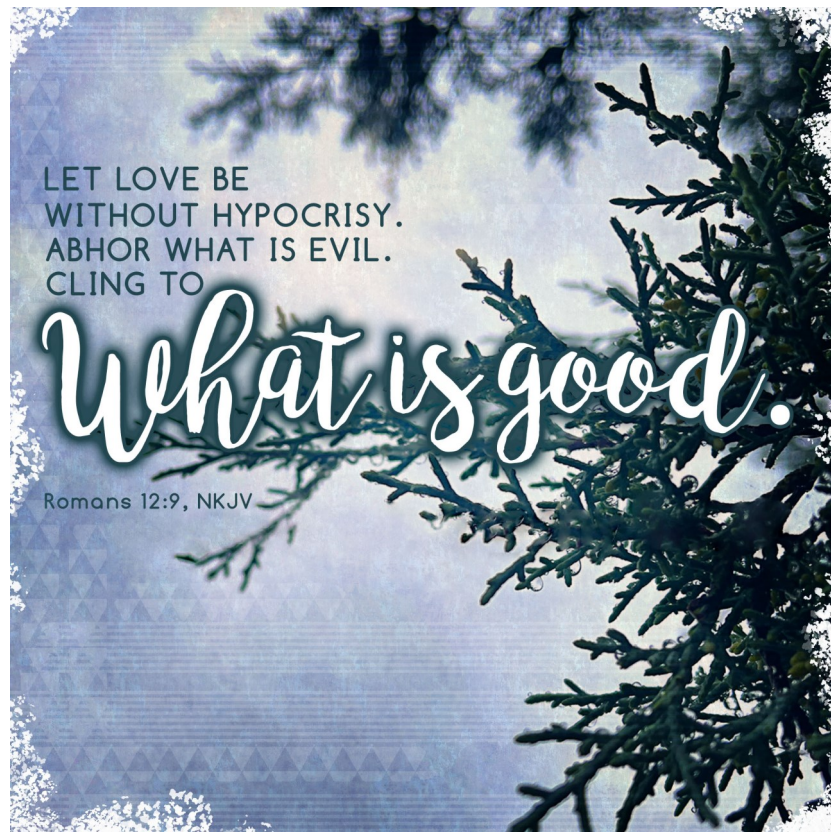


Palm West Alive

January 2024



A year that whispers Jesus

For author Nancy Tichy, a small holiday gift once sparked big-picture thoughts about Christian living. One December she received a kitchen towel with the message "I want a Christmas that whispers JESUS." That prompted thoughts of what it's like to have an entire year that whispers Jesus.

For starters, that involves daily quiet time, devotion and prayer. "Sometimes I wake with the thought of a person on my mind," writes Tichy. "I'm quiet with this impression, interceding for the family member or friend until it has lifted. Could this be a whisper from our Savior?"

Many other daily occurrences are "worthy of [Jesus'] whispered response of love," Tichy points out. That's true whether we're distracted by tasks and troubling thoughts or buoyed by encounters with contentment and joy. "For me," she writes, "whispering is part of intimacy, and that is what I want to make a hallmark of the coming year. I want closeness with our Savior that enables me to hear from him, even when he whispers."



Pastoral Staff:

Jim Powell, Senior Pastor

pastorjim@palmwestchurch.org

Brian Thomas, Associate Pastor of Pastoral Care

pastorbrian@palmwestchurch.org

Joseph Place, Minister of Music and Media

pastorjoe@palmwestchurch.org

Gwendy Joysen, Director of Modern Worship

gwendy@palmwestchurch.org

Office Staff:

Joyce Sopilnick, Church Administrator

admin@palmwestchurch.org

Peg Rideout, Connections Coordinator

connections@palmwestchurch.org

Worship With Us In Person

Sundays

Traditional Worship

9:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary

Modern Worship

10:30 a.m. in Hoover Hall

Livestream at 9:00 a.m.

