



The Palm Leaf

■■■■■■■■■■ A SEASON FOR EVERY MATTER ■■■■■■■■■■

The Church of the Palms

14808 N Boswell Boulevard
Sun City, Arizona 85351



A Letter from Paul

May 2026

A Decade of Love, Justice, and Dumb Puns turns into Loud Music!

It is hard to believe that on June 1, we will officially mark ten years of our journey together. When I first stepped into the pulpit as your Senior Pastor, I knew I was joining a community that didn't just talk about "extravagant welcome"—you lived it. Over the last decade, we have marched for justice, shared countless meals of compassion, and expanded the circle of God's unconditional love wider than we ever thought possible.

Through every sermon and every (admittedly questionable) "dad joke" I've cracked from the chancel, your spirit has been the true melody of this church. You've shown me that faith is a team sport, and honestly, you've been remarkably patient with my puns.

As I look forward to the years ahead, I want to celebrate this milestone with a gift that resonates—literally. Our sanctuary piano has served us faithfully, but it is time to ensure our music remains as vibrant as our mission. To honor this tenth anniversary, I am inviting you to contribute to our **Piano Replacement Fund**.

Here is the best part: we are putting our resources where our heart is. *Every gift made to the Piano Replacement Fund will be matched dollar-for-dollar from our reserve account.* Our Goal is \$5,000 given thus, paired with the matching funds equals \$10,000 total. If you give \$88 (\$1 for each key) to honor the 88 keys on a piano, it becomes \$176. Whether you give \$10 to mark the years or \$1000 to help us reach the finish line, your contribution will be doubled! Let's ensure that when we sing of love and welcome, we do so with a sound that is as grand as our vision. Thank you for ten incredible years of leadership, laughter, and light. I can't wait to see—and hear—what we do next!



Shalom, Paul



Executive Board

at The Church of the Palms, UCC

“The God of peace be with you all. Amen” Romans 15:33

Welcome to May! There will be a special congregational meeting on Sunday, May 17, immediately after the service. Currently, the Executive Board is comprised of six voting members plus the Executive Secretary, who is a non-voting member. One of our Church members brought to the Executive Board’s attention that, when we vote, it would be preferable to have an odd number of voting members and suggested that the Executive Secretary be a voting member of the Executive Board. The Board discussed the suggestion and agreed unanimously to convert the Executive Secretary to a voting Executive Board member. Our Constitution needs to change to be consistent with the Executive Board’s decision. Therefore, we are asking the Congregation at the Special Meeting on May 17 to approve changing page C – 2 of the Constitution that currently states for Executive Board membership:

“Executive Secretary (non-voting member) – Appointed by Executive Board”

TO

“Executive Secretary” deleting reference to non-voting member and appointment.

You can access the current Constitution & Bylaws on our website on the Mission and Leadership page or through [this link](#). If you have any questions, please feel free to contact any of the Executive Board members (Pastor Paul, Pastor Mark, Suzanne Boisclair, Jessica Hermann, Phil Ladd, Donna Meadows, Victoria McWilliams).

For those of you who are unable to attend, online voting will be available starting Sunday, May 3, and ending at 8 AM Arizona time on Sunday, May 17. As always, you get one vote; therefore, if you are voting at the meeting, do not vote online. If you cannot come to the meeting, please vote online. Watch your email or Paul-at-the-Palms for the link to vote.

And speaking of being unable to attend the Special Meeting, our winter visitors are and have been leaving us for places with kinder weather during the summer months. We will miss all of you and will be in touch this summer through the Palm Leaf. We look forward to your return later this year. Be well, be safe, and come back to us soon!

Victoria McWilliams, Executive Board Chair

May Worship Themes

May 3: Pastor Paul will be preaching. Read John 14:1-6a. The Palms has a Mission Statement: Sharing God's Unconditional Love, Justice, and Extravagant Welcome. What's your personal mantra?

