

The Palm Leaf

IMAGINE!

The Church of the Palms, UCC
14808 N Boswell Boulevard
Sun City, Arizona 85351

Doing justice.

Loving kindness.

Walking humbly with God.

A LETTER FROM PAUL

JUNE 2025



With Hearts Full of Gratitude: Celebrating Pastor Jim's Ministry

As the season turns, so too does a chapter in the life of our church. It is with a mix of sadness and deep gratitude that we acknowledge Pastor Jim's upcoming departure from the church. He came to us eleven years ago as just Jim; he's leaving as beloved Pastor Jim. He has been a guiding light whose ministry has touched countless lives and enriched the very fabric of our community.

His leadership in worship through Prayers and Sermons, Music sung, played, and directed, and his Creative Liturgy have woven together insightful theological reflection with a profound understanding of social justice, and pastoral care. We are a more compassionate community because of him. He directed our search for a new organ. We are a W.I.S.E. community for Mental Wellness because of him. We broadcast a video of weekly worship because of his work.

Beyond the pulpit, Pastor Jim has been a steadfast presence in our lives. We cherish the memories of his comforting presence during times of sorrow, his joyful participation in moments of celebration, and his tireless dedication to our various ministries and outreach efforts. His open door and listening ear created a brave space for vulnerability and fostered a deeper sense of connection within our congregation.

While we will deeply miss his wisdom, his humor, his unselfish team approach, and his unwavering spirit, we also celebrate the incredible impact he has had on our church. He leaves behind a legacy of love, understanding, and a strengthened commitment to living out our progressive values.

We invite you to join us on September 14th at 10:00a for a special worship to express our heartfelt appreciation for Pastor Jim's dedicated service. A reception in King Hall in his honor will follow the service. This will be an opportunity to share stories, offer well wishes, and celebrate the profound difference he has made in our lives and in the life of our church.

Though farewells are never easy, we send Pastor Jim forth with our deepest love and blessings as he embarks on this new chapter. May his path be filled with joy, fulfillment, and the continued opportunity to share his remarkable gifts with the world.

Shalom, Paul

What do we do now? Our leadership team is already working on carving out what the future path of our church will be. We are in contact with the SWC UCC and will design a church profile and search for possible candidates to assume the duties Pastor Jim preformed. Pastors have left churches for centuries, and the church is still around. So will we, albeit different, but still present.

A New Pope; A New Day!

The death of Pope Francis and the election of Pope Leo XIV signals a change in the Catholic leadership. My prayer is that the new pope will continue to lead the church in progressive directions.

Forty-two years ago, I met Pope John Paul II. Here are a few memories of that meeting.

My college choir toured Europe in 1983 and one of the stops was the Vatican. We were in the audience of 10,000 in the Papal Audience Hall for one of the weekly messages. One of the attending officials announced the visiting groups who were in attendance that day. As the names of each group were read, that group would stand and clap and/or cheer for themselves. The pope would then politely give a welcoming nod.

Hearing the response of each group, my choir director, in his most stern voice turned to us and whispered, "We are not clapping or yelling." So, when the man read, "we have the Concert Choir from Chapman College in Orange, California," we stood as the other groups had, but then our director gave us the pitch, and we sang "Gloria in excelsis Deo!" (Latin: Glory to God in the highest!).

Time, then, seemed to stand still, or at least move much slower. Pope John Paul II, who appeared to be equally unimpressed with each group cheering or clapping for themselves, turned to us and smiled and waved. The announcing dignitary then continued reading his long list of visitors.

But the pope turned to his assistant and whispered something. That guard then went over to the next guard who took the message to the next guard who came up to my director and said, "Please stay afterwards, Pope John Paul II wants to see you." Even my 18-year-old thoroughly protestant heart began to tremble with the thought that the pope wanted to meet us.

The pope then went on to give his weekly message to the world (which he delivered in five different languages). After all this, everyone was dismissed, except us. And the railing that separated us from the platform was pulled back and we were invited to come forward.

Even though I was a lowly freshman, and quite clearly the worst singer in the group, I took over. I immediately said, "Formation A" which was one of the two positions that we had as a choir when we would perform.