(on the website/app)

Church Office Hours:

Monday through Thursday

8:00 am—4:00 pm

Closed for lunch 12:00 pm—1:00 pm

Fridays

8:00 am—2:00 pm

Phone: 623-546-2980

Fax: 623-546-9977

General Church Email:

staff@palmwestchurch.org

Website: www.palmwestchurch.org

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PWCC Leaders

VLT Chair, Gary Lanning

Secretary VLT, Finance, Joyce Westlund

Treasurer, Chuck Crandall

Education, Shari Goldade

Hospitality, Carol Graf

Media, Jim Burroughs

Missions, Phil Burdick

Property, Terry Brafford

Worship, Kristine Seemiller/Rob Hilkemeier

**Articles for the February newsletter should
be submitted to the office by**

January 15. Thank You.

admin@palmwestchurch.org

Pronouncement
Sabbatical Collaborative Committee
PWCC Grant Application
Lilly Endowment Inc., 2024 Clergy Renewal Program Grants

Palm West Community Church is applying for a grant (*due in March*) of \$60,000 to enable our Sr. Pastor, Jim Powell, to participate in the 2024 National Clergy Renewal Program. PWCC is one of several hundred congregations across the United States seeking to be awarded a grant in this highly competitive program, which is funded by Lilly Endowment Inc. and administered by Christian Theological Seminary in Indianapolis. Established by the Endowment in 2000, the program's grants allow Christian congregations to support their pastors with the gift of extended time away from their ministerial duties and responsibilities.

Pastors whose congregations are awarded the grants use their time away from the demands of daily ministry to engage in reflection and renewal. The approach respects the "Sabbath time" concept, offering pastors a carefully considered respite that will include travel, study, rest, prayer, and immersive cultural experiences.

Since the National Clergy Renewal Program's inception, more than 3,527 congregations have participated in the program, including the 177 congregations that received grants in 2023. Through the Renewal Program, Palm West Community Church is applying for a grant of up to \$60,000 to support the renewal program for Pastor Jim and our church. The application process for the grant is collaborative in nature and implementation. The program allows our congregation to partner with Pastor Jim in developing experience opportunities that address his unique renewal needs and aspirations. Recognizing that pastors' families are subject to the stress and demands placed on pastoral leaders, the program also encourages pastors to involve their families in their renewal activities. Our congregational needs during our pastor's renewal experience away from PWCC are also considered. A portion (up to \$20,000) of the grant monies may be used for interim pastoral support during the pastor's sabbatical, as well as renewal activities within the congregation.

Pastor Jim's renewal time will be taken over the 2025 summer and will be structured in three phases: (1) Spain's famous pilgrimage trail, El Camino de Santiago. This experience has become one of the world's most popular walking, spiritual journey. Please look up for insight into this phase of the sabbatical. (2) A RV road trip to Victoria, Canada, the Pacific NW, and the California coast with Stephanie (3) Quality time with his sons, Trevor, and Timothy. In addition, Pastor Jim will be reading many books (15 currently listed) and two or three of these books will be offered to PWCC members/attenders so we can read the same book that our Sr. Pastor is reading during each phase of his sabbatical journey.

During the time Pastor Jim is away, PWCC, for our own congregational renewal adventures, will have three focused fellowship activities that will coincide with each of Pastor Jim's away phases. The congregation will also experience uplifting sermon series with each being linked to one of the three phases of our Pastor's leave adventures. The lessons will be presented by either Pastor Brian or special guest speakers.

As stated earlier, this will be a collaborative effort to secure the grant. Leadership and your pastor solicit the full support and ownership of the congregation. Two informational, sabbatical collaborative meetings will occur during the next few weeks with the desire of receiving member input into the application process. The following dates and times are being made available: Wednesday, January 3rd at 11:00 a.m. and Sunday, January 14th at noon. Mark your calendars and attend one of these two sabbatical collaborative meetings, realizing that this is a wonderful, once in a lifetime, opportunity for our Sr. Pastor.

(continued)

Pronouncement
Sabbatical Collaborative Committee
PWCC Grant Application
Lilly Endowment Inc., 2024 Clergy Renewal Program Grants

“Pastors play an important role in nourishing the spiritual lives of individuals and in guiding the work of the Christian congregations they serve,” said Christopher L. Coble, the Endowment’s vice president for religion. “Through these grants, we seek to honor pastors for their extraordinary service and enable them to engage in a brief period of rest and renewal. We have learned that such experiences invigorate the leadership of pastors and bring new vitality to their congregations as well.”

