



# The Palm Leaf

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

## A Letter from Paul



It is the season for giving thanks. How do we give thanks? And how do we shape and create a legacy of thankfulness that lives beyond our current years to bless the generations which come after us? The Church of the Palms has a history of giving thanks in good and hard times.

- Witness raising a rainbow flag when the fearmongers preached play it safe.
- Witness an expansion of our Life-Long-Learning opportunities during a pandemic.
- Witness updating an aging building including new organ, narthex doors, and security system also done in the pandemic.
- Witness a capital campaign to help make the church more "green." And, you guessed it, done during the uncertainty of the pandemic.

All of these and many more ministry opportunities were available to us because dedicated people, blessed by God, shaped and created a legacy of *Sharing God's Unconditional Love, Justice, and Extravagant Welcome*.

The pandemic has caused many of us to

stop and consider our legacy. Most of us would want to make a positive difference in the lives of our loved ones and our church after we are no longer here. So, how do we accomplish that goal?

Your continued support of time, talent, and treasure to The Church of the Palms brings ministry alive in the present, yes, but it also is setting the stage for the future. Just by attending and being a willing participant in worship and our activities blesses others today and those in the future. Your sharing of your thoughts, your cares, and then having courage to act blesses others today and those in the future. Your willingness in uncertain economic times to donate now and to include The Palms in your estate planning blesses us today and in the future.

Your giving of thanks makes a difference! You may not be able to march anymore – can you pray for those who are marching? You may not be able to sing or teach a class anymore – can you share kind words for those who are leading? You may not be able to tithe—can you tithe your estate? All these things and so many more make The Church of the Palms a place where our giving thanks blesses the present and the future.

Shalom, Paul

## WORSHIP THEMES FOR NOVEMBER

**Nov. 6:** Indigenous Sunday Celebration.

**Nov. 13:** Bring a Friend Sunday. Stewardship Sunday. Pastor Paul will be preaching. Read Jeremiah 31:27-34 (Not Lectionary) Half Heartedness doesn't work in friendships or stewardship.

**Nov. 20:** Pastor Jim will be preaching from Colossians 1:11-20. For what are you thankful? Family, friends, health, creativity, kindness, generosity? What can you add to this list? On this Thanksgiving Sunday, we count our blessings!

**Nov. 27:** 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent. Hope. Read Matthew 24:36-44 and Romans 13:11-14. Stay Awake! Jesus is returning – probably not in spectacular fashions but in simple ways – when we are loving, kind, and welcoming in the community. Pastor Paul will be preaching this week.

### Volunteer Opportunities at Dysart Community Center

**Time:** Adult education tutors are needed for GED and ESL classes. This would require a few hours of your time each week at a time convenient to you.

**Talent:** Are you a planner? Volunteers are needed to create and plan a Thanksgiving feast for Dysart's children.

**Treasure:** As finances are stretched, the number of those needing food assistance is increasing. At the October food distribution event all the food was gone in one hour. Any pantry items can help, like mac 'n cheese, peanut butter, canned goods, cereal or items like sugar or flour.

For more information you may contact Dysart directly at 623-583-0016 or Linda Hofmann at 623-242-6382

### HART Pantry Christmas

Generous donors have already contributed the items that we have usually requested for our teens' Christmas bags so we won't be having our usual Christmas donation box. Instead we would appreciate having \$25 gift cards for Target or Wal Mart. The church's Script gift card program will have these cards available the first Sunday of the month. HART's deadline for giving is December 5<sup>th</sup>. Thank you for your generous support of our at risk teens.

Jan Eckstein, HART Pantry.





# Notes from your Executive Board

at The Palms

*"We ought always to thank God for you, brothers and sisters, and rightly so, because your faith is growing more and more, and the love all of you have for one another is increasing". 2 Thessalonians 1:3.*

Happy November The Church of the Palms Family and Friends!