I said that for a couple of reasons: One, the choir, in their excitement of the moment, needed some direction; And two, and most importantly for me, it put me in the front center while "Formation B" put me in the back row (Mom didn't raise a fool here!).

When we were in place, the pope came and stood directly in front of me! Being 18 and not knowing what one does when the pope stands six inches from you, (mom didn't instruct me on that one) I did what my heart said to do. I put my hand on his shoulder and gently patted his back.

After a few publicity photos, he turned around and faced us. Almost instantaneously my fellow choir members surged forward toward him extending their hands, many of whom also took out their cameras and started taking close-range photos as fast as they could wind their disposable cameras. I, too, felt the need to take a photo. But, through the camera lens, I saw how Pope John Paul II winced each time those cameras flashed in his face. They were flashing fast furiously. And so, being so close, I put my camera down.

Instead, I reached out and took his right hand and kissed his ring. I can clearly remember thinking/praying in my head, "God, bless this man." He then pulled his hands away from the throng and grabbed my hand with both of his hands. I don't know what he was thinking/praying at the time, but it certainly felt like "God, bless this young man."

While I strongly disagreed with Pope John Paul II's stance about birth control, the leadership of women in the church, and reproductive rights, just to mention a few things, at that time, I still knew he was a man of God and a man of peace.

Pope Francis took the Catholic Church in some wonderful new directions. I hope Pope Leo XIV will continue that theme and bring healing where there is pain. I also hope the new pope will be a person of God and a person of peace like Pope John Paul II and Pope Francis before him.

My greeting to the new pope would be the same as my greeting was to his predecessor many years earlier: God, bless this man.

Shalom, Paul



Executive Board

at The Church of the Palms, UCC

"Summertime and the livin' is easy."

Or so George Gershwin would have us believe in his song immortalized by Ella Fitzgerald. While it may be summer, life at The Church of the Palms will be a little less easy during the month of June. Niki will be gone most of the month and, yay!, we have hired a new Treasurer. Carrie Rowe joined us May 18th as Treasurer and is doing a great job learning our accounting/financial systems. So, things may be a little less smooth here for a short time as we miss Niki and Carrie is in learning mode. We will need to follow Master Po (Kung Fu series) who advises "patience, Grasshopper." Things may take a little longer to get done, but it will happen!

Here are some things we did during Pastoral sabbaticals that we are adopting now to help June pass calmly:

- For the month of June, the office will be open from 9:00a – 1:00p, Monday through Thursday.
- Please understand that Wendy Whitlock and others will cover the phone and will do their best to help you at the time of your call. If asked to leave a message, someone will get back to you as soon as possible.
- Please call in advance to schedule any appointments with Pastors Paul and Jim.
- Please submit any announcements for the Order of Worship to: manager@thepalms.org and copy Pastor Jim; jim.alexander@thepalms.org. Announcements should be submitted by Tuesday for the next Sunday service.
- Please submit any Palm Leaf articles to manager@thepalms.org by the 15th of the month.
- Please understand that any late submissions may not be included in the desired Order of Worship or The Palm Leaf edition.
- Please contact Victoria McWilliams or Phil Ladd with any questions or concerns.

Finally, it is with great sadness that the Executive Board accepted Pastor Jim's resignation. However, we also are very happy and excited for him as he enters a new chapter in his life. We wish him all possible happiness! His last Sunday at TCOTP is September 14th, 2025.

All will be well as we Do justice, Love mercy, and Walk humbly with God.

Victoria McWilliams, Executive Board Chair

June Worship Themes

June 1—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.

June 8—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.

June 15—Pastor Jim will be preaching from Proverbs 8. Now is the time to raise our voices in wisdom and with understanding.

June 22—Juneteenth Sunday.
Rev. Lynette Turner will be leading in worship.
Her theme is "Walking together in the Light."

June 29—Open & Affirming Sunday. We will celebrate our history of being an Open and Affirming Congregation. The service will be led by Rev. Mark Makowski, Rev. Susan Princehouse, Bobbie Chapman, Diana Graettinger and Elgie Gonzalez.