May 10: Read John 14:15-21. Pastor Paul will be preaching. If you had to live your life over again, what would you do differently? Try these things: Reflect, Risk, and Do More Things that live on after you are gone.

May 17: Pastor Mark is preaching. Mental Health Sunday. Acts 1:6-14. The ascending Christ did not remedy The Jesus Problem. We try to remedy our mental health in the same manner. And it does not go away.

May 24: The Day of Pentecost. Pastor Paul will be preaching. Read Acts 2:1-21. God's Spirit is descending. What are we going to do with it?

May 31: Read Genesis 1:1-2:4a & Psalm 8. God created, and it was good! Pastor Paul will be preaching.



Jim Askew 5/2

Judy Green-Davis 5/10

Debi Maruca 5/25

Barbara Schuellein 5/4

John Frenning 5/12

Jane Zukowski 5/27

Judy Pinter 5/7

Linda Wilson 5/14

Donna Hermann 5/28

Marimae Roder 5/8

Beth Moore 5/15

Sharon Pitts 5/28

Gineen Frenning 5/9

Douglas Lehman 5/16

Elaine Dinse 5/29

Nancy Nonini 5/9

Max Klinkenborg 5/21

Marcia James 5/29

Eddie Peterson 5/9

Nancy Tsuchiya 5/21

Liz Adler 5/30

Bill Bontadelli 5/10

Larry Cornelius 5/22



SOLAR ENERGY

Have you thought about solar energy? Do you already have it? Several years ago, we considered solar, before we were thinking of moving from AZ. I investigated it and opted not to proceed. My concern was two-fold.

1. When it has to be replaced, there is little availability for the sustainable disposal of the panels removed from your roof. It seemed to me that trying to save in one area, but creating more waste in another, was no positive momentum.
2. Being in the insurance claims industry, I found out that if you own the system, then any costs for repairs, replacement, removal of the panels would likely fall on the owner to bear. If the panels were rented, any failure of the system (again, repairs, replacement, removal) would be at the expense of the owner, BUT they aren't responsible for the holes or any other damage to the roof that might be done. If you need a new roof, the solar panels would have to be removed by the commercial owner, and it gets done on their timetable, not yours.

I didn't like those odds. Still don't, but I'm told the industry has revamped some of its practices. Let me tell you about some of the most recent updates. As of February 2026, there may be some tax credits still available. This was a big thing a decade ago, and appears in some way, shape, or form may still be valid. 30% supposedly.

In 2024, Solar accounted for 7% of all US Electricity, which is up from 1% a decade ago. That's kind of a big thing and it's getting better every year. According to environmentalScience.org the following are some Advantages and Disadvantages.

ADVANTAGES	DISADVANTAGES
Zero air, water or noise pollution during operation.	No electricity generation at night unless paired with storage; output varies by season and weather
Zero greenhouse gas emission after installation	High upfront installation cost (\$17K-\$18,500) AFTER application of any Federal Investment Tax Credit for a typical 8kW system.
Lower cost than coal and natural gas for new electricity generation	Large-scale solar plants can disturb local ecosystems due to land requirements.
Extremely low operating cost once installed – after all, Sunlight is free!	Battery storage adds meaningful cost for off-grid or backup power
30% Federal Investment Tax Credit significantly reduces installation costs.	Commercial panels convert 20-24% of sunlight to electricity, though this is improving steadily.

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Still, to pay roughly \$18,000 for a system, you must plan to stay put for quite some time to break even, and there's no guarantee of what you may still have to pay the electric company for energy used or a "grid-access fee". APS customers still generally have a monthly bill of \$35-\$45 for fixed fees and taxes alone.

For me, I think the high point of solar power is that the recycling of old panels has greatly improved. According to Solarcycle.us, a company specializing in recycling panels, they are able to reach a 96% recovery rate. That means they recycle the glass, inverters, transformers, cables, metals, wiring, etc. And they have a plant in Mesa, AZ! This news makes my heart happy!

