



# 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 drive a hybrid vehicle. I have driven one since 2007. Hybrid vehicles combine at least one electric motor with a gasoline engine to move the car, and its system recaptures energy via regenerative braking. Sometimes the electric motor does all the work, sometimes it's the gas engine, and sometimes they work together. The result is less gasoline burned and, therefore, better fuel economy. I confess that it took me a while to learn how to drive a hybrid vehicle to maximize the fuel economy. I had to relearn how to start the car — no turning the key — just push a button. But, with experience came knowledge, with knowledge came results.



The Church of the Palms is entering a hybrid time. We are going to be doing some in-person meetings, some online groups, and some gatherings that are both at the same time. We hope to get better spiritual fuel economy using the hybrid model. My guess is that it will take a while to learn how to drive a hybrid church to maximize spiritual economy. But with experience will come knowledge, with knowledge will hopefully come results.

What we are trying to do is adjust our sails and take advantage of every spiritual blessing we can as we go onward. When we can safely include people for in-person worship, classes, and fellowship, we will push that pedal. When our online bridges program can give us the mileage to reach people far away, we need to push those buttons. Hopefully, working together to create a hybrid church, learning what works and what does not, we will grow the church spiritually. Thanks for journeying onward with me.

Shalom,  
Paul

# Update from the MOD(erator) Squad

You may recall that in our first Mod Squad Palm Leaf article, we promised to use this space to keep you posted on our church leadership priorities for the year. They are:

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



L-R: Suzanne Boisclair, John Durbin, and Jerry Lovell.

Praise God, priority number one has been accomplished! Thanks again to our pastors and the team that planned and prepared for that glorious day with our safety and well-being foremost in their minds. **See article on IN-PERSON WORSHIP Next Steps.**

Our WISE Congregation for Mental Wellness Program is building momentum. We are sure you've seen our Tools2Thrive for Mental Wellness section in the Sunday bulletins. Our WISE team is meeting and planning programs to provide support for those of us impacted directly or indirectly with mental wellness challenges.

The Social Justice Action Team continues to grow and do amazing work, including Feet-N-More, the Solar Panel/Going Green project, and the launching of the Matthew 25 Prison Ministry Pen Pal program. Watch the Palm Leaf and Sunday Bulletins for more.

Our church constitution and bylaws are under revision. The team on this project will make its recommendations to the Church Council in the Fall and present them to our congregation at the January 2022 annual meeting. Our constitution will have a whole new look! It will be streamlined and provide more flexibility to meet the changing needs of members and the community. With technology and the never-ending stream of social and environmental crises, churches are challenged to stay relevant and to be the hands and feet of Jesus to bring love, justice and welcome to the marginalized, the mainstream and beyond. Our church constitution — the way we organize our ministerial functions and operational structure — will help us set a clear path to be the church we want to become. Our goal is to make our constitution and bylaws more simplified and strategic. We have been discussing how we can best use the talents of our members: Is it serving as an elected board member or working as part of project team? Is it committing to a 3-year responsibility or a shorter opportunity for service? How do we best tap into the talents and interests of our members? Is it the operational/governance side (finances, buildings, personnel) of "church work"? Or is it the ministerial functions (worship, evangelism, ministry) of our church that captures members' hearts and desire to get involved? We have some exciting ideas on these questions and will be talking to board members and gladly welcome your input as we continue to move forward. Stay tuned!

With love,  
Jerry, Suzanne, John

# WORSHIP THEMES FOR JUNE

In-Person Worship at 10:00 a.m.

Online Worship Mondays

**June 6:** Pastor Paul will be preaching on relative difficulty. It seems like we all have it. Read Mark 3:31-35.

**June 13:** Mark 4:26-34. What would you want to include you if you wrote a gospel? What is the gospel according to you? Pastor Paul is preaching.

**June 20:** Happy Father's Day! Pastor Jim will be preaching from Mark 4:35-41. What can we do when the wind and waves threaten to swamp us? Where is your life-line?