June Birthdays

Susan Verity 2
Patricia Haskell 4
Renee Olthoff 6
Christine MacNiel 7
Tracy Atkinson 8
Nicole Lindsay 10
Jennifer Duarte 11
Linda Rinsema 11
Don Zoss 11
Vickie Ashenbrenner 14
Patricia Bunch 19
Michael Langfeltd 20
Debbie Hill 21
Lucille Clark 24
Larry DeLong 24
Mary Hoy 29

PLANNED GIVING... *The Steward*

The word 'Steward' is one of those solid words in our vocabulary that has a consistent meaning across its many applications. An expansive definition is "one who administers anything as the agent of another or others." In common vernacular it involves responsibility, accountability, management and service to others. If you travel by train, plane or cruise ship you will have a steward that is there to serve your needs as a representative or agent of the transportation company. In the earliest days of passenger flights, a woman who was an RN served as a stewardess. When farmers talk about other farmers they refer to them as stewards of the land. A respected farmer is one who "leaves the land better than they found it." This farmer sees himself/herself as a caretaker of the land for their lifetime, passing it on to another caretaker as the gift of land from God. Jesus told several parables about faithful and unfaithful stewards. The message is that we are all stewards of the possessions we have. We are not owners but stewards. Stewardship is the core understanding of our relationship to God and the things entrusted to us. —Rev. Max Klinkenborg

Our Worship Team has been very productive within the last several months. In addition to their regular responsibilities, they have provided leadership in the redressing of the space we now call The Chapel at the Palms. We dedicated that space during our Sunday morning worship on May 25th, 2025. The Worship Team also provided leadership in crafting a policy for the use of all of our sacred spaces. In light of the political environment, the cultural unrest, and desire for safe spaces in which to pray and worship, the policy below is the result of their discussion. This policy has been approved by our Executive Board and placed in the Policy and Procedure Manual. As with all such policies, these statements may evolve further as we fully embrace our mission and vision for The Church of the Palms.

Use of Sacred Spaces and Political Statement for The Church of the Palms May 2025

The Church of the Palms is dedicated to being an Open and Affirming Congregation, living into a commitment to share God's unconditional love, justice and extravagant welcome. The Church of the Palms is not affiliated with any political party. It is not a requirement for those participating in the church to belong to any political party or adhere to a political ideology.

The members of The Church of the Palms have created and agreed to a mission statement which guides programs, activities, and policies of the church. The mission statement for the church is ***to share God's unconditional love, justice, and extravagant welcome. The leadership of the church will focus and guide the church to plan, execute, and continually monitor any activity of the church to fall within the mission statement.***


Following the agreed upon mission statement, activities of the church could include justice activities that fall into the political realm. The activities will always revolve around factual information and policies that deal with God's unconditional love to all people, promote justice for all people, or help to promote an extravagant welcome to all people. Any programming or activities for the church should include thoughtful reflection on how it promotes the mission statement of the church.

Regarding political activities:

- Petitions can be brought to the church that deal with policies that relate to the mission statement but never petitions to endorse candidates.
- No one should be harassed or coerced to sign any petition. Petitions should only be available to those who are seeking factual information and no one should ever be shamed for choosing not to participate or having an opposing view.
- As a body, we agree that the promotion of candidates through signage or petition on church grounds, or promotion through church communications is inappropriate.
- First amendment rights guarantee that individual members may discuss candidates and wear clothing promoting a candidate. Clergy and other staff should avoid such clothing or conversations on church grounds.
- Any clothing, signage, or materials that disparage or ridicule any individual or group is not loving, just, or welcoming and should be discouraged on church property or during church sponsored events.
- Members will always be encouraged to vote but never how to vote.

The clergy are called to be the prophets that walk among us in the modern world. Following the example of the biblical prophets, it is the responsibility of clergy to discuss matters of political policy that interfere with God's justice in this world. To call out a leader for injustice is not only appropriate but biblically founded. Those who disagree with statements of the clergy should work toward direct communication with the clergy and seek understanding rather than punitive discourse.

