



The Church of the Palms



God is still speaking,
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

April 12, 2026

Second Sunday of Eastertide

10:00 AM

Our Church Life		Pastor Mark
Welcome		Pastor Paul
Prelude	<i>Holy Spirit, Living Breath of God</i>	Jennifer Hoppe
Call to Worship		Andrea Stefanvo
*Hymn	<i>Crown Love with Many Crowns</i>	Congregation
Spiritual Reading	<i>Rachel Held Evans, John Shelby Spong, Pastor Paul</i>	Andrea Stefanov
Anthem	<i>Trust in You</i>	Sanctuary Singers
Scripture Reading	<i>Acts 2:14a, 22-33</i>	Pastor Mark
Message	<i>But the Bible Says...</i>	Pastor Paul
*Hymn	<i>Alleluia! Sing to Jesus</i>	Congregation
Pastoral Prayer		Pastor Paul
Offertory Sentences		Pastor Mark
Offertory Music	<i>Sweet, Sweet Spirit</i>	Jennifer Hoppe
Benediction		Pastor Paul
*Hymn	<i>Because God Lives</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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Our W.I. S. E. Covenant

The Church of the Palms is a WISE Congregation for Mental Health Therefore:

- We commit to create a **WELCOMING** environment for people with mental wellness issues, challenges, individuals with disabilities and to their families and support persons.
- We commit to **INCLUDE** people with mental wellness issues, challenges, or individuals with disabilities in their life, in the work and leadership of this congregation.
- We commit to **SUPPORT** people with mental wellness issues, challenges, individuals with disabilities and their families.
- We commit to **ENGAGE** with other organizations that work at the intersection of mental wellness issues, challenges, individuals with disabilities persons. This includes, but is not limited to: Not-for-profits, Natl/ST organizations, faith/spiritual/religious organizations. We also commit to ENGAGE in continued education for our congregation on these topics.

The Church of the Palms commits to train individuals interested in The **Mental Health First Aid**, a course developed and accredited by the **National Council for Behavioral Health**. Individuals successfully completing this training will wear identifying badges when at church or on church sponsored excursions or events.



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.

Church Staff and Leadership

Senior Pastor - Rev. Paul A. Whitlock
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Associate Pastor - Rev. Mark Makowski
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Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 8a-1p;
Fridays-Office Closed

Address: 14808 North Boswell Blvd
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**Please pray for our
fellow church families:**

Marlys Davenport, Doris and Allan Gott
Lynda Chubbuck, Jim Schulz
Linette Stenberg, Donna Stenberg
Bob Parks, Nancy Tsuchiya, Andy Jordan
Lila Miller, Shari Kanehl, Herbert Turner
Sue Wilson, Sally Heathcoat, Bonnie Adrian
William Groover (Ellen Merchant's father)
Tom Packerman (Nancy Mueller's friend)
Jane (Everett Leff's sister)
Diane Kluge (Tim Kluge's mother)
Jennifer Charyk (Ken Barberi's friend)
Sara Shettlesworth (Georgia Feiste's sister)
Paul Farris (Kay Klinkenborg's brother)
Jim Merkle (Brandenbergers' friend)
Alexia Hale, Don Zoss, Richard Campbell
Lyle and Marcia Hollingsworth, Anthony Park
Bill Olsen and Mike Fuesting
(Brandenbergers' friends)
Bob Thompson (John Durbin's brother-in-law)
Debbie Williams (For Her Family)
Tyson and Andrea Mustian
Kathy Maloney (Bonnie Adrian's friend)

Sack Lunches

Help assemble 50 lunch bags this Sunday during fellowship hour in King Hall. Thank you to all who have donated supplies or delivered items to the Surprise Resource Center. These bags truly brighten the day of each recipient.



**City Posse Hosts Shred-A-Thon &
Prescription Drug Take-Back Day**

On Saturday, April 25, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., residents are invited to participate in a combined Shred-A-Thon and Prescription Drug Take-Back event. Both services will be offered at the **Posse Headquarters, 10861 W. Sunland Dr.** This is a great opportunity to safely dispose of sensitive documents, protect yourself from identity theft, and clear out expired or unused medications in a responsible way.

