

# The Church of the Palms, UCC

*God is still speaking,*  
**UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST**



December 1, 2024

First Sunday of Advent

10 a.m.

## *Hope Sunday*

|   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| Our Church Life                           |  | Pastor Paul  |
| Welcome                                   |  | Pastor Jim   |
| Prelude                                   | <i>In the Bleak Midwinter</i>  | Jennifer Hoppe                                       |
| Lighting the Advent Candle of Hope Chorus | <i>We Light a Candle</i>   | Linette Stenberg and Andrea Stefanov<br>Congregation |
| *Hymn                                     | <i>O Come, O Come, Emmanuel</i>                                      | Congregation   |
| Spiritual Readings                        | <i>Dickinson, Eliot, Hamer</i>                                       | Donna Meadows  |
| Anthem                                    | <i>Come, Emmanuel</i>  | Sanctuary Choir                                      |
| Scripture Reading                         | <i>Luke 21:25-36</i>   | Pastor Jim   |
| Message                                   | <i>The Signs</i>   | Pastor Jim   |
| *Communion Hymn                           | <i>Whispering Hope</i>   | Congregation   |
| Communion                                 |  | Pastors Jim & Paul                                   |
| Music Durning Communion                   | <i>O Come, O Come Emmanuel<br/>with Come, Thou Almighty King</i>     | Jennifer Hoppe                                       |
| Musical Reflection                        | <i>In You, We are One</i>  | Sanctuary Choir                                      |
| Offertory Sentences                       |  | Pastor Paul  |
| Offertory Music                           | <i>Coventry Carol</i>  | Jennifer Hoppe                                       |
| Benediction                               |  | Pastor Paul  |
| *Hymn                                     | <i>Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus</i>                                | Congregation   |
| Postlude                                  | <i>Good Christian Men Rejoice<br/>with Rejoice, the Lord is King</i> | Jennifer Hoppe                                       |

\*Please stand as you are able.

\*\*The bread for all Communion Services is gluten free.

*This service is being video recorded and will be posted on social media and our website.*

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# The Church of the Palms: An Open and Affirming Congregation

Website: thepalms.org  
Office Hours: Monday—Thursday 8a-1p  
Fridays-Office Closed  
Office E-mail: manager@thepalms.org

Office Phone: 623.977.8359  
Address: 14808 North Boswell Boulevard  
Sun City, Arizona 85351

## Our Church Staff

**Pastor Rev. Paul A. Whitlock** ~ Minister  
pastorpaul1911@gmail.com

**Pastor Rev. Jim E. Alexander** ~ Minister  
jim.alexander@thepalms.org

**Dr. Phil Ladd** ~ Executive Board Chair  
drphilladd@icloud.com

**Jennifer Hoppe** ~ Accompanist  
hoppejen@gmail.com

**Nicole Lindsay** ~ Church Manager  
manager@thepalms.org

**Dr. Victoria McWilliams** ~ Member at Large  
vmcw@aol.com

**Jayne Peak** ~ Faith Community Nurse  
jayne.peak@yahoo.com

## Our Open and Affirming Statement

The Church of the Palms, United Church of Christ, welcomes all people into the full life and ministry of our church, regardless of age, race, or gender; personal, mental or physical ability; gender identity or expression; sexual orientation; ethnic, cultural or religious background; marital, social, or economic status; or life history. We believe that God loves all people and offers us gifts by our diversity. We affirm families and relationships built on love, respect, responsibility, and trust.

## Solidarity for Our Indigenous Siblings

The Church of the Palms, United Church of Christ, acknowledges the communities of Indigenous People who first lived in the land of this valley we call home. The particular land on which this building stands was honored and managed with stewardship by Hohokam, the O-odham Jewed and the Pima-Maricopa as well as the diverse vibrant Native communities who make their home here today.

## Our Life Together This Week

### Sunday, 1

9:00a Choir Rehearsal MR  
10:00a Worship Service SA  
11:00a Fellowship Hour KH

**Worship Theme**—First Sunday of Advent - Hope.

Raise your heads! Watch and pray.

The Living Word is coming to bring hope.

We will gather around The Table and celebrate the great gift given for all.

