

April 2022

# The Palm Leaf



Church of the Palms, 14808 N. Boswell Blvd., Sun City, AZ 85351

## A Letter from Paul

### Tuning our Ears for a Sabbatical



Sabbaticals are a time for tuning our ears for listening carefully, for discerning the texture and quality of our own paths, for attending to God's unceasing, creative plea amidst the noise of cultural pressures, the busyness of life, and our own self-limiting habits. Sabbaticals are for pastors and for congregations.

I will be going on sabbatical from May 16 to August 15, 2022. You are invited to join me in your own way and discern. Some of our Sabbatical discernment may be straightforward. We will travel, we will attend, we will carry on. We may need to curb a habit, or we may need to follow through on a responsibility.

Cultivating a spark of servanthood in the ongoing process of discernment, which I think is the more subtle invitation of the Sabbatical, is not always so straightforward. It involves a radical and risky self-evaluation and a commitment to rethink and rework everything we know and are. God is always calling us into a more generous place so that we can love and serve ourselves and one another more authentically.

What will that look like for each of us? We might have images in our minds as to what we ideally should be. But perhaps sometimes the ideal is less important than the real. The spiritual life is not a generic undertaking. Rather, it involves the unique encounter of a particular person with a God who dares and continues to dare to be incarnate in human form. The spiritual life is never twice the same. Always utterly new, always surprising, the human meeting with God through the discernment of the Spirit invites us to become listeners to God's voice heard among the multitude of voices crowding the human heart. We must be open to hear the surprising message it may bring. "Let anyone with ears to hear listen!" Mark 4:9.

Shalom, Paul

Read more about plans for Pastor Paul's Sabbatical on page 9.



# Notes from your Executive Board

at The Palms

As you all know, Church of the Palms is a very active community of believers. All one has to do is look at our weekly schedule of meetings, classes, and social justice outreach programs to see this busy group of believers "being the church." We certainly are a church on the move! It is interesting to note, however, that until the recent rewriting of our church constitution, we had no specific group of members with the primary responsibility of planning and providing fellowship activities.


Fellowship is one of the major attributes of what Jesus promoted among his followers. Fellowship with other believers is important because it helps express love to one another and it encourages good works. Another important reason for Christian fellowship is its impact on unbelievers. Jesus told His disciples, "By this, all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another" ( John 13:35 ).

With our new constitution, we strengthened all of the existing Teams (formerly Boards), including Worship & Fine Arts, Lifelong Learning, Mission & Outreach, and Evangelism & Growth. But equally important, we have added the Fellowship Team. And with our new Ministry Council, all of our Teams are coordinating activities and working together to make the Church of the Palms' light to the community and beyond shine even brighter.

The Fellowship Team is responsible for our gathering and greeting time after Sunday morning worship service. This Team is also planning a number of fellowship activities throughout the year including, "Lunch with a Bunch," "Ministry Fair & Cookout," "Summer Salad Spectacular," "Bingo Saturday," "Bring a Friend Sunday," "Service Auction & Lunch," and more. We will also be starting "Men's and Women's Fellowship Groups." And the important feature of all of these events is that they are open to members, frequent visitors and friends (new and old).

If you have ideas for additional fellowship activities and/or would like to be involved with planning and providing fellowship activities, please contact Co-chairs of the Fellowship Team, Terry Starr and Sandy Krueger, or any member of the Executive Board. So, are you ready for a party?!?!

## IN LIEU OF EASTER LILIES



In years past, we adorned our sanctuary with lilies on Easter. This year, instead of flowers, we're asking you to consider donating to the Blessings Fund. Your gift can be given "in honor of" or "in memory of" anyone you wish, and their names will be included in an upcoming edition of the Palm Leaf.

# WORSHIP THEMES FOR APRIL

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

Online Worship Monday

**April 3:** Do we have the Fear of Missing Out? Or Fun of Moving Onward? Pastor Paul will be preaching. Read Isaiah 43:16-21.

**April 10:** Palm Sunday — The Sanctuary Choir and Musicians will present Full to the Brim — Even the Stones Cry Out! New members joining!

**April 17:** 8:00 a.m. Easter Service outside around the fountain. Read Luke 24:1-12. Jesus is risen as he said! Pastor Jim will preach.

10:00 a.m. Easter Service. Read John 20:1-18. Pastor Paul will encourage us to be stone movers. It's time to roll away the stones that inhibit us.

