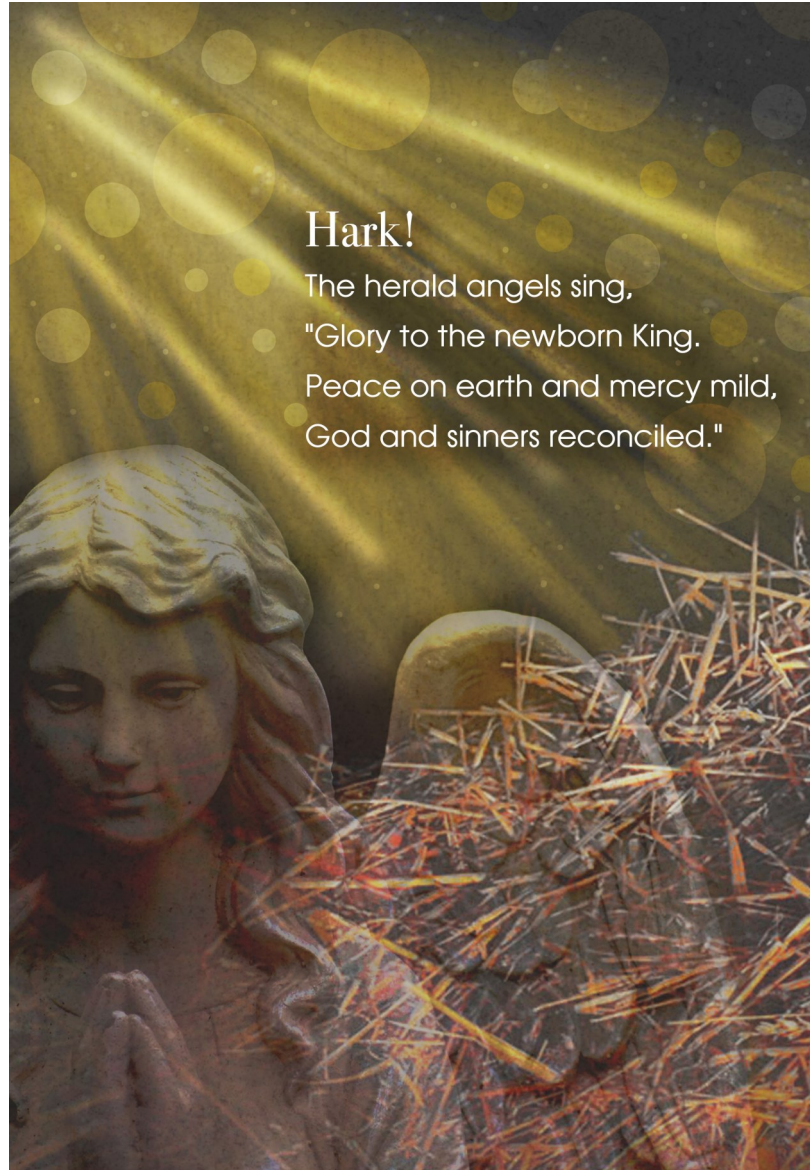


# Palm West Alive

December 2023



## 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?"

### **Pastoral Staff:**

**Jim Powell**, Senior Pastor

[pastorjim@palmwestchurch.org](mailto:pastorjim@palmwestchurch.org)

**Brian Thomas**, Associate Pastor of Pastoral Care

[pastorbrian@palmwestchurch.org](mailto:pastorbrian@palmwestchurch.org)

**Joseph Place**, Minister of Music and Media

[pastorjoe@palmwestchurch.org](mailto:pastorjoe@palmwestchurch.org)

**Gwendy Joysen**, Director of Modern Worship

[gwendy@palmwestchurch.org](mailto:gwendy@palmwestchurch.org)

### **Office Staff:**

**Joyce Sopilnick**, Church Administrator

[admin@palmwestchurch.org](mailto:admin@palmwestchurch.org)

**Claudia Burr**, Connections Coordinator

[connections@palmwestchurch.org](mailto:connections@palmwestchurch.org)

### **IN THIS ISSUE**

- ◆ Pastor Joe, The Road to Bethlehem, page 3
- ◆ Gwendy Joysen, page 4
- ◆ Connection Coordinator, Legacy, page 5
- ◆ Vision Leadership Team, page 6
- ◆ Women's Fellowship, PWCC Annual Vote, page 7
- ◆ Worship Schedule for Christmas, page 8
- ◆ Education, Small Groups, Intercessory Prayer, page 9, 10
- ◆ Sermon Series, Prayer Request, page 11,
- ◆ Christmas Dinner, page 12
- ◆ Women's Connection, Quilt & Sew, Courtneys Creations, Balance & Strengthening Exercise, Fellowship Games, page 13
- ◆ December Meetings, page 14, 15
- ◆ New Members, Baptisms, Discovering PWCC!, TOBYMAC Tour, page 16
- ◆ Missions, Fellowship, page 17, 18,
- ◆ Hope Bags, page 19