In these tumultuous and divisive political times, we as members and friends of The Church of the Palms should be continually seeking ways to find paths to greater understanding and cooperation. It is impossible to always agree but it is possible to disagree respectfully with civil dialogue. Members and friends should be respectful of each other's political views. When considering their membership in The Church of the Palms, it is the responsibility of each person to take time in prayer and reflection to discern if the mission of the church follows their personal belief system.



National Alliance on Mental Illness Help Line
1-800-950-6264 <https://www.nami.org/help>
Suicide Prevention Lifeline 800.273.TALK
Suicide/Crisis Hotline TEXT 988
Translifeline 877.565.8860
Veteran's Crisis Line 800.273.8255 press 1
Pastoral Care - Pastor Jim Alexander 623.792.5295
<https://thepalms.org/Tools2Thrive>

May 18th, 2025 was Mental Health Sunday. Our worship service was led by the W.I.S.E. Steering Committee and Pastor Jim's message offered several tools that we can incorporate in our daily life related to the mental health realities we all face. One tool was prayer. Here is a great way of thinking about prayer as written by one of our sister-W.I.S.E. Congregations.

How Are We To Pray?

A common question/response I hear: "I don't know how to pray. I don't know how to pray about that." Any of us, anytime can experience a time when we don't feel we can pray.

Sometimes we have the question, "Who is listening?", that stops us from attempting to pray. It is much more common than we talk about, how does one pray? There are a myriad of resources on ideas and formulas of how to pray. I suggest there is not a set, magic way to pray. God hears, whether we whisper it in our minds, or say aloud what is in our hearts/ on our souls. Even, simply "I am here," is heard by God.

Meister Eckhart was a Dominican theologian and writer who is recognized as one, if not the greatest German speculative mystic. "If the only prayer you ever say in your entire life is thank you, it will be enough," is one of his most famous quotes. "Sometimes prayer is

not easy." A few years ago, Pastor Susan Valiquette introduced **First Phoenix UCC** to the "cross prayer," an easy template for creating one's own prayer. If praying isn't always easy, this template might be a good tool: "This model can be a useful tool. Don't overthink praying. Talk aloud and give this tool a try. And when really worn out and tired...it can be a simple easy tool to know you have stepped into prayer space with God."





PRISON MINISTRY...

Even with no time to make an announcement for the Sunday bulletin, The Church of the Palms, UCC in Sun City gathered a carful of clothing for women being released from Perryville. It was a God thing—members called and said they had clothing to donate and asked if we had a place to take the items!



Congratulations on Graduation!

Congratulations to Tammy! Tammy has been a pen pal and then, upon release from Perryville Prison, a mentee of one of our members. She came to speak to our pen pals about how to be a more effective pen pal with the women in Perryville. Tammy



graduated from the Bridges Reentry Program at the St. Peter's Episcopal Church on May 17th. Deacon Gay Romack started the program to provide two years of Christian support, including housing and classes to help with career, time, health and financial management. Tammy successfully has been promoted in her career, purchased a car, become engaged and hopes to be a homeowner soon (in order to provide a home for her grandmother). Please celebrate the success this program can help these women achieve!



CARE Corner

Brought to you by The Church of the Palms'
CARE & SUPPORT Ministry Team

Benevilla Launches Free Workshop Series for Seniors

Benevilla announces a new lineup of free monthly educational workshops hosted at the Banner Olive Branch Senior Center in Sun City. These sessions are designed to empower seniors and caregivers with valuable tools and knowledge on a variety of aging-related topics. Each workshop begins at 12:00p as lasts about an hour. Registration is encouraged but not required. Call 623.584.4999 to reserve your seat or log on to: benevilla.org/education-workshops-2025.

- ♦June 11th - Fall Prevention and Home Safety Tips. Discover practical tips to reduce fall risks and make your home safer for independent living.
- ♦July 9th - Impact of Nutrition on Aging. Barbara Heerkens from PAM Health will discuss how a balanced diet supports energy, cognitive health, and overall well-being as we age.
- ♦August 13th - Dementia Behavior Triggers and How to Respond. Gain insights into the stages of dementia and practical caregiving strategies for each phase.

Banner Olive Branch Senior Center
13049 North 103rd Avenue



Greetings!