**April 24:** Creation Justice Sunday.

## VISITOR INFO

Do you have questions about Church of the Palms? You are invited to join us Wednesday, April 6, at 3:30 p.m.

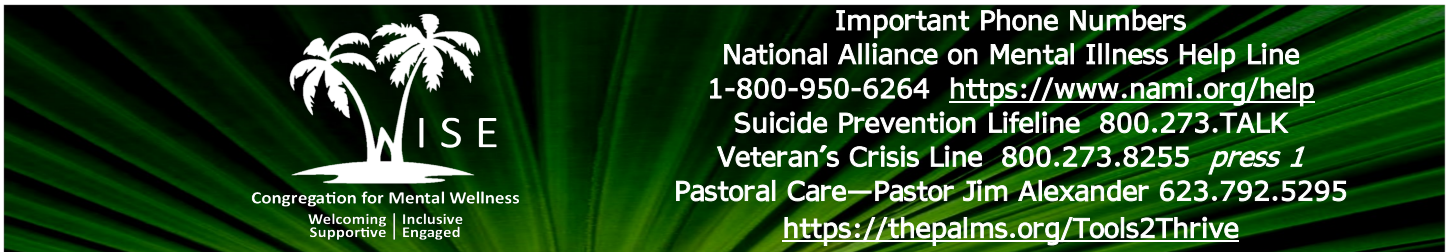
The Evangelism and Growth Team is hosting an Information Session in King Hall. Meet with Senior Pastor Paul Whitlock and Associate Pastor Jim Alexander for a presentation, plus you can meet other active church members. This will give you an opportunity to ask questions, get answers, gain information about the United Church of Christ, and discover the many opportunities to be involved in our church life.

A guided tour of the church will be provided, following with a light supper and fellowship. All visitors wishing to just learn about our church, or those who wish to join as members, are welcome. New members will be introduced to our congregation during Sunday Worship April 10.

Margaret Carpenter	4/7
Joe Comito	4/7
Nancy Mahaffey	4/7
Bob Urquhart	4/9
Pastor Paul Whitlock	4/9
Rod Fensom	4/10
Bill Reeves	4/10
Lurene Ladd	4/12
Jeffrey Scruggs	4/12
Jan Alexander	4/14
Pat Anderson	4/14
Bernice Fintelmann	4/15
Tom Coffey	4/17
Jan Hutchins	4/18
Wendy Whitlock	4/20
Chris Jensen	4/23
David Princehouse	4/25
Bob Carlson	4/27
Viola Hustedt	4/28
Deborah Lane	4/30
Andre Petty	4/30
James Yang-Hellewell	4/30



Happy  
Birthday  
in April



May is Mental Health Month. As a Congregation, we will be observing mental health month on the Sunday designated as Mental Health Sunday by the United Church of Christ. Why are we talking about it in April? It is always a good time to prepare for such an a topic early! This article will help us do just that by recalling what mental health is and what it looks like. This article also has a link for you to take a mental health screening which may help you understand where you are on the mental health pendulum. After taking the screen, you may find some helpful resources.

Since the start of the pandemic, more and more people are talking about mental health. An increasing number of folks are starting to see it for what it is: one important component of your overall health and well-being, just like your physical health. But mental health conditions, resources, and conversations can still feel complicated and out of reach.

Are there common warning signs for mental health conditions or crises? Specific factors that can lead to mental health conditions or even crises? What resources are out there – and how do I know if they're right for me?

Many people are learning about mental health topics for the first time. Having a widespread understanding of the topic can help you be more informed if you or someone you know is experiencing a mental health condition or crisis. Around half of people in the U.S. will meet the criteria for a diagnosable mental health condition at some point in their life, so everyone should know what to look out for.

Everyone should have the support needed to thrive. Communities that have been historically and presently oppressed face a deeper mental health burden because of the added impact of trauma, oppression, and harm.

There's often no one single cause for a mental health condition. Instead, there are many possible risk factors that can influence how likely a person is to experience a mental health condition or how serious the symptoms may be.

Some risk factors for mental health conditions include: trauma, which can be a one-time event or ongoing; your environment and how it impacts your health and quality of life (also known as social determinants of health like financial stability and health care access); genetics; brain chemistry; and your habits and lifestyle such as a lack of sleep.

