

THE CHURCH OF THE PALMS

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



February 16, 2025

Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany

10 a.m.

What do you do when things seem upside down and backwards?

Our Church Life		Pastor Paul
Welcome		Pastor Jim
Prelude	<i>You Are My All In All</i>	Jennifer Hoppe
Call to Worship		Judy Jondahl
Chorus	<i>Blessed Are They (part 1)</i>	Congregation
Spiritual Readings	<i>Besh, Elliot, Camus, Marx, Bibesco and Vivekanada</i>	Judy Jondahl
Anthem	<i>The Beatitudes</i>	Sanctuary Choir
Scripture Reading	<i>Luke 6:17-26</i>	Pastor Jim
Message	<i>Blessings and Woes</i>	Pastor Jim
Chorus	<i>Blessed Are They (part 2)</i>	Congregation
Pastoral Prayer		Pastor Paul
Offertory Sentences		Pastor Jim
Offertory Music	<i>Give Thanks</i>	Jennifer Hoppe
Benediction		Pastor Paul
*Hymn 536 v. 2, 3, 4	<i>When We Are Living</i>	Congregation
Postlude		

*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.

Church Staff

Pastor Rev. Paul A. Whitlock-*Minister*;
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OUR LIFE TOGETHER THIS WEEK:

Sunday, 16

9:00a Choir Rehearsal MR
10:00a Worship Service SA
11:00a Fellowship Hour KH
3:00p Phoenix Women's Chorus OS

Monday, 17—Office Closed PRESIDENT'S DAY

1:00p Advocacy Mtg BR/HY
4:00p IHELP KH

Tuesday, 18

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

Wednesday, 19

9:00a Needles & Pins Craft Group BR
11:00a Shower Trailer @ Grove OS
3:00p Information Session BR

Thursday, 20

9:00a Blessings Board Mtg BR
2:30p Choir Rehearsal MR
3:00p Inspirit Bible Study BRC

Friday, 21—Office Closed

10:00a-11:30a Block BR

Saturday, 22

8:00a Prison Ministry Re-Entry Simulation KH
9:00a Shower Trailer with Jesus OS

Sunday, 23

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

Worship Themes

February 16th—Pastor Jim preaches from Luke 6:17-26. When Jesus shared these teaching with the disciples, it seemed a little backwards to them. What do you think?

February 23rd—Pastor Paul returns to the pulpit. What's so golden about the Golden Rule? Read Luke 6:27-38.



TODAY! Sunday, February 16th, 3:00p!

Desert Garden
United Church of Christ
11818 N 128th Ave
Sun City West

Free Will Offering, Reception Follows

SA=Sanctuary; B2L=Bridges to Learning; HY=Hybrid;
KH=King Hall; BR=Boardroom; OS=Offsite; A=Narthex;
CHP=Chapel; PP=Pastor Paul's Office; MR=Music Room;
BRC=Behle Resource Center

Please pray for our fellow church families:

Clay Lyon, Dalton Parr, Brent Pinter, Tracy and Phyllis (Judy Pinter’s family members), Marlys Davenport, Rhonda Krinsky, Allan Gott, Bruce & Lynda Chubbuck, Jim Schulz, Deb Bontadelli, Herbert & Anneslia Turner, Linette Stenberg, Donna Stenberg, Melissa Collins, Linda Allwalt, Jackie (a friend of TCOTP) Bob Parks, Vanessa Stiller, Larry DeLong, Addie Bovier’s family & friends in the California fires, Addie’s husband Greg and friend Lauren, Chris D. Goshorn

Social Justice Prayer

Dear Loving God, please give compassion, patience and wisdom to all who work in the criminal legal system. Give them compassion for the people who have been broken down by life’s cruel suffering. Give them patience as people work through the changes needed to become returning citizens. Give them wisdom to fairly judge and determine the needed consequences to help people grow into contributing members of society. Please give all staff who come in contact with the incarcerated the maturity and courage to perform this draining work. Amen.

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:

**Grace Bible Church
(19280 N 99th Ave)**

“Prayer does not change God, but it changes him who prays.” -Soren Kierkegaard



**Lenten Study
Sacred Self-Care**

Many of us are good at caring for others, but not always good at caring for ourselves. Lent, which begins March 6th, is a good time to reflect. We are going to use the book Sacred Self-Care: Daily

Practices for Nurturing Our Whole Selves. It contains daily meditations and was recommended by the UCC as an all-church read. Dave Klingensmith will lead four sessions in March and April where participants can share how the book is working for them. A few copies will be available in the church office. The book is available on Amazon for \$9.99 for the print version and \$16 for the Kindle version. More to come in next week’s bulletin and in the March Palm Leaf.

~Dave~

YOU are Invited!

The LGBTQ+ Ministry Team is hosting an **IMAGINE: DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION** potluck at Mark Makowski’s home at: 10319 W. Burns Drive, Sun City on March 10th, starting at 4:30p. It is limited to 12 people due to space. Stay tuned to your Sunday Bulletins for future potlucks and activities so all who wish can participate over time. Who knows what we might dream up next! Plan for friendly conversation, laughter, and good food. All in good supply. Sign-up sheets are in the Narthex. Thank you! ~Mark

NEXT INFORMATION SESSION IS COMING SOON

Once again the Evangelism and Growth Team is encouraging visitors to join them at the next Information Session to be held on Wednesday, February 19th, 2025 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 fits 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 awesome 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, February 23rd, 2025 service.



Come find out.

At our Re-Entry Simulation, you will experience fun and frustration in trying to navigate the maze that is returning to life outside of prison.

Past participants have found this an eye-opening challenge. Just two hours will bring you a new perspective on the obstacles we set up when we so easily "other" the formerly incarcerated. Join us on **Saturday, February 22nd, from 10:00a to 12:30p in King Hall**, presented by our partners, Arouet. R.S.V.P. by tomorrow, Feb 17th to Nancy Nonini at nnonini19@gmail.com or on the sign up in the Narthex.



The Unconscious Bias Class is now meeting on **February 24th @ 10:00a in the Board Room**

Rev. Lynette Turner will present an introduction to unconscious bias and information on the various biases present in our culture. Through awareness training, she will help attendees recognize their own unconscious biases and how bias affects our actions. Understanding bias promotes awareness, improves decision making, and builds better

relationships. John Amaechi, organizational psychologist says that "Unconscious bias is not a reflection of our character, but it is a reflection of our programming. We can reprogram our minds to be more inclusive." Join us for this educational opportunity to further enhance your life journey. Please sign up in the Narthex so that we have an idea of the number attending.

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In loving memory of

Violet Jeffries

former member of
The Church of the Palms.



She passed
away on
2-7-2025.

Please keep her daughter
Elizabeth Seaway
in your prayers.