With Thanksgiving being right around the corner an informal poll was taken of the Executive Board, asking the question "What are you thankful for today?" The responses were:

- "I am most grateful for God's blessings and His unconditional love, and coupled with that, the blessings and unconditional love I feel from my fellow church members".
- "I am thankful for strong and comforting relationships with both of my siblings and their families".
- "Today, I am most thankful for the ways God provides courage and affirmation through Gods people in my life".
- "I am grateful for people in my life who love me warts and all and give me the freedom to be who I am right here and now".
- "I am grateful for people that have my back and remind me that I am loved".
- "I am thankful for the peace I feel when I enter The Church of the Palms, knowing that I am truly loved and accepted by my church family".

Isn't it interesting (but not surprising) the consistent theme between the scripture and what came up when a sampling of people were asked what they were thankful for? The love that we have for each other and the loving support from our family and friends abounds at The Church of the Palms. We do indeed thank God for each other and we share that love with all of God's children through the work we do.

As a reminder, and in the spirit of love for our brothers and sisters – the Annual Joyce Spaulding Memorial Thanksgiving Dinner is back in person! If you, or someone you know is interested in attending, please sign up through the church office, and if you are interested in helping, please contact Wendy Whitlock.

**As always,  
God Bless You  
and Thank You  
for loving one  
another and  
Being the  
Church!**





National Alliance on Mental Illness Help Line  
 1-800-950-6264 <https://www.nami.org/help>  
 Suicide Prevention Lifeline 800.273.TALK  
 Suicide/Crisis Hotline TEXT 988  
 Translifeline 877.565.8860  
 Veteran's Crisis Line 800.273.8255 press 1  
 Pastoral Care—Pastor Jim Alexander 623.792.5295  
<https://thepalms.org/Tools2Thrive>

During the months of November and December, we will offer some tools2thrive during the holidays. While these tools would be beneficial for everyone during the holidays, people with mental health issues may require even more support. These tools, along with our WISE Team will be happy to provide support and direction as we all move toward a happy and healthy holiday season.



There is room for you to serve on the WISE Steering Committee!  
 See one of us to learn more!

### WISE Steering Committee Members

(top row) Rev. Dr. Phil Ladd, Andrea Stefanov, Pastor Paul  
 (middle) Kay Klinkenborg  
 (bottom) Pastor Jim, Nancy Nonini, Judy Jondahl



### DON'T OVER-SCHEDULE

Choose your activities purposefully and honor your limits. If you're overwhelmed by your holiday agenda, consider skipping an activity or two. Remember, it's okay to take time out.



### EXERCISE

Exercise can boost your mood, improve your sleep, and help you deal with depression, anxiety and ADHD. People who exercise feel more energetic throughout the day, sleep better at night, have sharper memories and feel more relaxed and positive about themselves and their lives.



### LIMIT ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION

Don't attempt to drink away stress or unpleasant emotions; especially if you're on a medication that shouldn't be mixed with alcohol. If alcohol is being served at a gathering, remember that you're in control, and it's okay to leave if the desire to drink becomes too overwhelming.



### ENJOY NATURE

Spending time in outdoors or bringing nature into your everyday life can benefit both your mental and physical wellbeing. The sun gives us the best source of Vitamin D and getting enough of this hormone is essential to maintaining a healthy immune system.



### LISTEN TO YOUR FAVORITE MUSIC

Research from the University of Maryland shows that hearing music you love can relax blood vessels and increase blood flow. That not only calms you down but is good for your heart, too.



### KEEP UP HEALTHY HABITS

Be sure to include healthy options for snacks and meals throughout the season and step up your exercise routine to burn those extra calories. This year, in addition to keeping an eye on holiday eating, it's important to practice social distancing, wear a mask, and wash your hands regularly.



### LOVE ON AN ANIMAL

Pets, especially dogs and cats, can reduce stress, anxiety, and depression, ease loneliness, encourage exercise and playfulness, and even improve your cardiovascular health.