**June 27:** It's Open and Affirming Sunday! Celebrate the diversity we share. Read 2 Corinthians 8:7-15. Pastor Paul will be preaching on the spirit of generosity.

## Happy Birthday in June!

Jeannette Reeves	6/3	Mary Hoy	6/29
Dan Kozlowski	6/4	Lindsey Riley	6/29
Richard Nagel	6/6	Ramona Schenk	6/30
Sylvia Masny	6/7		
Edith Bentz	6/8		
Sandy Znetko	6/8		
Darwin Wille	6/11		
Don Zoss	6/11		
Vickie Ashenbrenner	6/14		
Hazel Urquhart	6/15		
Donna Rosebery	6/18		
Debbie Hill	6/21		
Lucille Clark	6/24		
David Deardorff	6/24		



# IN-PERSON WORSHIP: NEXT STEPS

By John Durbin

COTP Moderator

The team helping us navigate the road to as much normalcy as possible as the pandemic subsides met May 23 after Sunday Worship. Here is what they are requesting.

- This is not a time to be complacent. Remain cautious in your interactions with people whose vaccination status is unknown.
- If you are not vaccinated, please consider doing so. Contact Judy Jondahl, Steve Meoli or Bobbie Chapman for assistance if needed.
- Worship service in the Sanctuary
  - ⇒ You no longer need to preregister your attendance for Sunday service.
  - ⇒ Continue to wear your mask.
  - ⇒ Follow the directions of the ushers. The entrance and exit patterns have been slightly changed.
  - ⇒ No more need to take temperatures.
  - ⇒ Hand washing stations are now optional.
  - ⇒ Responsive readings can be done. But please speak very softly.
  - ⇒ No congregational singing yet. But that day is coming!
  - ⇒ Follow the directions of the ushers. After service, please do not linger in the narthex.
  - ⇒ Please no handshakes or hugs. But that day is coming!
  - ⇒ There will be no fellowship hour in King Hall for the immediate future. But that day is coming!
  - ⇒ Remember to follow the directions of the ushers!

As a church family we have done well throughout this unprecedented time in our lives. Thank you for your faithfulness, thoughtfulness, and patience. We are a stronger church now than we were seventeen months ago.

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

To help, contact Laurie Cathey at 623.238.3826 or [spkplg1941@hotmail.com](mailto:spkplg1941@hotmail.com).

Meals are needed on these dates:


**Breakfast: July 6th**

**Dinner: July 5th**

## PERRYVILLE WOMEN NEED PANTS

Each day, women leave Perryville Prison after having served their time, often without clothes to reenter society. **There is an urgent need for pants of all sizes.** Donations can be boxed or bagged (no hangers). For more information, call Jane Zukowski at 623-584-8225.





**WISE**  
 Congregation for Mental Wellness  
 Welcoming | Inclusive  
 Supportive | Engaged

**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>

By Pastor Jim Alexander

June 2021 promises to be a month of continued healing and hope as we emerge from quarantine and return to in-person learning opportunities and worship at The Palms. There is excitement and joy as we do so. But, there is also a bit of anxiety and nervousness, too.

When you or someone you know is feeling overwhelmed or overcome by the stress that the "return to a new normal" may bring, there are members of our WISE Mental Wellness First Aid Team standing ready to assist. They can be identified in



the wearing of buttons as pictured below. This Team, along with Pastor Jim can provide a wide variety of tools and information that may bring relief and assurance that no one is alone on this journey. You will also find various Tools2Thrive materials available

on the website.

Another Tool2Thrive beginning in June and lasting through this summer will be a meaningful devotional series presented by Kay Klinkenborg. *Exploring Meditations for the Lazy Hazy Days of Summer* is an immersion into Lectio Divina, Lectio Visual,

and Lectio Musica. Video and Audio versions, along with printed materials, will be posted on our website and found in the Summer Devotions tab. A new devotion will be posted each week, with the idea that participants will practice and grow within each type of meditation that is presented.