Dr. Robert Saler, director of the Lilly Endowment Clergy Renewal Programs, noted that the National Clergy Renewal Program integrates key attributes of healthy congregations, including a mutual respect for the renewal needs of both ministers and the congregations they serve. “The program provides an opportunity for congregations to express appreciation for their ministers’ service and leadership,” Saler said. “At a time when leaders are often praised for their pace of innovation and productivity, the National Clergy Renewal Program pays homage to the timeless wisdom embedded in the practice of reflection and renewal.”

A sabbatical is not just a reward for years of hard work. It is an investment in the future of our Sr. Pastor and his ministry to Palm West Community Church. Join in the collaboration.

Sabbatical Collaborative Committee

Grant Meeting Dates

PWCC is going to be applying for a Lilly Foundation Grant in March that will benefit our church and Pastor Jim for his Sabbatical over the summer of 2025.

The Lilly Foundation encourages congregational input into the Sabbatical planning process, so the congregation as well as the Pastor can benefit from the break.

We have scheduled two brainstorming sessions to receive congregational input, which is a very important element of the grant process.

The meetings will be January 3, at 11:00 a.m., and Sunday, January 14 at 12:00 p.m.

Jokes from our Christmas Dinner

What do you call an elf who sings? A wrapper!
What do you get if you cross a snowman and a dog? Frostbite!
What did one ornament say to another? "I like hanging out with you!"
Why was the Christmas tree so bad at sewing? It kept dropping its needles!
Why did the Christmas cookie go to the doctor? It was feeling crumbly!
What do you call Santa when he loses his pants? Saint Knickerless!
Why did the elf go to counseling? To improve his "elf"-esteem!
What game do reindeer play at sleepovers? Truth or deer.
What do you call an obnoxious reindeer? Rude-olph.
What do you call a reindeer with no eyes? No eye-deer.
What do you say to an angry Christmas tree? Lighten up!
What is a Christmas tree's favorite candy? Orna-mints!
What do you call it, when a snowman has a temper tantrum? A meltdown.
What kind of money do elves use? Jingle bills.
Why does Santa have three gardens? So he can "ho ho ho"!
What does Santa suffer from when he gets stuck in a chimney? Claustrophobia.
Why wouldn't you want to get into a fight with Santa? -He has a black belt.

Director of Modern Worship

Gwendy Joysen



HAPPY NEW YEAR, Church!

I hope 2023 was a year of growth and healing for you and I look forward to serving the Lord together with you throughout 2024!

MODERN WORSHIP ORIENTATION: If you are a singer, musician or A/V prospect and are interested in joining the Modern Worship Team, enrollment is NOW OPEN for the upcoming orientation session. Although basic skills are required, you do not need previous experience to join this development team. Since Modern Worship is starkly different than other service styles, each quarter we will have an orientation session and subsequent development sessions to prepare individuals who are interested in becoming part of the Modern Worship Team. Deadline for this quarter is Jan 10th on which day we will also have our Orientation Session. Please sign up in advance by text, email or sign up at the Members' Services table in the lobby of Hoover Hall.

The Sign-Up sheet on the Hoover Hall lobby table looks like this:

<u>Modern Worship Team</u>				
Development Team Sign Up				
Date	Name	Email	Phone	Talent(s)

Don't forget to check the Weekly Newsletter EMAIL for the song list of each upcoming Sunday!

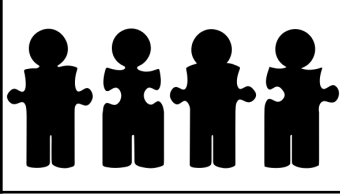
Looking forward to worshipping with you!

In Christ Alone,

~Gwendy

Connection Coordinator

Peg Rideout



Happy New Year! I appreciate the many people who have taken time to chat with me in the last month as I have acclimated to my new role at Palm West Community Church. It's an exciting time to be a part of this fantastic body of believers!

Do you set goals for yourself? Reflection and goal setting are important to me, especially in January. The Lord has led and directed me and continues to shape me as I move through life. I hope you take some time this month to

seek the Lord's direction for 2024. He is faithful!

I wait for the Lord, my whole being waits, and in his word I put my hope. (Psalm 130:5)

If you're not involved in serving at PWCC, we need you! If you are involved but would like to learn about other opportunities please let me know.

Contact Information:

Peg Rideout, Connections Coordinator

Email: connections@palmwest.org

Cell: 317-460-0576



Tim and Peg

Shape Class

Do you feel a little uncertain about your purpose at times? Do you ask yourself questions like, "What do I have to offer to God?" "Why does everyone have so many gifts and talents and I can't think of anything I'm good at?"