Of course, understanding the risk factors for a mental health condition can be more difficult when it's your own mental health. Take time to ask yourself about your thoughts, feelings, and behaviors to see if this is part of a pattern that may be caused by a mental health condition. Here are some questions to get you started:

- Have things that used to feel easy started feeling difficult?
- Does the idea of doing daily tasks like making your bed now feel really, really hard?
- Have you lost interest in activities and hobbies you used to enjoy?
- Do you feel irritated, possibly to the point of lashing out at people you care about?

Our society focuses much more on physical health than mental health, but both are equally important. If you are concerned about your mental health, there are several options available. You are not alone – help is out there, and recovery is possible. It may be hard to talk about your concerns. Taking a screen at [mhascreening.org](https://mhascreening.org) can help you to better understand what you are experiencing and get helpful resources. After that, consider talking to someone you trust about your results, and seek out a professional to find the support you need.



# CARE Corner

Brought to you by Church of the Palms'  
CARE Ministry Team

## Coming Soon to the Church of the Palms

With the relaxing of COVID restrictions, the Care and Support Ministry is exploring some programming options to provide support for our members and the community. We are planning to begin offering programs in the near future, assuming the COVID numbers remain in a decline and CDC continues to decrease restrictions to meeting in person.

One support group being explored is a cancer survivor group. We have identified potential leaders for such a group and are working with them to arrange for a meeting time and securing any necessary supplies.

Also being explored is a support group for individuals dealing with family/friends who are experiencing mental and emotional health challenges. We are looking into the possibility being explored in establishing the Church of the Palms as a location for an existing program, Emotions Anonymous.

Other opportunities on our top 6 list include:

- having a luncheon for our homebound who can be transported to the church via the bus. This would give them an opportunity to enjoy the company of others from the congregation;
- a home safety program offered by the Sun City Posse;
- diet meal planning for those with special dietary needs; and
- starting a caregiver support group

In addition, we will continue to reach out to church members with visits, phone calls, cards, providing assistance with meals and transportation needs. If you are interested in assisting the team with occasional rides to doctors' appointments or shopping, please contact Judy Jondahl, 480-388-0707 or judyjondahl@gmail.com.

As we frequently hear, "It takes a village," and we certainly have one at the Church of the Palms.

**The Care Team Mission**  
**Assist the Pastors when our community**  
**needs help spiritually, physically,**  
**emotionally or socially**



## Rainbow Bridge Pet Memorial Project

Consider ordering a tile to honor your pet who has crossed over the Rainbow Bridge. Learn more on the Opportunity Table in the Narthex.

# Perryville Art Show a Success

By Nancy Nonini

Thank you to all who participated in our Straight from the Heart Perryville Art Show! In addition to providing funds for the artists and for the Perryville Prison Ministry led by Rev. Kim Crecca, we have made connections with various churches and groups in the Phoenix area. We had one woman just riding by on her bicycle who had provided 12 Step Programs in prisons in the Chicago area for several years. We had visitors from United Methodist churches through our partnership with Dove of the Desert UMC in Glendale and with the Desert Southwest Conference of the UMC Criminal Justice Reform Task Force. Art groups in Sun City sent visitors. People who bought note cards will be spreading the artwork to friends throughout the US.



People experienced the humanity and talent of women in Perryville. Rev. Kim shared stories about the conditions in Perryville and the resourcefulness of the women there.

Members became aware of prison ministry programs that they want to support—one member is making gorgeous handmade cards to send to Perryville women for their birthdays; another found a local re-entry house to provide hygiene products; others within and outside our congregation are interested in becoming Pen Pals in our program.

Thank you all for supporting our Art Show! If you want more info about our Criminal Justice Ministry, please contact Nancy at [nnonini19@gmail.com](mailto:nnonini19@gmail.com).



By Nancy Nonini

Unfortunately, since February, our Arizona legislature has worked on many bills that negatively impact social justice.

- Even though we have a proportionately larger prison population than would be expected for our state, bills were proposed to make even more simple drug offenses more serious crimes, leading to increased imprisonments rather than to increased treatment.
- Several bills were introduced to make voting more difficult for all voters. As a representative democracy, this is a serious social justice issue.
- Medical decisions for transgender youth and

women in general were proposed to be taken away from individuals and banned by restrictive laws unresponsive to an individual's needs.

- Public safety at schools and in public spaces was compromised by bills proposed to allow loaded guns to be present in these areas.