Each week within our June Order of Worship pages, you will find information regarding PTSD (Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder) and PTRS (Post-Traumatic Racism Syndrome). It is important to recognize that trauma comes in many different forms. People with differing backgrounds experience symptoms associated with PTSD and PTRS above and beyond the general stresses of living in these days. Included in this series will be articles written by Kay, where she will provide her insights on the long-term impact this type of stress is having on our black and indigenous brothers and sisters. Andrea Stefanov will also have an article summarizing the history of Juneteeth.

Another highlight during the month will come as we observe Open and Affirming Sunday, June 27th. As a part of the day, Rev. Erika Allison, queer interfaith minister, spiritual counselor and author will share her story of recovery from conversion therapy. Rev. Erika's book, *Gay the Pray Away*, is available now on Amazon.com. Conversion/reparative therapy is based on the premise that homosexuality and same-sex attraction is a mental disorder, abnormal, or somehow unhealthy. If you or someone you know has

been subjected to the harmful effects of reparative or conversion therapy, you may find the book, Rev. Erika's printed article and video presentations helpful. These Tools2Thrive will be accessible during our OnLine worship service on 6-27-2021, in our Tools2Thrive page of the website. Pastor Jim also has several copies of Gay the Pray Away available for you to check out.

Finally, Pastor Jim will be attending (virtually) the Mental Health America 2021 Annual Conference from June 10-12. The theme this year is From Resiliency to Recovery. He will bring back helpful tools and tips related to:

- How our faith community can address lingering mental wellness challenges after a pandemic
- How our faith community can engage in the lives of those who experience mental health trauma
- How our faith community can engage in meaningful mental wellness ministry of marginalized people.
- How our faith community can support and empower the caregivers of those who suffer from mental wellness crises.

Thank you for your support and encouragement as we continue to become a WISE Congregation for Mental Wellness. If you are interested in joining the WISE Steering Committee, please contact Pastor Jim at 623.792.5295



Coming Soon

This space is currently  
Under Construction!

Our Faith Community  
Nurse, Judy Jondahl and  
the Care Team members  
are carefully crafting  
content to let you know  
about the activities and  
services that will be  
available as they  
re-vision this ministry.

The Care Team Mission

Assist the Pastors when our community  
needs help spiritually, physically,  
emotionally or socially

## Awakening Racial Injustice

In October of 2020, the Southwest Conference passed a resolution to create an "Awakening of Racial Injustice" on the part of member congregations and individuals of our respective congregations. Soon thereafter the Church of the Palms Church Council adopted the 15 steps to increase the awakening of racial injustice. One of those steps is to "Provide information about, and the impact of racism on Black, Indigenous, and other People of Color, through newsletter articles." The article below, was written by Nancee Noel, a part of our Social Justice Action Team and member of West Valley Center for Spiritual Living. Look for more articles addressing this topic in future Palm Leaf editions.

**By Nancee Noel**

Social Justice Action Team

Having lived in Arizona for 16 years, I am surprised how little acknowledgement and attention is given to the many indigenous people who also inhabit our state. There are actually 22 federally recognized tribes in Arizona. That's a lot of people!

I won't try to name the tribes, as anyone interested can Google that.

With the media emphasizing systemic white privilege and racial biases, indigenous people are gaining more political power necessary to deal with their issues. Many rural homes on the Navajo reservation do not have running water due to the difficulties and expenses of getting water to them in the desert area they inhabit. Not only is it a physical desert, but also a food desert with most people having access only to the gas station groceries. This means limited availability of fresh produce. There is a great need for attention to infrastructure, including internet which is unavailable to many. Cases regarding the disappearance of indigenous women and girls often go unsolved. Still, the nations are making progress.