If you would like to explore these questions and discover ways that you are UNIQUELY created to serve, then I invite you to attend the S.H.A.P.E. (Spiritual gifts, Heartbeat, Abilities, Personality, Experience) class with me on Thursday, February 1st at 1:00 pm. You will take surveys and review patterns and strengths of your SHAPE that point you to areas as you may never have discovered. When I went through this class, it confirmed some things I knew about myself but also opened my eyes to other ways I am created to serve God and my community.

This may be a neat experience to invite a friend to as well! We will have fun as we explore how each of us are designed to serve. You will have opportunities to connect with others and learn from them too.

Look for a sign up sheet in January or contact the church office to sign up for this class. Let Peg Rideout, Connections Coordinator know if you have further questions at (317-460-0576) or connections@palmwestchurch.org.

Peg Rideout

WAKE UP AND SMELL THE COFFEE

Would you like to help serve coffee and sweets between church services? The Groundskeepers are looking for additional volunteers. "What are the perks?" (pun intended) you may ask. You will have the opportunity to enjoy fellowship with others and practice your best smile and friendly greetings. You may choose to be scheduled frequently or as a substitute. There will be a sign-up sheet out by the Pavilion during the coffee fellowship.

Volunteers can attend either the first or second service. Thank you for supporting this new fellowship ministry!

SWEET TREATS TEAM - New volunteer opportunity!

Do you enjoy baking? Do you have a favorite cookie, bar or pastry? The Groundskeepers invite you to prepare (or purchase) any kind of sweet treat that could be enjoyed during the weekly coffee time. Teams will provide goodies to meet the needs of those who enjoy sweets! More details to follow, but please let Paul Stadnik (leader of Groundskeepers) or Peg Rideout, (Connections Coordinator) know that you'd be willing to serve. Thank you!

Email, Text, or Call Peg Rideout, Connections Coordinator

connections@palmwestchurch.org; (317)460-0576.

Women's Fellowship Ministry

Pat Seaberg, Chair

Christmas Brunch

What a wonderful Women's Fellowship Christmas Brunch the ladies had this year as we turned Hoover Hall into a festive holiday dining affair. Twenty-two hostesses uniquely decorated each of their tables with their own beautiful Christmas China and décor. Each hostess picked a theme and then followed through in decorating with a centerpiece, napkins, glassware, chargers, placemats, etc.

You could wander through the room full of eye-catching centerpieces and admire the special touches that made each table exceptional. Timeless colors of red, green, and gold, mixed with pine and candles. Far beyond basic table settings there were chargers, place cards, and unique table runners, ribbons, and glittery bows. There were reindeer, sleighs, Nativity, and exquisite floral centerpieces.

Our program, Make This a Christmas to Remember, included a light-hearted poem by Wilma Plett, and an original piece on Experiencing the Presence of Christmas by Judie Amen. Carol Nugent spoke on Christmas memories and the importance of including those who are alone in our Christmas celebrations. We also heard some very interesting stories as some of the ladies' shared their favorite Christmas memories.

We were delighted with a piano duet by Chris Lee and Elaine Kleinsasser of two lively Christmas tunes, and two touching songs from A Secret Garden superbly played by Jan Kliever on piano and Cherri Hensen on violin. The end of the program drew us together as Gwendy Joysen, Director of Modern Worship, sang Oh, Holy Night, and then led us in singing several other beautiful Christmas Carols.

This special celebration would not have been possible without the help of so many volunteers. Pat Seaberg, our Women's Fellows Leader, thanked all the many volunteers who made this special celebration possible. Beth Doering organized the ticket sales and table assignments which was not an easy task with 132 women attending. She also coordinated the menu and all the little details that made the brunch so special.

Marsha Hall coordinated with hostesses and table setup. Lucy Peak planned, purchased, and led the group of kitchen workers in cutting, chopping, mixing, stirring, baking, setup, and serving of our delicious brunch. The delicious menu included fresh crescents with honey butter icing from Cheddar's Restaurant, breads, crustless quiches, oven roasted potatoes, little smokies in cranberry glaze and yogurt with fruit and granola toppings.

We would like to sincerely thank everyone who participated in making this such a fun and memorable event. It was a wonderful way to begin the Christmas season together!

