

THE CHURCH OF THE PALMS

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



December 15, 2024

Third Sunday of Advent

10 a.m.

JOY SUNDAY

Our Church Life		Pastor Jim
Welcome		Pastor Paul
Lighting the Advent Candle		Charlotte Harger and Jim Barnes
Choral Response	<i>We Light a Candle</i>	Congregation
Call to Worship		Wendy Whitlock
*Hymn 2 (vs 1,2,4)	<i>Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee</i>	Congregation
Scripture Readings	<i>Luke 2:10; Isaiah 9:2-3</i>	Linette Stenberg and Marcia James
Anthem	<i>Sing We Noel</i>	Sanctuary Choir
*Hymn 143 (vs 1-2)	<i>Joy to the World</i>	Congregation
Scripture Reading	<i>Psalm 148</i>	Jane Zukowski
Anthem	<i>Pacem</i> <i>Doris Gott, Flute</i>	Sanctuary Choir
Call to Confession		Andrew Jordan
Scripture Reading	<i>Isaiah 55:12-13</i>	Ann Plaziak
Music for Joy and Reflection	<i>Carol Alleluia</i> <i>What Is This Lovely Fragrance?</i> <i>Pavane for a Silent Night - Doris Gott, Flute</i>	Sanctuary Choir
Offertory Sentences		Pastor Paul
Offertory Music	<i>Mary Rocked the Little Baby</i>	Sanctuary Choir
Presentation of Art Piece		Rev. Ray Larson and Pastors
Benediction and Closing Song		Pastor Paul

*Please stand as you are able.

**Communion is available after Worship. Please come forward as you are able; if you are not, please remain seated and we will come to you. 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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God is Still Speaking

THE CHURCH OF THE PALMS: AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING CONGREGATION

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, 15

8:40a Choir Rehearsal SA
10:00a Worship Service SA
11:00a Fellowship Hour KH
2:00p LGBTQ+ Story Circle CHP/KH

Worship Theme—Third Sunday of Advent - Joy. Our Sanctuary Choir, musicians and narrators will bring messages of joy. Invite a friend or two to be filled with God's immeasurable joy!

Monday, 16

4:00p IHELP KH

Tuesday, 17

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

Wednesday, 18

9:00a Advent Devotional Guide's Last Class BRC
9:00a Needles & Pins Craft Group BR
10:00a Executive Board Mtg NA

Thursday, 19

2:30p Choir Rehearsal MR
3:00p Inspirit Bible Study BRC

Friday, 20—Office Closed

Saturday, 21

5:00p Blue Christmas/
Longest Night Service SA

Sunday, 22

9:00a Choir Rehearsal MR
10:00a Worship Service SA
11:00a Fellowship Hour KH
Worship Theme—Fourth Sunday of Advent-Love. Mary sings her song in Luke 1:39-55. Christmas belongs to the few who live in wonder at the coming of Christ, and respond as servants, "Here am I, body and soul." Pastor Paul will be preaching.

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

Our Church Staff

Pastor Rev. Paul A. Whitlock ~ Minister
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Fridays—**Office Closed**
Office E-mail: manager@thepalms.org
Address: 14808 North Boswell Boulevard
Sun City, Arizona 85351

Please pray for our fellow church families:

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Paula Knight \* Matt Kunkel \* Donna Stenberg  
Phyllis Short \* 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  
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*) \* Tom & Linda Groth  
(*Bonnie Green’s neighbors*) \* Clay Lyon (*Pamela  
Parr’s Father*) \* Margaret Carpenter (*As she grieves  
the loss of her step-son Philip Carpenter*)  
Charlotte Harger (*As she grieves the loss her son  
Paul Harger*) \* Krystal Harding (*Jessica Hermann’s  
friend*) \* Dina Hardt (*Terry Starr’s Sister*)



Pray for churches working with immigrants 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:

**Willowbrook United  
Methodist Church  
(19390 N 99th Ave)**

**Social Justice Prayer**—During the month of December, we are asking God to make us an even brighter beacon of social justice in this community and beyond. Today we are asking God to help us minister to the poor and vulnerable. Isaiah 58:7 says “Share your food with everyone who is hungry; share your home with the poor and homeless. Give clothes to those in need; don’t turn away your relatives.” Gracious and loving God, we know that being a social justice church requires work. And we are ready! Give us special strength to be who you would have us to be—the palms of Jesus, continuing the work he started over 2000 years ago. Amen.

