuild  
 A life that is filled  
 With feelings of joy and of pride.  
 These Women in Orange.

The fears and the joys of release loom large  
 The unknown excites to the core.  
 And scares them some too  
 For what will they do  
 To build a better life than before?  
 These Women in Orange.

But while they are here and hopefully after  
 They leave and move on with their lives  
 They will remember clearly  
 The support they needed dearly  
 Was given them freely  
 O'er the years by their friends and companions  
 Their Sisters in Orange.

*Dedicated to the women in the Beyond Athena classes at Perryville Prison, Goodyear, AZ, Nancee Noel 2014*

# Happy Birthday!

Richard Andersen	3/4
Mary Fimbres	3/7
Steve Meoli	3/7
Marion Barmore	3/8
Lila Miller	3/8
Ruth Remle	3/11
Jane Lane	3/14
Charlotte Harger	3/16
Steve Sutto	3/18
Jeanne Chisholm	3/19
Nelson Hymans	3/20
John Laabs	3/22
Sharon Krause	3/24
Millie Carlson	3/25
Phillip Ladd	3/25
Jon Mahaffey	3/25
Jillian Frenning	3/28
Vern Greenhalgh	3/28
Gloria Peterson	3/28
Scott Kranzusch	3/31





# Maiden Voyage of the "Feet-N-More" Shower Trailer

By Max Klinkenberg

The USS 'FEET-N-MORE' shower trailer was used for the first time on Tuesday, February 23, giving showers to the homeless in the City of Surprise. Eight member/friends of Church of the Palms crewed the shower trailer on its maiden voyage at the Salvation Army Church on Avenue of the Arts in Surprise. We provided nine showers for our guests, cared for three pets and charged 5 cell phones.

In addition to the shower trailer we had Chance Shelter for pet care and Circle the City for medical care. Both will be partnering with us on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month in 2021. The Salvation Army Church provided free socks, assorted clothes and a wonderful lunch. The City of Surprise was present to offer services for homeless persons as well as I-HELP of the NW Valley.

Church of the Palms gave to each person a toiletries bag, a hand towel and opportunity to charge their cell phone at our charging station. COTP is committed to keep our volunteers and guests safe. We required masks, took the temperature of our guests, and sanitized the shower room after each usage. Before the trailer goes out again, it will be cleaned from stem to stern, towels will be laundered, and soap dispensers filled.

It was a shakedown cruise for us as we discovered the things that were missing, such as sanitary wipes, pencils and portable awnings for registration, charging station and towel distribution. Several volunteers got a nice tan.

The City of Surprise and the Salvation Army are wonderful and generous partners as we work together to care for the homeless in our communities. We look forward to working together on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month. We anticipate our numbers will increase as people come to know that we are safe and practicing extravagant hospitality.



God is Still Speaking



Church of the Palms



# Lifelong Learning in March

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. Class is on hiatus March 2nd and 9th. It resumes March 16th with "Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents" DVD series with Isabel Wilkerson. Caste invites us to discover the inner workings of an American hierarchy that goes far beyond the confines of race, class, or gender. Isabel is an American journalist and the author of [The Warmth of Other Suns: The Epic Story of America's Great Migration](#) and [Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents](#). She was the first woman of African-American heritage to win the Pulitzer Prize in journalism. Facilitated by Kay Klinkenberg.
- **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. Class is on hiatus March 3rd and 10th. It resumes March 17th with "The Universal Christ: How a Forgotten Reality Can Change Everything We See, Hope for and Believe" DVD series with Fr. Richard Rohr. Drawing on scripture, history, and spiritual practice, Rohr shares a transformative view of Jesus Christ as a portrait of God's constant unfolding work in the world. "Jesus' life was meant to declare that humanity has never been separate from God—except by its own negative choice." Facilitated by Kay Klinkenberg.
- **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.

## Sign up to Provide Meals for our I-HELP Guests

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

Meals are needed for these dates in March:

Dinner: March 1st, 29th  
Breakfast: March 16th, 23rd, 30th  
Bagged Lunch: March 16th, 23rd, 30th



Scrip, the Gift Card program, is alive and well. Mail orders to Scott Patrick at 13675 N. Newcastle Dr. Sun City, AZ 85351. Make checks payable to COTP. Questions? Contact Scott at 708-813-0137.

