

The Church of the Palms

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



May 4, 2025

Third Sunday of Easter

10 a.m.

"May the fourth be with you. And also with you!"

Our Church Life		Pastor Paul
Welcome		Pastor Paul
Prelude	<i>Lord I Need You</i>	Jennifer Hoppe
Call to Worship		Deb Bontadelli
*Hymn 230 v 1 & 4	<i>Now the Green Blade Rises</i>	Congregation
Spiritual Readings	<i>Yoda</i>	Deb Bontadelli
Anthem	<i>Remember Me</i>	Sanctuary Choir
Scripture Reading	<i>John 20:19-31</i>	Pastor Paul
Message	<i>Scars that Heal Others</i>	Pastor Paul
*Hymn 546	<i>Amazing Grace!</i>	Congregation
Communion		Pastor Paul & Rev. Mark Makowski
Music for Communion	<i>I am a Child of God</i>	Jennifer Hoppe
Offertory Sentences		Pastor Paul
Offertory Music	<i>Star Wars (Main Theme)</i>	Jennifer Hoppe
Benediction		Pastor Paul
*Hymn 234 v 1 & 4	<i>Crown Him with Many Crowns</i>	Congregation
Postlude	<i>I Will Call Upon the Lord</i>	Jennifer Hoppe

*Please stand as you are able. The Communion bread 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.

OUR LIFE TOGETHER THIS WEEK:

Sunday, 4

9:00a Choir Rehearsal MR
10:00a Worship Service SA
11:00a Fellowship Hour KH
11:00a I-HELP Advocacy Drop-in
Letter Writing BR

Monday, 5

10:00a Lifelong Learning Mtg BR/HY

Tuesday, 6

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

Wednesday, 7

9:00a Needles & Pins Craft Group BR
10:00a LGBTQ+ from Clinical & Theological
Perspectives Class BRC

Thursday, 8

12:00a Criminal Justice Mtg BR/HY
1:00a Social Justice Mtg BR/HY
2:30p Choir Rehearsal MR
3:00p Inspirit Bible Study BR/HY

Friday, 9—Office Closed

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

Saturday, 10

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

Sunday, 11

9:00a Choir Rehearsal MR
10:00a Worship Service SA
11:00a Fellowship Hour KH

Church Staff

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Worship Themes

May 4: Read John 20:19-31. Pastor Paul will be preaching. We all have experienced trauma – spiritually, physically, and/or emotionally. What can we learn from our scars? What can falling into a sewer ditch teach us?

May 11: Pastor Paul will be back in the pulpit. Bring your appetite – He's talking about breakfast! Mmmmm. Read John 21:1-19.

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

"SHARING GOD'S UNCONDITIONAL LOVE, JUSTICE, AND EXTRAVAGANT WELCOME"

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
husband Greg &
friend Lauren
Chris D. Goshorn
Linda Place
Linda Allwelt
Richard Campbell
Judy Savage
LiHua Kehl
(Ron Kehl's sister-in-law)
Larry Savage
Nancy Tsuchiya
Emily & Remington
Jankowski
(*Meadows Family*)
Jan Eckstein
Margaret Carpenter
Jennifer Charyk
(Ken Barberi's Friend)



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

Sun City Christian Church (DoC)
(9745 W Palmeras Dr)

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.

Social Justice Prayer

Almighty and merciful God whose son became a refugee and had no place to call his own; look with mercy on those 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 towards that day when all will rejoice in your Kingdom of justice and of peace through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Lifelong Learning Team

LLL is excited to sponsor a special class: "An Exploration of LGBTQ+ from Clinical and Theological Perspectives," taught by Dr. Phil Ladd, an ordained minister and licensed psychotherapist. Participants will also explore how Christian faith affirms and celebrates LGBTQ+ individuals as beloved children of God. Progressives often face challenges from some Evangelicals. This class will equip you with tools to demonstrate that God accepts and affirms everyone, regardless of their sexual orientation or identity. This Class will be two more **Wednesdays, May 7th & 14th at 10:00a in the Behle Resource Center.** A sign-up sheet will still be available in the Narthex.

Camp Genesis is coming!—Camp Genesis is the camp for children who have an incarcerated family member. If you are one of the wonderful people who have been praying for one of these children all year, please return the purple heart enclosed in a card sometime in May. Please keep the card simple with no mention of their family situation. Maybe include where you kept the heart to remind you to think of them and generally what you prayed for them. We will include a small crocheted heart for them to keep in their pocket to know they are loved. Thank you so much for being an encouraging support for these children! Bless YOU!

**DON'T FORGET! TODAY, May 4th IMMEDIATELY AFTER SERVICE,
I-HELP LETTER WRITING DROP-IN OPPORTUNITY IN THE BOARDROOM!**

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)

Today, May 4th, Kay Klinkenborg will be in the Narthex at the "Heat Relief Bags" table with an instruction sheet. Pick one up to fill and give to a homeless person you encounter during the week. If feasible keep one to two pre-filled bags in your car.



