



# The Palm Leaf

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

## A Letter from Paul



All three of my children were unique when they were first born and how they developed.

Michael would smile in the hospital every time he would hear my voice. I'd be across the room and say something, and Michael would smile and try to find me. The nurses kept saying that it must be gas. They couldn't convince me. I saw with a proud dad's eyes; That boy was smiling!

Nathan was 10 lbs. 8 oz. when he was born. What made him seem even bigger was the fact that all the other babies born that day in the hospital were in the 5 lbs. range. They looked like tiny chickens next to the turkeys in the grocery store freezer. The church had given us literally over a thousand diapers all of which were for normal sized newborns (*10lbs and under*). *None of them fit.* The women's shelter got the blessing of those gifts, and I went to the store for ones that fit over his thighs.

When Ruthie was born, she cried every time anyone held her, except Wendy. We had lots of grandma-types in the church try to hold her. Ruthie would start crying the second she'd left her mother's side.

Then Wendy would take Ruthie and instantaneously Ruthie would stop crying. It happened so many times that the joke at church was that Ruthie was attached to Wendy with Velcro at the hip!

You and I have another baby in our arms today, baby Jesus. What are we going to do with baby Jesus?

Is baby Jesus looking for our voice of unconditional love across a crowded world? Will his birth inspire us to provide justice to the needy? He's not just someone you can put down; Can you welcome his attachment to you in your heart and soul? I can't wait to see how this new year develops.

Shalom,  
Paul

## Dysart Community Center News

The following memo was received from Dysart Community Center Executive Director Annie Ansell:

Please express our joy and gratitude for all the hard work and gifts given by members of The Church of the Palms. It has been a remarkable partnership. The church has made such a practical difference in the lives of our families and are helping in such a meaningful way to break the cycle of poverty.

Prior to Covid, a small group from The church spent some time once a week with children at Dysart playing games and simply relating to these children during the after-school hours. There would be occasional homework help needed. The staff at Dysart expressed their thanks saying these children enjoy getting attention from adults.

If you are interested in being part of such a group, you may contact either Jane Lane, 231-557-8221, or Linda Hofmann, 623-242-6382. Jane was part of the pre-Covid group and can certainly tell you about her experience at DCC.

## Rotary Club of Sun City, Arizona

Dear,

Pastor Paul Whitlock, Pastor Jim Alexander, Executive Board Chair Suzanne Boisclair, and Executive Board Members.

I want to thank you, on behalf of The Rotary Club of Sun City, for your church's willingness to provide space for our Red Cross Blood Draws. Because of your generous offering of King Hall, 133 lives have been saved in 2022 (according to Red Cross of Arizona). We are told that most Blood Draws average 20 to 25 units of blood per drive. Our average this year was 37. Your continued willingness to provide space is really appreciated.

Dr. Phil Ladd  
Club President

## Doing Grief™ Community Healing Project at the Palms Rings in the New Year

A new ministry begins at The Church of the Palms in 2023! Doing Grief Community Healing Project at the Palms (DGCHP) is a collaborative ministry between COTP and Doing Grief Healing Center, directed by Rev. Shea Darian – a UCC minister, hospital chaplain, and member of The Church of the Palms. COTP serves as fiscal sponsor and home-base venue for DGCHP.

This new ministry will provide spiritual care (small group Healing Circles and one-on-one spiritual care), spiritual enrichment ("Healing through the Arts" programs and contemplative prayer/meditation practices), and grief education workshops that encourage grievers to become their own best healers.

The Strategic Planning Team for Doing Grief Community Healing Project includes COTP members and friends, Rev. Susan Princehouse, Rev. Phil Ladd, and Andrew Darian, as well as team members from the larger Phoenix metro area. COTP member, Rev. Howard Schenk serves on DGCHP's Circle of Advisors.

During the developmental phase of the project, Doing Grief Community Healing Project at the Palms will provide programs and services to COTP members and friends, and will welcome the larger community to participate in programs and services next fall with a Grand Opening event.

For more information, contact Rev. Shea at [info@sheadarian.com](mailto:info@sheadarian.com).



# Notes from your Executive Board

at The Palms

“Dear Children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth”  
1 John 3:18.

