



The Church of the Palms



God is still speaking,
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

May 3, 2026

Fifth Sunday of Easter

10:00 AM

When things get rough, what helps you through the mess?

Our Church Life		Pastor Mark
Welcome		Pastor Paul
Prelude	<i>Wondrous Love</i>	Jennifer Hoppe
Call to Worship		Bonnie Green
*Hymn	<i>Christ's Partners All are We</i>	Congregation
Spiritual Reading	<i>Mahatma Gandhi, Zig Ziglar, Maria Montessori, Margaret Mead</i>	Bonnie Green
Anthem	<i>Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life</i>	Sanctuary Choir Marcia James, Soloist
Scripture Reading	<i>John 14:1-6a</i>	Pastor Mark
Message	<i>Using Your Mantra</i>	Pastor Paul
*Hymn 295	<i>In This Very Room</i>	Congregation
Communion		Pastors Mark & Paul
Music for Communion	<i>Let Us Break Bread Together</i>	Jennifer Hoppe
Offertory Sentences		Pastor Paul
Offertory Music	<i>His Eye Is on the Sparrow</i>	Jennifer Hoppe
Benediction		Pastor Mark
*Hymn 469 v 2-4	<i>I am the Light of the World</i>	Congregation
Postlude	<i>Now Thank We All Our God</i>	Jennifer Hoppe

*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.



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, Bonnie Adrian
Andy Jordan, Lila Miller, Shari Kanehl
Herbert Turner, Sue Wilson, Sally Heathcoat
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
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 Mustain
(Linda True's Children)
Kathy Maloney (Bonnie Adrian's friend)
Eileen (Patti Sutherland's sister)
Danette Jenkins, Martin Meadows
Emily Rowe (Chuck & Carrie's daughter)

*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:

**Sun City Christian Church (DOC)
9745 W. 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

Lost in the tempests on open seas, our small boats adrift, we seek new land during endless
days and endless nights

We are the foam, floating on the vast ocean.

We are the dust, wandering in endless space.

Our cries are lost in the howling wind.

Without food, without water, our children lie exhausted until they cry no more.

We thirst for new land but are turned back from every shore.

Our distress signals rise and rise again, but passing ships do not stop.

How many boats have perished?

How many families lie beneath the waves?

We pray for humankind to be present today. We pray for hope from any land, to any land,
In Jesus name we pray.

OUR LIFE TOGETHER THIS WEEK:

Sunday, May 3

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

Monday, May 4

Tuesday, May 5

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

Wednesday, May 6

9:00a Needles and Pins Craft Group BR

Thursday, May 7

9:00a Blessing Board Meeting BR
10:00a Worship Team Meeting BRC
11:00a White Fragility Class BR
1:00p Choir Rehearsal MR

Friday, May 8—OFFICE CLOSED

Saturday, May 9

Sunday, May 10

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

Pack the Sack

We will be packing 50 sack lunches during the coffee hour after church today. Please come and help us fill the sacks. These lunches are then taken to the Surprise Resource Center for individuals and families who need a little extra help each week. Also, please see the May Palm Leaf for donations needed for this much-needed and appreciated project. If you have any questions, contact Sandy Weis at 815-541-9810 or Linda True at 623-282-7040.



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.



As we celebrate ten years of ministry together, I'm grateful for your welcome, your courage for justice, and your patience with my "dad jokes." To mark this milestone, I invite you to support our Piano Replacement Fund. Every gift will be matched dollar-for-dollar up to \$5,000, ensuring our music remains as vibrant as our mission. Thank you for a decade of joy and shared purpose.

Camp Genesis

Are you praying for a child from Camp Genesis? THANK YOU, and please return your heart with a brief note by Sunday, May 17. Camp is early this year, so we would like to have them in time to put them in their backpacks. We have envelopes large enough for the heart and your note in the narthex. Remember, the note does not need to be long—just a reminder that someone they don't know took time to pray for them all year. Maybe include where you kept the heart as a reminder to pray or what you prayed for or that God loves them all the time... Just let them know that they are important enough for a stranger to want to pray for them.

Learn About the Bahá'í Faith



Our Othering and Belonging Team invites you to explore another faith tradition this month as we focus on the Bahá'í

Faith. May marks the Bahá'í celebration of the Declaration of the Báb, whose role—much like John the Baptist in Christianity—was to prepare the way for Bahá'u'lláh.

With today's global tensions involving Iran, this introduction feels especially timely. The Báb's 1844 declaration in Shiraz proclaimed the coming of a Messenger who would usher in an age of peace and justice—something our world longs for.

We learn, reflect, and celebrate the Declaration of the Báb together during this month of May.

Mark Your Calendar

There will be a Special Meeting immediately after Service on May 17, to vote on a proposed change to the Church's Constitution. Currently, the Constitution has the Executive Board Secretary as a non-voting member. The proposed change makes the Board's Secretary a voting member of the Executive Board. Please see the May Palm Leaf for details. Please plan to attend the meeting or vote online, which is available from May 3 until May 17, 8:00 AM Arizona time.

Little Library

This month, we are excited to install a Little Free Library at The Church of the Palms—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. These titles often reflect voices and experiences that have been limited or silenced, and offering them is one way we practice justice, compassion, and understanding. We are focusing on general-audience books to serve the surrounding community.



If you feel called to contribute, donations may be dropped off at the church office through the end of April or coordinated directly with Jessica Hermann. To explore examples of banned and challenged books we hope to include, visit <https://pen.org/banned-books-list-2025/>. Together, we can create a space that reflects our faith and our commitment to equity, curiosity, and community.

A place for Notes...

