

The Church of the Palms

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



May 18, 2025

Fifth Sunday of Easter

10 a.m.

Mental Health Sunday

Our Church Life		Pastor Jim
Welcome and Volunteer Recognition		Pastor Jim
Prelude	<i>Man of Sorrows</i>	Jennifer Hoppe
Call to Worship		Judy Jondahl
*Hymn	<i>On Eagle's Wings</i>	Congregation
Spiritual Readings	<i>Noam Shpancer; Michelle Obama; Estelle Frankel; Matt Haig, Olivia Ames Hoblitzelle, Christopher Robin</i>	Kay Klinkenborg
Anthem	<i>Go Ye Into All The World</i>	Sanctuary Choir
Scripture Reading	<i>Psalm 88</i>	Dr. Phil Ladd
Message	<i>Where Is God In The Unknowing?</i>	Pastor Jim
*Hymn	<i>Help Us Accept Each Other</i>	Congregation
Prayers of the People		Suzanne Boisclair
New Member Introduction		Pastor Jim
Offertory Sentences		Rev. Max Klinkenborg
Offertory Music	<i>I Am Not Alone</i>	Jennifer Hoppe
Benediction		Bert O'Neill
*Hymn	<i>How Can I Keep from Singing</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.

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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

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OUR LIFE TOGETHER THIS WEEK:

Sunday, 18

9:00a Choir Rehearsal MR

10:00a Worship Service/

*New Member Recognition SA

Worship Theme— *Today is Mental Health Sunday across the United Church of Christ. The members of our W.I.S.E. Steering Committee will lead us in worship today. Pastor Jim will be preaching from Psalm 88 as we ponder the question, "Where is God in the Unknowning?"*

11:00a Fellowship Hour KH

Monday, 19

Tuesday, 20

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

Wednesday, 21

9:00a Needles & Pins Craft Group BR

9:00a F-H Beehive Game Day KH

10:00a VEC Mtg NA

Thursday, 22

9:00a Blessings Board Mtg BR/HY

10:00a Care & Support

Ministry Team Mtg BR/HY

3:00p Inspirit Bible Study BR/HY

Friday, 23—Office Closed

9:00a Feet N More Shower Trailer
@ St. John's OS

Saturday, 24

9:00a Feet N More Shower Trailer
@ Hit the Streets with Jesus OS

Sunday, 25

9:00a Choir Rehearsal MR

10:00a Worship Service SA

Worship Theme—*Read Acts 16:13-15. Is our focus maintaining the church or following Jesus? Pastor Jim and I aren't curators of a museum; we're charged with being prophetic witnesses of the gospel. Pastor Paul will be in the pulpit.*

11:00a Fellowship Hour KH

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

Dysart Community Center is inviting members and friends of The Church of the Palms to attend a talk by Dr. Ellie Zilber. Dr. Zilber is the author of *A Holocaust Memoir of Love and Resilience* and she will discuss those who survived the holocaust and those who didn't. Her talk will be on Wednesday, May 21st at 6:00p at the center also located at 14414 N El Mirage Road in El Mirage. Please R.S.V.P. to 623.249.3812.

Please pray for our fellow church families:

Clay Lyon, Dalton Parr, Brent & Tracy, (Judy Pinter’s family members), Marlys Davenport, Allan Gott, Bruce & Lynda Chubbuck, Jim Schulz, Herbert & Anneslia Turner (Lynette Turner’s parents), Linette Stenberg, Donna Stenberg, Jackie (a friend of TCOTP), Bob Parks, Vanessa Stiller, Addie Bovier’s friend Lauren, Chris D. Goshorn, Linda Place, Linda Allwelt, Richard Campbell, , LiHua Kehl, (Ron Kehl’s sister-in-law), Nancy Tsuchiya, Emily & Remington Jankowski (Meadows Family), Jan Eckstein, Margaret Carpenter, Jennifer Charyk (Ken Barberi’s Friend), Everett Leff, Sylvia (Judy Jondahl’s friend)

Social Justice Prayer

Lord Jesus, help us by your grace, To banish fear from our hearts, that we may embrace each of your children as our own brother and sister; To welcome Asylum seekers and refugees with joy and generosity, while responding to their many needs; To realize that you call all people to your holy mountain to learn the ways of peace and Justice; To share of our abundance as you spread a banquet before us; To give witness to your love for all people, as we celebrate the many gifts they bring us. We praise you and give you thanks for the family you have called together from so many people. We see in this human family a reflection of the divine unity of the one Most Holy Trinity in whom we make our prayer: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Pray for churches working with migrants and asylum seekers. **Pray** for our homeless. **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:

St Christopher’s Episcopal Church (10233 W Peoria Ave)

A message from the LGBTQ+ Ministry Team—For those who would like to support the LGBTQ+ Community and are off on their next shopping adventure, please don’t forget to first check out the Narthex table with the various flyers for all businesses who sponsor the LGBTQ+ Community! Grab your flyers today!