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 the National Setting of the United Church of Christ. Pray for the Tent of Nations.



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

**St. Joachim & St. Anne Catholic Church
11625 N 111th Ave.**

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.

Social Justice Prayer

Creator God,
You shaped the waters of the earth to nourish, refresh, and sustain all life. We give thanks for every drop that brings healing and hope. Stir our hearts to protect rivers, lakes, and streams, to safeguard communities where clean water is scarce, and to cherish this gift as sacred.

Amen

OUR LIFE TOGETHER THIS WEEK:

Sunday, April 12

9:00a Choir Rehearsal MR
10:00a Worship Service SA
11:00a Fellowship Hour KH
11:15a Trustee’s Meeting BR

Monday, April 13

10:00a Executive Board Meeting BR
2:00p LGBTQ+ Meeting BR

Tuesday, April 14

9:00 Othering and Belonging Meeting BR
10:00a Blood Drive KH
10:00a Ministry Council BR
2:00p InSpirit Sacred Reading BR
5:00p AA Big Book Study (closed meeting) BR

Wednesday, April 15

9:00a Needles and Pins Craft Group BR
10:00a “Let’s Talk” BRC
1:00p I-Help Meeting KH

Thursday, April 16

1:00p Choir Rehearsal MR

Friday, April 17—OFFICE CLOSED

Saturday, April 18

Sunday, April 19

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

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; LB Labyrinth
BRC=Behle Resource Center; MG Memorial Garden



IHELP 2.0 Update Gathering

Supporters of outreach to unsheltered adults are invited to learn what’s developing with IHELP 2.0 across the Valley. The Interfaith Exploratory Team will share updates and discuss next steps. The exploratory team welcomes you to this gathering.

Wednesday, April 15

1:00–2:30 p.m.

The Church of the Palms

Program highlights:

- Overview of local needs by Julie Ash, Banner Olive Senior Center Community Outreach
- Updates about Southwest Valley IHELP by Michelle Harrison, Program Manager
- Update about Northwest Valley IHELP by Seth Dyson, Surprise Director of Human Services and Community Vitality
- Discussion and next steps

RSVP to Nancy Mueller (608-838-3575) by April 13.

Hosted by the IHELP 2.0 Interfaith Exploratory Committee.

Ministry Fair Next Sunday

April 19 | 11:00 AM | King Hall

Discover the heart of our community at the Ministry Fair. Explore the many ways we serve, grow, and connect. Each table offers a chance to learn more and meet someone ready to answer your questions. Come find your place and see where your gifts can shine. The Ministry Fair will be after services in King Hall.

Let’s Talk

**Wednesday, April 15 | 10:00 AM
in the Behle Resource Center**

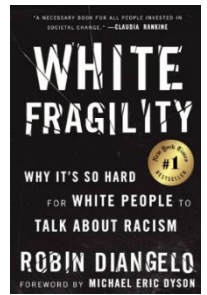
Join us for our next **Let’s Talk**. This week, we will focus on navigating meaningful conversations with neighbors and friends, specifically exploring how we can all play a part in **Healing the Heart of Democracy**. Come share your experiences and perspectives and listen as we work together toward understanding and community.

Learning Opportunity

How do you feel about racism? Is "Make America Great Again" code for going back to a time before civil rights, affirmative action, diversity, equity and inclusion? And by extension, women's rights and LGBTQ rights? How much do our policies, institutions, and attitudes about race protect white privilege? And most importantly how comfortable are we in discussing racism in all its subtle and not so subtle forms.

"White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism" is a very timely book written by Robin DiAngelo about race relations in the United States. An academic with experience in diversity training, DiAngelo coined the term "white fragility" to describe what she views as any defensive instincts or reactions that a white person experiences when questioned about race or made to consider their own race.

