

June 2022

# The Palm Leaf



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

**Pastor Paul is on Sabbatical through August 15, 2022. Here's what to expect:**

### *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.*





# Notes from your Executive Board

at The Palms

Greetings Friends and Happy Summer!

We hope this finds you doing well, and enjoying spending time with family and friends. We continue to be busy here at Church of the Palms and wanted to inform you of an upcoming Special Meeting, to be held on Sunday, June 26 immediately after worship. The agenda is outlined below.

As you may know, our long time treasurer Bertie Fitch is stepping away from this position. As this is an elected position as outlined in our Constitution and Bylaws, we are pleased to present Jerry Lovell as a candidate. Jerry previously served on the Church Council as 2<sup>nd</sup> Moderator, then on the Executive Board as

Chair of the Operations Council. He is a retired Certified Public Accountant with 40 years experience in various corporate accounting positions, thus we feel he is very well qualified. The other purpose of the meeting is to amend Article IV of the Constitution — Church Officers. The proposed amendment, as outlined in the agenda is primarily one of clarification of the Executive Board composition.

We hope to see you after worship for this brief meeting. We do anticipate plenty of time for Fellowship coffee and cookies in King Hall following the meeting!

As always, Bless you and Thank You for being the Church!

## June 26, 2022 Special Meeting Agenda

Establish Quorum

Call to Order

Opening Prayer

Membership votes to elect Treasurer

Membership votes to amend Constitution Article IV

Current language: "The Church Officers shall be made up of the Executive Board, Ministry Council and Operations Council".

Proposed Amendment: "The members of the Executive Board shall be the Church Officers". Rationale for Change: The Amendment clarifies intent and avoids misunderstanding of the Executive Board Composition.

Adjourn

# WORSHIP THEMES FOR JUNE

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

Online Worship Monday

**June 5:** It is Pentecost Sunday! Happy Birthday to The Church Universal! Pastor Jim will be preaching from Acts 2:1-21. Amid our changing world and lives, the Holy Spirit guides us into the amazing and astonishing work of being the Church! We will gather around the Table for Communion. Remember to wear RED!

**June 12:** What is wisdom? Better yet, who is wisdom? What does she look like in our lives? Pastor Jim will preach from Acts 8:1-4, 22-31.

**June 19:** Today is Juneteenth. Today is Father's Day! There is much to celebrate and much to learn today. Deacon Joan Crawford will bring the message for today.

**June 26:** Today is Open and Affirming Sunday! We are grateful for our LGBTQ+ siblings and advocates. The Church of the Palms celebrates the 8th year of our ONA Status with the United Church of Christ. Rev. David Klingensmith will bring the message for today.