What are your thoughts on Solar energy? Do you have it? Want it? IF you already have it, has it been a positive experience? Are you saving money? Let me know at kabestik1@gmail.com, and I'll cover the feedback in a future article.

Sahri Kanehl Source: EnvironmentalScience.org



Please join us in welcoming Marie and Elizabeth Johnson to the team! They have embraced the BEE THE CHURCH mission with open arms and are absolutely buzzing with excitement.

April has been a productive month as we planned and hosted the Conversation Café on the 25th. During the gathering, Jessica provided updates on the progress of our proposals to the Ministry Team, and the small committee formed at our previous Café reported on their initial discussions and first steps forward.

As spring arrives, many of us are looking forward to well-deserved vacations—cruising oceans and rivers, visiting grandchildren, and seeing our beloved "snowbirds" begin their flights north. While we lean into the things that bring us joy, we remain deeply mindful of those who are struggling and have felt the instability within our country. Because joy and concern can exist in the same space, let us remember that we are far from powerless, especially when we have each other.

Mark Your Calendars

- Open and Affirming Sunday: June 28, 2026
- Transgender Day of Remembrance (Labyrinth Walk): November 20, 2026, at 9:00 AM
- Transgender Day of Remembrance (Reading of the Names): November 21, 2026, at 2:00 PM

If you feel called to join the LGBTQ+ Ministry Team or would like to help with a specific event, your time and unique talents are always appreciated. Please reach out to Georgia Feiste at lgbtqplusteam@gmail.com.



National Alliance on Mental Illness Help Line
1-800-950-6264 <https://www.nami.org/help>
Suicide Prevention Lifeline 800.273.TALK
Suicide/Crisis Hotline 877-330-6366
Translifeline 877.565.8860
Veteran's Crisis Line 800.273.8255 press 1
Pastoral Care - Rev. Mark Makowski 623.792.5295
<https://thepalms.org/Tools2Thrive>

TWO RESOURCES ON AGING AND SUPPORT FOR CAREGIVERS

Resource for Caregivers/Families: Part I

Resource on Aging: Part II

A RESOURCE FOR CAREGIVERS/FAMILIES: PART I

"More than Heart" is a company founded by Sondra "Sam" Cradduck, a Certified Gerontologist. Cradduck states: "Caring takes heart, dignity takes understanding." As of March 1, 2026 "Sam" and three other women lead a half-hour forum on "Aging Untold" at 3 pm (MST) on CBS (channel 5 for Phoenix area). You can record them and watch them at leisure.

Cradduck's concern comes from years of experience and finding a way to help educate and support caregivers. "But what about the ones who don't have professionally trained care providers?? With over 80% of care being provided by family members and friends who have no formal training, I knew that helping these "caregivers" could impact a much larger population.

By understanding the skills, understanding the relationships, the disease progression, and the needs of their loved ones, we can help to eliminate much of the frustration that is felt. By eliminating frustration, we enhance the quality of care that is provided, ultimately relieving much of the stress that everyone in this situation feels." (www.MorethanHeart.com)

With classes designed for professional and lay care providers, I am sure everyone will find information that will benefit them and their loved ones.

OPTIONS FOR PARTICIPATION WITH "MORE THAN HEART"

"More than Heart" has options for participating in their programming. I participate in #1, 2 and 3; I find the topics well researched; well designed for easy understanding and validating of my experiences as an RN, Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist and daughter of a deceased father who had dementia and my mother who has many physical limitations and dementia who is still living.

