

THE CHURCH OF THE PALMS

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



December 29, 2024

First Sunday after Christmas

10 a.m.

Our Church Life & Welcome		Dr. Phil Ladd
Prelude	<i>O Come, All Ye Faithful with Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee</i>	Jennifer Hoppe
Call to Worship		Bonnie Green
*Hymn 149	<i>Angels, from the Realms of Glory</i>	Congregation
Spiritual Readings	<i>Emma Roberts, Therese Fowler, James H. Boren</i>	Bonnie Green
Special Music	<i>Gentle Mary</i>	Doris Gott
Scripture Reading	<i>Luke 2:41-52</i>	Rev. Len Silvester
Message	<i>Life on the Ponder-osa</i>	Rev. Len Silvester
*Hymn 161 v 1 & 4	<i>I Wonder as I Wander</i>	Congregation
Pastoral Prayer		Rev. Dr. Phil Ladd
Offertory Sentences		Rev. Dr. Phil Ladd
Offertory Music	<i>Away in a Manger</i>	Doris Gott
Benediction		Rev. Dr. Phil Ladd
*Hymn 167	<i>Go, Tell It on the Mountain</i>	Congregation

*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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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:

Worship Sunday, 29

10:00a Worship Service SA

11:00a Fellowship Hour KH

Worship Theme—First Sunday after Christmas. Our Pastor Emeritus Rev. Len Silvester will be preaching! What a treat - literally a voice of the past coming back and sharing in the here and now.

Monday, 30

4:00p I-HELP KH

Tuesday, 31—New Year's Eve

Wednesday, 1—Office Closed

Happy New Year!

Thursday, 2

3:00p Inspirit Bible Study

Friday, 3—Office Closed

Saturday, 4

Worship Sunday, 5

10:00a Worship Service SA

11:00a Fellowship Hour KH

Worship Theme—Second Sunday after Christmas. Pastor Paul will be preaching. What can we learn from the Wise guys? Read Matthew 2:1-12.

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

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Office Hours: Monday—Thursday 8a-1p;

Fridays—**Office Closed**

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“SHARING GOD’S UNCONDITIONAL LOVE, JUSTICE, AND EXTRAVAGANT WELCOME”

Please pray for our fellow church families:

Paula Knight * Matt Kunkel * Donna Stenberg * Phyllis Short * Debbie Lane
Ryan Paul Husted * Jerry & Rob Belvo * Lila Miller * Bruce & Lynda Chubbuck * Harvey Carr
Marlys Davenport * Linette Stenberg Marcia & Lyle Hollingsworth * Jamie Krauss
Millie Carlson * Andy Jordan * Diana Graettinger * 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*) * 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*) * Rhonda Krinsky * Allan Gott

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:
Church of the Nazarene
(14636 N Del Webb Blvd)



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. We are reminded, during the Christmas season, that Christ came to share love and show compassion to those on the margins of society, the lost, the lonely and the forgotten. As followers of Jesus, we can do no less. As we enter a new year we are embarking on a period of time when the lost, the lonely, and the forgotten are under siege by the wealthy who are bent on “cleaning up the mess,” removing the vulnerable from sight. Love and compassion are scarce commodities. But we know what we must do. Speak up and speak out. Gracious and loving God, being a social justice church is not for the weak and faint of heart. Give us the will, the strength, and the voice to be who you would have us to be – the palms of Jesus, continuing the work he started over 2000 years ago. Amen.



REMINDER! Access any Worship Sunday Videos online, or our weekly calendar, to see what is happenin’ here at The Church of the Palms! To visit our website, click the following links: For Online Zoom Classes via **Bridges:** thepalms.org/bridges; **The Weekly Calendar:** thepalms.org/calendar. And don’t forget! Subscribe to our YouTube channel to stay updated! Click the link below or visit: www.youtube.com/@thechurchofthepalmsaz8373 to subscribe!
And also, there is an updated Membership Directory available on our website under “Contact Us.” For password, please call the front office.
With any other questions, please feel free to also reach us during office hours at 623-977-8359.
Thank you!

It's time for the beehives to gather together in 2025.

Let's welcome back all the snowbirds who have returned for the warmth in our Arizona climate and those who remain here year-long.

The Church of the Palms' Beehives, from A to Z, will gather in King Hall on Sunday, January 12th.

This is during the fellowship hour beginning at 11:00a. The groups will be delighted to bee together, renew friendships, bee with new members, rejoice or console each other as needed.



Folks, beginning **January 5th**, we will be starting a new Prayer list for our weekly bulletins. Please be sure to use the Prayer Requests cards (shown below) located in the pews. For any questions, comments, or concerns, please feel free to reach out to the front office. Thank you!

Prayer Requests



How may we best help you?

_____ Add name to the printed prayer list.

_____ Have the Care & Support Ministry Team to pray for me.

_____ I have a confidential prayer request I'd like to discuss with one of the Pastors. Please contact me.

Your Name: _____

Phone: () _____

*Pray without ceasing. In everything give thanks.
1 Thessalonians*



Mark Your Calendars!

"Lunch with a Bunch"

will be ringing in the New Year!

When?

**Saturday, January 18th,
2025 at 11:30a**

Lou's Tivoli Gardens

12535 W Bell Rd

Surprise, AZ 85374

*Menu choices—To be determined.

Thank you, *Sandy Krueger*



The Church of the Palms' Mission and Outreach Team is collecting donations of soup (ramen, cans, etc.) each Sunday through **February 9th** for the Valley View Community

Food Bank. Our sister congregation, United Church of Sun City, has challenged us to a friendly rivalry to see who can donate the most. Let's DO THIS!!



Reminder!

January 25th, at 9:00a
in the Sanctuary will be
our Annual Meeting!