### Monday, 2

10:00a Lifelong Learning BR/HY  
4:00p IHELP KH

### Tuesday, 3

9:00a Men's Fellowship @ George's Café OS

### Wednesday, 4

9:00a Needles & Pins Craft Group BR  
9:00a Lifelong Learning Book Study—LOW KH  
3:00p Information Session KH

### Thursday, 5

10:00a Cosmic Christians BR/HY  
2:30p Choir Rehearsal MR  
3:00p Inspirit Bible Study BR/HY

### Friday, 6-Office Closed

### Saturday, 7

2:00p Sharon Christenson Memorial Service SA

### New Member Recognition Sunday, 8

9:00a Choir Rehearsal MR  
10:00a Worship Service SA  
11:00a Fellowship Hour KH  
3:00p Women's Ensemble—*Still Sleighting It* SA

**Worship Theme**—Second Sunday of Advent - Peace. Read Luke 3:1-6. What can John the Baptist teach us about peace?

**B2L**—Bridges to Learning; **BRC**—Behle Resource Center  
**BR**—Boardroom; **CHP**—Chapel; **HY**—Hybrid; **MR**—Music Room; **NA**—Narthex; **OS**—Offsite; **PP**—Pastor Paul's Office; **SA**—Sanctuary

# "Sharing God's Unconditional Love, Justice, and Extravagant Welcome"

**Please pray for our fellow church families:** Charles Brannauun \* Paula Knight Matt Kunkel Donna Stenberg \* Phyllis Short \* Paul Harger \* Shawn Willbond \* Debbie Lane Jerry & Rob Belvo \* Lila Miller \* Lynda Chubbuck \* Marlys Davenport \* Harvey Carr Linette Stenberg \* Marcia & Lyle Hollingsworth \* Jamie Krauss \* Millie Carlson Andy Jordan Diana Graettinger \* John Claiborne \* Steve Grogan (*Joanna Esty's Husband*) Alan Monroe (*Jan Camilli's Son-in-law*) \* Melissa Collins (*Family of the Meadows*) Sarah Merchant (*Ellen Merchant's daughter*) \* Jeff Blackburn (*Andrea Stefanov's brother*) Ken Barberi \* Ryan Paul Husted \* Bryan Gomer (*Friend of the Rowe's*) \* Jan Alexander Tom & Linda Groth (*Bonnie Green's neighbors*)



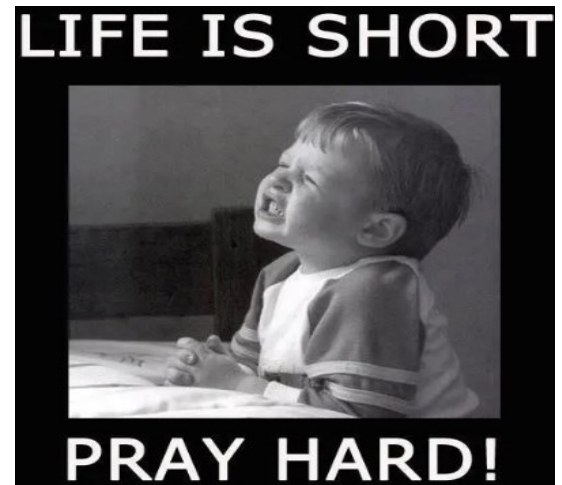
**Pray** for churches working with migrants and asylum seekers. **Pray** for our I-HELP guests. **Pray** for our pastors and their families. **Pray** for the leaders and staff of the Southwest Conference and National Setting of the United Church of Christ. **Pray** for the Tent of Nations.

This week, let's pray for the members & ministries of:

**Shepherd of the Desert  
Lutheran Church (ELCA)  
(11025 N 111<sup>th</sup> Ave)**



**Social Justice Prayer**—During the month of December, we will be asking God to make us an even brighter beacon of social justice in this community and beyond. Being a social justice community of believers starts with the basics: "Valuing and affording dignity to every human being in word and deed, from the person sitting next to us, to the stranger, to the marginalized, to those who would do us harm". Gracious and loving God, being a social justice church is not for the weak and faint of heart. Give us the will and the strength to be who you would have us to be – the palms of Jesus, continuing the work he started over 2000 years ago. Amen.



**Doing Grief @ Community Healing Project Interfaith Chapel for Healing at The Church of the Palms**

Healing Project programs are for EVERYONE - grievors, professional care providers, and caregivers of all faiths and philosophies who are experiencing loss and life-shifting change due to death, broken relationships, illness, aging, a loss of meaning or hope, and more. See flyers on individual offerings and our Fall Calendar on the Narthex table or outside the chapel.

## Special Program – Fall 2024

**Healing with Watercolor Painting** – Dr. Andrew Darian, Educator & School Administrator: Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, 9:00-11:00a. Limit 12 participants.

**RSVP four Ways:** (1) The Church of the Palms/Healing Project Sign-up Book, (2) Email [Connect@DoingGrief.com](mailto:Connect@DoingGrief.com), (3) Call 602-315-8480 or (4) Use the online R.S.V.P form on "Community Healing Project" page at [DoingGrief.org](http://DoingGrief.org)



## Valley Women's Ensemble

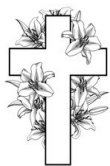
### Save the Date

[Click here for Tickets](#)

Sunday matinée: December 8<sup>th</sup>, 3:00

The Church of the Palms

14808 N Boswell Blvd., Sun City



Please join us in remembering  
**Sharon Christenson**  
Her Memorial Service will take place  
Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, at 2:00p  
in the Sanctuary.