Nancy Nonini, John Durbin and Kim Pontius will be leading a three-session study on Robin DiAngelo's book on Thursdays, April 30, May 7 and May 14, 11:00 AM to 12:30 PM. Please put your name on the sign-up sheet on the Opportunity Table in the Narthex so that sufficient books can be ordered (note: reading the book is not a requirement for attending the sessions).



To my progressive church family,

Do you ever find yourself caught in a "love-hate" relationship with our mainline hymns? Like many of you, I grew up wrapped in the beautiful melodies and rich harmonies of our faith. But as my theology evolved, I hit a wall: the lyrics often feel like a relic of a past we are trying to outgrow. At best, they no longer resonate; at worst, they are patriarchal, exclusionary, and even harmful.

For years, I've tried the "musical bypass"—skipping offensive verses or frantically swapping "He" for "God" mid-phrase. But we deserve more than linguistic tongue twisters; we deserve worship that reflects our 21st-century values of inclusion and justice.

Leveraging my lifelong love for rhyme, I've given several beloved Easter hymns a "fresh coat of theological paint." These rewrites honor the traditional phrasing while making room for the Spirit's work today.

I invite you to engage with these "fresh coats" in whatever way feels most authentic to your spirit. If your heart still finds its home in the original lyrics, please, sing them with gusto—no one is here to police your praise or dictate your prayer. But for those of us seeking a worship language that mirrors our 21st-century walk of justice, I hope these new verses offer a breath of fresh air. Whether we sing the old or the new, may our voices harmonize in the shared pursuit of a love that is always evolving and always inclusive. Shalom, Paul

Quarterly Conversation Cafe

Saturday, April 25 | 10:30 AM – 1:00 PM in King Hall

You are cordially invited to our **Quarterly Conversation Cafe!** We've adjusted the meeting time to support those attending the weekly protest at 99th and Bell, and we've invited members of the Sun City Democrat Club to join us. Together, we'll build on the small group's work and identify further action steps in response to our shifting political climate and ongoing public-safety concerns.

The Church of the Palms will provide the main dish. We invite you to bring salads, fruit, desserts. Please sign up on the sign up sheets in the narthex to let us know you're coming and what you plan to share.

Thank you to all who blessed us with their Easter blessing.

Bob and Millie Carlson in Honor of Their Parents

Pat and John Durbin in Honor of Family Members

Betty Teeson in Memory of Carolyn Modeen

Suzanne Boisclair in Memory of Carolyn Modeen

Anita Paulson in Memory of Husband Chuck, Son Scott, Sister Nancy, Brother Bill,
Mom Leore, and Dad Bill

John Claiborne in Memory of Husband David Wonner and in Honor of Parents
Mildred and John Claiborne

Nancy Nonini in Memory of Rich Nonini

Bonnie M. Green in Memory and Honor of all my family, past and present

Diane Seeley in Memory of Carolyn Modeen and in Honor of Jennifer Hoppe

Deborah Ciani in Memory of Porten Family

Victoria McWilliams in Memory of Tom McWilliams

Paul and Wendy Whitlock in Honor of Pastor Mark

Lynette Nickelson in Memory of Martin John Nickelson

Herbert and Lynette Turner in Memory of Anneslia Turner

Jackie Frenning in Memory of Ryan Jennings

Thank you to all those who gave donations

Jessie Head, Heidi Saupe, Pastor Mark Makowski, Bill and Jeannie Brandenbrerger,
Ernie and Barb Otto, Joyce Dass, Susan Belker, Terry Starr, Ken Barberi, Deborah
Flemming, Theodora Bengtson, Barbara Bengtson, Jill and Matt Kitchen, Mady
DeSmidt, Ron and Linda Kehl, Steven Grogan, John and Gineen Frenning, Donna
Elianow, Roberta O'Neill, Janet Camilli, Marilyn Bricks, Valerie LeBlanc, Heidi Saupe,
Babz Zimorino, Anna Thompson

We extend our heartfelt thanks for your generous Easter Blessing gifts. Your support directly strengthens the ministries of The Church of the Palms, helping us offer compassion, hope, and practical care to our community. Because of your kindness, our shared mission continues to grow and make a meaningful difference.