When the 116<sup>th</sup> Congress convened, it had four Native Americans which, from what I was able to find, is the largest number of native peoples ever in the U.S. Congress. For the first time in our history, a native person, Deb Haaland, is head of the Department of Interior. Arizona native peoples' votes in the 2020 election were instrumental in turning AZ blue. Some had to drive 100 miles to cast their vote. Now, Arizona voter repression bills are making it even harder for them to vote. ([navajotimes.com/rezpolitics/nation-opposes-voting-bills-signed-by-ducey/](https://navajotimes.com/rezpolitics/nation-opposes-voting-bills-signed-by-ducey/)). When COVID-19 struck, the native population was hard hit. However, according to the Navajo Nation President, Jonathan Nez, lockdown and mandated mask wearing stopped it in its tracks.

Native Peoples need all of us to get *behind* them. As Billie Fidlin, founder and president of Whisper N' Thunder ([www.whispernthunder.org](http://www.whispernthunder.org).) states, "To be the best ally, we take our lead from Indigenous elders."

**Helping folks on the Rez:** Ronn Enzweiler will deliver donations to the food bank in Tuba City on June 9th. Contributions can be dropped off in the Narthex through Sunday, June 6th. For more information, contact Ronn at [ronn2phx@centurylink.net](mailto:ronn2phx@centurylink.net).

# Update from our Service Project Craft Group

By Bonnie Green

Service Project Craft Group

Progress is moving forward toward a goal. We are truly moving forward, from Zoom Meetings, to a couple meetings in one of our homes, and now, we will be back in the Board Room at Church; beginning on Wednesday, May 26th, at 9:00 a.m.! This will be a regular Wednesday date on the calendar each week.

We will bring in our many items that we have made over the past year, and continue toward the day that we can again have our Mission Table in King Hall for all to enjoy, and purchase items, as you wish. We will also have many items to give away as the need arises.

If you have fabric, yarn, buttons, or craft items you think we might be able to put to use, please contact Carol Reynolds, our Chairman, or bring them to the Church Office and they will see that we get them. Thank you.



A recent gathering of the Service Project Craft Group.

## Injustice In Our Justice System: The Stories of Mass Incarceration

By Nancy Nonini

Social Justice Action Team—Criminal Justice

Following Pastor Jim's sermon on "The Facts vs. The Stories" about Jesus' Resurrection, we'd like to follow up on our presentation on the facts of Mass Incarceration with some stories. One story is about someone who was wrongly convicted, but served over 14 years in prison. One story is about someone who served an inordinately long sentence for a relatively minor case of shoplifting. One story is about how incredibly young we start the School-to-Prison Pipeline. These are all *Arizona* stories.

As Christians, we are called to right these injustices. According to the UCC: "In the lives and faces of those who fall into the criminal justice system, we encounter Christ, even in the midst of profound brokenness. We are challenged to seek out the image of God in this complex and challenging context... Because we are followers of Jesus, we are called to be present as ambassadors of healing, restoration and justice in jail cells, courtrooms, booking rooms, prison yards and detention centers."

Please join us for these stories and what we can do to decrease the Injustice In Our Justice System at **Breakfast in Your PJs on Tuesday, June 15, from 8:30-9:30 a.m.** This event is online at [thepalms.org/bridges](http://thepalms.org/bridges).



# Second Shower Trailer Site Begins in June

By Max Klinkenborg

Feet-N-More Shower Ministry

Beginning Wednesday, June 16th, FEET-N-MORE, the shower trailer ministry of Church of the Palms, will be providing showers at Santa Teresita Catholic Church in El Mirage. At the invitation of St. Vincent de Paul's food distribution and feeding program at Santa Teresita, we will be there from 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. on the first and third Wednesdays of each month.

In addition to the feeding program, Circle the City, a mobile provider of healthcare, will also be at Santa Teresita on Wednesdays. The multiple offering of services to the homeless and poor will complement each other, as we all reach out to the community. With this location in El Mirage, in addition to Surprise on the second and fourth Tuesdays, we will be able to offer a shower to the homeless every week.

