

# The Church of the Palms

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



March 23, 2025

Third Sunday in Lent

10 a.m.

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

Our Church Life		Pastor Jim
Welcome		Pastor Paul
Prelude	<i>Precious Lord, Take My Hand</i>	Jennifer Hoppe
Call to Worship		Dr. Terry Olthoff
*Hymn 464 v 1-3	<i>God of Grace and God of Glory</i>	Congregation
Spiritual Readings	<i>MLK Jr., Ben Franklin, William Barclay, Isabel Allende</i>	Dr. Terry Olthoff
Anthem	<i>Psalm 139</i>	Sanctuary Choir
Scripture Reading	<i>Luke 13:1-9</i>	Pastor Paul
Message	<i>When Bad Things Happen</i>	Pastor Paul
*Hymn 575	<i>Come and Find the Quiet Center</i>	Congregation
Pastoral Prayer		Pastor Jim
Offertory Sentences		Rev. Max Klinkenborg
Offertory Music	<i>I Am Not Alone</i>	Jennifer Hoppe
Benediction		Pastor Paul
*Hymn 579	<i>Standing in the Need of Prayer</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 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.*

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### Social Justice Prayer

Compassionate God, homelessness is an epidemic in our communities and country. While much can be done to make housing affordable, it takes employment to enter the housing market. The hurdles to getting and holding a job are very basic. Personal hygiene, clean clothes, haircuts, access to showers and laundry. Providing these basics and/or supporting the organizations that provide them is within the reach of all of us. Lord, keep in our minds the needs of the homeless so we can be part of the solution. Amen.



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

**Emmanuel Baptist Church (SBC)  
(12225 N 103rd Ave)**

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.

**“God’s help is only a prayer away.”**

-Anonymous

### 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  
& friend Lauren
- Chris D. Goshorn
- Linda Place
- Linda Allwelt
- Richard Campbell

### REMINDER! : SPIRITUAL GIFTS SURVEY

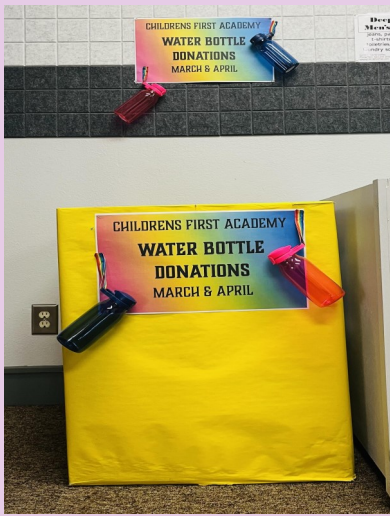
**\*PLEASE SUBMIT BY APRIL 20<sup>th</sup>**

As you complete this inventory, you may discover new gifts, new affirmations, and new surprises.

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 which 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.” Thank you.**

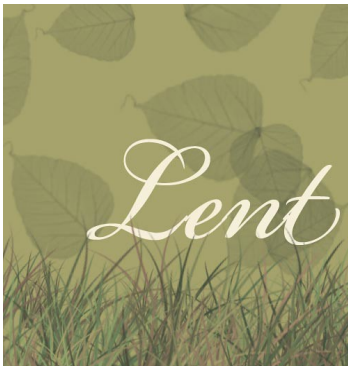
Click [HERE](#) for survey!



## 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 March and 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!



## 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 three more sessions (March 26<sup>th</sup>, April 2<sup>nd</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> 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.

*God is Still Speaking*



## SUPER SALAD SPECTACULAR!

The Fellowship Team is excited to announce that The Church of the Palms Super Salad Spectacular will be returning April 27<sup>th</sup> during Fellowship Hour at 11:00a 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 your The Church of the Palms family and friends, enjoy some good fellowship and perhaps win some trivia prizes.



## Bees Buzz March 23<sup>rd</sup> and April 27<sup>th</sup>

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 The Church of the Palms bees will buzz again in King Hall TODAY, Sunday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> during the 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 27<sup>th</sup> 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.

### FREE CONCERT!

Come join us Saturday, April 26<sup>th</sup> at 1:00p

in the Sanctuary for a spectacular

Studio Recital from pianists to

vocalists of all ages!

Recital is presented by

**The Jennifer Hoppe Studio!**

## Rainbows Festival

Saturday, April 5<sup>th</sup> & Sunday, April 6<sup>th</sup>

The Rainbows Festival is on Saturday, April 5<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, April 6<sup>th</sup>! The festival hours are from **10:00a to 6:00p!**

Sign-up sheets for volunteers shifts for our booth are in the Narthex! We will be handing out bag charms and bookmarks at our booth – along with a map/list of Open and Affirming churches in the area and an intentional focus on making connections with other ONA attending churches and festival goers.

The annual Rainbows Festival & Street Fair is a celebration of the diversity of the LGBTQ+ community. The event is located in historic Heritage Square Park in Downtown Phoenix. Each year, the Rainbows Festival draws a crowd of over 25,000 friends, families, and allies. Rainbows Festival is the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest LGBTQ+ event in the state of Arizona, only 2<sup>nd</sup> to the Phoenix Pride Festival. It is a free event open to the public that hosts over 150 exhibitors and sponsors throughout the two-day event and has two stages filled with entertainment throughout the weekend. *For more information on the Rainbows Festival, please reach out to Georgia Feiste or Jessica Hermann.*

### IHELP Gathering

Come to a gathering for all The Church of the Palms volunteers and interested members on Monday, March 31, at 5:00pm in King Hall. We will have a light meal of soup, bread and desserts to celebrate our IHELP successes and be together as we ache with our loss of this critical program for the homeless in our area.

On Sunday, March 30, there will be a sign up sheet in the narthex so we can plan for the meal. If you have questions, want to help with set up or serving or clean up, see Nancy Mueller that day or email [RNmueller@yahoo.com](mailto:RNmueller@yahoo.com).

The last night  
of shelter at  
**The Church of the Palms**  
for the **IHELP** program is  
Monday, March 24.



## *Shower Trailer Rolls On*

With the cancellation of the I-HELP program, questions have been expressed regarding the Shower Trailer. The answer is the shower trailer will continue to offer showers to the homeless with no change in schedule or funding. We have a very small budget (less than \$20K) due to the dedication of unpaid volunteers and use of the church truck. The bulk of our funding comes from grants provided by the cities of Surprise and Peoria and the Sun City Rotary Club.

We welcome individual gifts for the shower ministry. Recently a man stopped at the trailer in Bicentennial Park in Surprise and gave us a \$100 bill in appreciation for what we were doing. Excess funds go into an account to replace the trailer when needed.

# Lenten Musical Presentation

Sunday, April 6, 2025

10:00a Worship Service

## *"Messages and Music for Everything In Between"*

Presented by: The Music Department of The Church of the Palms

Please invite family and friends to join us for a Lenten worship service filled with beautiful music and inspiring words.

Under the direction of Pastor Jim, the Sanctuary Choir will present several musical pieces. Messages and prayers will be led by

Rev. Lynette Turner and Rev. Mark Makowski  
It won't be a Sunday to miss!

