

# The Church of the Palms

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



March 9, 2025

First Sunday in Lent

10 a.m.

*What does it mean to be you? What does it mean to be The Palms?*

Our Church Life		Pastor Jim
Welcome		Pastor Paul
Prelude	<i>Sunshine in My Soul</i>	Jennifer Hoppe
Call to Worship		Jeannie Brandenberger
*Hymn 622 v 1 & 3	<i>Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah</i>	Congregation
Spiritual Readings	<i>Rowan Williams, Catherin Doherty, Pope Francis, Eleanor Roosevelt</i>	Jeannie Brandenberger
Anthem	<i>Order My Steps</i>	Sanctuary Choir
Scripture Reading	<i>Luke 4:1-13</i>	Pastor Paul
Message	<i>The Potato Salad Promise</i>	Pastor Paul
*Hymn 354	<i>Seek Ye First</i>	Congregation
Pastoral Prayer		Pastor Jim
Prayer Response 568	<i>'Tis the Gift to be Simple</i>	Congregation
Offertory Sentences		Pastor Paul
Offertory Music	<i>Indescribable</i>	Jennifer Hoppe
Benediction		Pastor Jim
*Hymn 82 v 1 & 3	<i>His Eye Is on the Sparrow</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 LIFE TOGETHER THIS WEEK:

### Sunday, 9

9:00a Choir Rehearsal MR

10:00a Worship Service SA

**Worship Theme:** *First Sunday in Lent.*

*Pastor Paul will be preaching. Read Luke 4:1-13.*

*What is the potato salad promise?*

*How can we die living rather than live dying?*

11:00a Fellowship Hour/Ministry Fair KH

1:30p Bus Reserved OS

### Monday, 10

1:00p Advocacy Team Mtg BR/HY

2:00p Board of Trustees Mtg BR/HY

2:00p LGBTQ+ Mtg NA

4:00p I-HELP KH

### Tuesday, 11

10:00a Ministry Council 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

### Saturday, 15

9:00a Shower Trailer @ St. Johns OS

### 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

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

## 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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Pastor Rev. Jim E. Alexander - *Minister*;  
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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, 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, Linda Place, Linda Allwelt

**Social Justice Prayer**

Loving God, many of your children are not safe as they live on the streets without shelter. The meager possessions they have are vulnerable to thieves who sell/trade these items for drugs. Many have been beaten when they have resisted. Your daughters are vulnerable to beatings and rape. May we support the shelters that take men, women and children off the streets in the name of security and safety. 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:

**Radiant Church  
(10701 W Boswell Ave)**



**THE LENTEN SCHEDULE**

**Lenten Musical Presentation**  
Sunday, April 6<sup>th</sup>—10:00a SA

*"Messages and Music for  
Everything In Between"*

Presented by:  
The Music Department

**Maundy Thursday**  
Thursday, April 17<sup>th</sup>—5:00p SA

**Good Friday**  
Friday, April 18<sup>th</sup>—2:00p in  
The Chapel at The Palms CHP

**Easter Sunday (Two Services)**  
Sunday, April 20<sup>th</sup>, 8:00a on the patio  
& 10:00a SA

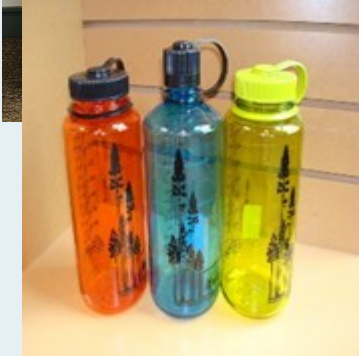


Our faith Community Nurse, Jayne Peak is interested in holding two to three education programs per year related to health and aging topics. Below are a few possible topics that can be discussed:

- 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.

## 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 four sessions (March 19<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> and 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.

**PLEASE NOTE**  
The next Criminal  
Justice Meeting will  
be April 11<sup>th</sup> at 12:00p  
in the boardroom.  
**See you there!**



## 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 our offerings on March 9<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>. Envelopes are in the pew pockets. Please give generously.

## 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.



# SPIRITUAL GIFTS SURVEY

**PLEASE SUBMIT BY APRIL 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

We talk a lot about giving our gifts of time, talent, and treasure. God has blessed each of us 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.

**Please submit your surveys before April 20<sup>th</sup>!!**

**\*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!