

The Church of the Palms

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



March 16, 2025

Second Sunday in Lent

10 a.m.

What do chicken wings, a fox, and Jesus have in common?

Our Church Life		Pastor Paul
Welcome		Pastor Jim
Prelude	<i>How Lovely is Thy Dwelling Place</i>	Jennifer Hoppe
Call to Worship	<i>-based on Psalm 27</i>	Bonnie Green
*Hymn 66	<i>Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise</i>	Congregation
Spiritual Readings	<i>Mahatma Gandhi, Charles Dickens, Helen Keller, Alan Alda</i>	Bonnie Green
Anthem	<i>Prayer of Saint Francis</i>	Sanctuary Choir
Scripture Reading	<i>Luke 13:31-35</i>	Pastor Jim
Message	<i>Are We Willing or Not?</i>	Pastor Jim
Chorus	<i>Be Still and Know That I Am God</i>	Congregation
Pastoral Prayer		Pastor Paul
Prayer Response	<i>Great Is Thy Faithfulness</i>	Katelin Fitts
Volunteer Recognition	<i>Sanctuary Choir Board of Mission and Outreach</i>	Pastors Paul and Jim
Offertory Sentences		Pastor Jim
Offertory Music	<i>Trust In You</i>	Jennifer Hoppe
Benediction		Pastor Paul
*Hymn 494	<i>They'll Know We Are Christians By Our 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 as we will come to you. The bread for all Communion Services is gluten free.

Our services are video recorded thanks to a gift in memory of Ramona Schenk. They are posted on social media and our website.

THE CHURCH OF THE PALMS: AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING CONGREGATION

OUR LIFE TOGETHER THIS WEEK:

Sunday, 16

9:00a Choir Rehearsal MR

10:00a Worship Service SA

Worship Theme: Second Sunday in Lent.

Pastor Jim preaches from Luke 13:31-35.

*What do chicken wings, a fox,
and Jesus have in common?*

11:00a Fellowship Hour KH

Monday, 17—Happy St. Patrick's Day

10:00a Executive Board Mtg BR

4:00p I-HELP KH

Tuesday, 18

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

2:30p Bus Reserved OS

Wednesday, 19

9:00a Needles & Pins Craft Group BR

9:00a Care & Support Ministry Team Mtg MR

10:00a Lenten Study Class Session BRC

Thursday, 20

2:30p Choir Rehearsal MR

3:00p Inspirit Bible Study BRC

Friday, 21—Office Closed

Saturday, 22

9:00a N,O,P & Q Beehive Breakfast KH & Kitchen

9:00a Shower Trailer @

Hit the Streets with Jesus OS

Sunday, 23

9:00a Choir Rehearsal MR

10:00a Worship Service SA

Worship Theme: Third Sunday in Lent.

Pastor Paul will be preaching. Read Luke 13:1-9.

Can we trust God in joy or in pain to be our God?

Where is God when bad things happen?

11:00a Fellowship Hour KH

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, PT=Patio

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.

Fantastical Church Staff

Pastor Rev. Paul A. Whitlock - *Minister*;
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Pastor Rev. Jim E. Alexander - *Minister*;
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Victoria McWilliams - *Exec Board Chair*;
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Jayne Peak - *Faith Community Nurse*;
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Website: <https://thepalms.org>

Phone: 623.977.8359;

Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 8a-1p;

Fridays-Office Closed

Address: 14808 North Boswell Blvd
Sun City, AZ 85351



Please pray for our fellow church families:

Clay Lyon, Dalton Parr, Brent & Tracy (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, 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, Linda Place, Linda Allwelt, Richard Campbell, John Claiborne

Social Justice Prayer

Merciful God, the percent of the population that is unsheltered increases as the cost of housing grows annually. Evictions put families on the street, often to live in their cars. Even when the homeless work multiple jobs at minimum wages, renting remains out of reach. This is a systemic problem that requires the government, charities, and foundations to work together to provide affordable housing. Place on our hearts a burden for low income housing that we might influence those who can make a difference. 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:

**First Baptist Church (SBC)
(11019 W Peoria Ave)**

Flowers are given by
Jessica Hermann
in memory of her father;
and are also given by
Charlotte Harger



Our faith Community Nurse, Jayne Peak is interested in holding two to three education programs per year related to health and aging topics. Below are a few possible topics that can be discussed:

“I forgot What This Little White Pill is For, Living With or Preventing Diabetes, Hospice and Palliative Care, Medicare-Advantage and Supplements.”

