The Church of the Palms

God is still speaking,
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

October 25, 2026 **Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost** 10:00 AM

How would you describe what is holy?

Our Church Life		Pastor Mark
Welcome		Pastor Paul
Prelude	*We Gather Together*	Ann Plaziak
Call to Worship		Kim Pontius
*Hymn	*Holy, Holy, Holy*	Congregation
Spiritual Reading	*Howard Thurman, Rachael Held Evans, Cornel West, W.C. Fields*	Kim Pontius
Special Music	*Blest Be the Tie That Binds Us*	Ann Plaziak
Scripture Reading	*Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18*	Pastor Mark
Message	*Exploring Holiness*	Pastor Paul
*Hymn 112	*Holy Ground*	Congregation
Pastoral Prayer		Pastor Paul
Offertory Sentences		Pastor Mark
Offertory Music	*O How He Loves You and Me*	Ann Plaziak
Benediction		Pastor Paul
*Hymn 436	*Shalom to You*	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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Associate Pastor - Rev. Mark Makowski
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Exec Board Chair - Victoria McWilliams
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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 Gott
Lynda Chubbuck, Donna Stenberg
Nancy Tsuchiya, Bonnie Adrian
Andy Jordan, Shari Kanehl
Herbert Turner,
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)
Eileen (Patti Sutherland's sister)
Danette Jenkins, Mark Miskell
Emily & Kyle Rowe (Chuck & Carrie's children)
Bob Carlson, Betty Teeson,
Victoria McWilliams, Heidi Saupe
Robert (Ellen Merchant's son)
Mary Evers
Ruth Humes, Anthony Park
Charlie Albrecht (Meri Waddell's brother)
Robert Krazel (David Krazel-Cook's Brother)
Wendy Whitlock, Kathy Sanborn
Sue Wilson and her family

__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. Clement of Rome Catholic Church
15800 Del Webb 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

Our Social Justice prayers this month are for Neighbors in Need. Many of our neighbors are suffering with lack of stability and support, shelter, addiction, poverty, suspicion from those who don't look like them, and a huge variety of problems we don't even think about in our daily lives. Many have been abused and mistreated, have lost their feeling of self-worth. Now, more than ever, they are frightened and lost when trying to find help. We pray this month, and always, for all of our neighbors.

Creator, Guide us daily to help those who are in need in our own neighborhood. Guide us to show your love and light to the downtrodden, to those who have lost hope, to those who are hungry and need shelter, those who are victims of abuse or their own misuse of chemicals and alcohol. Let us find ways to assist and assure them of your love and forgiveness. Help them find their way out of their despair and into the joy of living in your light and love.

OUR LIFE TOGETHER THIS WEEK:

Sunday, October 25
10:00a Worship Service SA
11:00a Fellowship Hour KH
11:15a New Member Information Session BR

Monday, October 26
9:00a Blessing Board BR

Tuesday, October 27
10:00a Blood Drive KH
2:00p InSpirit Sacred Reading/Scripture Gathering
Psalm 34 BR
5:00p AA Big Book Study (closed meeting) BR

Wednesday, October 28
9:00a Needles and Pins Craft Group BR

Thursday, October 29
10:30a Fellowship Team Meeting BR
1:00p Choir Rehearsal MR

Friday, October 30—OFFICE CLOSED

Saturday, October 31
3:15p Trunk-Or-Treat OS

Sunday, November 1
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

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 TODAY, **Sunday, October 25,** 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.

Trunk-Or-Treat

Those who have already signed up for trunk-or-treat, please be at West Valley Community Center **14414 North El Mirage Road, El Mirage, at 3:15pm on Saturday, October 31** with a decorated car and treats to pass out.

A Note of Gratitude from Pastor Paul and Pastor Mark

Thank you for the thoughtful gifts shared during Pastor Appreciation Month. Each expression of kindness means more than we can say. We are deeply grateful not only for these gifts, but for the everyday gift of serving alongside you at The Church of the Palms. Your support, your spirit, and your shared ministry make this community a joy to serve.

Thanksgiving

Once again, The Church of the Palms will host a free Thanksgiving meal for the community. This will happen Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, November 26, 2026, from 11:00AM to 1:00PM. The meal is possible because of the volunteers who provide food and give of their time. You can find the food and volunteer sign-up boards with instructions in the Narthex. Thank you in advance for your help and service.