Social justice should give us all rights and protections under the law. By the time you read this, many laws will have been passed. You can still let your representatives know how you feel they have worked for what YOU BELIEVE AS CHRISTIANS. You can identify and contact your legislators via this website:

<https://www.azleg.gov/findmylegislator/>

This legislative year may be over soon, but we can hopefully work to educate our legislators on how we would like them to represent us next year — either to continue in the path they have pursued or creating new directions.

# VOLUNTEER Opportunities

## Meal and Laundry Teams, Monitors Needed for I-HELP

The Interfaith Homeless Emergency Lodging Program (I-HELP) is a unique, cost-effective program that uses what churches have in abundance (space, volunteers, the desire to help the stranger) to provide overnight emergency shelter and meals to those experiencing

homelessness and are ready to move out of homelessness.

The individuals are case managed to help them move from crisis to stability by providing job support and housing resources. These individuals are case manager screened for appropriate placement and are required to be Covid tested. HELP

NEEDED: Host Church

Volunteers — Meal Teams, Overnight Monitors, Van Drivers and Laundry Team. If you are interested in volunteering, please join us [on Wednesday 4/27/2022 2:00-3:30 p.m. in King Hall.](#) Lutheran Social Services will provide an overview and COTP team leaders Nancy, Max, Vickie, Jerry, Randolph and Scott will provide specifics.

## Sock, Underwear Drive to Benefit Dysart Kids



The Church of the Palms has selected Dysart Community Center to receive non-monetary donations through April. As the church did several years ago, we are requesting donations of underwear and socks for the children they serve. Please refer to the chart to ascertain the sizes of the boys & girls who participate in their programs. Please leave donations in the box in the Narthex. Dysart can also always use staple food goods and hygiene and paper products, which are distributed each Wednesday to families who are served by the center.

GIRLS SOCKS		
3-7 Years	6 – 7.5	30 Children
8 – 10 Years	8 – 9.5	20 Children
11 – 14	10 – 13	20 Children
GIRLS UNDERWEAR		
3-5 Years	XS	20 Children
6 years	S	10 Children
7 – 9 Years	M	20 Children
10 – 12 Years	L	10 Children
13 – 14	XL	10 Children
BOYS SOCKS		
3 – 7 Years	6-7.5	25 children
8-10 Years	8-9.5	20 Children
11-14 Years	10-13	25 Children
BOYS UNDERWEAR		
3-5 years	Xs	15 Children
6 years	S	10 Children
7-9 Years	M	5 Children
10-12 Years	L	15 Children
13-14 Years	XL	25 Children

# HOLY WEEK EVENTS

**April 10: Palm Sunday**, 10:00 a.m. Sunday in the Sanctuary. Choir presentation.

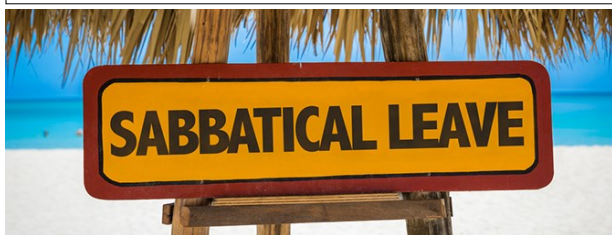
**April 14: Maundy Thursday Service**, 5:00 p.m. Thursday at United UCC, 11250 N. 107th Ave., Sun City. Joint service with United UCC, Church of the Palms, Desert Garden UCC, and Sun City Christian Church. Communion will be served.

**April 15: Good Friday Service**, 12:00 p.m. Friday in the Church of the Palms' Sanctuary.

**Good Friday Labyrinth Walk**, 12:45-3:00 p.m. Friday on the Labyrinths at the Palms. A printed guide will be provided to each person for their self-directed walk, pausing at the "stations of the cross" to read a brief Biblical text and prayer. Volunteers will be available to assist walkers who come anytime between 12:45-3:00 p.m.; the walk to the center will take about 30 minutes. Chairs and water will be available. The guides will be available in the literature box for late afternoon and evening walks, as well.

**April 17: Easter Sunday Worship**, 8:00 a.m. Sunday outside around the fountain.

**Easter Sunday Worship**, 10:00 a.m. Sunday in the Sanctuary.



## Sabbatical Facts

Pastor Paul will be on Sabbatical May 16 through August 15, 2022.