If you are interested and would like to share other ideas, please provide your name, contact info and topic on the sheet in the Narthex.

THE LENTEN SCHEDULE

Lenten Musical Presentation—Sunday, April 6th—10:00a SA;

“Messages and Music for Everything In Between” Presented by: The Music Department

Maundy Thursday—Thursday, April 17th—5:00p SA

Good Friday—Friday, April 18th—2:00p in The Chapel at The Palms CHP

Easter Sunday (Two Services)—Sunday, April 20th, 8:00a PT & 10:00a SA

Lenten Study Sacred Self-Care



Can you sit or stand in front of a mirror and repeat this affirmation? "I am created in the image of God. I am God's perfect gift." What thoughts come to mind? In her book Dr. Chanequa Walker-Barnes says that our self—the mind-body-spirit that makes up who we are—is God's first and best gift to each of us. But often we treat that gift carelessly. Our Lenten Study will examine this and many other aspects of self-care. A few copies of the book *Sacred Self-Care: Daily Practices for Nurturing Our Whole Selves*, 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. Dave Klingensmith will lead four sessions (March 19th & 26th and April 2nd & 9th from 10:00-11:00a in the Behle Resource Center) where participants can share how they're doing at their own self-care. Even if you can't come to the class you are encouraged to get the book and care for yourself. A sign-up sheet for the class is in the Narthex.

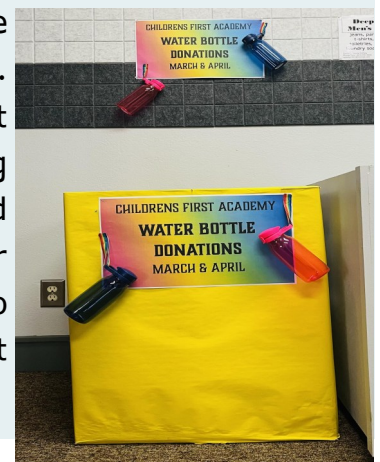
One Great Hour of Sharing Special Offering



Each March we set aside a couple of Sundays for our One Great Hour of Sharing Special Offering. This Lenten Offering supports the disaster, refugee, and development ministries of the United Church of Christ within Wider Church Ministries. It provides grants and supports small businesses around the world. We will receive the offering today, Sunday, March 16th. Envelopes are in the pew pockets. Please give generously.

Water Bottle Donation Drive for Children First Academy

For the last several years our church has provided bottled water for kids attending Children First Academy (a school for homeless kids near downtown Phoenix). The water is provided to kids as they ride the bus to and from school in the hot months of the year. This year we will be providing reusable water bottles. The school has installed drinking fountains (like the one near our King Hall entrance) which have a spout for refillable water bottles. This eliminates the need for the plastic water bottles which are used once and discarded. Inexpensive eight and twelve ounce reusable bottles can be purchased at Walmart or Target stores. We will be collecting these reusable bottles during the months of March and April. Please consider picking up a package and bringing them to the Donations Area near the Narthex during the remainder of March and all through April. Or, if you wish to make a donation to support this effort, place cash or check in a church envelope and mark it **HELP HOMELESS KIDS & SAVE THE ENVIRONMENT**. Thank you!





SPIRITUAL GIFTS SURVEY

PLEASE SUBMIT BY APRIL 20th

We talk a lot about giving our gifts of time, talent, and treasure. God has blessed each of with gifts far beyond these three. We can discover these gifts of ministry all along our journey. As we listen to God's call and affirmation, we can discover more effective and fulfilling ways to be in ministry together.

This process of discovery may involve prayer, community involvement, reading scripture, being in nature, sitting in silence and remaining open to Spirit's nudging.