### DON'T COMPARE YOUR HOLIDAY WITH OTHERS

Social media allows you to see what all of your friends are doing during the holidays. Making comparisons can leave you feeling let down. Remember that everyone's holiday traditions are different, and that photos typically only represent happy moments.



### ATTEND YOUR SESSIONS

The holidays don't always feel like the "most wonderful time of the year" for everyone. With professional help, your therapist can guide you in your journey toward healing, so you can begin to find moments of comfort and joy.





Vicky Leggett	11/03	Jeannie Brandenberger	11/05
Suzanne Boisclair	11/06	Linda Hofmann	11/08
Michael Balch	11/10	Toni Berg	11/10
Bonnie Adrian	11/15	Andy Jordan	11/22
Nick Lovelace	11/24	Jim Chapman	11/25
Bob Krueger	11/26	Bonnie Green	11/26
Carl Gruber	11/30	Rosie Tockstein	11/30

# Thanksgiving Dinner



## It's back! Sign up to Donate, Help or Eat!!

After a two year absence, The Church of the Palms is happy to announce that The Spaulding Memorial Thanksgiving Dinner will once again take place in King Hall on Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, November 24, 2022. We will be serving the meal between 11:30 AM and 1:00 PM. This meal takes place with generous donations of food from our congregants and a small army of volunteers that normally leave saying, "Wow, that was fun!"

Sign up today to donate, to help, or to eat! Please see Wendy Whitlock, after worship with any questions you might have.



## **Lifelong Learning Team**

### **Scheduled Classes:**

- Sacred Conversations, Sunday 7:30-8:30 am via ZOOM only. Bobbie Chapman is facilitator.
- Jump Start each Tuesday 4-5 pm. Hybrid with John Durbin facilitating.
- NO COSMIC CHRISTIANS in October. Linette Stenberg, facilitator is recovering from hip surgery. She will inform us when she is ready to resume the class.
- No additional Tuesday or Wednesday classes are scheduled this fall. There are no teachers available.

**ON-LINE REGISTRATION ENDS NOVEMBER 1<sup>st</sup> FOR The 19<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL INTERFAITH CONFERENCE: "LESSONS IN DECOLONIZATION" featuring Kaitlin Curtice.**

**Should you decide at the last minute to attend in person, make a reservation with Bertie Fitch at [volunteer2017COTP@gmail.com](mailto:volunteer2017COTP@gmail.com); or call Kay Klinkenberg at 816-377-2318.**

Kaitlin is a member of the Potawatomi Nation and a Christian; she will explore how her indigenous roots inform, challenge, and intersect with her Christian faith. She has contributed to NPR's On Being, Religion News Service, USA Today and Sojourners, among others, and was interviewed for the New Yorker on colonization within Christian missions.

In 2018 she was featured in a CBS documentary, Race, Religion, and Resistance speaking on the dangers of colonized Christianity, and was also named one of Sojourners Magazines 10 Christian Women to Watch in 2018. She is the author of "NATIVE: Identity, Belonging, and Rediscovering God" (2020), "Glory Happening. Finding the Divine in Everyday Places" (2017), and a new book on everyday resistance coming out next year.



## **“DON’T STRAY FROM YOUR GOOD ROAD”: AN INDIGENOUS WORSHIP**

National American Indian Heritage Month is celebrated on November 6<sup>th</sup> at Church of the Palms, Sun City featuring Dr. Farina King (Dine’), Eunique Yazzie (Dine’) and Eric Holmes (Chickasaw). Worship service begins at 10 am at 14808 N. Boswell Blvd in Sun City. All are welcome.

“Don’t Stray From Your Good Road” worship focus is taken from Luke 11:2b-4 found in the First Nations Version: An Indigenous Translation of the New Testament. Liturgical prayers and readings will be from Indigenous writers.