Happy New Year to The Church of the Palms Family and Friends!

Here we are in 2023 – Wow! It does seem like we were just wrapping up 2021, and now we are reviewing 2022 in anticipation of our Annual Meeting on January 28<sup>th</sup> and excitedly preparing for the new year.

In conjunction with the Annual Meeting, soon you will be receiving The Church of the Palms Annual Report for 2022. When you receive this important document, please take a few minutes to read and reflect on all the endeavors and many accomplishments of our Boards and Teams.

Without the commitment and work of our dedicated volunteers, we would not be the amazing church that we are. Let us celebrate and give thanks for all who have loved as Jesus loved, not just with words but by giving of their time, talent and treasure.

In addition to reflecting on the Annual Report, we hope that you will be able to attend the Annual Meeting on Saturday, January 28<sup>th</sup> at 9 am. This is a

very important day for our church.

Not only will you hear of the achievements and events of 2022, but we will be looking forward to the future as our budget is presented and voted upon, and we vote to elect our leadership for 2023.

2022 has been a good year at The Church of the Palms, thanks to our Pastors and you, our Palms Family and Friends. We are so grateful to be part of this community. As always, God Bless You and Thank You for loving one another and Being the Church!

## ANNUAL MEETING



**....THE ONE YOU DON'T WANT  
TO MISS!**

**9:00 AM on January 28th In  
King Hall**

# WORSHIP THEMES FOR JANUARY

Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>: On this first Sunday of 2023, there's no better way to start than with praise! Read Psalm 148. We will gather around the table for Communion. Pastor Jim will be preaching.

Jan. 8<sup>th</sup>: Pastor Paul will be preaching. Read Matthew 3:13-17 – Jesus' baptism. God affirms Jesus before he does any of his ministry. God affirms us before we get our act together as well.

Jan. 15<sup>th</sup>: Jesus asked this question of some disciples: "What are you looking for?" That same question is being asked of us. How would you answer? How *will* you answer? Pastor Jim will be preaching from John 1:29-42.

Jan 22<sup>nd</sup>: What does the Lord require of all of us? Micah 6:6-8 is specific in telling us the answer. Pastor Paul will be preaching.

Jan 29<sup>th</sup>: The Beatitudes gives us a clear vision of how to be blessed. Pastor Paul will be preaching. Read Matthew 5:1-12.

## JANUARY HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Scott Hanson	1/02
Lynn Jacobson	1/02
Chris Bauknecht	1/03
Ruby Butterweck	1/03
Charline Hunt	1/03
Connie Nash	1/06
David Klingensmith	1/09
Kurt Hofmann	1/09
Pam Clark	1/09
Carol Reynolds	1/10
Leslie Work	1/10
Susan Hershberger	1/10
Ruth Lampi	1/11
Raymond Larson	1/20
Sandy Krueger	1/21
Frank Bauknecht	1/21
Ruth Gross	1/24
Elaine Klauser	1/27
Don Oelke	1/27
Leah Huse	1/31

## Life Long Learning Team


### Scheduled Classes For- January 2023:

Sacred Conversations, Sunday 7:30-8:30am via ZOOM only. Bobbie Chapman is facilitator.

**Jump Start** each Tuesday 4:00-5:00pm. Hybrid with John Durbin facilitating.

**Cosmic Christian** discussion group resumes Thursdays on January 12<sup>th</sup> from 10:00am to 11:30am: ZOOM only. We will begin a discussion of Torah of the Earth Vol.2:

Exploring 4000 Years of Ecology in Jewish Thought. This book presents a collection of essays, first in the context of Zionism (One Land, Two Peoples) and then in the context of Eco-Judaism (One Earth, Many Peoples.) It offers the wisdom that the Earth and Humans are intertwined. Linette Stenberg is the facilitator. To attend the ZOOM class, go to the church's website: [www.thepalms.org](http://www.thepalms.org) scan down and see a box: "Bridges to Learning"; click on the box and scan down to the Cosmic Christian class on Thursdays of the week you are attending.