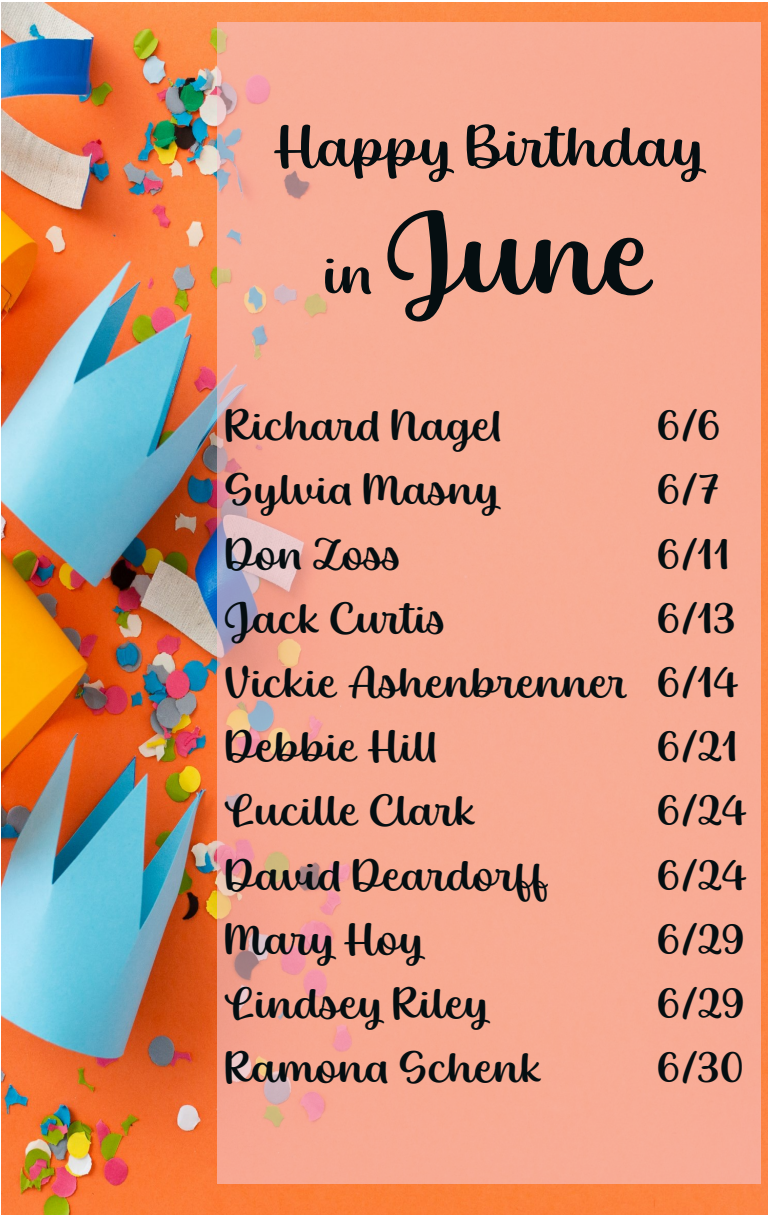
## VISITOR INFO

Do you have questions about Church of the Palms? You are invited to join us  
**Wednesday, June 22, at 3:30 p.m.**

The Evangelism and Growth Team is enthusiastically offering another Information Session to be held in King Hall on Wednesday, June 22, 2022 starting at 3:30 pm. You will have the opportunity to meet Pastor Jim Alexander and gain valuable church information verbally, through printed material or via a short slide show. In addition, you will have the chance to meet some other active church leaders so you can ask individual questions, get answers and discover the many opportunities available at the church.

A guided tour of the church will be provided, followed by a light supper with fellowship and a photo session. All visitors wishing to just learn about our church or those contemplating joining as members are most welcome. New members will then be introduced to our congregation at the following Sunday, June 26, 2022, service.

## Happy Birthday in June



Richard Nagel	6/6
Sylvia Masny	6/7
Don Loss	6/11
Jack Curtis	6/13
Vickie Ashenbrenner	6/14
Debbie Hill	6/21
Lucille Clark	6/24
David Deardorff	6/24
Mary Hoy	6/29
Lindsey Riley	6/29
Ramona Schenk	6/30



**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

June is Pride Month! Happy Pride to our LGBTQ+ siblings and advocates! We will be celebrating Open and Affirming Sunday on June 26, 2022 as we worship together. Each Sunday on our WISE pages, we will be sharing helpful and supportive resources that address concerns and create community.

It has been estimated that there are nearly 3 million lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people age 50 and older, rising to approximately 7 million by 2030. It is difficult to estimate the number of older LGBT people due to a lack of data, differing estimates by experts in related fields, and stigma that causes under self-identification and under-counting of LGBT populations in the U.S. Current estimates indicate that by 2030, there will be upwards of 7 million LGBT age 50+.

Even with the progress that has been made regarding LGBTQ+ rights, these facts remain:

- Many LGBT older adults are at high risk for elder abuse, neglect and exploitation.
- Fear of homophobia or transphobia keep LGBT elders from seeking help and services.
- Internalized homophobia or transphobia may affect an LGBT elder's willingness to seek help and put them at risk of self-neglect.
- Some LGBT elders choose to hide their LGBT identity and disclosure of that identity against their wishes can cause problems.
- Older gay men and lesbians place high value on self-sufficiency and may be reluctant to accept help.
- Discrimination within healthcare and retirement services is often experienced as
  - A denial of visitors
  - Refusal to allow same-sex couples to share rooms
  - Refusal to place transgender elders in wards that match their gender identity
  - Being prevented from dressing according to their gender identity
  - Refusing to allow partners to participate in medical decision making
  - Physical or psychological abuse
  - Being involuntarily "outed"
  - Refusing care, services, admission to facilities

How can a faith community help?

- A pressing need for LGBT elders is dealing with social isolation as isolation is a risk factor for elder abuse. Faith communities can provide fellowship and learning opportunities.
- LGBT elders may lack legal protections, feel unable to share feelings or concerns, may not be comfortable sharing their relationship status, and may find it difficult to find connections to the LGBT community. Faith communities can be welcoming, inclusive, supportive and engaged in these challenges and help to build bridges of support.
- When you see something, say something. Advocacy for all people regardless of age, race, sexual orientation, or religious affiliation is a social justice issue.

# QUOTES FOR THE SOUL

Theme for June & July: Pentecost, Spirit, Direction, Wind, Breath.