**Eric Holmes** - Will serve as Liturgist. Eric, a Chickasaw Nation Member, resides in Sun City, AZ. His Chickasaw Tribe is in Oklahoma and is Native American through his maternal grandmother, Lillie Moore Walton. He is active with Hospice of the Valley as a volunteer; active member of The Church of the Palms and serves as Co-chair on Ministries and Outreach Team. Eric is also the HOA Treasurer in his community. He is married to Michael Balch for nearly 15 years.



**Eunique Yazzie** - Will be sharing “A Personal Story and Insight as to How Hope, Faith and Identity Have Impacted My Life”. Eunique is a Designer whose roots are from Canyon de Chelly in the Navajo Nation heartlands and emerges from Phoenix, Arizona. Her 21-year creative career has honed her technical skill, challenged perspectives, and established her artistic dimensions. If art imitates life, Eunique palette is one that breathes new life and purpose into the arts and culture community; she is a poet and storyteller with the Mujeres Del Sol collective; a board member of Roosevelt Row CDC; a working artist, muralist, and

*God is Still Speaking*

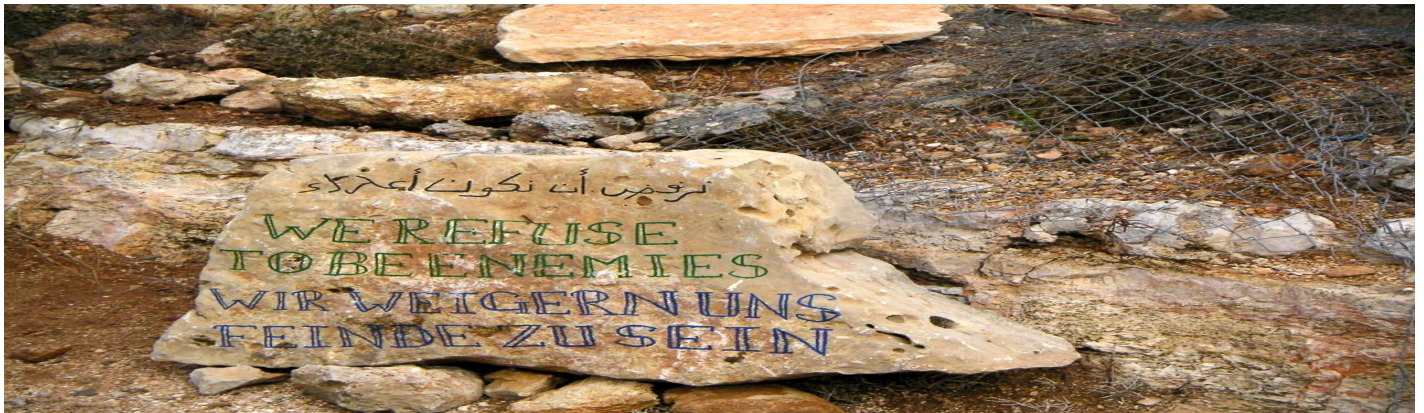
a board member of Roosevelt Row CDC; a working artist, muralist, and illustrator; illustrator co-founder of Cahokia Socialtech + Artspace; founder of Indige Design Collab; and owner of euniQue, LLC. Her creative work is centered around placemaking and placekeeping with an emphasis on social impact design. She is a dynamic organizer, workshop facilitator, speaker, and art curator who is now pivoting towards tech. She currently works as a Creative Consultant and Application Analyst focusing on design systems, collaboration, and Indigenizing space.



**Dr. Farina King** - Will bring a inspirational presentation. Dr. King is of English-American descent and is a citizen of the Navajo Nation. Dr. King is an Associate Professor of History at Northeastern State University, Tahlequah, Oklahoma. She is also an affiliate of the Cherokee and Indigenous Studies Department and the Director of the NSU Center for Indigenous Community Engagement. Dr. King was The David J. Weber Fellow for the Study of Southwestern America at the Clements Center for Southwest Studies of Southern Methodist University (2016-2017). She earned her Ph.D. in U.S. History at Arizona State University in 2016. Her first book, The Earth Memory Compass: Din Landscapes and Education in the Twentieth Century, was published by the University Press of Kansas in 2018. She is the co-author of Returning Home: Din Creative Works from the Intermountain Indian School November 2021.