Blessings, Carol Nugent



Education

Shari Goldade, Chair

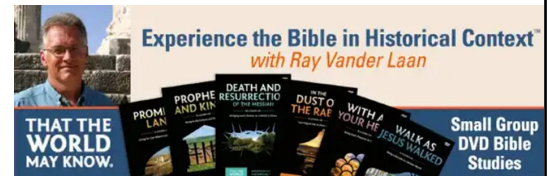
I am honored and privileged to assume the role of Education Chair at Palm West for 2024. I have been involved in church education since I was young. I love to learn about the Lord and especially enjoy sharing those moments with others. Nancy Wright will be the head librarian. We will continue to have the same volunteers in the library and same teachers for our Bible classes. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Dena Martin for her years of service. We appreciate her dedication to the library and education at Palm West. She has been and will continue to be a great resource for our board.

The Library email is—library@palmwestchurch.org

The January February and March **Daily Bread** is available at both services.

Bible Study Opportunities

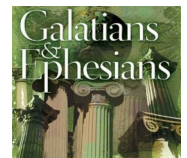
Sunday Morning—Bible Study Leader Bob Wilber is continuing with Ray Vander Laan's "That The World May Know." 10:30am, in the Choir Room. The future studies will be, The Path of the Cross, Walking with God, The Mission of Jesus, The Clash of Kingdoms, and Cultures of Conflict. For more information please call Bob 859-621-0709.



Men's Bible Study—We will have fellowship time with coffee and treats at 9:30 a.m. and begin our study at 10:00 a.m. in the Choir Room. Leader Dave Witt will continue the study of Epistle of John and Epistle of Peter.

For more information Call Dave, 602-741-4640.

Women's Bible Study—Thursday's 9:30 a.m. in Hoover Hall Classroom. Refreshments will be available. Leader Mary Ann Lind will continue the study of Ephesians and Galatians



Christian Readers Book Club

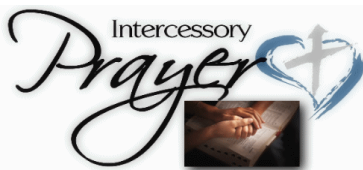
1st Thursday's at 1:00 p.m. in the Worship Center Classroom

January – Under the Tulip Tree by Michelle Shocklee

February – The Heart's Choice by Tracie Peterson and Kimberley Woodhouse

March — A Time to Bloom by Lauraine Snelling

April — A Woman's Place by Lynn Austin



The Intercessory Prayer Group meets every Tuesday at 11:00 a.m. We will be using the Worship Center classroom in the back of the Sanctuary.

Do you have a prayer request?

If so, email prayer@palmwestchurch.org

We'll get your request to our prayer team and include it on our daily email update.

Prayer is our most forceful weapon and we need to continue to rely on this privilege.



Sermon Series
Pastor Jim Powell

It's Never Too Late



- January 7 It's Never Too Late to Change**
Scripture: Luke 19:1-10
- January 14 It's Never Too Late to Forgive**
Scripture: Genesis 45:1-15
- January 21 It's Never Too Late to Overcome**
Scripture: TBA
- January 28 It's Never Too Late to Trust**
Scripture: Daniel 6:10-23
- February 4 It's Never Too Late to Make a Difference**
Scripture: Various

New Members

On Sunday, December 10, Pastor Jim introduced new members:

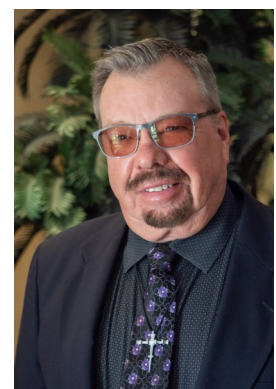
**Richard & Jane French, Linda Mazich,
Terry & Rebecca Cornett,
Ken & Claudia Moore
Scott Wiley**



Terry & Becky Cornett



Ken & Claudia Moore

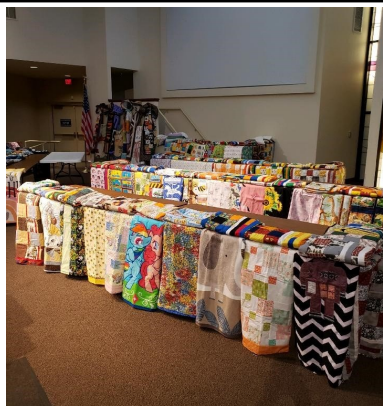


Scott Wiley

Women's Connection

Ladies, join us for great conversation!

