

The Church of the Palms

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



June 1, 2025

Seventh Sunday of Easter

10 a.m.

How are you bringing justice to the poor?

Our Church Life		Pastor Jim
Welcome		Pastor Paul
Prelude	<i>Just As I Am</i>	
Call to Worship		Judy Jondahl
*Hymn 330	<i>Alleluia! Hear God's Story</i>	Congregation
Spiritual Readings	<i>Angelia Jolie, D.H. Lawrence, Max de Pree, & Lucille Ball</i>	Judy Jondahl
Anthem	<i>To the Holy Spirit</i>	Sanctuary Choir
Scripture Reading	<i>Psalm 97</i>	Pastor Paul
Message	<i>Let the Earth Rejoice: A Psalm of Justice for Our Time!</i>	Pastor Paul
*Hymn 413	<i>Take Our Bread</i>	Congregation
Communion		Pastors Jim & Paul
Music for Communion	<i>Canon in D</i>	Jennifer Hoppe
Offertory Sentences		Pastor Paul
Offertory Music	<i>What A Friend We Have in Jesus</i>	Jennifer Hoppe
Benediction		Pastor Jim
*Hymn 677	<i>Let There Be Peace on Earth</i>	Congregation
Postlude	<i>Give Thanks</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, 1

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

10:00a Worship Service SA

Worship Theme—*Psalm 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

Monday, 2

*11:00a Executive Board/VEC/Personnel Mtg BR

Tuesday, 3

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

Wednesday, 4

9:00a Needles & Pins Craft Group BR

Thursday, 5

9:00a Feet N More Shower Trailer @ Surprise OS

3:00p Inspirit Bible Study BRC/HY

Friday, 6—Office Closed

2:00p Feet N More Shower Trailer @
St. John's Lutheran OS

Sunday, 8

10:00a Worship Service SA

Worship Theme—*The Day of Pentecost. Wear RED (the liturgical color of Pentecost). The Day of Pentecost transformed ordinary followers like you and me into extraordinary witnesses for the faith. So beware! Ya might get transformed! Pastor Paul will be preaching. Read Acts 2:1-21.*

11:00a Fellowship Hour KH

Church Staff

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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



DYSART Community Center—The Blessings Board is asking for donations of bottles of water at Dysart Community Center (not reusable water bottles because they are not currently equipped with a water fountain to refill bottles). Their seven-week camp enrolls 125 children which began May 27th, so the need is great. Since packets of water can be heavy, checks and cash are certainly welcome. If you choose a monetary donation, please indicate DCC Water on your check and place your donation in a church envelope.



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

**American Lutheran Church (ELCA)
(17200 N Del Webb Blvd)**

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

For the LGBTQ+ community, their Families and LGBTQ+
Allies in general; that God will protect them and bless them,
that the Holy Spirit will inspire them and guide them.
We pray for The Church of the Palms, our pastors,
for all Christian leaders, faith communities and
denominations who are active in their ministries with
our LGBTQ+ brothers and sisters. We pray that God will
give them insight, wisdom, clear understanding and
guide them towards truth, justice, love and light. Amen.



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 first, in order to allow enough time for compilation
and distribution (To date we have eight members who have
indicated their willingness to contribute, so we need 18 more.
Please consider making a contribution to our efforts).

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*)
Sylvia (*Judy Jondahl's friend*)
Andy Jordan
Anita Paulson
Betty Byers
(*Susan Hershberger's sister*)



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! -Nancy Nonini

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's sermon is based upon Psalm 97 (The Message).

¹God rules: *there's* something to shout over! On the double, mainland's and islands—celebrate!

²Bright clouds and storm clouds circle 'round God; Right and justice anchor God's rule. ³Fire blazes out before God, Flaming high up the craggy mountains. ⁴God's lightnings light up the world; Earth, wide-eyed, trembles in fear. ⁵The mountains take one look at God, and melt, melt like wax before earth's Lord.

⁶The heavens announce that he'll set everything right, and everyone will see it happen—glorious!

⁷⁻⁸All who serve handcrafted gods will be sorry—And they were so proud of their ragamuffin gods! On your knees, all you gods—worship him! And Zion, you listen and take heart! Daughters of Zion, sing your hearts out: God has done it all, has set everything right. ⁹You, God, are High God of the cosmos, Far, far higher than any of the gods. ¹⁰God loves all who hate evil, And those who love God, God keeps safe, Snatches them from the grip of the wicked. ¹¹Light-seeds are planted in the souls of God's people, Joy-seeds are planted in good heart-soil. ¹²So, God's people, shout praise to God, Give thanks to our Holy God!

Psalm 97 offers profound guidance for our contemporary pursuit of progressive justice:

- **We need to ground our activism in ethical principles:** The psalm reminds us that our fight for justice should be rooted in a deep commitment to righteousness and equity, reflecting a higher moral order.
- **Challenging oppressive systems:** The powerful imagery of the psalm inspires us to confront and dismantle the systemic injustices that plague our world, from economic inequality to racial discrimination.
- **Amplifying the voices of the marginalized:** Just as the heavens declare God's righteousness for all to see, we must work to make visible the injustices faced by marginalized communities and amplify their calls for liberation.
- **Rejecting false idols of power and wealth:** The psalm warns against placing our faith in systems that prioritize profit and power over human dignity and justice.
- **Finding joy and strength in collective action:** The rejoicing of the community in the psalm reminds us of the importance of solidarity and collective action in the pursuit of a more just world.
- **Actively resisting evil in all its forms:** The call to hate evil compels us to actively challenge injustice wherever we encounter it, both in our personal lives and in the broader structures of American society.
- **Holding onto hope in the face of adversity:** The psalm's promise of deliverance offers hope and resilience to those who are working for justice in challenging circumstances.
- **Integrating our faith with our commitment to justice:** The psalm underscores the inseparable link between loving God and working for a more just and equitable world.