

The Church of the Palms

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



May 25, 2025

Sixth Sunday of Easter

10 a.m.

Are we curators of a museum or followers of Jesus?

Our Church Life		Pastor Jim
Welcome		Pastor Paul
Prelude	<i>Open the Eyes of My Heart</i>	Jennifer Hoppe
Call to Worship		Anthony Park
*Hymn 284	<i>Gather Us In</i>	Congregation
Spiritual Readings	<i>Maya Angelou, John Lewis, Zig Ziglar, Margaret Mead</i>	Anthony Park
Anthem	<i>Psalm 19</i>	Sanctuary Choir
Scripture Reading	<i>Acts 16:13-15</i>	Pastor Paul
Message	<i>Being a Missional Church</i>	Pastor Paul
*Hymn 526	<i>The Gift of Love</i>	Congregation
Pastoral Prayer		Pastor Jim
Offertory Sentences		Pastor Paul
Offertory Music	<i>Now Thank We All Our God</i>	Jennifer Hoppe
Dedication of The Chapel at The Palms		Pastors and Congregation
Benediction		Pastor Paul
*Hymn 701 v 1 & 4	<i>Shall We Gather at the River</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 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, 25

9:00a Choir Rehearsal MR

10:00a Worship Service SA

Worship Theme— *Read Acts 16:13-15.*

What's the difference between a maintenance church and a missional church? Pastor Paul will be preaching.

11:00a Fellowship Hour KH

Monday, 26—Office Closed; Memorial Day

Tuesday, 27

10:00a Feet N More Shower Trailer

@ Bicentennial Park OS

Wednesday, 28

9:00a Needles & Pins Craft Group BR

Thursday, 29

3:00p Inspirit Bible Study BR/HY

Friday, 30—Office Closed

Saturday, 31

Sunday, June 1

9:00a **LAST** Choir Rehearsal MR

10:00a Worship Service

Worship Theme— *Psalms 97 is not a gentle lullaby; it is a resounding declaration of divine sovereignty and, crucially for our context, a powerful anthem of justice.*

Pastor Paul will be preaching.

11:00a Fellowship Hour KH



Our deepest sympathies to
the family & friends of

Linda Rouches

She passed away on
May 15, 2025.

Services are pending.

May she rest in peace.

Church Staff

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Fridays—Office Closed

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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

God is Still Speaking

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), Andy Jordan, Anita Paulson

Social Justice Prayer

Almighty and merciful God, whose Son became a refugee and had no place to call his own; look with mercy on your children who today are fleeing from danger, homelessness and hunger. Bless those who work to bring them relief; inspire generosity and compassion in all our hearts; and guide the nations of the world toward the day when all together will rejoice in your commonwealth of justice and of peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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:

Shepherd of the Desert Lutheran Church (ELCA) (11025 N 111th Ave)



NEW DIRECTORIES AVAILABLE!

There are new membership directories with our newest members available in the front office and on the Narthex table. Please feel free to pick one up or you may print online from our website:

<https://thepalms.org/find-us/>

Thanks!

Flower are given by

Anthony Park

To celebrate his 36th anniversary of
graduating High School
& three years of being at Royal Oaks.

Fellow Church Members,

A note of thanks for sharing boxes of cereal with the Dysart Community Center. Your kindness has helped 60+ children get their day off to a good start. A heartfelt kindness and a full tummy is a joy! Dysart Community Center thanks you. Cereal contributions and deliveries will continue through the summer months for the need continues as the center provides activities and comfort during the school break. Imagine a world where children aren’t hungry. Thank you for sharing God’s love.

~Donna Meadows



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).



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.



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!

ADVENT BOOKLET: The Lifelong Learning Team has suggested the following guidelines for submitting your contribution to our congregational Advent Devotional booklet: The four weeks of Advent should follow the following themes: Week one "Hope," Week two "Peace," Week three "Joy," Week four "Love." Articles should open with a scripture passage followed by the devotional ending with a prayer. All of this should be 272 words or less. Submissions should be submitted to committee member Judd Rinsema at juddrinsema@yahoo.com. Submissions should be made by November 1, 2025 in order to allow enough time for compilation and distribution:

Week 1—"Hope," November 30 thru December 6

Week 2—"Peace," December 7 thru December 13

Week 3—"Joy," December 14 thru December 20

Week 4—"Love," December 21 thru December 25

TO DATE WE HAVE RECEIVED FIVE SUBMISSIONS WITH FIVE OTHERS COMMITTED.