The public is invited to join us for this worship and the Fellowship Hour to follow. Contact The Church of the Palms at 623-977-8359 for further information.

The Church of the Palms



## Stand in Solidarity with the Nassar family in Palestine

Early in 2017 COTP began a journey of learning and support focusing on the ongoing conflict in Israel/Palestine. Recognizing that the Israeli perspective on the conflict is what dominates our media, the study group requested that we hear from a Palestinian. In the spring of 2018, Daoud Nassar, Palestinian Christian farmer, and founder of Tent of Nations (TON)- a peace project on the family's farm outside of Bethlehem - visited us. He spoke about his 28 year long struggle in the Israeli Military and Supreme Court to re-register the land which his grandfather purchased in 1916, and for which he possesses the deed. (Please take the time to learn more about the Tent of Nations: <http://www.tentofnations.org/>).

Daoud's message of non-violent resistance to the injustices he is facing, moved us, and every year since that, we have continued to learn more, and have included a financial gift to the Tent of Nations in our Mission and Outreach budget.

The United Church of Christ is no stranger to intricacies of the Israeli/Palestine situation and has for over fifty years advocated for a negotiated process leading to a just peace between Israel and Palestine marked by adherence to international law and international standards of human rights and honoring the principle of self-determination and the rights of Palestinian refugees. The United Church of Christ's Palestine/Israel Network (UCCPIN) was formed in 2012 and is a major resource for learning about and taking action on this issue. <https://www.uccpin.org> Under their leadership the UCC's General Synod passed new legislation in the summer of 2021 calling on local congregations to renew their efforts of study and action on this issue.

In spring 2023 we invite you to join us in our journey of learning and action about what is happening in Israel/Palestine. The topic and focus is yet to be determined for our class/study. One option is a viewing of the recently available film titled "Boycott" which shows in vivid detail the impact the Israeli lobby is having on the passage of legislation at the state level (including Arizona) which requires individuals who are involved in any contract with their State to sign a pledge not to boycott Israeli goods: an infringement on our first amendment rights of free speech according to a 1982 Supreme Court decision. If you have other ideas, or are interested in being part of the Spring study group at COTP, feel free to contact me via email.

Beth Moore, Social Justice Action Team ( SJAT); [ebmoore1@live.com](mailto:ebmoore1@live.com)