Our focus this year is on electricity and water conservation. However, we also must look at a bigger picture which will threaten both of these conservation measures and the laws that govern the safety of these things.

In 2022 a bill was passed that focused on clean energy. It was included in the Inflation Reduction Act. One of the primary focuses was to promote clean energy and slow climate change. That bill is now under threat as the current administration is focusing on fossil fuels instead. No longer will solar and wind power be a priority. By canceling the 2022 bill allocations,

the current bill will take back \$6.5 billion dollars that were allocated to clean energy for Environmental and Climate Justice. This current bill would also repeal the Clean Air Act. This action would allow factories, and other business to pollute with no consequences.

These actions will affect all of us. Now, more than ever, we need to step up and speak for ourselves, our children and grandchildren as well as future generations. These are major health concerns. For those with asthma, COPD, allergies and healthy individuals as well, for their future health.

It will be more important now than ever, to pay attention to reducing our energy bills and ensuring our water is not only conserved, but healthy, as well.

For clean water, you may want to invest in a water purifier. Either whole home or on the faucet for drinking water. Do you have a refrigerator with a water dispenser? Ensure your filters are top notch.

Additionally, reducing your water usage is important. One person in AZ uses an average of 145 gallons of water PER DAY! Most of it is used outside the home, in pools and watering the yard. There are some good suggestions in the attached article to more effectively use your outdoor water.

[\(https://www.azcentral.com/story/opinion/op-ed/joannaallhands/2019/04/09/how-save-water-arizona-free-low-cost-ideas/3404923002/\)](https://www.azcentral.com/story/opinion/op-ed/joannaallhands/2019/04/09/how-save-water-arizona-free-low-cost-ideas/3404923002/)

Next month we'll focus more on electricity reduction. For now, I shall pray for a safe summer for all of you. Please stay safe, out of the heat, and pray for those homeless folks to find cooling stations nearby.

Be the Light, ~Shari



From Bare Walls to a Home

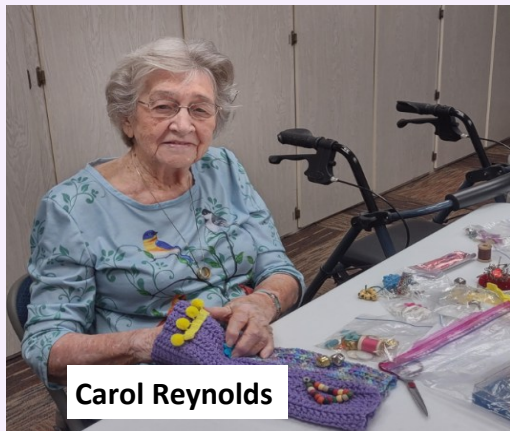
Here is an example of the Church's ministry to others. One of the last I-HELP (Interfaith Homeless Emergency Lodging Program) guests did not get her apartment lease until early May. By then the program was closed and the furniture storage unit was empty.

Thanks to The Church of the Palms partners, Deep Within, Christian Liberty Center, Lutheran Thrift Store, anonymous donors, furniture moving volunteers Richard and Denise, and transportation by Paul Hiles, three days after the phone call to Nancy Mueller requesting furniture and kitchen, bath and cleaning items, Dawn went from a blow up mattress and plastic utensils to a comfy home.

NEEDLES & PINS CRAFT GROUP

The ladies are once again crocheting Twiddle Muffs, now featured on our Craft Table. These soft, tubular creations are decorated inside and out with “twiddles” such as buttons, bows, textured ribbons, beads, rickrack, empty thread spools, and more. Designed to provide tactile and sensory stimulation, Twiddle Muffs help calm restless hands and ease anxiety, especially for individuals living with dementia. Originally developed in the United Kingdom, they offer a soothing, hands-on activity that promotes comfort and focus.

Love & Prayers, Needles & Pins Gals



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**](mailto:juddrinsema@yahoo.com). Submissions should be made by November 1st, 2025 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).



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.

