The Church of the Palms

God is still speaking,
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

September 27, 2026 **Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost** 10:00 AM

God always provides; God always has, God always will!

Our Church Life		
Welcome		**Pastor Mark**
Prelude	*What a Beautiful Name*	**Jennifer Hoppe**
Call to Worship		**Judy Pinter**
***Hymn 622 v 1 & 3**	*Guide Me, O Great Jehovah*	**Congregation**
Spiritual Reading	*Gandhi, Margaret Mead, Desmond Tutu, Orson Welles*	**Judy Pinter**
Anthem	*Louder Than Words*	**Sanctuary Choir**
Scripture Reading	*Exodus 16:2-15*	**Pastor Mark**
Message	*"What is this?"*	**Pastor Mark**
***Hymn 419**	*All Who Hunger*	**Congregation**
Pastoral Prayer		**Rev. Lynette Turner & Pastor Mark**
Offertory Sentences		**Pastor Mark**
Offertory Music	*How Deep the Father's Love for Us*	**Jennifer Hoppe**
Benediction		**Pastor Mark**
***Hymn 633 v 1 & 3**	*Lead On, O Cloud of Presence*	**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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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:

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Marlys Davenport, Doris Gott
Lynda Chubbuck, Donna Stenberg
Nancy Tsuchiya, Bonnie Adrian
Andy Jordan, Shari Kanehl
Herbert Turner, Sue Wilson
Jane (Everett Leff's sister)
Jennifer Charyk (Ken Barberi's friend)
Sara Shettlesworth (Georgia Feiste's sister)
Alexia Hale, Don Zoss, Richard Campbell
Marcia Hollingsworth
Cyndie Klein (Brandenbergers' friends)
Bob Thompson (John Durbin's brother-in-law)
Debbie Williams (For Her Family)
Eileen (Patti Sutherland's sister)
Danette Jenkins,
Emily Rowe (Chuck & Carrie's daughter)
Bob Carlson, Doris Hoy, Betty Teeson,
Sandi Askew,
Victoria McWilliams, Heidi Saupe
Robert (Ellen Merchant's son)
Gene Bennett (Carrie Rowe's Dad)
Marimae Roder, Mary Evers
Ruth Humes, Anthony Park
Charlie Albrecht (Meri Waddell's brother)

Remember, you can watch today's service again on our website, **thepalms.org**. If you are interested in becoming a member, our next Visitor Information Session will be on **TODAY** right after worship in the boardroom. Your presence with us—whether in person or online—is truly valued and deeply appreciated. We are grateful you chose to spend part of your day in community and worship with The Church of the Palms.

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:

First Baptist Church (SBC)
11019 W. Peoria 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
Choosing Life Together

God of life and liberation,
teach us to create communities where people can flourish. Give us courage to speak openly about mental health, challenge harmful stigma, and make care accessible to all. Help us notice, listen, reach out, and stay—because every life carries sacred worth. Amen.

OUR LIFE TOGETHER THIS WEEK:

Sunday, September 27
9:00a Choir Rehearsal MR
10:00a Worship Service SA
11:00a Fellowship Hour KH
11:15a New Member Information Session BR

Monday, September 28

Tuesday, September 29
2:00p InSpirit Sacred Reading/Scripture Gathering BR
Read Psalm 19
5:00p AA Big Book Study (closed meeting) BR

Wednesday, September 30
9:00a Needles and Pins Craft Group BR

Thursday, October 1
10:00a Worship Team Meeting BR
1:00p Choir Rehearsal MR

Friday, October 2—OFFICE CLOSED

Saturday, October 3

10:00a Care and Support Workshop
2p Pet Blessing MG

Sunday, October 4
9:00 Choir Rehearsal MR
10:00a Worship Service SA
11:00a Fellowship Hour KH
11:00a Pack-the Sack 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

Vaccine Clinic — Sunday, October 11

Following worship, Right Way Pharmacy of Sun City will host a vaccine clinic here at The Church of the Palms. Ken Patel will be on hand to administer **Flu** and **COVID** vaccines.

If you would like to participate, please see **Bobbie Chapman** for the necessary forms.

When Love Doesn't Feel Like It's Enough: Dementia Workshop

Living with a dementia diagnosis in the family can be overwhelming. Join us on **Saturday, October 3, from 10 a.m. to noon** for a free workshop offering understanding, practical tools, and support for caregivers.

Our presenter, **Jack Register, LCSW**, therapist and founder of Catharsis Counseling Center in Phoenix, will guide us through what dementia is, how it affects daily life, and ways caregivers can care for both their loved one and themselves. This workshop is open to all caregivers, family members, and anyone seeking compassionate guidance.

Please see the sign-up sheet on the green table in the narthex.

Pack-A-Sack is Sunday, October 4th in King Hall. It's a moment to pack sacks to give out to our brothers and sisters in need. They are distributed at the Surprise Community Center.

Criminal Justice Reform/Prison Ministry

Christmas Already? We need to register volunteers for the Mommy and Me parties at Perryville Prison by September 26! From the picture, you can tell we had fun last year serving food and giving out gifts to the children of the incarcerated women at Perryville. So please get in touch with Nancy Nonini if you are interested—nnonini19@gmail.com or at the table in the narthex. Prep party is on Tuesday, Nov. 17, and Party with children on Tuesday, Dec. 1. Both events will be from 4:00-8:00 PM. We also need someone to dress up as Santa (costume provided) for pictures with Mrs. Claus and the children.

Trish, from A Place for Hannah, has started collecting gifts now through mid-October. I should have a list of gifts by next week. What I know now is that they need $25 gift cards for Walmart, Target, or Amazon for the teen children. Watch for more info SOON! – Nancy Nonini

Neighbors in Need

The Neighbors in Need offering supports ministries of justice and compassion, with one-third of the offering given to the Council for American Indian Ministries and the remaining two-thirds supporting UCC justice ministries. In 2025, the Neighbors in Need Offering supported 26 grant recipients across the UCC who were engaged in projects of direct service and advocacy. There are envelopes in the pews for this offering. Please make your check payable to The Church of the Palms and write “neighbors in need” in the memo section. Thank you for your support and generosity!

SAVE THE DATE

West Valley Community Center (formerly Dysart) TRUNK OR TREAT is on October 31, yes, Halloween Day. This year, they will also be hosting a costume contest and musical entertainment. More information will follow as the date gets closer, but please add it to your calendar. It was so much fun last year, and The Church of the Palms has participated for many years.

Bandwidth O: "I am done, can't take anymore!" A person can feel so alone and even desperate that they consider ending their life. They are wondering if life is worth living.

TELL SOMEONE! Immediately, call someone. Call a friend, family member, clergy, or the crisis number provided; cut it out and keep it in a handy place such as your billfold, purse, or dresser drawer.

Phoenix Pride Festival – October 11, 2026

A group from The Church of the Palms plans to attend this event. Anyone who wants to join us is welcome. We will be having a ride-share sign-up beginning October 4. NOTE: There is a $20 admission fee to get into the park. Pastor Mark will arrange to have that in the narthex.

We will be going to the Pride Parade as a group to view the parade and enter the festival grounds afterward. Our goal is to meet as many of the churches, non-profit supporters, and other organizations as we can – networking to know the community and organizations that are willing to work with us to provide resources beyond our church borders as they are needed. Brochures and bookmarks will be available to hand out to the people we meet. And let's have some fun in the process!

A place for Notes...