*Remember you can submit for the next edition anytime: Deadline July 12 with theme of Greening, Spiritual Growth, Ripen, Sun, Stretching. Send to [kayklink@yahoo.com](mailto:kayklink@yahoo.com)*

## **Joan D. Chittister**

"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."

## **Pope St. Gregory the Great**

"The proof of love is in the works. Where love exists, it works great things. But when it ceases to act, it ceases to exist."

## **Maya Angelou**

Maya Angelou didn't call herself a Christian — not exactly. In an interview on the occasion of being awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, she put it this way: "I'm always amazed when people walk up to me and say, 'I'm a Christian.' I think, 'Already? You already got it?' I'm working at it, which means that I try to be as kind and fair and generous and respectful and courteous to every human being."

In another interview, Angelou said that while she was taught to believe in God, she became courageous when she made that belief her own.

"I dared to do anything that was a good thing. I dared to do things distant from what seemed to be in my future. When I was asked to do something good, I often say yes, I'll try, yes, I'll do my best. And part of that is believing, if God loves me, if God made everything from leaves to seals and oak trees, then what is it I can't do?"

So in Angelou's honor, let's keep these gems close and remember that being Christian is always a work in progress — and that God's creative love makes all things possible!

## Service Project Craft Group Update

The Ministry Fair is over, and we hope everyone came back to learn about the many opportunities for growth we have here at COTP, including our table. There, you could learn how our money and many projects are doled out: I-HELP, Hart Pantry, needy adults and children, etc. We also give our money for good causes within and outside of our Church. We recently received bags of yarn and give a big "thank you" to all for their donations, both members and non-members of our Church. Remember, if you would like to join us on Wednesdays at 9:00-11:00 a.m., in the cool Boardroom, we would be glad to have you, talent or wanting to learn. —*Bonnie Green*



# I PLEDGE

*No matter our color, background, or zip code, all Arizonans value our freedom to vote. We deserve practices that protect our access to the ballot and leaders who will protect our democracy.*

To sign this pledge, go to <https://www.democracypledgeaz.com/>

As people of faith, we support all people's right to have a voice in our government. The **Arizonans for Fair Elections initiative** stands to limit the power of lobbyists, ensure access to voting and protect our elections from partisan meddling. If you are interested in signing this petition, please contact Nancy Nonini for information, [nnonini19@gmail.com](mailto:nnonini19@gmail.com).

- Arizona's **primary** is **August 2, 2022**. The deadline to register to vote in this election is **July 5, 2022**.
- AZ **general election** is **November 8, 2022**. Deadline to register to vote in this election is **October 11, 2022**.

For info on how to register or options to vote, see [azsos.gov/election](http://azsos.gov/election) or call **877-THE-VOTE**. You can request to be on the **Active Early Voting List** to receive a ballot in the mail when you register.



- Underwear (especially Men)
- Tennis shoes (especially Men)
- Socks (Women and Children)
- Baby Food
- Sanitary pads

These are the top five needs of the International Rescue Center, which helps with refugee resettlement. Church of the Palms is collecting items, and a complete list is posted on the donation box in the Narthex. There is also an I.R.C. "wish list" on Amazon.

Donation Focus for May/June:

## New Life Center Diaper Drive

Every two months, a new non-monetary site is chosen to receive donations from members of Church of the Palms. For May and June, the charity chosen is the New Life Center, which is a domestic violence shelter. As in the past, donations of baby diapers will be accepted. The most needed size is 4-6 months. Look for a playpen in the Narthex where you can place your donations.



## Help Package Food for Dysart Families

Are you an early riser — or could you be one day a month? Dysart Community Center in El Mirage has partnered with St. Mary's Food Bank, and on the first Wednesday of each month, the food bank brings vegetables, fruit, crackers and other miscellaneous items to Dysart to be included along with their weekly food distribution to those in need. They could use a few extra hands from 7:30-9:30 a.m. to help fill bags. Stay a bit longer, and you could help with the actual distribution of the food items. Contact Dysart at 623.583.0016 for more info or Linda Hofmann at 623.242.6382.





Church of the Palms is an ongoing supporter of the peace-making witness of Tent of Nations in Palestine. This is a brief update regarding their 32-year-long struggle in the Israeli courts to maintain the ownership of their land. Beth Moore, a COTP member, serves on the FOTONNA Steering Committee. Please feel free to contact Beth with questions: [ebmoore1@live.com](mailto:ebmoore1@live.com).