We are now meeting on Monday afternoons from 12:00 to 1:30 p.m. in the Worship Center classroom for an informal time of fellowship. Each week someone will present a topic about a life experience to which everyone is invited to share their story. At times we groan for each other but mostly we laugh together. We look forward to welcoming new ladies into our fellowship! Small snacks and water provided. For questions call the church office.



Quilt and Sew Meeting

Friday, January 5,

10:00 a.m.

Hoover Hall classroom

Do you like to sew?

Then join us for fun and fellowship in making quilts and blankets for children.

Fabric and instructions are provided!

Coloring Fellowship

Come join us on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month.

For the month of January, we will be meeting on

January 9 & 23,

10:00—11:30 a.m. in the Hoover Hall classroom.

Lots of fellowship and a little coloring.

Bring family and friends. We have supplies to share.



Questions??? Contact Deborah Phillips Dodson or Mary Beth Tyson

Balance and Strengthening Exercise Class



Mark Your Calendar !

Thursday, January 11, 8:00 a.m.

Hoover Hall



Fellowship Games

Join us in the Hoover Hall classroom

Monday, January 15, 2:00 pm

January Meetings

AA/Alanon

Wednesdays, January 3, 10, 17, 24, 31	7:00 pm—8:30 pm	Hoover Hall & HH classroom
Saturdays, January 6, 13, 20, 27	7:00 pm—8:30 pm	Hoover Hall & HH classroom

Balance & Exercise Class

Thursday, January 11	8:00 am—9:00 am	Hoover Hall
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Baptism Class

Sunday, January 21	10:00 pm—10:30 am	Worship Center classroom
Sunday, January 21	11:30 am—12:00 pm	Hoover Hall classroom

CBS

Wednesdays, 3, 10, 17, 24, 31	9:30 am—11:30 am	Whole Campus
Thursday, January 17—Breakfast	8:30 am—9:30 am	Hoover Hall

Christian Readers Book Club

Thursday, January 4	1:00 pm—2:30 pm	Worship Center classroom
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Choir Practice

Thursdays, January 4, 11, 18, 25	3:00 pm—4:30 pm	Choir Room
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Coloring Fellowship

Tuesday's, January 9, 23	10:00 am—11:30 am	Hoover Hall classroom
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Connections—Team Leaders

Tuesday, January 9	1:00 pm—2:30 pm	Hoover Hall classroom
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Courtneys Creations Will not meet in January

Discovering PWCC!

Thursday, January 18	1:00 pm—3:00 pm	Hoover Hall classroom
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End of Life Matters

Wednesday, January 31	1:30 pm—3:00 pm	Hoover Hall classroom
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Education

Tuesday, January 2	9:00 am—10:00 am	Worship Center classroom
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ERT Meeting

Thursday, January 18	10:00 pm—11:00 am	Worship Center classroom
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Fellowship Dinner

Wednesday, January 17	5:00 pm—7:00 pm	Hoover Hall
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Fellowship Games

Monday, January 15	2:00 pm—4:30 pm	Hoover Hall classroom
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Formation Group

Mondays, January 8, 15, 22, 29	9:00 am—10:00 am	Worship Center classroom
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GriefShare

Tuesdays, January 16, 23, 30	10:00 am—11:30 am	Choir Room
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Handbells

Fridays, January 5, 12, 19, 26	9:00 am—10:00 am	Sanctuary
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Hope Bags

Friday, January 12	9:00 am—12:00 pm	Hoover Hall & HH classroom
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Intercessory Prayer Gathering

Tuesdays, January 2, 9, 16, 23, 30	11:00 am—12:00 pm	Worship Center classroom
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(continued)

January Meetings

(continued)

Leadership Meeting

Tuesday, January 9	9:00 am—10:00 am	Hoover Hall
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Lilly Foundation Grant Meeting

Wednesday, January 3	11:00 am—12:00 pm	Hoover Hall classroom
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Sunday, January 14	12:00 pm—1:00 pm	Hoover Hall classroom
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Men's Bible Study

Mondays, January 8, 15, 22, 29	10:00 am—11:00 am	Choir Room
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Modern Worship Rehearsal