To launch FEET-N-MORE in El Mirage, the Christian Restoration Center in El Mirage with Pastor Larry Quilon, will be helping with the expenses of the trailer. Pastor Larry has been a faithful volunteer at the Salvation Army Church when the shower trailer is there.

We are delighted to be entering into new ministry relationships with St. Vincent de Paul, Santa Teresita Catholic Church and Christian Restoration Center to serve needs within the City of El Mirage.

## FEET-N-MORE to Serve June 19th at 'Day of Freedom' in Tempe

Day of Freedom is an annual event in the Valley on "Juneteenth," celebrating the end of slavery in the United States and commemorating African-American freedom. Juneteenth is a state holiday in several states and is also known as Emancipation Day or Freedom Day.

The event will be held at the Tempe Corps Salvation Army and is to be a celebration with our neighbors in need. In addition to our shower trailer, there will be haircuts, COVID vaccinations, food, clothes, HIV testing, Hepatitis C testing, hygiene packs and entertainment.

The event will be on Saturday, June 19th from 7:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. at the Tempe Corps Salvation Army, 40 E. University Drive in Tempe.

CLIPDART ANNUAL JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION!

# DAY OF FREEDOM

CELEBRATION WITH OUR NEIGHBORS IN NEED!

**PROVIDED BY:**

- Haircuts
- Showers
- COVID Vaccinations
- Food
- Clothes
- HIV Testing
- Hepatitis C Testing
- Hygiene Packs
- Entertainment
- NARCAN
- Menstrual Products & MORE!

PHX | Maricopa County Public Health | [www.maricopa.gov](http://www.maricopa.gov)

THE SALVATION ARMY | UNITED FOOD BANK | lyA | SONORAN PREVENTION WORKS

WILL & SUZANNE | College of Public Health | & MANY MORE!

June 19th, 2021 | 7AM - 4PM MST [3PM breakdown]  
Location: Tempe Corps Salvation Army [40 E. University]  
Visit [TinyURL.com/DayofFreedom2021](http://TinyURL.com/DayofFreedom2021) to volunteer!!

A flyer for Day of Freedom, which will offer showers from Feet-N-More, free haircuts, vaccinations, food, clothes, and health testing for neighbors in need.

## Shea Darian's Ordination is Sunday, June 27, at 3:00 p.m.



Join us in celebrating the wonderful Shea Darian as she is ordained into the United Church of Christ at 3:00 p.m. Sunday, June 27th, here at Church of the Palms. More details to come! Shea has accepted a chaplain position at Phoenix Children's Hospital beginning June 1st. She has blessed this congregation through her grief counseling, her leadership in song and spoken word, and in her kind and gentle spirit. She is a gift to this world.

Read more about Shea's ministry at [sheadarianmdiv.com](http://sheadarianmdiv.com).

## Life Long Learning Board June 2021

LLL classes are [online](#).



### June Class/Event Schedules

#### Sunday

- *Shared Conversations* will continue through the summer from 7:30-8:30 a.m. Facilitated by Bobbie Chapman.

#### Tuesday

- *Current Issues & Faith* will NOT meet June through August.
- *Jump Start: Prep for Sunday Sermon with Scripture/Dialogue*, 4:00-5:00 p.m. Will NOT meet July or August. Facilitated by John Durbin.
- **Tuesday Breakfast in Your PJs, June 15, 8:30-9:30 a.m.** *Injustice in Our Justice System*; the second of two sessions hosted by Social Justice Action Team — Criminal Justice via Bridges on the church's website, [thepalms.org/bridges](http://thepalms.org/bridges).

#### Wednesday

- *Spiritual Growth* class will NOT meet June through August.

