



The Church of the Palms



God is still speaking,
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

April 5, 2026

Easter Sunday

10:00 AM

You Are Resurrection Love!

Our Church Life		Pastor Mark
Welcome		Pastor Paul
Prelude	<i>Joy in the House</i>	Sanctuary Singers
Call to Worship		Larry DeLong
Hymn	<i>Love Is Risen Today</i>	Congregation
Spiritual Readings	<i>William J. Barber II, MLK, Jr., Jacqui Lewis, Maya Angelou</i>	Larry DeLong
Special Music	<i>Sing, Oh My Heart</i>	Wendy Whitlock
Scripture Reading	<i>Ezekiel 37:1-14</i>	Pastor Mark
Special Music	<i>The Water is Wide</i>	Doris Gott
Scripture Reading	<i>John 11:38-44</i>	Pastor Mark
Anthem	<i>Fear Not, I am with You</i>	Sanctuary Choir
Message	<i>Finding Our Way Back to the Living</i>	Pastor Paul
*Hymn	<i>Love Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!</i>	Congregation
Communion		
Music for Communion	<i>The Day of Resurrection</i>	Elaine Klauser
Offertory Sentences		Pastor Paul
Offertory Music	<i>Resurrection Man</i>	Karen Cox
Benediction		Pastor Mark
*Hymn	<i>We Arise!</i>	Congregation
Postlude	<i>Jesus Christ is Risen Today!</i>	Elaine Klauser

*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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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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Exec Board Chair - Victoria McWilliams
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Director of Music and Worship -
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Faith Community Nurse - Jayne Peak
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Website: thepalms.org

Phone: 623.977.8359

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
Jim and Elaine Klauser
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
Rob Delvo (Anthony Park's friend)
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

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. Elizabeth Seaton Catholic Church
9725 Palmeras Dr.**

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

Holy Creator,

You shaped this world with tenderness and entrusted it to our care. Open our eyes to the wounds of the earth—the waters that cry out, the soil that grows weary, the creatures pushed to the margins. Stir in us a courage that matches Your compassion. May our actions honor the sacredness of every living thing and help restore the balance You intended from the beginning.

Amen.

OUR LIFE TOGETHER THIS WEEK:

Sunday, April 5

8:00a Early Easter Worship
9:00a Choir Rehearsal MR
10:00a Worship Service SA

Monday, April 6 – OFFICE CLOSED

11:30a Life Long Learning Meeting

Tuesday, April 7

9:00a Men's Fellowship Breakfast @George's Café OS
10:00 Othering and Belonging Meeting BR/HY
2:00p InSpirit Sacred Reading/Scripture Gathering BR
5:00p AA Big Book Study (closed meeting) BR

Wednesday, April 8

9:00a Needles and Pins Craft Group BR
10:00a Evangelism and Growth Meeting KH
2:00p Operations Council BR

Thursday, April 9

12:00p Criminal Justice Reform / Prison Ministry BRC
1:00p Choir Rehearsal MR
1:00p Social Justice Leadership Meeting BR/HY

Friday, April 10—OFFICE CLOSED

Saturday, April 11

11:00a Bee-Hive Bingo KH

Sunday, April 12

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

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

Bee Hive Bingo

Saturday, April 11

3:00 to 5:00 PM in King Hall

Mark your calendar for an afternoon including fellowship, Beehive Bingo, and a meal. Win Prizes, including restaurant gift cards, church member crafts, dinners prepared by some of our outstanding church member "chefs", and the grand prize of a five-day getaway for up to six



guests at a beautiful Palm Springs home. Sign-up sheets are on the opportunity table in the Narthex.

The flowers are given by
the Whitlocks
in honor of one year of
Ruthie and Orest

Thank You!

Thank you to everyone who supported our Straight from the Heart Art Show! Because of you, we sold artwork that will directly support currently and formerly incarcerated artists and their families. We welcomed neighbors from the wider community and helped them see these individuals through a more compassionate lens. We also lifted up our commitment to Criminal Justice Reform and Prison Ministry, along with Bridges Reentry's work to help women build new lives and not return to Perryville. Thank you for being the church for people so often forgotten.

A Message of Love and Belonging

We are heartbroken by this week's Supreme Court ruling regarding conversion therapy. We know that for many in our community, this news isn't just a headline—it is a heavyweight that carries a profound sense of pain and exhaustion.

To those of you who carry the scars of this practice: Please know that your experiences are seen, and your wounds are honored here. If this ruling has left you feeling unmoored or has stirred up old trauma within your soul, we want to hold space for you. You are deeply loved, you are divinely made, and you belong here—wholly and exactly as you are.

Our calling as a church is to be a living celebration of love in all its beautiful forms. We strive to be more than just a building; we are a sanctuary for those in the LGBTQIA+ community who have been harmed by religious spaces in the past. Now, more than ever, we are committed to creating safe, gentle spaces throughout the week where your stories are heard and your worth is affirmed. When we say "all people," we intend for our actions to give those words breath and truth.

You do not have to carry this alone. If you are hurting, we offer you our time, our ears, and our deepest care. Please reach out to our Pastors or connect with the LGBTQ+ Ministry Team. Whether you prefer to text, call the church office, or email us at lgbtqplusteam@thepalms.org, we are here to walk alongside you.

For the rest of our church family, this is our moment to **love louder**. Let us continue to build a community where belonging is a promise and acceptance is our foundation. May we be a place where everyone can breathe easily, knowing they are safe and cherished.



Celebrating a Joy-Filled Palm Sunday!

What a glorious Palm Sunday we shared! Our choir lifted the rafters, our readers, Suzanne Boisclair and Kay Klinkenborg, brought the story to life, and under the spirited direction of Jennifer Hoppe, Pastor Paul, and Pastor Mark, the whole service blossomed with energy, beauty, and hope. We are so grateful for every voice, every word, and every heart that helped create such a vibrant beginning to Holy Week.

If you weren't able to be with us, there's still time to join the celebration. Visit thepalms.org or subscribe to our YouTube channel, The Church of the Palms AZ, to experience the music, the message, and the joy that filled our sanctuary.



EASTER BLESSING

This Easter, you are invited to give to the **Easter Blessing Fund**, which supports the general operating budget and helps further the ministries of The Church of the Palms. Gifts may be made **in memory** or **in honor** of friends or loved ones.

Please use your Easter offering envelope—or a regular envelope—and include this completed form so we may list your memorial or honoree on the **Easter Blessing dedication page** in upcoming Order of Worship bulletins. Thank you for your generosity.

Please return this form to the church office along with your donation through Easter Sunday, April 5th.



[] In Memory of _____

[] In Honor of _____

Donated by: _____

Phone Number: _____

Amount Submitted \$ _____

A place for Notes...