1. Free monthly newsletter and updates; sign up from website www.MorethanHeart.com
2. "Simple Solutions" Podcast- free- select your preferred platform to listen. Find it easily on www.MorethanHeart.com
3. Free you tube videos: <https://www.youtube.com/@MorethanHeartwithSam/videos> Lasting 40 seconds up to 7 minutes in length.
4. Webinars currently recorded and \$29 each to view. Found on www.MorethanHeart.com

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5. VIP membership: \$30 per month for unlimited access to all resources and support groups - \$300 for a year of unlimited access to all resources and support groups
Subscribe www.MorethanHeart.com

A member of The Church of the Palms chose to sign up for a year's membership. She is taking care of a family member with dementia and declining physical health. This person reports that the videos, support groups, and education have been extremely helpful in her understanding of the disease processes and her choice of how to respond when she understands so much more about what is happening with her loved one. The YouTube videos I have watched are well done and quite informative. Watch some free videos on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/@MorethanHeartwithSam/videos>. Evaluate if any of the above options they offer could assist you in being a caregiver or support person for someone you know dealing with these diminishing health issues. Pass the information on to those who might welcome the resources.

RESOURCE ON AGING: PART II

As of March 1, 2026 Sondra "Sam" Cradduck, the Certified Gerontologist mentioned in Part I, started a Monday through Friday half-hour TV program: "Aging Untold". "Sam" and three other women lead a panel forum at 3 pm (MST) on CBS, channel 5 (for Phoenix area). You can record them and watch them at leisure.

I have chosen to watch four episodes of "Aging Untold" on Channel 5, CBS each afternoon. The panel consists of "Sam", Dr. Rhea Rogers, MD and two other panelists specializing in 'aging'. They are well informed and their relaxed format engages the listener; there is a different topic for each episode.

It is well-known that the more education we have about our current stage of life and 'the aging landscape' we all face...the less stress and anxiety we carry.

Kay F. Klinkenborg, MA April 2026
Spiritual Director
Member Spiritual Directors International
Poet, Author, Adult Educational Facilitator
Retired: RN; LMFT: Clinical Member AAMFT



CARE Corner

Brought to you by The Church of the Palms'
CARE & SUPPORT Ministry Team

Standing/Sitting Pilates for Ages 60+: Improve Strength & Balance for Seniors

There is a free short daily exercise you can do on the Internet through the "yes2next" program; free on YouTube. Mother guides her 85+ year old mother through twelve 15-minute exercises per session. (You can do most from a chair as well.) Use [this link](#) to find the YouTube channel or type yes2next in the search bar of YouTube.

Criminal Justice Corner

THANK YOU to everyone who supported our Straight From the Heart Art Show! We sold artwork that will help currently and formerly incarcerated artists and their families financially. We welcomed people from the community to see these individuals in a new way. And we made the community aware of our work on Criminal Justice Reform and Prison Ministry, as well as Bridges Reentry's work to help women avoid returning to Perryville. Thank you for being the church for these often-forgotten people!

If you have been praying for one of the children from Camp Genesis for the past year, please return your prayer heart with a brief note to your child by Sunday, May 17. Camp is early this year, and we would like to have the hearts to put into their camp backpacks. We will have envelopes large enough for the heart and your note at the table 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. Blessings to all of you who prayed!

Neighbors in Need

Please consider helping our neighbors in need during this difficult time. Cash is always appreciated, and there are many other ways to help

Dysart Community Center has reported that many of the area residents are afraid to go to the food bank due to increased ICE activity, so they are offering donated food staples for families to take as needed. They also need volunteers to tutor adults in English as a Second Language, earn a GED certificate or a High School Diploma, and Citizenship Test study. Younger students have a need for homework help, fun activities, crafts, treats, and more. If you have a desire to help, Dysart Community Center has an opportunity for you.

Deep Within always needs laundry and cleaning supplies, toiletries, gently used men's clothing, and new underwear. They can help with physical labor should you have a need. Money earned goes to maintaining the facilities, which are provided at no cost to residents.

New Life Shelter needs toiletries, new women's underwear, and diapers. They are supported, in part, by donations to their thrift store, Hope's Closet, which accepts clothing, household items, and furniture. Due to the necessary security and privacy concerns, all donations go to Hope's Closet, which is also their warehouse for shelter supplies.