### *Pastor Paul*

While on Sabbatical, he and Wendy will travel to see family in the Midwest and California and go overseas and see the sites of London, England. Look closely and you will also find him hugging a giant sequoia, putting his toes in Oak Creek in Sedona, and walking the labyrinth at the Redemptorist Renewal Center in Tucson.

He will also be working on projects at home: planting, building, and setting up his backyard, as well as working on a project to bring photos and colorful stories to a coffee table book near you.

### *Church of the Palms*

A caring and dedicated group has been addressing all the aspects of what Pastor Paul and Wendy do at The Palms. Pastor Jim will cover about half of the preaching schedule – the other half will be filled by other clergy within The Palms. Pastoral care will be handled by Pastor Jim, Rev. David Klingensmith, and Kay Klinkenborg. Various people will be "guest editors" for weekly Paul at the Palms newsletter.

### *What You Can Do*

Pray. That is, pray for the church, for Pastor Paul and his family, for Pastor Jim and all the others who will be stepping up their responsibilities. Pray for yourself asking God to guide you during this Sabbatical time.

Volunteer. Maybe prayer will lead you to share your time and talent. Contact Lindsey in the church office on ways you can be of service.

Attend. Be present at the regular church functions and help support the leadership of those groups.

*Dream Big, Act Boldly, and Love God.*



# 500 Showers in First Year of Feet-N-More:

## How Did It Happen and Who Helped?

By Max Klinkenborg

We gave our first shower on February 23, 2021, at the Salvation Army Church on Avenue of the Arts in Surprise. It was our maiden voyage with the trailer and we gave 9 showers and charged 5 cell phones. Little did we know that day how typical that would be. We were at the Salvation Army Church because of our contract with the City of Surprise to offer showers twice a month within the city. From the beginning of the concept of the shower trailer, the City of Surprise was encouraging and welcoming for us to bring the trailer to serve the homeless population there.

For a little history, it was in February of 2020 that Max Klinkenborg made a PowerPoint presentation to the Mission and Outreach Board to purchase a shower trailer and begin a ministry away from the church campus to where the homeless congregated. Before M&O could take action, Covid 19 was upon us, and we ceased to worship in person and meet as Boards. It wasn't until August that the Board met by ZOOM and approved \$45,000 from the Spaulding's bequest designated for Social Ministry. The ministry began with all believing that God was in the timing and we had a mandate to move forward in service.

The trailer arrived on October 20, 2020, and we spent much of the next four months equipping a truck to pull the trailer and to haul a generator that was needed to power the trailer. We hosted a "Come and See" event for representatives of surrounding communities and had a dedication service for the trailer on a Sunday after worship. Volunteers were recruited, but it was an easy sell, as many had been committed to the ministry from the beginning.

Over the year, we have been at several locations with the trailer. Every two weeks, the trailer is at the Salvation Army Church in Surprise.

Since October 2021, we have been at Ktizo UCC, near 35<sup>th</sup> and Olive avenues, twice a month to compliment their ministries to the homeless. From the middle of June to the end of October 2021, we took the trailer to Santa Teresita Catholic Church in El Mirage, where we averaged 2-3 showers, so we stopped going there as we had other opportunities. Without a shower at COTP, we began offering showers to I-HELP guests on Monday nights in June 2021.

We have also taken the shower trailer to one-time events, such as "Day of Freedom" on Juneteenth. We set up at a Salvation Army Church in downtown Tempe and gave 30 showers on a very hot June day. The trailer has also been to Emmanuel Church of God in Christ in Buckeye and at the Surprise Resource Center for a "Stand Down" event for veterans and at Rio Vista Park in Peoria, sponsored by the Peoria Police Dept.

Our financial support for the first year came from the City of Surprise, Ktizo Church UCC, a grant from the City of Peoria and individual donors. Our start-up expenses have been significant, but going forward we will be self-supporting, independent of support from the church's budget.

The FEET-N-MORE shower trailer has been successful because of the vision and generosity of our patrons, a faithful and hard working cadre of volunteers and support from our partner churches and cities.



Feet-N-More celebrated giving more than 500 showers in its first year of operations during Sunday Worship on March 13, 2022.