DYSART Community Center

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 located at 14414 N El Mirage Road in El Mirage. Please R.S.V.P to 623.249.3812 or dccannie@gmail.com.



Once again the Evangelism & Growth Team is encouraging visitors to join them at the next Information Session to be held on Wednesday, May 14th, at 3:00p in King Hall! *New members will then be introduced to our congregation at the following Sunday, May 18th, service.

**Can you help with this
Important Ministry??**

Phil Ladd is looking for volunteers for the future blood drives that take place in our King Hall.

If you are interested please reach out to Phil Ladd at drphilladd@icloud.com.

**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.

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO BLESSED US WITH THEIR EASTER BLESSINGS...

From **Pastor Paul & Wendy Whitlock** *in honor of* the Church Leaders.
From **Bill & Jeannie Brandenberger** *in memory of* Larry Bath, Jeannie's brother who passed April 20, 1960.

From **Sally Heathcoat** *in memory of* her husband Charlie, her parents, three siblings, several nieces and nephews, and too many to mention, and in honor of her friends & family.

From **Ellen Merchant**, *in memory of* her daughter Emily Merchant and Cynthia Groover.

From **Victoria McWilliams**, *in memory of* her husband, Tom McWilliams.

From **Andrea Stefanov**, *in honor of* her husband Jim, and daughter Jennifer.

From **Bonnie Green**, *in memory of* her family & friends, past and present.

From **Margaret Carpenter**, *in memory of* her family, loved ones who passed away.

From **John Claiborne**, *in memory of* his parents John & Mildred Claiborne and his husband David Wonner.

From **Terry & Renee Olthoff**, *in honor of* their grandchildren Huxley, Otis, & Remington Schware.

From **F & M Holland**, *in memory of* Liz Oakley.

From **Jessica Hermann**, *in memory of* her dad Michael Hermann.

From **Linda & Ron Kehl**, *in memory of* their parents, brothers, & good friends & *in honor of*, wounded veterans, the sick, & those left behind.

From **Judy Savage**, *in memory of* her mom Ina Nuderscher (97 years).

From **Nancy Nonini**, *in memory of* her husband Rich Nonini.

From **Diane Seeley**, *in memory of* Norman & Anita Seeley.

From **Joyce Dass**, *in memory of* Violet Hobbs.

From **Ken Barberi**, *in memory of* Mary Lou Baldwin.

In addition, we would also like to thank those for donating to the Easter Blessing:

Terry & Richard Starr, Anita Paulson, Jill & Dixie Kitchen, Mark Makowski, Valerie LeBlanc, John & Ginger Flemming, Karen Sczesny & Ruth McVette, Suzanne Boisclair, Ernie Otto, Herbert Turner, Elizabeth Teeson, Lynette Nickelson, Marilyn Bricks & Jayne Peak.

Pope Francis (1936-2025) Final Easter Blessing

"I appeal to all those in positions of political responsibility in our world not to yield to the logic of fear which only leads to isolation from others, but rather use the resources available to help the needy, to fight hunger, and encourage initiatives that promote development. These are the 'weapons' of peace: weapons that build the future instead of sowing seeds of death."

May the 4th Be With You! (And also with you!).

In honor of Sunday falling on May the 4th, Pastor Paul has picked some of his favorite Star Wars quotes that fit our time and place:

"The ability to speak does not make you intelligent, now get out of here." –Qui-Gon Jinn

"Never tell me the odds!" —Han Solo

"Your focus determines your reality." –Qui-Gon Jinn

"So this is how liberty dies...with thunderous applause." – Padmé Amidala

"You're not the only one who lost everything. Some of us just decided to do something about it." – Cassian Andor

"Be careful not to choke on your aspirations." –Darth Vader

"Women always figure out the truth. Always." –Han Solo

"If you strike me down I shall become more powerful than you can possibly imagine." –Obi-Wan Kenobi

"A tyrant can make anything seem to be 'the will of the people.'" –Princess Leia

"The Force will be with you ... always." –Obi-Wan Kenobi

"The belonging you seek is not behind you ... it is ahead." –Maz Kanata

"This holiday is yours, where we all share with you the hope that this day brings us closer to freedom and to harmony and to peace. No matter how different we appear, we're all the same in our struggle against the powers of evil and darkness."
– Princess Leia

"Who's more foolish? The fool or the fool who follows him?" —Obi-Wan Kenobi
~ ~ ~ ~ ~

And from Master Yoda, we have:

"Always pass on what you have learned."

"To be Jedi is to face the truth, and choose. Give off light, or darkness... Be a candle, or the night."

"If no mistake have you made, yet losing you are... a different game you should play."

"Mind what you have learned. Save you it can."

"You will know when you are calm, at peace, passive. A Jedi uses the force for knowledge and defense, never for attack."

"A challenge lifelong it is, not to bend fear into anger."

"The more we learn, the more we discover how much we do not know."

"You will know good from bad when you are at peace and passive."