



The Church of the Palms



God is still speaking,
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

September 6

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

10:00 AM

Jesus looks for lost sheep.

Our Church Life		Pastor Mark
Welcome		Pastor Paul
Prelude	<i>You Never Let Go</i>	Jennifer Hoppe
Call to Worship		Norman Krinsky
*Hymn 546	<i>Amazing Grace!</i>	Congregation
Spiritual Reading	<i>Rachel Held Evans, Nadia Bolz-Weber, Howard Thurman, & Billy Sunday</i>	Norman Krinsky
Special Music	<i>God on the Mountain</i>	Marilyn Barcus
Scripture Reading	<i>Matthew 18:12-18</i>	Pastor Mark
Message	<i>Seek, Welcome, Restore</i>	Pastor Paul
*Hymn 111	<i>Santo, Santo, Santo</i>	Congregation
Communion		Pastors Mark & Paul
Music for Communion	<i>Oh How He Loves You and Me</i>	Jennifer Hoppe
Offertory Sentences		Pastor Paul
Offertory Music	<i>Love of God</i>	Jennifer Hoppe
Benediction		Pastor Mark
*Hymn 442	<i>We Are Walking</i>	Congregation
Postlude	<i>Joyful Day</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.

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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.



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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Member at Large – Donna Meadows
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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
Sun City, AZ 85351

**Please pray for our
fellow church families:**

Marlys Davenport, Doris Gott
Lynda Chubbuck, Donna Stenberg
Nancy Tsuchiya, Bonnie Adrian
Andy Jordan, Shari Kanehl
Herbert Turner, Sue Wilson
Tom Packerman (Nancy Mueller's friend)
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
Bill Olsen and Cyndie Klein
(Brandenbergers' friends)
Bob Thompson (John Durbin's brother-in-law)
Debbie Williams (For Her Family)
Eileen (Patti Sutherland's sister)
Danette Jenkins, Rev. Judy Green Davis
Emily Rowe (Chuck & Carrie's daughter)
Donna Harrison (Pam Caron's niece)
Mark Miskell, Bob Carlson
Ben Ragunton (Anthony Park's partner)
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
Anthony Park, Ruth Humes
Charlie Albrecht (Meri Waddell's brother)
Lizzie and Bailey (Gordon & Joyce
Schneider's daughter and new grandson)

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 **September 27**, 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 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 Christian Church
14001 N Thunderbird 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

God of all people,
open our eyes to those who are struggling
in silence. Free us from stigma and
judgment and make our church a place
where every person can bring their whole
self. May we listen with compassion and
love without conditions. Amen.

**September is
Suicide Prevention/Awareness Month**

OUR LIFE TOGETHER THIS WEEK:

Sunday, September 6

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

Monday, September 7 – LABOR DAY OFFICE CLOSED

Tuesday, September 8

9:00a Shower Trailer @ Bicentennial Park OS
10:00a Personnel Board BR
2:00p InSpirit Sacred Reading/Scripture Gathering BR
5:00p AA Big Book Study (closed meeting) BR

Wednesday, September 9

9:00a Needles and Pins Craft Group BR

Thursday, September 10

1:00p Choir Rehearsal MR

Friday, September 11—OFFICE CLOSED

9:00a Shower Trailer @ St. John's Lutheran OS
11:00a Millie Carlson Memorial Service SA/KH

Saturday, September 12

Sunday, September 13

9:00a Choir Rehearsal
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

One bouquet of flowers today is from **Chuck and Jan Eckstein** to celebrate their 65th wedding anniversary on September 2.

The other bouquet is from **John Claiborne** in memory of his father who died in 2001. This month would have been his 97th birthday.

Movies for the Soul: *For They Know Not What They Do*

Monday, September 21 at 2 p.m.

Desert Garden UCC in Sun City West, 18818 N. 128th Ave., Sun City West.

Members of The Church of the Palms are invited to a special screening of *For They Know Not What They Do*, the next film in our **Movies for the Soul** series. This powerful documentary explores the complex intersection of faith, family, sexuality, and identity in the years following marriage equality. Through the stories of four families, the film offers a compassionate look at the struggles and hopes of LGBTQ individuals and their loved ones amid shifting cultural and political landscapes.



Our Neighbors at West Valley Community Center (formerly Dysart) could really use your help. They need food to feed their families. Think about what it takes to make a meal—canned vegetables and meats, pantry items such as flour, sugar, rice, pasta, beans, peanut butter, mac & cheese, soups. They also need hygiene items—toothpaste and brushes, deodorant, sanitary items. And bottled water is appreciated. The grocery cart in the narthex is the place to donate for these Neighbors in Need. They are delivered every week. Thank you for contributing, and please consider volunteering as well.

One Year of Ministry

On September 1, I celebrated one year of ministry with deep gratitude for this incredible community. Last Sunday was a day of joy for me. Loved the carrot cake, too.

Thank you for welcoming me, walking alongside me, asking honest questions, sharing your stories, serving, praying, and helping create a church where **everyone belongs, LGBTQ+ people are fully affirmed, justice matters, and the radical love of Jesus guides us.**

This first year has been a beautiful reminder that ministry is something we do **together**. I believe it to be a relational ministry.

Thank you for trusting me to be your pastor. I'm so grateful for where we've been—and excited for where God is leading us next.

Here's to the start of year two!

-Pastor Mark



A Report from the United Church of Christ about devastating Floods in Nepal.