Thursdays, January 4, 11, 18, 25	2:00 pm—4:00 pm	Hoover Hall
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Missions

Monday, January 8	1:00 pm—3:00 pm	Hoover Hall classroom
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PAT Training Orientation

Wednesday, January 17	1:00 pm—3:00 pm	Choir Room
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Women's Bible Study

Thursdays, January 4, 11, 18, 25	9:30 am—11:00 am	Hoover Hall classroom
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Women's Connection

Mondays, January 8, 15, 22, 29	12:00 pm—1:30 pm	Worship Center classroom
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Women's Fellowship To be Announced

Quilt & Sew

Friday, January 5	10:00 am—12:00 pm	Hoover Hall classroom
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End of Life Matters

Fannalou Guggisberg

If you haven't already attended the End of Life Matters seminar, keep reading to find out why you should come.

As a chaplain/pastor, I've dealt with many families who were grieving the death of a loved one. For the first two or three weeks, they are usually experiencing shock and numbness. I myself have experienced this reality when I've lost family members. Numbness and shock are a natural response God gave us to protect our physical bodies from feeling the full force of the loss. Something akin to a fog engulfs us and prevents us from functioning normally. Time moves in slow motion. Many of us have trouble focusing or thinking clearly during this period. Individuals experience loss in unique ways, but this is a general response I've seen and felt time and again.

Because it's difficult for grieving persons to concentrate and/or even make decisions when they've lost a loved one, having in hand documents that were prepared ahead of time is immensely helpful. I'm talking about such things as wills, directions to physicians (a.k.a. "living wills" and durable medical powers of attorney), prepaid funeral plans, and funeral instructions so your family and loved ones know your full wishes after you are gone.

Writing down your wishes in advance saves your loved ones from the burden and stress of guessing what you wanted, or trying to remember what you verbally told them maybe years before. Complete instructions also help them locate all necessary records and information kept in your house and safe deposit box. All at a time when they may not be functioning normally due to grief. This is a real gift you can prepare and leave for them.

We call our seminar "End of Life Matters" because your end of life matters. Please give serious thought to signing up for this coming session. Couples are encouraged to come together, and singles, who also need to leave written instructions to be followed, should attend as well.

You will receive a comprehensive overview of all that's involved and each participant gets a planning document to take and complete. If you attended an earlier session, you don't need to come to this one, but please do finish filling out your planning document if you haven't already done so.

The next session is scheduled for Wednesday, January 31 at 1:30 pm in the Hoover Hall classroom. Led by Rev. Fannalou Guggisberg. If you wish to sign up, contact the church office.

Leadership Meeting

Our next leadership will take place on

Tuesday, January 9

9:00 a.m.—10:00 a.m. in Hoover Hall.

This gathering is a time of prayer,
celebration, vision casting, communication and coaching.

All are welcome to attend! Contact the church office for more information.



Fellowship Dinner

Carol Graf, Chair

Our next Wednesday Fellowship Dinner will be

January 17, 5:00 p.m.

Hoover Hall

We will be serving Chicken Enchiladas, Rice and Salad!

If you would like to bring a dessert, help set-up or clean-up, check the boxes
when you sign up to come to the dinner.

\$5.00 per person at the door!



Discovering PWCC!

Our next class will be:

Thursday, January 18, at 1:00 p.m.

in the Hoover Hall classroom.



This is a newcomer's class taught by Pastor Jim, designed to help you meet other people and learn more about our church.

You can contact the church office to sign up or for more information.

Baptism Class

Pastor Jim will have two classes on Sunday, January 21, after each service for those who are interested in being baptized.

10:00 a.m. in the Worship Center classroom

11:30 a.m. in the Hoover Hall classroom



Tickets for the Toby Mac Concert are on sale at PWCC!

Where: Desert Diamond Arena in Glendale

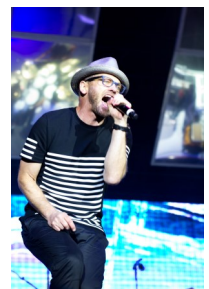
When: Saturday, February 3

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Seats are in Section 112, Row P, Church purchased 19 tickets.

Cost of each ticket: \$56

Sign Up Sheets are in the Narthex and Hoover Hall foyer on Sundays, January 7 and 14,
or contact the church office.