# Update from our Service Project Craft Group

By Bonnie Green

Here we are again. Spring has come and the weather is ready for shorts and flip-flops. We've set up our table with items to fit the season. Be sure and get your golf cart or auto steering-wheel cover to prevent burnt fingers when you come back to your vehicle parked in the sun. Most of them are insulated and really do work!

There have been inquiries for homemade jewelry; drop earrings, etc. The lady that supplied us with them is no longer in the area. We would love to have a volunteer again, working at home or at the Church. Scrubbies are in high demand, too, and we are also out of them.

Our quiltmakers keep busy making small quilts and lap robes for both adults and children, and these are also on our table. Some of their items go to I-HELP, and Care Homes for both children and adults that are needy.

Our knitters and crocheters are busy making hats, scarves and soap bags for Hart Pantry for this coming Christmas. Yes, Christmas! The Pantry's need for winter is so great that we work year round. Again, there will be at least 360 Middle High teens that need their help. But they do foods and treats for them all year! Healthy puddings, applesauce, crackers, just to name a few. Do go by their box in the Narthex and see what you can contribute.

If you enjoy good fun and fellowship, join us Wednesdays, 9-11 a.m., in the Boardroom.



Just a few of the items available from Service Project Craft Group.

## Chronic Pain Support

Do you experience occasional or chronic pain from arthritis, fibromyalgia, neuropathy or other physical conditions? The Church of the Palms has a support group, started a few years ago by Scott Patrick. This is a safe place for you to come and share what you are experiencing within a supportive and loving group. Information and experiences with physicians, medications, and treatment plans are shared.

Meetings are held the second Thursday of each month at 10:00 a.m.

This group is open to anyone, not just for those attending Church of the Palms, so let your friends or relatives know. For further information, call or text Scott Patrick at 708.813.0137. You may also email him at [fishdog300@yahoo.com](mailto:fishdog300@yahoo.com).

## Men's Fellowship Group

**1st & 3rd Tuesdays**

**9:00–10:00 a.m. in the Narthex**

"Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong." 1 Corinthians 16:13

Fellowship is an important part of our faith. Coming together to support one another is an experience that allows us to learn, grow, and demonstrate the love of God.

- \* Fellowship Makes Us Stronger
- \* Fellowship Provides Encouragement
- \* Fellowship Reminds Us We're Not Alone
- \* Fellowship Helps Us Grow

The Men's Fellowship Group meets on the 1st & 3rd Tuesdays

of each month beginning April 5th. For more info, contact Clint Reynolds, Ron Schultz, or John Durbin.





"Another morning comes. It always does. Time always moves at the same rate, only feelings have different speeds. Every day can mark a whole lifetime or a single heart-beat depending on who you spend it with."

—Fredrick Backman (Larry Cornelius)

"And the Greatest of These is Love." 1 Corinthians 13:13 (NRSV)  
Love, Love, Love...all we ever need is love. —John Lennon, Beatles  
 (Susan Hershberger)

"Every moment and every event of every man's life on earth plants something in his soul." —Thomas Merton

"Like a great waterwheel, the liturgical year goes on relentlessly irrigating our souls, softening the ground of our hearts, nourishing the soil of our lives until the seed of the Word of God itself begins to grow in us, comes to fruit in us, ripens in us the spiritual journey of a lifetime."  
 —Joan D. Chittister

"Lent is a time for living on the edge, poised for the next moment of life. We are invited to get out of our comfortable centers of security and live on the brink of the incomplete, the not-knowing, the open future, and to find comfort in the chaotic flow of life." —Ilia Delio

"I want to live my life so that my nights are not full of regrets." —D. H. Lawrence (Lurene Ladd)

"Life isn't about waiting for the storm to pass, it's about learning to dance in the rain."  
 —Vivian Greene (Lurene Ladd)

"Enjoy the little things in life. For someday, you will realize they were 'The Big Things.'"  
 —Robert Brault (Lurene Ladd)

"Surrender your will to God's will and you will see that - all your disappointments will turn into unimaginable strengths." —Sri Chinmoy (Lurene Ladd)

"For forgiveness to take place, something must die." —Brene' Brown (Lurene Ladd)

"Are you aware that every reaction to every situation is a choice."