If you would like additional information, please contact Jana Fogle (503)-784-8140 jfogle123@gmail.com

Othering and Belonging



Do you know anything about the Bahá'í Faith? At the service on Sunday, May 3, you can learn a little more! Our Othering and Belonging Team's goal is to introduce us to other faith traditions, and will focus on the Bahá'í Faith. May is the month of their Declaration of Báb holiday. In some respects, the Báb's role can be compared to John the Baptist in the founding of Christianity. His mission was to prepare the way for the coming of a second Messenger from God, greater than Himself, Bahá'u'lláh.

With our current situation with Iran, this is timely. On May 22, 1844, in Shiraz, Persia (now Iran), the Báb made his Declaration of the coming of the Promised One who would usher in the age of peace and justice, something the US, Iran, and the rest of the world could use right now. Let us be the church and join the celebration of the Declaration of Báb.



I want to thank all of you for your continued support of HART Pantry. Without all the wonderful donors, HART could not provide food for the at-risk teens in our High Schools. They feel your love and thank you!

The Board met this week, and we are now planning for the 2026-2027 school year! The Pantry will be closed after Thursday, May 14th for our summer break. Many of our volunteers return to their hometowns to escape the hot summers and/or visit family. The rest of us take smaller vacations or rest up for the end of July when we start up again. So, at this time, we are not providing a wish list of items for Pantry. Soon our shelves will be empty, so in July I will provide a new list. You can all take a break for now!

In July, we will be looking for volunteers to help us keep our office open. We need someone on Mon, Tues, and Wed, for light office duties. Hours could be from 9am to 11am or 12pm. You would be answering incoming calls, checking missed after hour calls, light filing, stuffing envelopes, and accepting food donations that may be delivered. If you want to bring a book to read, write letters to friends, complete a puzzle or just get away from someone and have a quiet time, that would be fine! So PLEASE see if you have some time to volunteer starting at the end of July. Also, you could be available one day a week, or one day every other week or once a month.

Oh, I almost forgot, we had a fun and successful Applebee's Pancake breakfast in April, and thank you again for joining us and/or making a donation!

Enjoy your summer and I'll be back in July or August!

Mickey -Fundraising/Board Member

Needles and Pins Craft Group

Needles & Pins Craft Group takes great pride in the projects each member creates, with everyone contributing their own unique talents. Lynette Nickleson, one of our standout crocheters, is especially known for her speed and the impressive volume of pieces she completes each week. Among her most popular creations is the ABC afghan. She generously donated one to the Dysart Community Center in El Mirage, where it has become a valuable learning tool. Students are able to trace the ridges of each letter with their fingers, reinforcing both the shape and structure of the alphabet in a hands-on, engaging way.



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.**

This is a good opportunity to:

- Meet Pastors Paul and Mark, and other church leaders.
- Learn about the church's history and structure.
- Explore various opportunities to connect and serve within the community.
- Get questions addressed.

PACK THE SACKS

On the first Sunday of every month, TCOTP packs 50 lunches for the Surprise Resource Center. These lunches are then given to individuals and families who need a little extra help throughout the month.

Donations needed are:

Chicken or Tuna salad lunch kits (with crackers included), Fruit cups, Granola or protein bars
Individual bags of chips, individually wrapped packages of sweet treats (cookies, Rice Krispies Bars, etc.) Bottled water.

Also needed are persons who can help load these lunches into their cars after the sacks are packed and deliver them to the Resource Center on Monday (about 10 minutes from the church off Bell Road in Surprise). If you can help supply any of the above, please let Sandy Weis (815-541-9810) or Linda True (623-282-7040) know. Your help with this much-needed project is greatly appreciated!