## Update from Tent of Nations

This message comes jointly from Daoud Nassar and the Friends of Tent of Nations North America. Your solidarity and prayers have buoyed the spirits of the whole Nassar family! Since the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic (when international visits to the farm suddenly had to stop), the Tent of Nations Farm has endured continual attacks on their land resulting in destruction of terraced fields, infrastructure, and trees; intense legal attempts to confiscate the Nassar's land; and in January, brutal attacks on Daoud and Daher Nassar. Despite all this, the Nassars are "still determined not to give up, but to repair the damage, replant new trees, and move forward."

**On April 29, Daoud acknowledged a new setback** as the scheduled May 2 hearing on the farm's re-registration was again postponed indefinitely. Daoud posted on [Tent of Nations Facebook page](#):

*"Dear friends of Tent of Nations Nassar Farm,*

*I am writing to inform you that the hearing that was scheduled on the 2nd of May has been postponed and no new date has been scheduled yet. We expected this to happen, although we had hoped that the session would take place and the process would move forward smoothly and end the 32 years of struggle to protect the farm. We will keep you updated and will let you know the new date as soon as we hear back.*

*In the meanwhile, we are again enjoying the ability to host international visitors and volunteers. They join us in cultivating the land, planting new trees of hope, and inviting more people to accompany us on this long journey for justice.*

*We would like to ask you to continue to share our story, raise more awareness in your communities and encourage more visitors and volunteers to come to see and then go back to tell the story of steadfastness and hope. We will also let you know what else you can do to help. Thank you so much for all your support and solidarity."*

Friends of Tent of Nations (FOTONNA) believes that the Tent of Nations farm is at a pivotal moment in its history. The Nassars and their lawyer now await the rescheduling of their re-registration session with the Israeli Civil Administration. This hearing should be the final step to definitive recognition by the Israeli government that the TON farm is privately owned by the Nassars.

**Many of you have asked what you can do.** At this time, Daoud believes that the most helpful steps we can take are to:

- Continue to shine a light on the Tent of Nations story – share the Nassar family's story with your friends and family. View the Carter Center's 3:16 video of Jihan and Daoud: <http://forum.cartercenter.org/media/how-can-pain-and-frustration-be-channeled-positive-actions-middle-east>.
- Visit the Tent of Nations. Suggested tours include:
  - [Meeting Peacemakers](#) October 2022 tour, led by Revs. Charlie Lewis and Joan Deming from the FOTONNA Steering Committee
  - [Eyewitness Palestine](#)
  - [Pilgrims of Ibillin](#)
  - PCUSA's [Mosaic of Peace tour](#).
- Volunteer at the Tent of Nations: [International Volunteers Bring Hope and Strength – FOTONNA](#)

We appreciate each of you sharing the Nassars' journey of faith, love, and hope!

—Friends of Tent of Nations Steering Committee, <https://www.fotonna.org>

# Lifelong Learning in June 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. WILL CONTINUE THROUGH SUMMER EACH SUNDAY MORNING.

## Tuesday

- ***"Well, I Have Never Heard That!": A New Perspective on Biblical Interpretations of Three Women's Lives in the Hebrew Scriptures***, 10:00-11:30 a.m. on May 31, June 7, June 14. HYBRID. Three classes taught from a black female feminist theological perspective: "WOMANIST" is the capitalized word for this process: interpreting writings, speeches, etc., from a Black feminist woman's perspective. (Term first introduced in 1984 in Alice Walker's book: *In Search of Our Mother's Gardens*.) Handouts, scriptures passages will be posted on Bridges prior to each class and a bibliography provided. The first woman to be discussed is Tamar. Kay Klinkenborg is the facilitator; she taught this series at Interfaith Ecumenical Retreat in Prescott Fall of 2021. Attend even if you heard it then — new things have been added. Kay has a Master's in Human Development Counseling with a Minor in Women's Studies. One of her passions has been to "hear the voices of silenced women" in the scriptures.
- ***Jump Start: Exploring the Lectionary for Sunday's Sermon***, 4:00-5:00 p.m. HYBRID. Facilitated by John Durbin. WILL NOT MEET IN JULY OR AUGUST.

## Wednesday

- ***Ponderings: Continued Exploration of "Othering" and "Belonging"***, 10:00-11:30 a.m. June 15. HYBRID. Facilitated by Kay Klinkenborg. [See details below.](#)

## Thursday

- ***Cosmic Christians***, 10:00-11:30 a.m. Online only. Finishing the book study: "Torah of the Earth, Vol.1." Facilitated by Linette Stenberg. FINAL SUMMER CLASS IS JUNE 2.