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

SOCIAL JUSTICE ADVOCACY TEAM LAUNCHES WITH ACTION SUPPORTING I-HELP

With the enthusiastic support of Pastors Paul and Jim, the Social Justice Leadership Team launched the “Social Justice Advocacy Team” this Spring in response to a hue and cry from our congregation to become more involved in the politics of the times. The Advocacy Team held three events to prepare The Church of the Palms (TCOTP) Congregation for Social Justice Advocacy:

- On January 25th, about 15 members of the Congregation joined us for our launch following the Annual Congregational Meeting and to define the goals of the Advocacy Team: To advocate to political bodies on issues central to the mission and values of our Congregation on matters where our advocacy could potentially impact political decisions.
- On February 10th, another 15 members of our Congregation joined with the Lutheran Church for a day at the Arizona State Legislature where we met with elected officials, toured the legislative venues, and observed the legislature in action.
- Finally, on March 2nd, we invited Civic Engagement Beyond Voting to train about 20 members of our Congregation on the Arizona Legislature’s “Request to Speak” (RTS) system, which has nothing to do with “speaking” and instead is an easy and expedited system to leave comments for the Legislature on pending bills.

We now have about 15 members of our Advocacy Team working to identify and plan collective, Congregation-wide advocacy actions and more than 40 trained members of our Congregation who have signed up to participate in such actions. Not a bad start.

Our first Social Justice Advocacy Action was to support the restart or continuation of the I-HELP program. This inter-denominational rotating homeless shelter was central to the values of TCOTP, but was terminated when the Federal government withdrew funding from Lutheran Social Services, the administrator of the program. When TCOTP and other participating churches met with the City of Surprise, we were told that bringing political pressure on the County and the Cities of Surprise, Glendale and Peoria to fund I-HELP was the most important thing we could do to support the continuation of I-HELP. So, that’s what we did.

- We developed a two-tier strategy of inter-denominational letters from the pastors and from congregation members at the participating and supporting churches. Pastors Paul and Jim have written elected officials supporting I-HELP, and the pastors from at least three other churches have used the TCOTP letter as a model for their letters to elected officials supporting I-HELP.
- On May 4th, the force was with us, as more than 20 members of our Congregation joined us in the Boardroom after the Sunday service to write letters to elected officials. We also handed out more than 60 copies of a sheet with instructions as to how to email the elected officials to support I-HELP. Again, our sample letters and materials were provided to other churches as a model for their congregational campaigns. We have been told that our partner and supporting churches have written over 100 letters/emails in support of I-HELP.
- On May 6th, County Supervisor Debbie Lesko invited representatives of TCOTP’s I-HELP Team and our Advocacy Team to meet with her and her Chief of Staff so they could learn about I-HELP and the importance of the program to our Congregation and the homeless participants. At the end of the meeting, Supervisor Lesko said she would try to help fund the program if she could find the money.
- On May 7th, Supervisor Lesko’s office called in amazement at the number of emails she was receiving about I-HELP (and the letters from May 4th had not yet started to arrive). We explained that this was an important issue to our Congregation and the other participating churches.
- On May 21st, there was a second inter-denominational meeting of more than a dozen people from the participating and supporting churches working to continue the pressure on the County and the Cities to fund homelessness efforts and provide an opportunity for church congregations to meaningfully participate in this effort.

Although there is no guarantee that our efforts will be successful in funding the continuation of I-HELP, we have already succeeded in our goal of bringing effective political support to bear on caring for the homeless, an issue that is near and dear to the heart and core values of our church.

Next year we intend to engage many more issues that matter to our Congregation, including LGBTQ+, Immigration, and Environment, in a way that again makes a difference. Please join us as a participant, or better as member of our Advocacy Team, by contacting **Tom Theisen at tomtjd@yahoo.com**.

The LGBTQ+ Ministry Team

The LGBTQ+ Ministry Team has some exciting upcoming opportunities to get involved in our ministry and local LGBTQ+ community!