May Calendar

Friday, 1—Office Closed

Saturday, 2

9:00a World Labyrinth Day Walk LB

Sunday, 3

9:00a Choir Rehearsal MR

10:00a Worship Service SA

11:00a Fellowship Hour KH

Monday, 4

Tuesday, 5

9:00a Men's Fellowship @ George's Café OS

10:00a Othering and Belonging Meeting BR

2:00p InSpirit Sacred Reading/Scripture BR

5:00p AA Big Book Study (Closed Mtg.) BR

Wednesday, 6

9:00a Needles & Pins Craft Group BR

Thursday, 7

9:00a Blessing Board Meeting BR

10:00a Worship Team Meeting BRC

11:00a White Fragility Class BR

1:00p Choir Practice MR

Friday, 8—Office Closed

Saturday, 9

Sunday, 10

9:00a Choir Rehearsal MR

10:00a Worship Service SA

11:00a Fellowship Hour KH

Monday, 11

10:00a Executive Board Meeting BR

2:00p LGBTQ+ Meeting BR

Tuesday, 12

10:00a Ministry Council BR

2:00p InSpirit Sacred Reading/Scripture BR

5:00p AA Big Book Study (Closed Mtg.) BR

Wednesday, 13

9:00a Needles & Pins Craft Group BR

10:00a "Let's Talk" BRC

3:00p New Member Information Meeting KH

Thursday, 14

11:00a White Fragility Class BR

12:00p Criminal Justice Reform / Prison

Ministry BRC

1:00p Choir Rehearsal MR

1:00p Social Justice Meeting BRC

Friday, 15—Office Closed

Saturday, 16

Sunday, 17 – Mental Health Sunday

9:00a Choir Rehearsal MR

10:00a Worship Service SA

11:00a Congregational Meeting SA

11:00a Fellowship Hour

11:00a Bee Hive Gathering "Triva"

Monday, 18

Tuesday, 19

9:00a Men's Fellowship Breakfast @ George's

2:00p InSpirit Sacred Reading/Scripture BR

5:00p AA Big Book Study (Closed Mtg.) BR

Wednesday, 20

9:00a Needles & Pins Craft Group BR

9:00a VEC NA

Thursday, 21

Friday, 22—Office Closed

Saturday, 23

Sunday 24 – Pentecost Sunday

10:00a Worship Service SA

11:00a Fellowship Hour

Monday, 25

9:00a Pentecost Labyrinth Walk LB

Tuesday, 26

2:00p InSpirit Sacred Reading/Scripture BR

5:00p AA Big Book Study (Closed Mtg.) BR

Wednesday, 27

9:00a Needles & Pins Craft Group BR

Thursday, 28

Friday, 29 – Office Closed

Saturday, 30

Sunday 31

10:00a Worship Service SA

11:00a Fellowship Hour

SA=Sanctuary; B2L=Bridges to Learning; HY=Hybrid; KH=King Hall; BR=Boardroom; OS=Offsite; NA=Narthex; CHP=Chapel at The Palms; PP=Pastor Paul's Office; MR=Music Room; BRC=Behle Resource Center; PT=Patio; LB labyrinth; MG Memorial Garden

The Church of the Palms

Feet & More Shower Trailer Ministry



May Schedule



- May 6,** 8:00am to 3:00pm - Project Connect
4334 W. Vista Ave, Glendale
- May 7,** 9:00am to 12:00pm - Santa Teresita
14016 N Verbena St. El Mirage
- May 8,** 9:00am to 11:00am - St. John's Lutheran Church
7205 N 51st Ave., Glendale
- May 12,** 10:00am to 2:00pm - Bicentennial Park
16705 N Nash St., Surprise
- May 15,** 12:30pm to 3:30pm - St. John's Lutheran Church
7205 N 51st Ave., Glendale
- May 16,** 8:00am to 2:00pm - Pilgram Rest Baptist Church
1401 E. Jefferson St. Phoenix
- May 21,** 9:00am to 12:00pm - Santa Teresita
14016 N Verbena St. El Mirage
- May 22,** 9:00am to 11:00am - St. John's Lutheran Church
7205 N 51st Ave., Glendale
- May 26,** 10:00am to 2:00pm - Bicentennial Park
16705 N Nash St., Surprise
- May 29,** 12:30pm to 3:30 pm - St. John's Lutheran Church
7205 N 51st Ave., Glendale