



# The Church of the Palms



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

April 19, 2026

Third Sunday of Easter

10:00 AM

*Creation Justice Sunday*

Our Church Life		Pastor Mark
Welcome		John Durbin
Prelude	<i>Simple Gifts</i>	Jennifer Hoppe
Call to Worship		Terry Starr
*Hymn 56 vs. 1, 3, 5	<i>For the Beauty of the Earth</i>	Congregation
Spiritual Reading	<i>John Scoutus Erigena, John Muir George Macleod, Ashlan Gorce Cousteau</i>	Terry Starr
Anthem	<i>What a Wonderful World</i>	Women of the Choir
Scripture Reading	<i>Genesis 1:1 &amp; 31a Colossians 1:15-17</i>	Pastor Mark
Message	<i>Inaudible Words</i>	Rev. Ray Larson
*Hymn	<i>Our God Has Made This World</i>	Congregation
Pastoral Prayer		Pastor Mark
Offertory Sentences		Pastor Mark
Offertory Music	<i>Morning Has Broken</i>	Jennifer Hoppe
Benediction		Rev. Ray Larson
*Hymn 22 vs. 1-3	<i>All Creatures of Our God and King</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  
pastorpaul1911@gmail.com

**Associate Pastor** - Rev. Mark Makowski  
mmakowski@thepalms.org

**Exec Board Chair** - Victoria McWilliams  
vmcw@aol.com

**Director of Music and Worship** -  
Jennifer Hoppe  
jenniferhoppe@thepalms.org

**Office Manager** - Wendy Whitlock  
manager@thepalms.org

**Treasurer** - Carrie Rowe  
finance@thepalms.org

**Member at Large** – Donna Meadows  
axlnx.meadows@gmail.com

**Faith Community Nurse** – Jayne Peak  
jayne.peak@yahoo.com

**Website:** thepalms.org

**Phone:** 623.977.8359

**Office Hours:** Monday-Thursday 8a-1p;  
Fridays-Office Closed

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

**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)  
 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)  
 Eileen (Patti Sutherland's sister)  
 Danette Jenkins

**Ministry Fair Today!  
 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.

The flowers today are given by  
**Lynette Nickelson**  
 in memory of



*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. Clement of Rome Catholic Church**  
 15800 Del Webb Blvd.

**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 breathe life into all that exists, filling the world with the gift of clean and holy air. Clear our skies where they are burdened, protect every community that struggles to breathe, and guide us to choices that honor the life around us. May our care for the air we share reflect our love for Your creation and for one another.  
 Amen.

Thank you to **Andrea Stefanov** for her Easter Blessing in Honor of those who are fighting for democracy.

**OUR LIFE TOGETHER THIS WEEK:**

**Sunday, April 19**

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

**Monday, April 20**

**Tuesday, April 21**

9:00a Men’s Fellowship Breakfast  
 @ George’s Cafe  
 2:00p InSpirit Sacred Reading/  
 Scripture Gathering BR  
 5:00p AA Big Book Study (closed meeting) BR

**Wednesday, April 22**

9:00a Needles and Pins Craft Group BR

**Thursday, April 23**

1:00p Choir Rehearsal MR

**Friday, April 24—OFFICE CLOSED**

**Saturday, April 25**

10:30a LGBTQ+ Conversation Café KH  
 1:00p Jennifer Hoppe Studio Recital SA

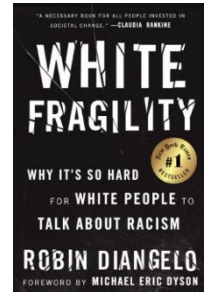
**Sunday, April 26**

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

**Learning Opportunity**

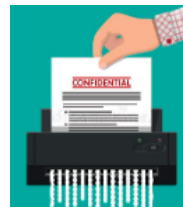
How do you feel about racism? Is “Make America Great Again” code for going back to a time before civil rights, affirmative action, diversity, equity, and inclusion? And by extension, women’s rights and LGBTQ rights? How much do our policies, institutions, and attitudes about race protect white privilege? 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).