Mission Moments

Phil Burdick, Chair

Claudia Burr - Thank you from the Missions Committee

The Missions Committee would like to express deepest heartfelt appreciation to Claudia Burr for her years of faithful service as team leader. Claudia has used her God-given talents to coordinate responsibilities, missions activities, and encourage her team members who act as liaisons with the various missions our church supports. Her leadership style is positive and kind. She is an inspiration to each of us. As she served as Connections Coordinator Claudia continued to offer her leadership wisdom to our team. Thank you, Claudia, God bless you.

Sherry Burdick



International Ministries, also known as the American Baptist Foreign Mission Society, works cross-culturally to invite people to become disciples of Jesus Christ and to proclaim, through both word and deed, God's reign of justice, peace, and abundant life for all creation.

PWCC Mission's Team hosted a presentation and dinner on Sunday, December 10 for a couple serving as missionaries. There was a great presentation followed by a dinner of yummy ham and a array of food.

Forty five attended this heart moving time with the missionaries. There was a free will offering where our mission minded PWCC people gave \$1,000. Praise God!

Thank you to all who helped and gave to this ministry.

Barb Barborak, Liaison

CHOICES

Maryann Lind, Liaison

Choices Pregnancy Center needs your help to save lives of the unborn. Palm West generously responds through the "Baby Bottle Campaign" in January. Pick up a bottle in the church foyer on Sundays January 21 and 28. Put your loose change, cash or a check made out to "Choices" in the bottle. Please return the bottle on Sundays February 4 and 11.

(Choices is an Arizona Tax Credit organization.)



**Courtneys Creations
will not be meeting in January.**



The fall session of GriefShare has finished. The spring session is scheduled to begin a new series of classes on January 16, 2024.

Previous members are invited to join any new members that day as the material to be presented will be different from the session you attended.

We meet Tuesday mornings at 10:00 a.m. in the Choir Room.

Call the office to pre-register or for more information.

Bob and Joyce Davis, Facilitators

Hope Bags

Claudia Smith



This Is Why We Do What We Do

The Phoenix Dream Center just took in a little girl (16 years old). She was trafficked from the time she was 14 years old. We share this with you because all of us need to understand how important it is for us to continue to help the victims come to the Lord.

Here is an excerpt from an article in the AZ Central newspaper. It helps explain the horrific damage that is done to these girls.

Soul Survivors Ink is an organization founded by Gina Jernukian of Phoenix. It encompasses 22 states serving women in 56 cities in the U.S. These Tattoo businesses have banded together to remove the “branding tattoos” put on the victims to ensure they KNOW they are the property of the trafficker. The laser-removal services are free to the victims, allowing them to reclaim their own bodies. These experts can cover or remove or lighten these “branding tattoos”.

The “branding tattoos” affects the victims mental health and impedes their healing and reintegration into society. The branding includes names, symbols and barcodes. Removing the evidence of trauma is a complex and usually costly process. Some of the first things programs will do is get them medical treatment, dental, housing, food, clothing, counseling, schooling, and spiritual guidance. This helps the victims heal on the inside, but, every time they look in the mirror it brings them right back to where they were.

There are more than **10,360 victims** reported, not counting those not known, and it increases every year. Sometimes the women are branded and sometimes the trafficker will take a knife and carve a symbol on their head or body, and sometimes they burn the victim. The tattoos are often placed on the face or neck to send a message to the victim and the world. This marking “bonds” the victim to the trafficker psychologically. Jernukian said “I was reminded that the Lord does not call the quipped. He equips the called. This is why I decided I had to do something and ‘Soul Survivor Ink’ was founded.”

Tattoos are more difficult to remove than to place on the skin. One survivor said: “Is it weird if I say that I feel like a child right now? I feel childlike and giddy. It’s like going back to before this was done, you know?”

The survivors can now make a hand print of victory as they emerge from the victim position to the **VICTOR!**

Now you understand why PWCC supports the Phoenix Dream Center to help these victims overcome the abuse and begin to be the person the Lord intended for them. The handprint represents their victory because YOU were willing to show the Love of God to them, and help in the healing process.

Thank you for all your support over the years to the missions the Hope Bag Ministry serves. As Jesus said:

“The king will reply, *Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me*” Matthew 25:40 NIV



If you have any questions about the Hope Bag Ministry,
please contact Claudia Smith 623-692-7911 or email mspuff42@gmail.com.





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