"First thought may be wrong. I can't silence the first thought, but I can correct them."  
 —Lurene Ladd

**Now accepting submissions!** "QUOTES FOR YOUR SOUL" will be a new feature every two months in The Palm Leaf. The fun: they will be your favorite quotes on the topic selected for that issue. There is a lot of creativity and readers in our congregation and guests. We want to hear from you as to what speaks to you and what you find meaningful. It could be your own quote! Send your selected quotes with author's name to: [kayklink@yahoo.com](mailto:kayklink@yahoo.com) with subject heading "quote for palms." Your name will be placed in parenthesis, unless you don't want that. Kay Klinkenborg will collect them and have them printed every two months in The Palm Leaf. Deadlines for submission are the 12<sup>th</sup> of each month. **LET'S BEGIN!**

Deadline	Topic	Published
April 12-May 12	Direction, wind, breath or combine them (Pentecost, Spirit)	June Palm Leaf

# Lifelong Learning in April 2022



Educational opportunities continue at Church of the Palms. Classes will be HYBRID — online and in person at the church — unless otherwise indicated. Each person should feel comfortable to make their own choices about whether to mask or not mask and whether to attend in person or online.

Access online classes at <https://thepalms.org/bridges>.

## Sunday

- *Shared Conversations*, 7:30-8:30 a.m. Online only. Facilitated by Bobbie Chapman.

## Tuesday

- *Living the Questions*, 10:00-11:30 a.m. HYBRID. DVD/discussion on evolving faith (produced by Westar Institute, former Jesus Seminar). The curriculum is a larger movement of Progressive Christianity created as resource for moderate to more liberally-minded Christians. Jim Yang-Hellewell is the facilitator; he has an MDiv and MSW degrees and is a member of Church of the Palms.
- *Jump Start: Prep for Sunday Sermon with Scripture/Dialogue* 4:00-5:00 p.m. HYBRID. Facilitated by John Durbin.

## Thursday

- *Cosmic Christians*, 10:00-11:30 a.m. Online only. Study of the book "Torah of the Earth: Exploring 4,000 Years of ECOLOGY in Jewish Thought, Vol.1." Facilitated by Linette Stenberg.

## What Have You Been Pondering These Days?

These last two years of pandemic have been challenging for all of us. We have had to adjust to new ways of doing just about everything, from our home life, to how we interact with other people. We have had to adapt our ways of worship and how we can care for one another. We may have wished things could just go back to "normal," or we may be wondering what the "new normal" will look like. We may feel like we have gotten through this time with relative calm, or we may feel like Covid has beaten us down. We may have felt shut out of family life, or church community, or just life in general.

How has Covid affected you? Changed you? And what is still changing in you? Come and share who you find yourself to be now...and what is still changing?

In the initial April 20 class of our new series — "PONDERINGS": LEARNING AND DIALOGUE ABOUT BELONGING — we will do some pondering on these and other questions. How does what we have been experiencing and feeling personally affect or challenge how we view others? Do we feel even more disconnected from others, or has this time caused us to work even harder to build relationships?

Our ponderings will form the basis for exploring the terms "Othering" and "Belonging." Dr John a powell of UC Berkeley coined these terms. Othering occurs when one group excludes or marginalizes another. Belonging and inclusion are the opposite of othering, and belonging is not making everyone the same.

Interested? Come and join us on Wednesday, April 20, from 10-11:30 a.m. Rev. Dave Klingensmith will facilitate the discussion. The class will also be available online at [thepalms.org/Bridges](https://thepalms.org/Bridges). Sponsored by the Othering and Belonging Task Force, Part of the Social Justice Action Team of Church of the Palms.