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>

## W.I.S.E. CERTIFICATION: WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

Why the anacronym W.I.S.E? **Welcoming, Inclusive, Engaging and Supportive** are the words that become the 'mission statement' of providing mental health awareness and mental health first aid volunteers to our congregation and community. Mental Health First Aid Volunteers are trained individuals that prepare themselves to be available during times of stress, loss, depression or any event that is challenging a person's stable coping behaviors.

It all began in January of 2020 when Pastor Jim Alexander stepped forward to guide The Church of the Palms through a certification process to become a certified W.I.S.E. Congregation sanctioned through the United Church of Christ Mental Health Network and the Southwest Conference of the United Church of Christ (of which we are a regional member).

A W.I.S.E Steering Committee was formed and members recruited who were invested in becoming certified in Mental Health First Aid responders; a course developed and accredited by the National Council of Behavioral Health. Several people stepped forward to do the 40 hour training and those that successfully completed the course and now wear identifying green badges when at church or on church sponsored events or excursions.  
**MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID VOLUNTEERS (MHFA)**

These people in our congregation are trained to listen, be supportive and offer resources to those who wish to talk about an issue, or feelings that are disruptive in their daily lives. MHFA volunteers are not giving professional advice; not to be therapists, not to diagnose, but to listen and offer support and with the training learn how to engage the stressed person and develop a plan for self-care. That self-care might include having someone they know come be with them. It could be suggesting that they talk with a mental health professional, if they are not in acute crisis or suicidal.

As our church edged out of pandemic status, the MHFA trained people participated in a 'simulation training' to enhance their listening skills and reinforce confidence in what they had learned in the training during COVID restrictions.

Two consecutive classes were offered on Suicide Prevention and Experiences of Suicide Thoughts or Suicide by Family or Friends.

**Tools2Thrive** is a series of taped self-care modules and some essays provided by professionals in our congregation as a resource to be used as a resource at anytime and remain a part of the church's website content.

There has been a weekly commitment to provide W.I.S.E. articles of mental health wellness and illness in the weekly church bulletins. Pastor Jim Alexander is the constant in this program. Providing guidance, assuring weekly mental health topics, graphs or soliciting writing from church members to keep 'good mental health goals' available to our congregants.

Generally the focus has been on recognized 'national mental health topics for the month'; and others have been designed to meet our individual congregational needs. Such as those dealing with the complexities of COVID and isolation, domestic violence basic education, different mental health diagnosis, and frequent articles on self-care and healthy patterns for one's own stability and resilience in this busy stressful world.

If in reading this article of the history and current work of W.I.S.E. at The Church of the Palms, you find interest in pursuing this volunteer commitment, please contact Pastor Jim Alexander through the church office. He is coordinating with a local retired care community that has a trained facilitator to arrange additional training for new volunteers.

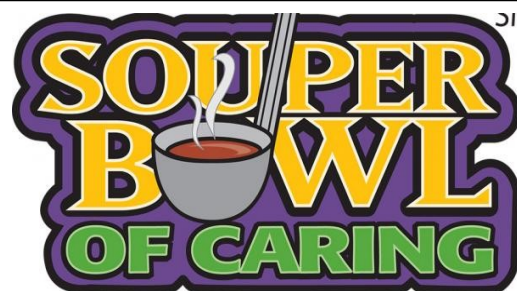
As a member of The Church of the Palm's W.I.S.E Team it is a privilege to be trusted with conversations and an honor for each W.I.S.E. Team member to be a supportive caring person available for this congregation.

Kay F. Klinkenborg, MA  
Spiritual Director  
Member Spiritual Directors International  
Retired: RN; LMFT; Clinical Member AAMFT



Do you remember the lyrics by Richard Rodgers "Getting to know you, getting to know all about you, getting to like you, getting to hope you like me"? That is what the church directory helps us do—know your face, a bit about your background, and how to contact you. It worked well in 2019, but wow is that directory out of date for 2023. We have many new members, others have moved, and some have passed away. A team will be updating all the information in January with distribution scheduled for March. If you have any questions contact Nancy Muller who has agreed to be the coordinator [rnmuller@yahoo.com](mailto:rnmuller@yahoo.com).

Each January we bring soup (Ramen, cans, etc.) to church to donate to the Valley View Food Bank. Our sister congregation, United Church of Sun City, also does this and has challenged us to see who can bring the most soup. A silver ladle goes to the winning congregation. Let's claim our prize!



