

The Church of the Palms

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



June 8, 2025

Pentecost Sunday

10 a.m.

How is God's Spirit working in you?

Our Church Life		Pastor Jim
Welcome		Pastor Paul
Prelude	<i>I'm Gonna Sing When the Spirit Says Sing</i>	Jennifer Hoppe
Call to Worship		Jessica Hermann
*Spirit Medley	<i>Sweet, Sweet Spirit / Spirit of the Living God</i>	Congregation
Spiritual Readings	<i>Albert Schweitzer, Anne Frank, Wilma Rudolph, Nadia Bolz-Weber</i>	Jessica Hermann
Special Music	<i>His Eye Is On The Sparrow</i>	Pastor Jim
Scripture Reading	<i>Acts 2:1-21</i>	A Great Assembly
Message	<i>Seed Germinators</i>	Pastor Paul
*Hymn 638	<i>In the Bulb There is a Flower</i>	Congregation
Pastoral Prayer		Pastor Jim
Offertory Sentences		Pastor Paul
Offertory Music	<i>I Lift My Eyes Up</i>	Jennifer Hoppe
Benediction		Pastor Paul
*Hymn	<i>O God of Vision</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

Pastor Rev. Paul A. Whitlock—Minister;
pastorpaul1911@gmail.com

Pastor Rev. Jim E. Alexander—Minister;
jim.alexander@thepalms.org

Victoria McWilliams —Executive Board Chair;
vmcw@aol.com

Jennifer Hoppe—Accompanist;
hoppejen@gmail.com

Nicole Lindsay—Office Manager;
manager@thepalms.org

Carrie Rowe—Treasurer;
finance@thepalms.org

Donna Meadows—Member at Large;
axlnx.meadows@gmail.com

Jayne Peak—Faith Community Nurse;
jayne.peak@yahoo.com

OUR LIFE TOGETHER THIS WEEK:

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

Monday, 9

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

Tuesday, 10

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

Wednesday, 11

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

Thursday, 12

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

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
10:30-4:00p LGBTQ+ Potluck KH

Sunday, 15

10:00a Worship Service SA
Worship Theme—Pastor Jim will be preaching from Proverbs 8. Now is the time to raise our voices in wisdom and with understanding.
11:00a Fellowship Hour KH

◆ **Website:** <https://thepalms.org>

◆ **Phone:** 623.977.8359;

◆ **Office Hours:** Monday-Thursday 9a-1p;
Fridays—Office Closed

◆ **Address:** 14808 North Boswell Blvd
Sun City, AZ 85351

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

Social Justice Prayer

We pray for people in long-term same-sex relationships to find lasting stability and our ongoing support. That The Church of the Palms community welcome married, partnered, and single LGBTQ+ members and guests. May our homes be places of hospitality for all of our LGBTQ+ siblings and their partners. Amen.



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

**Fountain of Life Lutheran Church
(Missouri Synod)
(15630 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.



Flowers are given by
Nelson & Arloa Hymans
In celebration of their
70th Wedding Anniversary!



DYSART Community Center

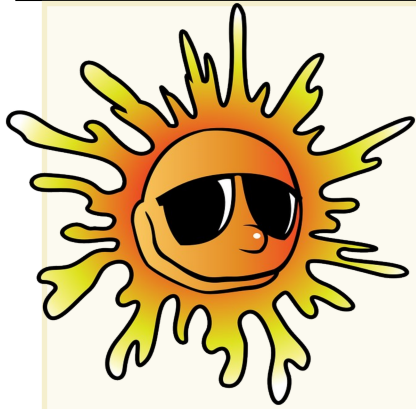
The Blessings Board is asking for donations of bottles of water at Dysart Community Center (not reusable water bottles because they are not currently equipped with a water fountain to refill bottles). Their seven-week camp enrolls 125 children which began May 27th, so the need is great. Since packets 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.

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)
Harvey Carr
(friend of Anthony Park)



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 1st, 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).



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).

**Happy
Pride
Month!**

All during the month
of June, we celebrate
the rainbow of
diversity and inclusion
at

The Church of
the Palms.



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!



Juneteenth Service

Join us on Sunday, June 22, for our worship service commemorating Juneteenth.

The Rev. Lynette Turner will be bringing the morning message.