#### Thursday

- *Cosmic Christians* meets 10:00-11:30 a.m. June 3 and then takes a two-week break. New book study — Karen Armstrong's "The Bible" — begins June 24 at the regular time, 10:00-11:30 a.m. Facilitated by Linette Stenberg. NO class in August. September class will pick up the remaining chapters of Armstrong's book. New and used copies can be found on [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com). If you need assistance purchasing this online, contact Lindsey in the church office at 623.977.8359.

## How to Participate in Lifelong Learning

All classes/events remain virtual through ZOOM on the church's website: [www.thepalms.org](http://www.thepalms.org); look to left, click on "Bridges"; scan down and look for the name and date of the event; click on the class to join.

**June 1-16, 2021**

<b>1 Tuesday</b>	4:00 pm (B2L) Jump Start	<b>2 Wednesday</b>	9:00-11:00 am (BR) Service Project Craft Group
<b>3 Thursday</b>	10:00 am (B2L) Cosmic Christians	<b>4 Friday</b>	1:30 pm (B2B) Social Justice Action Team-Criminal Justice
<b>5 Saturday</b>		<b>6 Sunday</b> <a href="#">Gift Card</a> <a href="#">Orders Due</a>	7:30 am (B2L) Shared Conversations 10:00 am (SA) Sunday Worship
<b>7 Monday</b>	12:30 pm (BR) Green Task Force 2:00 pm (B2B) I-HELP Volunteers 4:00 pm (KH) I-HELP	<b>8 Tuesday</b>	9:00 am-1:00 pm (OS) Feet-N-More Shower Trailer Ministry — City of Surprise 4:00 pm (B2L) Jump Start
<b>9 Wednesday</b>	9:00-11:00 am (BR) Service Project Craft Group	<b>10 Thursday</b>	
<b>11 Friday</b>	1:30 pm (B2B) Social Justice Action Team	<b>12 Saturday</b>	9:00 am (KH) Church Council
<b>13 Sunday</b>	7:30 am (B2L) Shared Conversations 10:00 am (SA) Sunday Worship	<b>14 Monday</b>	2:00 pm (BR) Board of Trustees 4:00 pm (KH) I-HELP
<b>15 Tuesday</b> <a href="#">Palm Leaf</a> <a href="#">Deadline</a>	8:30 am (B2L) Breakfast in Your PJs: Injustice In Our Justice System—Stories of Mass Incarceration 4:00 pm (B2L) Jump Start	<b>16 Wednesday</b>	9:00-11:00 am (BR) Service Project Craft Group 9:00 am-1:00 pm (OS) Feet-N-More Shower Trailer Ministry — El Mirage

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

**June 17-30, 2021**

<b>17 Thursday</b>		<b>18 Friday</b>	
<b>19 Saturday</b>		<b>20 Sunday</b>	7:30 am (B2L) Shared Conversations 10:00 am (SA) Sunday Worship
<b>21 Monday</b>	4:00 pm (KH) I-HELP	<b>22 Tuesday</b>	9:00 am-1:00 pm (OS) Feet-N-More Shower Trailer Ministry — City of Surprise 4:00 pm (B2L) Jump Start
<b>23 Wednesday</b>	9:00-11:00 am (BR) Service Project Craft Group	<b>24 Thursday</b>	10:00 am (B2L) Cosmic Christians
<b>25 Friday</b>		<b>26 Saturday</b>	
<b>27 Open and Affirming Sunday</b>	7:30 am (B2L) Shared Conversations 10:00 am (SA) Sunday Worship 3:00 pm (SA) Shea Darian Ordination	<b>28 Monday</b>	4:00 pm (KH) I-HELP
<b>29 Tuesday</b>	4:00 pm (B2L) Jump Start	<b>30 Wednesday</b>	9:00-11:00 am (BR) Service Project Craft Group

KH=King Hall, B2L= Bridges to Learning, B2B=Bridges to Boards, SA=Sanctuary, BR=Boardroom, OS=Offsite