DYSART Community Center

Every summer Dysart Community Center holds a seven-week summer camp. This year the camp will begin on May 27th. From 8:00a to 3:00p the children participate in STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math), personal development, physical fitness, reading, swimming several times a week and FUN! The cost of this experience is \$60 a week or \$12 a day, which is a real bargain. Unfortunately, many families cannot afford even this reasonable cost and funding from the state is no longer available and receiving grants is more difficult. Therefore, the Social Justice Leadership Team and the Blessings Board have each provided a scholarship of \$420 so that two children can attend at no cost to their families. If you would like to help a child attend this camp, contributions of any amount may be sent directly to Dysart Community Center at **14414 North El Mirage Road, El Mirage, AZ 85335**. Attn: Annie. Please note Summer Camp contribution on the memo line—and thank you!

Another chance to touch the heart of Camp Genesis kids!

Since we have been praying for kids who attended Camp Genesis last year, this is a perfect follow up! This year they need donations to pay for prayer bead bracelets for the campers. Since we have been praying for them, what better way to support them than to encourage them to pray? These are handmade bracelets which might be used somewhat like a rosary OR just a physical reminder to pray when things get tough. If you feel so inclined, there will be a basket for donations on the table where we are collecting the prayer hearts to be returned to the kids at camp. Bless you for thinking about these kids who are separated from someone in their family!

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THIS HEAT WAVE!

HEAT RELIEF BAGS to assist the homeless this summer: We discovered that individually we can do this at little cost. Most items can be found in your pantry or at Dollar Tree. Keep two to three small-filled bags in your car and pass them through the window...it can bring some life saving and comfort items to the homeless this summer.

ONE HEAT RELIEF BAG

(Use plastic grocery bags...tie it shut)

*PRIORITY ITEMS (If you can't do them all)

- 1 16oz bottle water
- 1 Nutrition or power bar
- 1 Packet handwipes (Wet Ones or something similar)
- 1 Small tube sunscreen (Size purchased at Dollar Tree)
- 1 Tube lip balm



OPTIONAL ITEMS:

- 1 First aid kit...or package of Band-Aids
- 1 Small tube body lotion hotel/travel size is just right
- 1 Hat (Not required)
- 1 Pair sunglasses
- 1 Cooling towel (If you can find them, or a red or blue bandana handkerchief they can wet to cool down).



The Church of the Palms is delighted to welcome

Carrie Rowe to our church staff as Treasurer.

She brings a variety of skills to this position, not the least of which is her warm spirit and positivity.

Carrie will begin the Treasurer responsibilities this week with the help of Pastor Jim, Niki, the money counters, and Jeannie Brandenberger.

We will formally introduce her next Sunday.

Until then, if you need anything related to the finance office, please place your requests in the

Finance mailbox located in the office, e-mail finance@thepalms.org, or speak with Niki or Pastor Jim.

Carrie and her husband Chuck united with The Church of the Palms in September 2024. Carrie is a choir member and Chuck is a member of the Tech Team and Trustees.

News from the Pews Summer Newsletter Sign-Up

If you are leaving Arizona during the summer, please make sure we have your current e-mail and mailing address so that we might keep in touch with you during your time away. You can provide your summer contact information by completing the form on the Narthex Table.

DYSART Community Center

Also, Dysart Community center cannot accept donations of clothing and household items during June and July because all of their storage areas are used for their summer camp. These donations will be accepted again beginning in August. Contributions of paper products such as paper towels, toilet paper and tissues are still gratefully received along with hygiene items used by the camp attendees. Thank you, as always, for your generosity. **Volunteers are still needed for adult classes for ESL, GRE, the high school diploma program citizenship classes.** For any questions, please call Linda Hofmann at 623.242.6382.