### PONDERINGS: LEARNING AND DIALOGUE ABOUT BELONGING

Sponsored by Othering and Belonging Task Force  
Part of Social Justice Action Team of Church of the Palms

**PONDERINGS: HOW DOES MY UNCONSCIOUS MIND INFLUENCE MY BEHAVIORS?: Part 3 of 3. June 15, 10-11:30 AM in King Hall.** Kay Klinkenborg, Facilitator. We have grown up in a face-paced changing world. Social media, Internet, newspapers, etc. When were younger...it seemed so much simpler. In absorbing and participating in our daily lives we have absorbed/collected unconscious thoughts, ideas and stereotypes that influence our behaviors...we are not to blame. We function out of what we don't know until we become aware of our unconscious' influence our how we see and interact with others. We all do 'othering' and we have all experienced being 'the other'. Some in our society have sadly had a 24/7 exposure to 'othering'. Come be surprised at unconscious good things you do and discover 'implicit biases' we all function with daily. Another step in learning about "Othering and Belonging". As Maya Angelou so wisely said: "I knew what I knew to do, when I learned different I did different."



**June 1-14, 2022**

<b>1 Wednesday</b>	9:00 am (BR) Service Project Craft Group	<b>2 Thursday</b>	10:00 am (B2L) Cosmic Christians 1:00 pm (HY) Worship Team meeting
<b>3 Friday</b>		<b>4 Saturday</b>	
<b>5 Sunday</b>	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>6 Monday</b>	4:00 pm (KH) I-HELP
<b>7 Tuesday</b>	10:00 am (HY) Well I Have Never Heard That: A New Perspective 1:00 pm (HY) Operations Council 4:00 pm (HY) Jump Start	<b>8 Wednesday</b>	9:00 am (BR) Service Project Craft Group 2:00-5:00 pm (OS) Feet-N-More Shower Ministry
<b>9 Thursday</b>		<b>10 Friday</b>	12:00 pm (HY) SJAT—Criminal Justice 1:00 pm (HY) Social Justice Action Team
<b>11 Saturday</b>		<b>12 Sunday</b>	7:30 am (B2L) Shared Conversations 10:00 am (SA) Sunday Worship 11:00 am (KH) Fellowship Hour
<b>13 Monday</b>	10:00 am (BR) Executive Board 1:00 pm (KH) I-HELP 2:00 pm (HY) Board of Trustees	<b>14 Tuesday</b>	9:00 am–1:00 pm (OS) Feet-N-More Shower Ministry 9:00 am (OS) Men's Fellowship @ George's Café 10:00 am (HY) Well I Have Never Heard That: A New Perspective 1:00 pm (HY) Ministry Council 4:00 pm (HY) Jump Start

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)

**June 15-30, 2022**

<b>15 Wednesday</b>	9:00 am (BR) Service Project Craft Group 9:00 am (KH) Mission and Outreach Team 10:00-11:30 am (KH) Ponderings 11:00 am (PP) Personnel Board	<b>16 Thursday</b>	1:00 pm (HY) Care Team
<b>17 Friday</b>		<b>18 Saturday</b>	
<b>19 Sunday</b>	7:30 am (B2L) Shared Conversations 10:00 am (SA) Sunday Worship 11:00 am (KH) Fellowship Hour	<b>20 Monday</b>	9:30 am (BR) Lifelong Learning Team 11:00 am (BR) Othering and Belonging Task Force 1:00 pm (KH) I-HELP
<b>21 Tuesday</b>	10:00 am (BR) Volunteer Engagement Committee 4:00 pm (HY) Jump Start	<b>22 Wednesday</b>	9:00 am (BR) Service Project Craft Group 2:00-5:00 pm (OS) Feet-N-More Shower Ministry 3:30 pm (KH) Visitor Information Session
<b>23 Thursday</b>		<b>24 Friday</b>	
<b>25 Saturday</b>		<b>26 Sunday</b>	7:30 am (B2L) Shared Conversations 10:00 am (SA) Sunday Worship 11:00 am (KH) Fellowship Hour
<b>27 Monday</b>	1:00 pm (KH) I-HELP	<b>28 Tuesday</b>	9:00 am-1:00 pm (OS) Feet-N-More Shower Ministry 9:00 am (OS) Men's Fellowship @ George's Café 4:00 pm (HY) Jump Start
<b>29 Wednesday</b>	9:00 am (BR) Service Project Craft Group	<b>30 Thursday</b>	

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HY=Hybrid (in person at the Church and online via thepalms.org/Bridges), PP=Pastor Paul's Office