Current LGBTQ+ Arizona Legislation we are tracking:

We are excited to tell you that 10 of the 13 anti-trans bills submitted in Arizona in 2025 have been vetoed by our governor, Katie Hobbs. The three that are currently active are:

HB2057: *A health care entity shall give a parent equivalent access to any electronic portal and any other health care delivery platform throughout the minority of the parent's child. [...] This right includes access to written and electronic medical records for services not requiring parental consent.*

HB2113: *Flags, public property; prohibition, a Pride Flag may not be flown on any public property.*

SB1687: *Physician or other care giver may not provide gender reassignment surgery to anyone under 18.*

Save the Date for Upcoming Events:

June 14th, immediately after the protests for King Day at 99th and Bell at 10:30a, we will be hosting our second Potluck. We have reserved King Hall at church and are inviting all members of the church to share in a breakfast potluck at our Conversation Cafe! What is a Conversation Cafe, you ask? It is an informal gathering (with food, I may add) designed to encourage connection through conversations that create a living network of ongoing dialogue in a welcoming atmosphere that reflects the spirit of inclusivity, love and acceptance, and just so you don't forget, scrumptious food.

June 29th, Open & Affirming Sunday...You won't want to miss this fun, and enlightening annual service. We promise.

November 15th, Transgender Day of Remembrance...If you are interested in joining the LGBTQ+ Ministry, we would love to have you with us!

Please contact Georgia Feiste!



PRIDE MONTH PRAYER—*We pray that religious leaders will recognize the problem of homophobia in all of our places of worship, courageously confront it and work to rid the church and religious places of worship of homophobia. We pray as members of The Church of the Palms that we be servants of hospitality and ministers of love to our LGBTQ+ brothers and sisters. We pray for all ex-gay ministries and conversion therapy, in all their ugly forms, to end. We pray that all countries, especially our own country and states, with anti-LGBTQ+ laws to be moved by the Holy Spirit towards love and justice and enact laws of dignity and equity for all its citizens. We pray for safety in public places to hold hands and affirm those we choose to love. We pray for the strength to stand up against all homophobic and transphobic violence. We pray for all who are victims of homophobic and transphobic violence. We pray for courage, wholeness, integrity, understanding, peace, humility, love, freedom, vision, and transformation.*

—Mark Makowski

June Calendar 2025

Sunday, 1

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

Monday, 2

11:00a Executive Board/V&C/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
@ Santa Teresita OS
3:00p Inspirit Bible Study BRC/HY

Friday, 6—Office Closed

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

Saturday, 7

Sunday, 8

10:00a Worship Service SA
11:00a Fellowship Hour KH

Monday, 9

1:00p LGBTQ+ Mtg NA
2:00p Board of Trustees Mtg BR/HY

Tuesday, 10

10:00a Feet N More Shower Trailer
@ Bicentennial Park OS
10:00a Ministry Council Mtg BY/HY

Wednesday, 11

9:00a Needles & Pins Craft Group BR
10:00a Evangelism & Growth Mtg NA

Thursday, 12

1:00p Social Justice Team Mtg BR/HY
3:00p Inspirit Bible Study BRC

Friday, 13—Office Closed

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

Saturday, 14

9:00a Feet N More Shower Trailer
@ Hit the Streets with Jesus OS
10:30a LGBTQ+ Potluck KH

Sunday, 15

10:00a Worship Service SA
11:00a Fellowship Hour KH

Monday, 16

Tuesday, 17

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

Wednesday, 18

9:00a Needles & Pins Craft Group BR

Thursday, 19—JUNETEENTH—Office Closed

9:00a Feet N More Shower Trailer
@ Santa Teresita OS
3:00p Inspirit Bible Study BRC/HY

Friday, 20—Office Closed

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

Saturday, 21

9:00a F-H Beehive Game Day KH

Sunday, 22

10:00a Worship Service SA
11:00a Fellowship Hour KH

Monday, 23

Tuesday, 24

10:00a Feet N More Shower Trailer
@ Bicentennial Park OS
10:00a Red Cross Blood Drive KH

Wednesday, 25

9:00a Needles & Pins Craft Group BR

Thursday, 26

3:00p Inspirit Bible Study BRC/HY

Friday, 27—Office Closed

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

Saturday, 28

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

Open & Affirming Sunday, 29

10:00a Worship Service SA
11:00a Fellowship Hour KH

Monday, 30

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