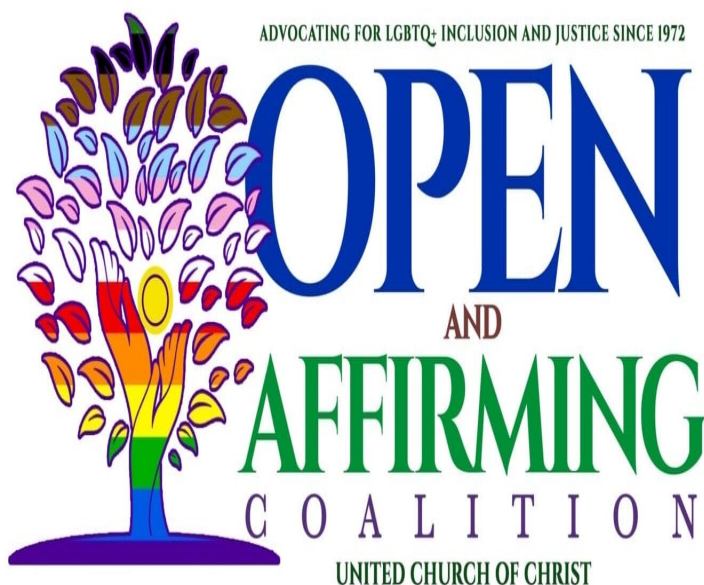
Juneteenth celebrates the emancipation of enslaved people in Texas on June 19, 1865, marking the end of slavery in the United States. It's a day of reflection on the historical struggle for freedom and equality, and a time for communities to come together and celebrate their resilience.

Sunday, June 29, The Church of the Palms will dedicate our service in celebration of the diversity and inclusion of all within our church, especially our LGBTQ+ brothers and sisters.

Celebrating LGBTQ+ diversity promotes inclusion, belonging, and understanding, fosters a more equitable society, and recognizes the unique strengths and experiences of individuals within the LGBTQ+ community. It also raises awareness, breaks down stereotypes, and helps individuals feel safe and supported, ultimately leading to a more inclusive and accepting world.

The service will be lead by members of the LGBTQ+ ministry team.

The Reverend Susan Prince will be bringing the message. This is not a service to be missed!



➡ *As We Move Forward* ➡

As we enter this transitional time filled with anticipation, a palpable sense of grief, and a determination to see this through, we are reminded that our pastoral leadership has already given us a progressive prophetic theme to guide The Church of the Palms during the year 2025.

IMAGINE. We had not planned for Pastor Jim's resignation. But here we are! A congregation rooted in Social Justice principles and actions. An Open and Affirming statement that challenges our lives to be radically hospitable and provide a safe place for all. And a wisdom/prophetic community made up with highly gifted members who choose involvement over retirement.

***"And what does the Divine require of us, but to do justice, and to love kindness
and to walk humbly with our God!" Micah 6:8***

Grounded with the tools to manage our way, we have the confidence to begin this process of moving forward and putting in place the necessary steps to form a transitional plan. Cultivating our existing talents will enable us to be active DO-sciples. The readiness and willingness of our KIN-dom members will allow for the Spirit to actively work the pastoral soil.

We don't know the future. And the work will seem a burden, at times. We are a wisdom-community. We know patience and have experience that our efforts will pay off. The Church of the Palms is blessed with ground that is fiscally firm. We can step forth in faith. We can take chances. We have invited change. We expect challenges. And technology gives us public witness with outdoor signage and to our active presence through our webpage.

Maintaining and remaining relevant are critical. We aspire to be heard and seen by our members through worship, meetings, and gatherings. This process has initial steps. With Pastor Paul's shepherding skills, we initially address our music ministry needs. And there will be members re-called into service. Think of the richness that already exists in our garden! A team will be formed to support our pastoral initiatives. God not only speaks but is cheering us onward!

The coming days and weeks will unfold because we dare to walk a progressive prophetic path. Together we discern and celebrate the Spirit in our midst. Justice, kindness and humility are our steps that will guide us on this journey. Come Holy Spirit! Come Inflammate our hearts!



Members present representing the Executive Board,
Volunteer Engagement Committee and Personnel Board:
Pastor Paul Whitlock(EB), Victoria McWilliams(EB), Donna Meadows(EB),
Phil Ladd(PB), Larry Delong(PB), Ray Larson(EB), Larry Cornelius(VEC),
John Durbin(VEC), and Mark Makowski(EB).