## "SUBSTANCE OF STARS" Field trip to The Heard Museum

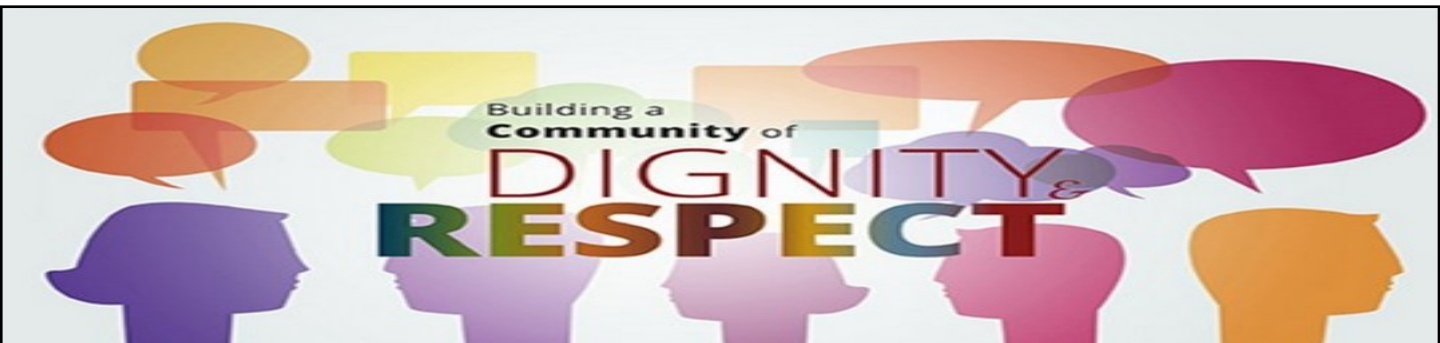
NOVEMBER 12, 2022

2301 North Central Avenue Phoenix, Arizona 85004

- Transportation:** Sign up sheet in narthex. Select **bus** or **car** with available rider space and include your phone number for confirmation.
- Deadline:** Sign-up ends Sunday, November 6, 2022.
- Cost:** \$20 for ages 18-64 Payable at the door. Groups of 10 or more, \$2 off per ticket. Age over 65 is \$17.
- Depart at 9am:** From the Church parking lot. We will spend about 1-2 hours at the museum and then lunch. There are two cafés at museum. We may choose a nearby restaurant if the cafés can't accommodate our group.

The Heard Museum is pleased to announce this new Signature Exhibition opening November 6, 2022. The multi-sensory experience shares the creation stories that form the foundational knowledge systems and inspire artistic production for the Haudenosaunee, Yup'ik, Diné, and Akimel O'otham Tribes. *Substance of Stars* will combine historic and contemporary works with immersive digital technologies to showcase the cosmological and spiritual practices of each community.

The culmination of a three-year collaboration with four Indigenous Nations, the exhibition examines the collection of the Heard Museum from Indigenous perspectives of their own cultural production, across a variety of media. It incorporates Indigenous languages, knowledge, and spiritual values as well as the foundational origin stories and sky knowledge that figure prominently in the national identities of Indigenous peoples.



### **DIGNITY + RESPECT = HOPE**

To be served, when you are broken, lost and hurting has been so very humbling yet beautiful. To be able to eat off regular plates, drink out of a glass and have napkins of fine linen has been such an ACT OF LOVE. Displaying dignity & respect = affirming that we are people deserving of kindness and respect.

Thank you for loving us where we are at this stage in our life. Praying with us and letting us know this is a season and that we are not alone.

Humbly grateful and forever touched by your hospitality & love. A grateful woman of I-HELP.



**Bring a Friend Sunday  
Worship Service and Luncheon  
Sunday November 13<sup>th</sup>**

Church of the Palms is a very unique church. It starts with our mission: "Sharing God's unconditional love, justice, and extravagant welcome". We are blessed with two very gifted and talented pastors who can preach and sing!! Our music program is inspiring!

We have dedicated lay leaders who work hard to "Be the church". Our social justice program is an example for churches throughout the region. You can actually feel the love and presence of the Spirit when you walk into the Narthex on any given Sunday morning. Don't you think we should share these blessings with our friends and neighbors? With this in mind, we are inviting all of our church members to help us share the abundance of our blessings.

The Evangelism and Fellowship Teams are encouraging everyone to invite a friend or neighbor to come to our inspirational "Bring a Friend" Sunday worship service at 10:00 a.m. and stay for a scrumptious lasagna luncheon following on November 13<sup>th</sup>. Just think, if each one of us brings even one guest, the pews would be overflowing with folks with whom we can share an extravagant welcome. If you have questions, please contact Terry Starr (Fellowship Team) 480.221.6937 or Pat Durbin (Evangelism Team) 623.696.8866.