**March 1-16, 2021**

<b>1 Monday</b>	1:00 pm (B2B) I-HELP Volunteers 4:00 pm (KH) I-Help	<b>2 Tuesday</b>	10:30 am (B2L) Current Issues & Faith: NO CLASS 4:00 pm (B2L) Jump Start
<b>3 Wednesday</b>	10:00 am (B2B) Board of Evangelism & Growth 11:00 am (B2L) Spiritual Growth: NO CLASS 2:30 pm (B2B) Constitution & Bylaws Taskforce	<b>4 Thursday</b>	10:00 am (B2L) Cosmic Christians: “Dancing in God’s Earthquake: The Coming Transformation of Religion”
<b>5 Friday</b>	9:30 am (B2B) SJAT—Criminal Justice 4:00 pm (KH) I-Help	<b>6 Saturday</b>	
<b>7 Sunday</b>	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 <a href="https://thepalms.org/online-worship-services/">https://thepalms.org/online-worship-services/</a>	<b>8 Monday</b>	2:00 pm (B2B) Board of Trustees 4:00 pm (KH) I-Help
<b>9 Tuesday</b>	10:30 am (B2L) Current Issues & Faith: NO CLASS 4:00 pm (B2L) Jump Start	<b>10 Wednesday</b>	9:00 am (B2B) Board of Mission and Outreach 10:30 am (B2L) Spiritual Growth: NO CLASS 1:00 pm (BR) Service Project Craft Group
<b>11 Thursday</b>	9:30 am (KH) Mod Squad 10:00 am (B2L) Cosmic Christians: “Dancing in God’s Earthquake: The Coming Transformation of Religion”	<b>12 Friday</b>	9:30 am (B2B) Social Justice Action Team 4:00 pm (KH) I-Help
<b>13 Saturday</b>		<b>14 Sunday</b>	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 <a href="https://thepalms.org/online-worship-services/">https://thepalms.org/online-worship-services/</a>
<b>15 Monday</b> <a href="#">Palm Leaf</a> <a href="#">Deadline</a>	4:00 pm (KH) I-Help	<b>16 Tuesday</b>	10:30 am (B2L) Current Issues & Faith: “Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents” 2:00 pm (B2B) Board of Stewards 4:00 pm (B2L) Jump Start

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

**March 17-31, 2021**

<b>17 Wednesday</b>	10:30 am (B2L) Spiritual Growth: “The Universal Christ: How a Forgotten Reality Can Change Everything We See, Hope for and Believe”	<b>18 Thursday</b>	10:00 am (B2L) Cosmic Christians: “Dancing in God’s Earthquake: The Coming Transformation of Religion” 1:00 pm (B2B) Care Team
<b>19 Friday</b>		<b>20 Saturday</b>	9:00 am (B2B) Council Meeting
<b>21 Sunday</b>	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 <a href="https://thepalms.org/online-worship-services/">https://thepalms.org/online-worship-services/</a>	<b>22 Monday</b>	4:00 pm (KH) I-Help
<b>23 Tuesday</b>	10:30 am (B2L) Current Issues & Faith: “Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents” 4:00 pm (B2L) Jump Start	<b>24 Wednesday</b>	10:30 am (B2L) Spiritual Growth: “The Universal Christ: How a Forgotten Reality Can Change Everything We See, Hope for and Believe” 1:00 pm (BR) Service Project Craft Group
<b>25 Thursday</b>	10:00 am (B2L) Cosmic Christians: “Dancing in God’s Earthquake: The Coming Transformation of Religion”	<b>26 Friday</b>	4:00 pm (KH) I-Help
<b>27 Saturday</b>	6:00 am (PL) Sun City Cycling Club	<b>28 Sunday</b>	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 <a href="https://thepalms.org/online-worship-services/">https://thepalms.org/online-worship-services/</a>
<b>29 Monday</b>	4:00 pm (KH) I-Help	<b>30 Tuesday</b>	10:30 am (B2L) Current Issues & Faith: “Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents” 4:00 pm (B2L) Jump Start
<b>31 Wednesday</b>	10:30 am (B2L) Spiritual Growth: “The Universal Christ: How a Forgotten Reality Can Change Everything We See, Hope for and Believe”		

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B2L= Bridges to Learning (online), B2B=Bridges to Boards (online), PL=Parking Lot