

THE CHURCH OF THE PALMS

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



December 8, 2024

Second Sunday of Advent

10 a.m.

Peace Sunday

Our Church Life		Pastor Jim
Welcome		Pastor Paul
Prelude	<i>The First Noel</i>	Jennifer Hoppe
Lighting the Advent Candles		Pat and John Durbin
Peace Chorus	<i>We Light a Candle</i>	Congregation
*Hymn 153 v 1 & 4	<i>It Came upon the Midnight Clear</i>	Congregation
Spiritual Readings	<i>Mother Teresa, John Lennon, Dwight D. Eisenhower, Dorothy Day, and Nadia Bolz Weber</i>	Judy Pinter
Anthem	<i>Gloria In Excelsis Deo</i>	Sanctuary Choir
Scripture	<i>Luke 3:2-14</i>	Pastor Paul
Message	<i>Time to be Honest</i>	Pastor Paul
*Hymn 171	<i>God's Love Made Visible!</i>	Congregation
Pastoral Prayer		Pastor Paul
*Hymn 677	<i>Let There Be Peace on Earth</i>	Congregation
New Member Introduction		Pastors Paul & Jim
Offertory Sentences		Pastor Jim
Offertory Music	<i>I Wonder as I Wander</i>	Jennifer Hoppe
Benediction		Pastor Jim
*Hymn 150 v 1 & 4	<i>Hark! The Herald Angels Sing</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.

CCLI Copyright 2848647-1531950 Streaming 20266739 ONE LICENSE A-734669

God is Still Speaking

THE CHURCH OF THE PALMS: AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING CONGREGATION

Website: <https://thepalms.org>

Office Hours: Monday—Thursday 8a-1p

Fridays—**Office Closed**

Address: 14808 North Boswell Boulevard
Sun City, Arizona 85351

Office E-mail: manager@thepalms.org

Office Phone: 623.977.8359

Our Life Together This Week

New Member Recognition Sunday, December 8

9:00a Choir Rehearsal MR

10:00a Worship Service SA

11:00a Fellowship Hour KH

3:00p Women's Ensemble—*Still Sleighing It* SA

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

Monday, December 9

10:00a Operations Council Mtg BR

2:00p Trustees Mtg BR/HY

2:00p LGBTQ+ Team Mtg KH or NA

4:00p IHELP KH

Tuesday, December 10

10:00a Ministry Council Mtg BR/HY

2:30p The Healing Project CHP/KH

Wednesday, December 11

9:00a Advent Devotional Guide Class BRC

9:00a Needle & Pins Craft Group BR

11:30a Bus Riders Christmas Party KH

Thursday, December 12

2:30p Choir Rehearsal SA

10:00a Cosmic Christians BR/HY

3:00p Inspirit Bible Study BRC/HY

Friday, December 13

12:00p Criminal Justice Mtg BR/HY

1:00p Social Justice Mtg BR/HY

Saturday, December 14

8:00a Glendale Hometown Christmas Parade OS

10:00a Healing with Watercolor Painting CHP/KH
(Class is Full)

Sunday, December 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!*

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.

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: 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 * 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*)
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*)

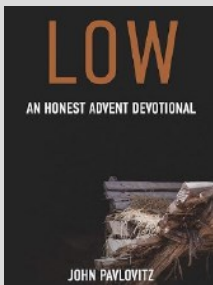


Pray for churches working with migrants and asylum seekers. **Pray** for our I-HELP guests. **Pray** for our pastors and their families. **Pray** for the leaders and staff of the Southwest Conference and National Setting of the United Church of Christ. **Pray** for the Tent of Nations.

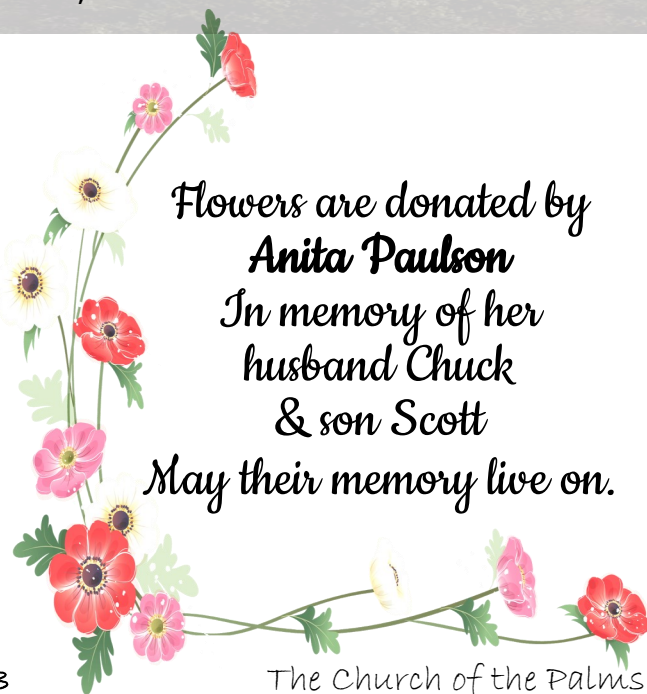
This week, let’s pray for the members & ministries of:

**First United
Methodist Church
(9849 N 105th Ave)**

Social Justice Prayer—During this final month of the year 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 stand in solidarity. To stand in solidarity means to act in support of others who are facing a common challenge or injustice. It means accepting the responsibility of protecting the rights and personal worth of those who are oppressed or marginalized by systemic racism or other forms of discrimination. Standing in solidarity is not just a feeling, but a behavior that requires commitment and action. With whom are you standing in solidarity? Gracious and loving God, open our eyes, open our hearts, open our arms and strengthen our hands to be the palms of Jesus in standing with, and advocating for, our brothers and sisters who of victims of oppression. We pray this in the name our savior and teacher, Jesus. Amen.



Friendly Reminder!
Sunday, December 1ST began the Advent Season and 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 class will meet in the Behle Resource Center, back of King Hall this coming Wednesday, the 11th and next Wednesday, the 18th. Sign up sheets and copies of the book are still available. Come join us!
-The Lifelong Learning Team



*Flowers are donated by
Anita Paulson
In memory of her
husband Chuck
& son Scott
May their memory live on.*

Don't Forget! 2024 ANNUAL REPORTS DUE DECEMBER 12th, 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. All BOARD reports are to be sent to David Princehouse at 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.

Friendly Reminder! The LGBTQ+ Story Circle Sharing will be held **December 15th** 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 21st, 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 24th at 7:00p
in the Sanctuary*



Christmas Blessing

*(Please return this form to the church office
along with your donation by December 22nd, 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, UCC

Sunday, 12/8

3:00p Women's Ensemble *Still Sleighing it* Concert SA

Wednesdays, 12/11 & 12/18

9:00a Advent Devotional Guide Class BRC

Wednesday, 12/11

11:30a Bus Riders Christmas Party KH

Saturday, 12/21

5:00p Blue/Longest Night Christmas Service SA

Tuesday, 12/24

7:00p Christmas Eve Service SA