**Mark Your Calendars!**

***“Lunch with a Bunch”***

will be ringing in the New Year!

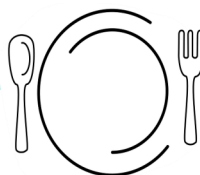
When?

**Saturday, January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at 11:30a**

**Lou’s Tivoli Gardens  
12535 W Bell Rd  
Surprise, AZ 85374**

\*Menu choices—To be determined.

Thank you, *Sandy Krueger*



Flowers are donated by **Anthony Park** to celebrate his 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a member here at The Church of the Palms!



## Social Justice Prayer or Statement 2025 Calendar

As a social justice oriented church, it is important to keep issues of importance to us top of mind for our members and friends. One of the ways to do this is to encourage people to be aware of and pray for the issues we are championing. Following is the proposed 2025 calendar for Sunday Bulletin Social Justice Prayers/Statements.

| Month 2025 | Topic                             | Submitter         |
|------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------|
| January    | Advocacy Ministry                 | TBD               |
| February   | Criminal Justice/Prison Ministry  | Nancy Nonini      |
| March      | Homelessness Ministry             | Max Klinkenborg   |
| April      | Creation Justice Ministry         | Terry Starr       |
| May*       | Immigration & Refugees Ministry   | Larry Cornelius   |
| June*      | LGBTQ+ Ministry                   | Mark Makowski     |
| July       | Uplifting the Marginalized        | Nancy Mueller     |
| August     | World Peace                       | Suzanne Boisclair |
| September  | Othering & Belonging Ministry     | John Durbin       |
| October    | Neighbors in Need Ministry        | Linda Hofmann     |
| November   | Palestinian Human Rights Ministry | Beth Moore        |
| December   | Being a Social Justice Church     | John Durbin       |

Please write or search for prayers or statements to be placed in the Sunday Bulletins for each Sunday of your assigned month (s). Submit the prayers or statements to Niki no later than Tuesdays prior to your Sundays. Feel free to submit all prayers/statements at one time prior to your designated Sundays.

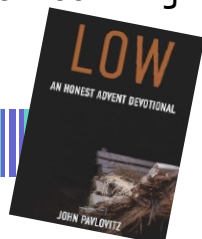
Join us for a our  
Christmas Eve  
Service of  
Carols, Communion,  
and Candlelight,  
December 24<sup>th</sup>  
at 7:00p  
in the Sanctuary



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

### Lifelong Learning Last Class!

Lifelong 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 last class will meet in the Behle Resource Center, back of King Hall this coming Wednesday, the 18<sup>th</sup>. Join us!  
-The Lifelong Learning Team



### Blue Christmas/Longest Night Service

Today may be the Advent Sunday of Joy, but for people who have suffered the loss of a loved one or other life changes this season may seem anything but joyful. If you or someone you know is feeling the Christmas "blues" due to loss or pain, consider coming to the Blue Christmas/Longest Night Service. It will be held this **Saturday, December 21<sup>st</sup>, at 5:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary.** It will be a reflective time to acknowledge the pain of loss and it also offers hope and healing. Come for your own needs or invite a friend who is experiencing loss and grief.



December Christmas Happenings at ...  
*The Church of the Palms, UCC*

**Wednesday, 12/18**  
9:00a Advent Devotional Guide's Last Class BRC

**Saturday, 12/21**  
5:00p Blue/Longest Night Christmas Service SA  
*Led by David Klingensmith & Mark Makowski*

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



### 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 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