**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.

### 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.

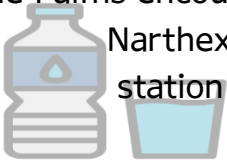
The Church of the Palms will provide the main dish. We invite you to bring salads, fruit, and desserts. Please sign up on the sign-up sheets in the narthex to let us know you're coming and what you plan to share.

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### *Drink Water*



Warmer weather is quickly catching up with us here in Arizona. The Church of the Palms encourages you each to stay hydrated and has moved the Water cooler to the Narthex. Feel free to fill your own water bottle. There is also a water bottle refill station at the drinking fountain outside King Hall.



Stay safe and hydrated!

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### Food Insecurity and Church of The Palms

Matthew 25:35 "I was hungry and you gave me something to eat..."

Food insecurity is a stark reality for many in and around our community. That is why we generously support Valley View Food Bank and Dysart Community Center in El Mirage. Some folks in our community live in poverty while others are afraid to go the grocery store in the event they may be picked up by ICE. Please continue your strong support of those dealing with food insecurity by bringing food donations to the "Compassion Cart", the Shopping Cart in the Donation Center, or the Dysart Community donation table at the entrance to King Hall. Dysart cannot receive cash donations so nonperishable food items are appropriate. Valley View Food Bank can receive cash or nonperishable food items. Thank you for your continued support.

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### Little Library

This month, we are excited to install a Little Free Library at The Church of the Palms! This is an opportunity to live out our call to love our neighbors through access, learning, and shared stories.

As part of this mission, we are intentionally seeking banned and challenged books to stock the library. These books often reflect voices and experiences that have been silenced or limited, and we believe offering them is one way to practice justice, compassion, and understanding. We are focusing on general audience books to serve the needs of the surrounding community.

If you feel called to contribute, donations can be dropped off at the church office through the end of April, or you can coordinate a drop-off directly with Jessica Hermann.

To explore examples of banned and challenged books that we would like to stock our library with, please visit: <https://pen.org/banned-books-list-2025/> Together, we can create a space that reflects both our faith and our commitment to equity, curiosity, and community.

## 2025 Church of The Palms Social Justice Champion – Linda Hofmann



Linda Hofmann joined the Church of The Palms in 2017 and was part of the strategic planning team that developed the current model of providing the social justice ministries of our church. In 2018, she started the “Neighbors in Need” ministry that serves the Dysart Community Center. She also served as a liaison to Deep Within (a halfway house for men) and the New Life Center (a domestic abuse shelter for women).

Annie Ansell, CEO of the Dysart Community Center, stated, “Linda embodies the Christian call to defend the poor, uplift the vulnerable, and share resources as an expression of faith in action. She devoted her time and her voice to fighting for equality, human rights, and fair treatment for all people, regardless of ethnicity, gender, ability, or socioeconomic status. She is a champion for our children, our youth, and our adults who needed someone in their corner.”

Linda is a quiet, humble, and unassuming person by nature, but her work as a social justice champion speaks loudly.

Thank you, Linda, for being our 2025 social justice champion.



### INFORMATION SESSION COMING SOON!

#### Find Your Spiritual Home: Join Our Information Session!

The Evangelism & Growth Team invites those seeking a church community to a special Information Session on **Wednesday, May 13, at 3:00 PM in King Hall**. The session will also include a guided tour, a light supper, and fellowship. To learn more, please sign up in the Narthex. Basic membership information will be available. New members will then be introduced to our congregation on the following Sunday, May 17, service.

### Music Recital – April 25 at 1:00 PM

You’re invited to a joyful afternoon of music as **Jennifer Hoppe’s students** present their spring recital on **Saturday, April 25, at 1:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary**.

Performers of many ages will share beautiful pieces they’ve been working on throughout the year. Come support these dedicated students and enjoy an hour of uplifting music in our sacred space. All are welcome to attend.

### Solar Facts: How we doin’...??

2018 APS electric bills  
before solar & new chiller:  
**\$ 22,689.72**

2025 APS electric bills after  
104 solar panels:  
**\$ 10,745.24 \*\***

\*\* Savings amounts vary due to:

- Increased building use
- Higher APS rates
- Longer & hotter summers
- 7 new small AC units & chiller
- New LED lights & ceiling fans