**April 1-14, 2022**

<b>1 Friday</b>			<b>2 Saturday</b>	
<b>3 Sunday</b> <a href="#">Gift Card</a> <a href="#">Orders Due</a>	7:30 am (B2L) Shared Conversations 9:00 am (MR) Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal 10:00 am (SA) Sunday Worship 11:00 am (KH) Fellowship Hour		<b>4 Monday</b>	9:15 am (BR) Executive Board 4:00 pm (KH) I-HELP
<b>5 Tuesday</b>	9:00 am (NA) Men's Fellowship Group 10:00 am (HY) Living the Questions 4:00 pm (HY) Jump Start		<b>6 Wednesday</b>	9:00 am (BR) Service Project Craft Group 3:30 pm (KH) Visitor Information Session
<b>7 Thursday</b>	10:00 am (B2L) Cosmic Christians 1:00 pm (HY) Worship Team meeting 2:30-4:00 pm (MR) Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal		<b>8 Friday</b>	
<b>9 Saturday</b>	11:00 am (SA) Dott McDaniel Memorial Service		<b>10 Sunday</b> <a href="#">Palm Sunday</a>	7:30 am (B2L) Shared Conversations 9:00 am (MR) Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal 10:00 am (SA) Sunday Worship. Choir Presentation and New Member Welcome! 11:00 am (KH) Fellowship Hour
<b>11 Monday</b>	2:00 pm (HY) Board of Trustees 4:00 pm (KH) I-HELP		<b>12 Tuesday</b>	9:00 am-1:00 pm (OS) Feet-N-More Shower Ministry 9:00 am-3:00 pm (KH) Red Cross Blood Drive 10:00 am (HY) Living the Questions 1:00 pm (HY) Ministry Council 2:30 pm (HY) Board of Stewards 4:00 pm (HY) Jump Start
<b>13 Wednesday</b>	9:00 am (BR) Service Project Craft Group 2:00-5:00 pm (OS) Feet-N-More Shower Ministry		<b>14 Thursday</b> <a href="#">Maundy</a> <a href="#">Thursday</a>	10:00 am (B2L) Cosmic Christians 10:00 am (KH) Pain Support Group 2:30-4:00 pm (MR) Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal 5:00 pm (OS) Maundy Thursday at United UCC

SA=Sanctuary, KH=King Hall, BR=Boardroom, B2L=Bridges to Learning, OS=Offsite, MR=Music Room, LR=Labyrinth, NA=Narthex, HY=Hybrid (in person at the Church and online via thepalms.org/Bridges)

**April 15-30, 2022**

<p><b>15 Friday</b> <u>Palm Leaf</u> <u>Deadline</u></p>	<p>12:00 pm (SA) Good Friday Worship Service 12:45-3:00 pm (LR) Labyrinth Walk</p>	<p><b>16 Saturday</b></p>	
<p><b>17 Sunday</b> <u>Easter Sunday</u></p>	<p>8:00 am (FT) Easter Service 9:00 am (MR) Choir Rehearsal 10:00 am (SA) Easter Service</p>	<p><b>18 Monday</b> <u>Office Closed</u></p>	<p>10:00 am (B2B) Life Long Learning Board 4:00 pm (KH) I-HELP</p>
<p><b>19 Tuesday</b></p>	<p>9:00 am (HY) Creation Justice Team 9:00 am (NA) Men's Fellowship Group 10:00 am (HY) Living the Questions 1:00 pm (BR) Operations Council 4:00 pm (HY) Jump Start</p>	<p><b>20 Wednesday</b></p>	<p>9:00 am (BR) Service Project Craft Group 9:00 am (KH) Mission and Outreach Team 10:00 am (NA) Board of Evangelism and Growth 10:00-11:30 am (KH) Ponderings</p>
<p><b>21 Thursday</b></p>	<p>10:00 am (B2L) Cosmic Christians 12:15 pm (KH) VEC 1:00 pm (HY) Care Team 2:30-4:00 pm (MR) Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p><b>22 Friday</b></p>	
<p><b>23 Saturday</b></p>	<p>12:30 pm (OS) Lunch with a Bunch</p>	<p><b>24 Sunday</b></p>	<p>7:30 am (B2L) Shared Conversations 9:00 am (MR) Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal 10:00 am (SA) Sunday Worship 11:00 am (KH) Fellowship Hour</p>
<p><b>25 Monday</b></p>	<p>9:15 am (BR) Sabbatical Planning 4:00 pm (KH) I-HELP</p>	<p><b>26 Tuesday</b></p>	<p>9:00 am-1:00 pm (OS) Feet-N-More Shower Ministry 10:00 am (HY) Living the Questions</p>
<p><b>27 Wednesday</b></p>	<p>9:00 am (BR) Service Project Craft Group 2:00-5:00 pm (OS) Feet-N-More Shower Ministry 2:00-3:30 pm (KH) I-HELP Meeting with Lutheran Social Services</p>	<p><b>28 Thursday</b></p>	<p>10:00 am (B2L) Cosmic Christians 2:30-4:00 pm (MR) Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal</p>
<p><b>29 Friday</b></p>		<p><b>30 Saturday</b></p>	

SA=Sanctuary, KH=King Hall, BR=Boardroom, B2L=Bridges to Learning, OS=Offsite, MR=Music Room, LR=Labyrinth,