### 2024 ANNUAL REPORTS DUE DECEMBER 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024

If you are a Team or Board Chairperson, please begin preparing your report for our Annual Meeting. MINISTRY TEAMS are to send all reports to David Klingensmith at [davefso@sbcglobal.net](mailto:davefso@sbcglobal.net). All BOARD reports are to be sent to David Princehouse at [david@princehouse.org](mailto:david@princehouse.org).

\*\* Please **DO NOT** send your reports directly to the office OR copy the office on your communication to either David K. or David P. They will take care of forwarding all materials to the office to meet their deadline. Thank you for following these guidelines.

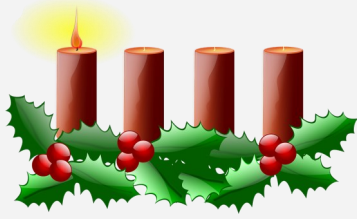
### PERSONAL INVITATION TO THE CHURCH OF THE PALMS DECEMBER 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024 INFORMATION SESSION

Once again the Evangelism and Growth Team is encouraging visitors to join them at the next Information Session to be held on **Wednesday, December 4<sup>th</sup>, starting at 3:00p** in King Hall. If you are weary from your search for a church, consider attending this session to discover if The Church of The Palms fit your needs. If fascinated to learn more, please sign up at either the Welcome Desk or the Sign-Up table in the Narthex. You will be given the delightful opportunity to visit with Pastor Paul and/or Pastor Jim and a few other leaders, learn some church history, available opportunities and church structure. Also, introductions are fascinating plus a bonus of getting answers to your questions. A guided tour of the church will be provided, followed by a light supper with fellowship and a photo session. Bring basic information as there are a couple of forms to complete if you decide to become a new member. New members will then be introduced to our congregation at the following Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup> service.

I see the problem. Your  
guitar is out of tuna.



## LIFELONG LEARNING's Advent Devotional Guide Class



Sunday, December 1<sup>st</sup> begins the Advent Season and Life Long Learning is offering a book study class of the book ***Low: An Honest Advent Devotional*** by John Pavlovitz. Each daily devotion begins with a quote from scripture and then a short two page discussion. The topics covered include faith, belief, doubt, peace, and justice. The class meeting will be located in the Behle Resource Center in King Hall and meet once a week on Wednesday for three weeks. The first class will meet December 4<sup>th</sup> at 9:00a. Sign up sheets and copies of the book are available before or after the worship service today, Sunday, December 1<sup>st</sup>. Please join us!

Friendly Reminder! The LGBTQ+ Story Circle Sharing will be held **December 15<sup>th</sup> at 2:00p** in the Interfaith Chapel. Remember, **EVERYONE** is welcome!

### Blue Christmas/Longest Night Service

Many people who are dealing with grief report problems sleeping. And the long, dark evenings and nights of winter can seem interminable. **On Saturday, December 21<sup>st</sup>, at 5:00p** in the Sanctuary we will hold our Blue Christmas/Longest Night Service as we approach the longest night of the year. This service acknowledges the pain of loss and it also offers hope and healing. All are welcome to attend.

*Join us for a our Christmas Eve Service of  
Carols, Communion, and Candlelight,  
December 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:00p in the Sanctuary*

## Christmas Blessing

*(Please return this form to the church office  
along with your donation by December 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2024)*

This Christmas you have the opportunity to give to the Christmas Blessing fund which will be placed in the general operating budget to further the ministries of The Church of the Palms. You may give your donation in memory or in honor of your friend (s) or loved one (s). Please use your Christmas offering envelop or a regular envelop along with this completed form so that we may include your memorial or honoree information on our Christmas Blessing dedication page.

[ ] In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

[ ] In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

Donated by: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Submitted \$ \_\_\_\_\_



December Christmas Happenings here at ...  
*The Church of the Palms*

**Wednesdays, 12/4, 12/11, & 12/18**  
9:00a Advent Devotional Guide Class BRC

**Wednesday, 12/11**  
9:30a Bus Riders Christmas Party KH

**Sunday, 12/8**  
3:00p Women's Ensemble *Still Sleighing it* Concert SA

**Saturday, 12/21**  
5:00p Blue/Longest Night Christmas Service SA

**Tuesday, 12/24**  
7:00p Christmas Eve Service SA

**BRC—Behle Resource Center; KH—King Hall; SA—Sanctuary**

