

# THE CHURCH OF THE PALMS

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



February 9, 2025

Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

10 a.m.

*"To love another person is to see the face of God." Victor Hugo*

Our Church Life		Pastor Jim
Welcome		Pastor Paul
Prelude	<i>The Water Is Wide</i>	Doris Gott and Jennifer Hoppe
Call to Worship		Andrea Stefanov
*Hymn	<i>Jesus Loves the Little Children</i>	Congregation
Spiritual Readings	<i>Erich Fromm, Vincent Van Gogh, Maya Angelou, James Baldwin, Lao Tzu, and Carl Sandburg</i>	Andrea Stefanov
Anthem	<i>Bless the Lord, O My Soul</i>	Sanctuary Choir
Scripture Reading	<i>1 Corinthians 13:1-13</i>	Pastor Paul
Message	<i>Unconditional Love</i>	Pastor Paul
Hymn	<i>In this Very Room</i>	Congregation
Pastoral Prayer		Pastor Paul
Offertory Sentences		Pastor Jim
Offertory Music	<i>Think About His Love</i>	Jennifer Hoppe
Benediction		Pastor Paul
*Chorus	<i>I Will Sing of Your Love, Love, Love</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:

#### Sunday, 9

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

#### Monday, 10

7:45a Lutheran Day of Legislature Field Trip OS  
10:00a Executive Board Mtg BR  
2:00p Trustees Board Mtg BR/HY  
4:00p IHELP KH

#### Tuesday, 11

10:00a Ministry Council Mtg BR/HY  
10:00a Feet-N-More Shower Trailer OS  
1:00p Care & Support Team Mtg BR/HY

#### Wednesday, 12

9:00a Needles & Pins Craft Group BR  
10:00a VEC Mtg NA

#### Thursday, 13

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

#### Friday, 14—Office Closed

10:00a Israel/Palestine Class BR  
12:00p Criminal Justice Mtg BR/HY  
1:00p Social Justice Team Mtg BR/HY

#### Saturday, 15

#### Sunday, 16

9:00a Choir Rehearsal MR  
10:00a Worship Service SA  
11:00a Fellowship Hour KH  
11:45a Evangelism & Growth Lunch BR  
3:00p Phoenix Women's Chorus OS

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

God is Still Speaking



## Church Staff

Pastor Rev. Paul A. Whitlock-*Minister*;  
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Pastor Rev. Jim E. Alexander-*Minister*;  
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Jayne Peak-*Faith Community Nurse*;  
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## Worship Themes

February 9<sup>th</sup>— Read 1 Corinthians 13:1-13.

If you are looking for God, love someone. Pastor Paul will be preaching.

February 16<sup>th</sup>—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?



In Concert Sunday, February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Desert Garden  
United Church of Christ  
11818 N 128<sup>th</sup> Ave  
Sun City West, AZ 85375  
Free Will Offering  
Reception Follows

### Social Justice Prayer

Dear Loving God, please comfort the victims of crime. Help them to see a future without fear. Let them feel Your presence in their daily lives. Bring families together to support one another. Do not let the stress of their experience come between family members. Shower Your love, comfort and healing on all who suffer. Amen.

#### 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,  
Addie Bovier’s family & friends in the California fires, Addie’s husband Greg and friend Lauren,  
Melissa Collins, Linda Allwalt, Jackie (a friend of TCOTP) Bob Parks,  
Vanessa Stiller, Larry DeLong



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

**Unity Spiritual Center  
(10101 W Coggins Dr)**



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.

### Lifelong Learning: Reminder!

The Social Justice Team and Lifelong Learning are offering a class on the Israel/Palestine conflict. The class, held on February 14<sup>th</sup> at 10:00a, will be a visit with Daoud Nassar via Zoom. He will update us with the current situation with his Tent of Nations and his 30+ years struggle to register his land. Meet us in the Boardroom.

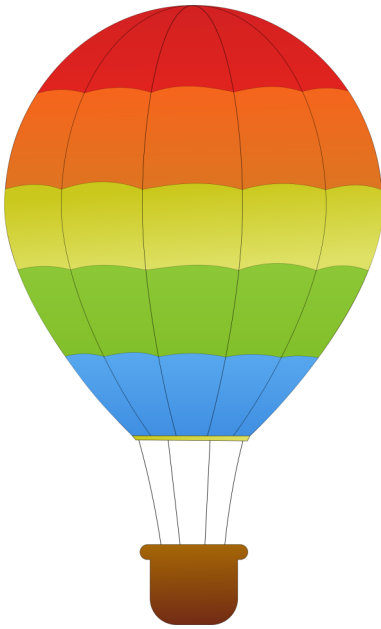
#### 1 Corinthians 13:4-8

- <sup>4</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ is patient; \_\_\_\_\_ is kind;
- \_\_\_\_\_ is not envious or boastful or arrogant <sup>5</sup> or rude.
- \_\_\_\_\_ does not insist on its own way;
- \_\_\_\_\_ is not irritable or resentful;
- <sup>6</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ does not rejoice in wrongdoing but rejoices in the truth.
- <sup>7</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. <sup>8</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ never ends.

The Social Justice Advocacy Team is sponsoring a FIELD TRIP to see the Arizona State Legislature **TOMORROW** morning, February 10<sup>th</sup>. Our church bus will leave promptly at 7:45a and return at approximately 2:00p. We will be joining the Lutheran Day at Legislature (they will provide breakfast, introductions, activities, and lunch).

Text (619-630-0427) or email (tomtjd@yahoo.com) Tom Theisen with any questions.

## NEXT INFORMATION SESSION IS COMING SOON



Once again the Board of Evangelism is encouraging visitors to join them at the next Information Session to be held on Wednesday, February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at 3:00p in Board Room. 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 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2025 service.



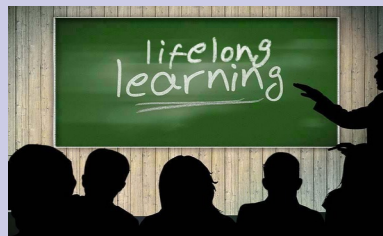
Come find out. At our Re-Entry Simulation, you will experience fun and frustration in trying to navigate the maze that is returning to life outside of prison. Past participants have found this an eye-opening challenge. Just two hours will bring you a new perspective on the obstacles we set up when we so easily "other" the formerly incarcerated. Join us on Saturday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2025 from 10:00a to 12:30p in King Hall, presented by our partners, Arouet. R.S.V.P. by February 17<sup>th</sup> to Nancy Nonini at [nnonini19@gmail.com](mailto:nnonini19@gmail.com) or on the sign up in the Narthex.

### UPDATE!

*The Unconscious  
Bias Class*

February 26<sup>th</sup> @ 10:00a

In the Behle Resource Center



Lynette Turner will present an introduction to unconscious bias and will provide awareness training to help attendees recognize their own unconscious biases and provide information on the various biases present in our culture. How bias affects our actions will also be discussed. 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." Please join us for this educational opportunity to further enhance your life journey.



Have you been thinking about singing in the Sanctuary Choir here at The Church of the Palms? We rehearse on Thursday afternoons from 2:30p to 4:00p and Sunday mornings at 9:00a. If you are still "punching a timeclock." then the Sunday morning rehearsal time is perfect for you! We have fun, have a few laughs, and make a whole lot of music! We'd love to have you join us!