

The Church of the Palms, UCC

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



January 5, 2025

Second Sunday after Christmas

10 a.m.

The Wisemen brought gifts. What gifts can we bring?

Our Church Life		Pastor Paul
Welcome		Pastor Paul
Prelude	<i>The Gift</i>	Jennifer Hoppe
Call to Worship		Larry DeLong
*Hymn 151 v 1 –3	<i>The First Noel</i>	Congregation
Spiritual Readings	<i>Mahatma Gandhi, Ben Franklin & Joan Rivers</i>	Larry DeLong
Special Music	<i>Joy to the World with Jesus Shall Reign</i>	Jennifer Hoppe
Scripture Reading	<i>Matthew 2:1-12</i>	Pastor Paul
Message	<i>Wise Guy Learnings</i>	Pastor Paul
*Hymn 162	<i>What Child Is This</i>	Congregation
Communion		Pastor Paul
Music for Communion		Elaine Klauser
*Hymn 172 v 1 & 5	<i>We Three Kings</i>	Congregation
Offertory Sentences		Pastor Paul
Offertory Music	<i>Go Tell It On the Mountain</i>	Jennifer Hoppe
Benediction		Pastor Paul
*Hymn 173	<i>As with Gladness</i>	Congregation
Postlude	<i>O Worship the King/ Angels from the Realms of Glory</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, January 5, 2025

10:00a Worship Service SA

11:00a Fellowship Hour KH

Monday, January 6, 2025

10:00a Lifelong Learning Mtg BR/HY

1:00p Advocacy Ministry Team Mtg B2L

4:00p I-HELP KH

Tuesday, January 7, 2025

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

2:00p Operations Mtg BR

Wednesday, January 8, 2025

9:00a Needles & Pins Craft Group BR

10:00a VEC Mtg NA or KH

Thursday, January 9, 2025

11:00a Jan Alexander's

Memorial Service SA

2:30p Choir Rehearsal MR

3:00p Inspirit Bible Study BRC

Friday, January 10, 2025—Office Closed

12:00p Criminal Justice Mtg BR/HY

1:00p Social Justice Mtg BR/HY

Saturday, January 11, 2025

9:00a Advent Pack up & Clean up day SA

Sunday, January 12, 2025

9:00a Choir Rehearsal MR

10:00a Worship Service SA

11:00a Fellowship/Beehive Hour KH

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:

Clay Lyon (*Pamela Parr's father*), Dalton Parr (*Pamela Parr's son*), Jim Shelton, Brent Pinter, Tracy and Phyllis (*Judy Pinter's family members*), Marlys Davenport, Bruce and Lynda Chubbuck, Rhonda Krinsky, Allan Gott



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 Presbyterian Church
(12225 N 103rd Ave)



Social Justice Prayer—Loving God, we pray that you will give us: Acute awareness of social justice issues including homelessness, LGBTQ+ issues, refugees, neighbors in need, criminal justice reform, Palestinian human rights, and care for creation. Wisdom and courage to develop and advocate for public policy that is sensitive to these issues and protects the health, safety, and dignity of all. Re-dedication of our desire and commitment to stand up for those who cannot stand on their own. Strength to be persistent in seeing others with the eyes of Jesus, to interact with others as Your loved ones, and to advocate for public policies reflecting that vision of every person. Amen.

As you know, we have started a new prayer list. 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!


Prison Ministry

It's a new year! Looking for a new way to show God's love to someone lonely, feeling abandoned, feeling unworthy?



Join us for a special meeting to learn about being a pen pal to a woman in Perryville Prison. These letters may be all the mail they ever receive. YOUR encouragement may make the difference in their life.

When? Friday, Jan 31st at 1:00p in the Board Room.
R.S.V.P. to Nancy at nnonini19@gmail.com

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: () _____	
<i>Pray without ceasing. In everything give thanks.</i> <i>1 Thessalonians</i>	

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!



Reminder!

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

*"When we surrender to what we are
powerless over, is when we find
our true power."*

-Melody Beattie



The Church of the Palms' 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!

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 be together, renew friendships, be with new members, rejoice or console each other as needed.

Lunch with a Bunch @ Tivoli Gardens

Saturday, January 18th, 2025 11:30a-2:00p

Menu: \$17.75 per person includes: Ice tea, soda or coffee. Included tax and tip. Cash included. Each sandwich includes your choice of: French fries, coleslaw or mashed potatoes with homemade gravy. Choices: Hamburger (to add cheese .75 extra). Open-faced roast turkey sandwich with homemade gravy, open-faced pot roast sandwich with homemade gravy, grilled chicken breast sandwich (served with cheese & mayo on the side), caesar salad (romaine lettuce, tomato, black olive, red onion, croutons, all tossed with caesar dressing).

With any questions, please reach out to Sandy Krueger.