Many of us may not be able to articulate what our spiritual gifts are. Perhaps this tool will help you discover more about your spiritual gifts. As you complete this inventory, you may discover new gifts, new affirmations, and new surprises.

As the Volunteer Engagement Committee goes about their tasks of inviting us to participate in the work of the church through various Boards and Teams in 2025, they will be reviewing the responses you provide on this inventory. The desire is that the VEC will be able to match all of our gifts, interests, and callings with the appropriate ministry tasks so that The Church of the Palms can be all that God has called us to be. Your survey will be scored with a rubric that will highlight your gifts. Pastor Jim will share your results with you.

***IF you are unable to use a computer, hard copies of the survey are available on the table in the Narthex. Please place completed hard copy surveys in the plastic barrel marked "Survey Barrel."**

Click [HERE](#) for survey!



SUPER SALAD SPECTACULAR!

The Fellowship Team is excited to announce that The Church of the Palms Super Salad Spectacular will be returning April 27th during Fellowship Hour in King Hall. We start with nice fresh crisp lettuce and then add all the diverse and wonderful ingredients that make a salad a SALAD. And the best part of the feast is that everyone brings their favorite "fixins" to the table. It might be olives, garbanzo beans, onions, mushrooms, raisins, etc.... You name it, you bring it, and we will put it on your salad plate. It is a wonderful way to enjoy a great meal with you're The Church of the Palms family and friends, enjoy some good fellowship and perhaps win some trivia prizes.

Bees Buzz March 23rd and April 27th

Spring is around the corner. The days are getting longer and warmer. More people are out walking, the hummingbirds are feasting at the feeders and TCOTP bees will buzz again in King Hall on Sunday, March 23rd during Fellowship Hour. These beehives are groups of church members who bee-lieve in each other, bee-friend each other and just Bee the church. That means working together, socializing together and supporting each other. What actions has your hive taken this year? Let's cross pollinate ideas. On Sunday, April 27th the hives will gather to plan ways to support each other over the summer. Often we don't easily see each other because some members fly to other locations. There used to be chain letters. Now with our social media we can still Bee Connected.

An Upgrade to Our SANCTUARY LISTENING DEVICES and KING HALL LISTENING DEVICES

If you are in need of a LISTENING Device for worship, all of the units on the round table in the Narthex are working. They are on chargers so that there will be plenty of power for your use!

Pick up a LISTEN Pack from off of the charger and an EarPiece from in the wooden caddy. Plug the EarPiece into the Pack and power the Pack on. To adjust the volume, either the Right or Left Button increases/decreases the volume in the EarPiece.

If you prefer the LISTEN LOOP, those are in the back of the EarPiece caddy.

When worship is over, please return items to the round table...LISTEN Pack on charger and EarPieces to the wooden caddy after wiping it down with the alcohol wipes also included in the wooden caddy.

IF you have a listening device of your own that works via WiFi, you will need to do the following:

- Download the WaveCAST App on your phone:
- Within the WaveCAST App, you will need to search for **The Palms Sanctuary** and select it.
- You can proceed as normal with the use of your device.



*IF the WaveCAST App doesn't detect the LISTEN system once you have completed the first steps, you may need to **DISABLE MOBILE DATE** within the **SETTINGS** of your Phone and then resume use.*

In King Hall

If you are in need of a LISTENING Device for meetings or events, all of the units on the Sound Back to the LEFT as you enter King Hall. They are on chargers so that there will be plenty of power for your use!

Pick up a LISTEN Pack from off of the charger and an EarPiece from in the Plastic caddy. Plug the EarPiece into the Pack and power the Pack on. To adjust the volume, either the Right or Left Button increases/decreases the volume in the EarPiece.

If you prefer the LISTEN LOOP, those are in the back of the EarPiece plastic.

IF you have a listening device of your own that works via WiFi, follow the WaveCAST instructions above. **BUT**, search and select **The Palms Hall**.

When the event is over, please return items to the Sound Rack...LISTEN Pack on charger and EarPieces to the plastic caddy after wiping it down with the alcohol wipes found in a container marked **ALCOHOL WIPES**.