## SERVICE PROJECT CRAFT GROUP



Angels come to us in many ways. Sometimes we never recognize them. But we sure did with Alyce Luff! (aka our "Yarn Angel"). Alyce has been a regular contributor to our group for several years. She is also an avid supporter of the HART Pantry. She knows that we make hundreds of warm hats and soap bags for needy children. Many of these children have no home to go to at night after school, or food in their tummy.

A couple of weeks ago Alyce came in with this huge bag of both cotton and acrylic yarn, and several more bags since then!! We were down to practically none and were going to have to purchase both cotton and acrylic yarn to continue. Alyce knows where to find the best sales. We now have enough yarn, in many colors, to last us many months. Thank you, Alyce. I feel honored to have my picture with you.

We would also like to thank the many people that have donated material for small quilts, and lap robes that we make and give to many good causes, as well as on our table for sale. This allows us to help fund projects in our Church and purchase supplies as needed.

A Happy New Year to everyone, and a better, 2023.





# CARE Corner

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

## Care Corner – Hospice of the Valley

Are you experiencing or caring for someone with dementia or another life limiting illness? This can be a difficult path to travel alone and there is help available. Hospice of the Valley may be able to assist you through their programs designed provide to meet the physical, emotional, social and spiritual needs of patients, families and caregivers.

Among the programs they provide are:

- Hospice care – end of life care and support for family members
- Palliative care for patients suffering from painful chronic conditions
- Supportive care for those receiving treatment
- Support for patients and family dealing with all types of dementia
- Care, support and education for patients with pulmonary conditions
- Grief support
- Caregiver support and relief

Additionally, Hospice of the Valley provides opportunities for community education with classes on grief, mindfulness training and dementia. They also conduct classes for community groups on most of these same topics. The Care and Support Ministry Team is working with Hospice of the Valley to bring some of these classes to The Church of the Palms in 2023, We will keep you informed as plans develop. If you have a topic you would like to learn more about, please let Judy Jondahl know at 480-388-0707 or email her at [judyjondahlfchwl@gmail.com](mailto:judyjondahlfchwl@gmail.com).

Hospice of the Valley continuously strives to meet its mission - *Bringing comfort, dignity and compassionate care to our community.*

If you have any questions regarding the services provided, you can contact Hospice of the Valley at 602-530-6900 or visit their website [www.hov.org](http://www.hov.org).

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



The Church of the Palms Social Justice Action Team would like to invite you to get involved in social issues with our AZ legislature



Weigh in on bills from the comfort of your home! Arizona's Request to Speak (RTS) is an online tool that lets everyday citizens give Arizona state lawmakers feedback on bills. It's an easy way to get involved in legislative and policy decisions affecting our state, stay informed on the bills that directly affect us, and make sure our elected officials know the wishes of their constituents.



Interested in finding out how to use this system? (You NEVER REALLY have to speak, just click a button on your computer.) Come to a *training at The Church of the Palms* on Saturday, Jan 14<sup>th</sup> from 10:00-11:00 AM. Please let us know your intent to attend at [nnoini19@gmail.com](mailto:nnoini19@gmail.com) and details will be provided.

### Criminal Justice Ministry



*Did you miss our Re-Entry Simulation at The Church of the Palms over a year ago?* Attendees were blown away with this interactive program! This Arouet Foundation presentation is a "fun" way to experience the frustration that people who leave incarceration face every day. Arouet volunteers add reality to the "game" by telling stories of their personal experiences with re-entry into society after years in AZ's Perryville Prison for Women—and what can help them succeed on the outside.