**PRESENTS**  
**“A LITTLE CHRISTMAS”**  
**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2022**  
**3:00 P.M.**  
**\$15.00 AT THE DOOR**

**JIM ALEXANDER, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR - JENNIFER HOPPE, ACCOMPANIST**

## November 1-16, 2022

<b>1 Tuesday</b>	9:00 am (OS) Men's Fellowship @ George's Café 4:00 pm (BR) Jump Start	<b>2 Wednesday</b>	9:00 am (BR) Service Project Craft Group 9:30 am-5:00 pm (OS) Feet-N-More Shower Ministry The Grove
<b>3 Thursday</b>	12:00 pm (BR) Budget Committee 1:00 pm (BR) Worship Team 2:30 pm (MR) Choir Practice	<b>4 Friday</b>	6:00-8:30 pm (SA) Lessons in Decolonization
<b>5 Saturday</b>	8:00 am –12:00pm (SA) Lessons in Decolonization	<b>6 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>7 Monday</b>	9:00 am (BR) Volunteer Engagement Committee 10:00 am (BR) Executive Board Meeting 1:00 pm (KH) I-HELP 2:00 pm (BR) Trustees Meeting	<b>8 Tuesday</b>	8:00 am-2:00 pm (OS) Feet-N-More Shower Ministry @ Surprise 10:00 am (BR) Operations Council 1:00 pm (BR) Ministry Council 4:00 pm (BR) Jump Start
<b>9 Wednesday</b>	9:00 am (BR) Service Project Craft Group 9:00 am (KH) Mission Outreach	<b>10 Thursday</b>	2:30 pm (MR) Choir Rehearsal
<b>11 Friday</b>	1:00 pm (BR) Social Justice <b>VETERANS DAY!!!</b>	<b>12 Saturday</b>	10:30 am (KH) Prairie Sands COA Meeting
<b>13 Sunday</b>	7:30 am (B2L) Shared Conversations 9:00 am (MR) Choir Rehearsal 10:00 am (SA) Sunday Worship 11:00 am (KH) Fellowship Hour	<b>14 Monday</b>	1:00 pm (KH) I-HELP <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>
<b>15 Tuesday</b>	9:00 am (OS) Men's Fellowship @ George's Café 4:00 pm (BR) Jump Start <b>PALM LEAF DEADLINE</b>	<b>16 Wednesday</b>	9:00 am (BR) Service Project Craft Group 10:00 am (KH) Evangelism and Growth Team 9:30 am-5:00 pm (OS) Feet-N-More Shower Ministry @ The Grove

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



## November 17-30, 2022

<b>17 Thursday</b>	2:30 (MR) Choir Practice	<b>18 Friday</b>	
<b>19 Saturday</b>		<b>20 Sunday</b>	7:30 am (B2L) Shared Conversations 9:00 am (MR) Choir Rehearsal 10:00 am (SA) Sunday Worship 11:00 am (KH) Fellowship Hour
<b>21 Monday</b>	1:00 pm (KH) I-HELP	<b>22 Tuesday</b>	8:00 am-2:00 pm (OS) Feet-N-More Shower Ministry @ Surprise 9:00 am (OS) Men's Fellowship @ George's Café 4:00 pm (BR) Jump Start
<b>23 Wednesday</b>	10:00 am (BR) Life Long Learning 10:00 am (KH) Thanksgiving Setup	<b>24 Thursday</b>	<b>THANKSGIVING DAY !!</b> <b>The Spaulding Memorial Thanksgiving Dinner</b> <b>1 1:30 am—1:00 pm (KH)</b>
<b>25 Friday</b>		<b>26 Saturday</b>	9:00 am (SA) Decorate for Advent
<b>27 Sunday</b>	7:30 am (B2L) Shared Conversations 9:00 am (MR) Choir Rehearsal 10:00 am (SA) Sunday Worship 11:00 am (KH) Fellowship Hour	<b>28 Monday</b>	1:00 pm (KH) I-HELP
<b>29 Tuesday</b>	4:00 pm (BR) Jump Start	<b>30 Wednesday</b>	9:00 am (BR) Service Project Craft Group 9:00 am (KH) Mission Outreach

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