We are in contact with and supporting partners through Global Ministries and ACT Alliance who are responding in the impacted area. Right now, the immediate needs are search and rescue, food, hygiene, shelter, logistics and access, and early recovery/livelihood support.

If you are interested in supporting the victims of the flooding in Nepal and other major international disasters, you can give on the website: support.ucc.org/global-HOPE.



Internet strength of 5G has been in the greater Phoenix area since 2022. Remember when we only had 3G, then it became 4G. That Internet bandwidth is comparable to our emotional bandwidth. Oxford Dictionary gives two definitions:

1. A range of frequencies within a given band that is used for transmitting a signal. The transmission capacity of a computer network or other telecommunication system.
2. The energy or mental capacity required to deal with a situation.

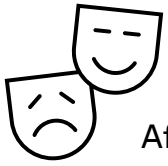
There it was...an alternative definition applicable to my life. How does one measure mental capacity required to deal with a situation? Is it IQ capacity? Is it spiritual capacity? Then we have that famous book, Emotional IQ: is it our emotional capacity? And the word "energy" was offered as an evaluative tool: what kind of energy? Emotional energy? Spiritual energy? Physical energy...am I too tired, too wired? Quite complex, it appears. Where would you go to find your energy or mental capacity to deal with a situation? Maybe more questions bring clarity. Emotional bandwidth is the ability to catch up on your emotional state honestly.

How do you listen to yourself? Do you listen to what your mind is saying, linear thinking? Do you have a place in your body where you know something is right or wrong, called "gut feeling?" Do you identify your intuition a certain way? I can't answer one of these questions for you. You must do the work.

In the weeks to come, we will have more tools to help you with this important work.

Kay Klinkenborg

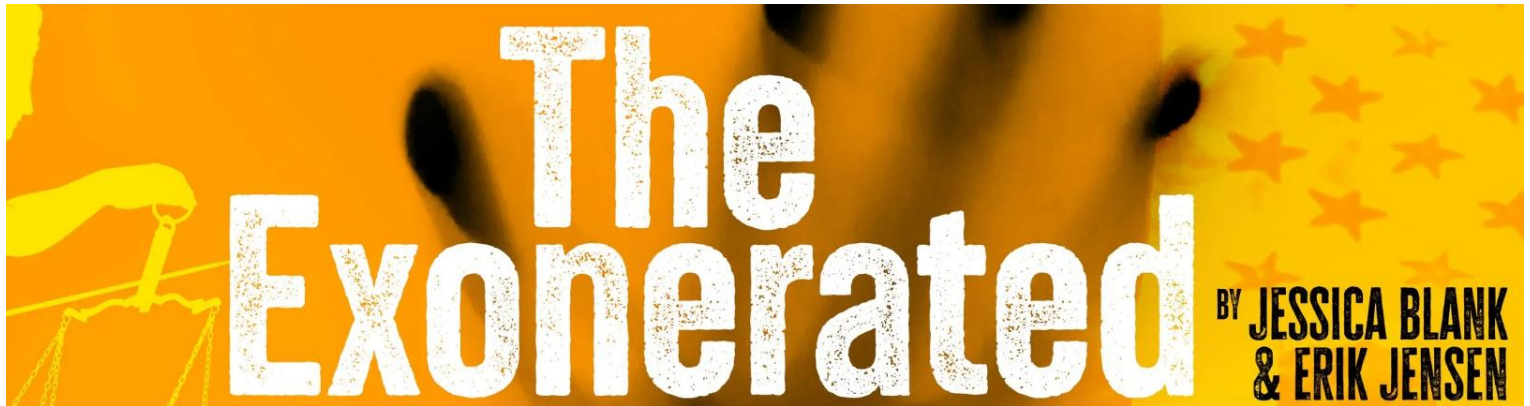
Join us at the Theatre!



We're going to the Black Theatre Troupe in Phoenix, the oldest continually operating African American theater in the entire Southwestern United States, to see ***The Exonerated***. Based on the true stories of six wrongfully convicted people who spent years on death row for crimes they did not commit, ***The Exonerated*** is a powerful and deeply moving examination of justice, perseverance, and the human spirit. Drawn from court transcripts, interviews, letters, and personal accounts, this acclaimed documentary-style play reveals the devastating impact of wrongful convictions while celebrating the resilience of those who refused to give up hope. An unforgettable theatrical experience, *The Exonerated* challenges audiences to confront the flaws of the justice system and the strength required to survive it.

TCOTP's Criminal Justice Reform/Prison Ministry Team is organizing a trip downtown on Sunday, September 27, for a 2:30 PM matinee. Tickets will be either \$40 or \$52 depending on how many people attend in our group. We should be able to carpool from church if you'd like a ride. Since the performance is quickly coming up in September, we need to have a firm number soon.

Nancy Nonini (nnonini19@gmail.com) 623.236.3420 will have a sign-up sheet in the narthex after church.



Veterans Recognition Invitation

The Church of the Palms is preparing a special Veterans Recognition, and we would be honored to include the names and stories of those members who have served. If you are a veteran, please share your information using the QR code to an online form so we may recognize you with gratitude. A paper form can be found in the church office.

Please provide:

- Name of the Veteran
- Branch of Service
- Any additional information about your service you would like us to share (years served, locations, roles, honors, or a brief reflection)



Your contributions help us celebrate the courage, dedication, and sacrifice of those who have served our country. Thank you for helping us honor them.