If you missed it before, you still have *another opportunity* to experience a Re-Entry Simulation led by Arouet Foundation. Sat, Jan. 28<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 AM—12:00 PM at Dove of the Desert UMC in Glendale. Light lunch to follow. To register, please contact Sandy at [sjclingenpeel@cox.net](mailto:sjclingenpeel@cox.net) by Jan 21<sup>st</sup>. If you are interested in carpooling (75<sup>th</sup> Ave and 101), contact Nancy Nonini at [nnonini19@gmail.com](mailto:nnonini19@gmail.com) before Jan 20<sup>th</sup>. *You don't want to miss this eye-opening experience!*

**January 1-16, 2023**

<b>1 Sunday</b>	7:30 am (B2L) Shared Conversations 10:00 am (SA) Sunday Worship 11:00 am (KH) Fellowship Hour and Ministry Fair <b>Happy New Year!</b>	<b>2 Monday</b>	<b>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</b> 4:00 pm (KH) I-HELP
<b>3 Tuesday</b>	9:00 am (OS) Men's Fellowship @ George's Café 4:00 pm (BR) Jump Start	<b>4 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>5 Thursday</b>	10:00 a.m. (BR) Cosmic Creations	<b>6 Friday</b>	
<b>7 Saturday</b>		<b>8 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 & Photos 
<b>9 Monday</b>	10:00 am (BR) Executive Meeting 2:00 pm (BR) Board of Trustees Meeting 4:00 pm (KH) I-HELP	<b>10 Tuesday</b>	8:00 am-1:00 pm (OS) Feet-N-More Shower Ministry @ Surprise 10:00 am (BR) Operations Council 1:00 pm (BR) Board of Stewards 4:00 pm (BR) Jump Start
<b>11 Wednesday</b>	9:00 am (BR) Service Project Craft Group 11:00 am (BR) Fellowship Team 2:00 –5:00 pm (OS) Feet-N-More Shower Ministry @ Kitzo	<b>12 Thursday</b>	10:00 am (BR) Cosmic Creations 2:30 pm (MR) Choir Rehearsal
<b>13 Friday</b>		<b>14 Saturday</b>	9:30-11:30 am (KH) AZ RTS Training
<b>15 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 & Photos 	<b>16 Monday</b>	<b>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</b> <b>MLK Day</b> 4:00 pm (KH) I-HELP

**January 17-31, 2023**

<b>17 Tuesday</b>	9:00 am (OS) Men's Fellowship @ George's Cafe 4:00 pm (BR) Jump Start	<b>18 Wednesday</b>	9:00 am (BR) Service Project Craft Group 9:00 am (KH) Mission Outreach 10:00 am (KH) Evangelism and Growth 11:00 am-3:00 pm (OS) Feet-N-More Shower Ministry @ The Grove
<b>19 Thursday</b>	9:00 am (BR) Care Support Ministry 4:00 pm (KH) I-HELP	<b>20 Friday</b>	
<b>21 Saturday</b>		<b>22 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 & Photos 
<b>23 Monday</b>	4:00 pm (KH) I-HELP	<b>24 Tuesday</b>	9:00 am (OS) Men's Fellowship @ George's Cafe 9:00 am-1:00 pm (OS) Feet-N-More Shower Ministry @ Surprise 10:00 am (BR) Creation Justice 1:00 pm (BR) Fellowship Team 4:00 pm (BR) Jump Start
<b>25 Wednesday</b>	9:00 am (BR) Service Project Craft Group 2:00 pm-5:00 pm (OS) Feet-N-More Shower Ministry @ Kitzo	<b>26 Thursday</b>	10:00 am (BR) Cosmic Christians 9:00 pm Care Ministry Team 2:30 am (MR) Choir Rehearsal
<b>27 Saturday</b>	9:00 am-4:00 pm (KH) <b>Red Cross Blood Drive</b>	<b>28 Saturday</b>	9:00 am (KH) Annual Meeting 10:00 am (OS) Re-Entry Simulation @ Dove of the Desert UMC Glendale
<b>29 Sunday</b>	7:30 am (B2L) Shared Conversations 9:00 am (SA) Choir Rehearsal 10:00 am (SA) Sunday Worship 11:00 am (KH) Fellowship Hour & Photos 	<b>30 Monday</b>	3:00-4:00 pm (KH) I-HELP Monitors 4:00 pm (KH) I-HELP
<b>31 Tuesday</b>	4:00 pm (BR) Jump Start		

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),



Photos for the  
New Pictorial Directory  
will be taken on January 8, 15, 22 & 29  
during fellowship hour— there will be  
instructions in the  
weekly announcements and  
Order of Worship  
**Please see page 6 for more information**