### **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](mailto:staff@palmwestchurch.org)

Website: [www.palmwestchurch.org](http://www.palmwestchurch.org)

### **PWCC Leaders**

VLT Chair, Gary Lanning

Secretary VLT, Finance, Joyce Westlund

Treasurer, Chuck Crandall

Education, Dena Martin

Hospitality, Diane Koziol

Media, Jim Burroughs

Missions, To Be Announced

Property, Terry Brafford

Worship, Kristine Seemiller/Rob Hilkemeier

**Articles for the January newsletter should  
be submitted to the office by  
December 10. Thank You.  
[admin@palmwestchurch.org](mailto:admin@palmwestchurch.org)**

**Pastor Joseph Place**  
*Minister of Music & Media*

**Sunday, December 17, 2023**  
**9:00 & 10:30 AM**

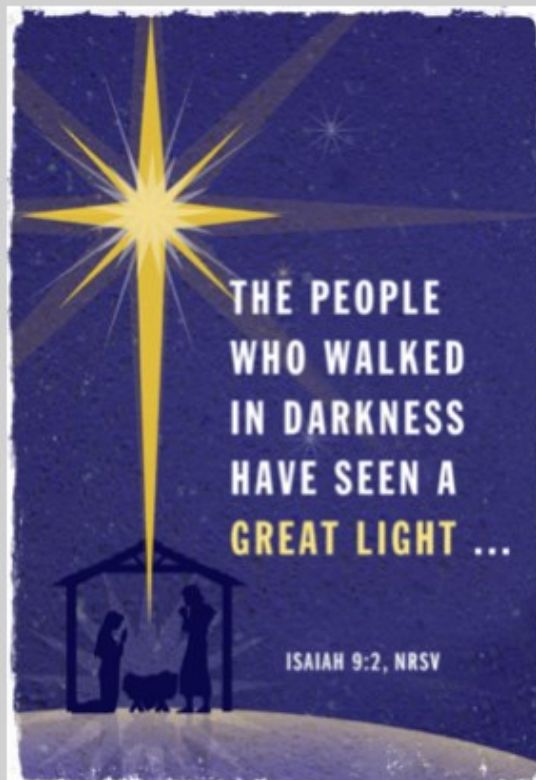
A Christmas Cantata by  
Lloyd Larson

# *The Road to Bethlehem*

Presented by the  
Chancel Choir and Orchestra of  
Palm West Community Church

13485 W Stardust Blvd  
Sun City West, AZ  
[palmwestchurch.org](http://palmwestchurch.org)

*Take the Road to Bethlehem*



## Director of Modern Worship

*Gwendy Joysen*



Hello Church! Thank you all so much for your support and participation in creating such a warm, vibrant Modern Worship service environment. Every week we see new people and I notice you all becoming more comfortable, singing out and praising God with all your hearts. You'll often hear me say, I have the best seat in the house! It is such a profound blessing to see and hear your worship of our Blessed Savior and to see the Holy Spirit moving in the room!

**CALL for MUSICIANS & SINGERS:** Now that the fundamentals are operating, it is time to begin developing gifts and growing our program. If you sing, play an instrument, or have a knack for A/V and are interested in becoming part of the Modern Worship Team, please email me or sign up at the Members' Services table in the lobby of Hoover Hall. Although basic skills are required, you do not need any experience to join the Development Team. We will have an Orientation Meeting after the 1<sup>st</sup> of the year and begin weekly rehearsals shortly thereafter. Deadline for this quarter is Jan 2<sup>nd</sup>.

*The Sign Up sheet will look like this:*

Modern Worship Team				
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. And Thank You! It is audibly apparent that some of you are already listening and learning the songs ahead of time. It is such a blessing to hear your praises ringing out to our Lord!\

Looking forward to worshipping with you!

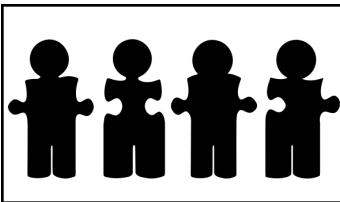
In Christ Alone,

~Gwendy



## Connection Coordinator

### *Beginning January, 2024 - Peg Rideout*



December greetings! In a month I will assume the role of Connection Coordinator for Palm West Community Church. Claudia Burr and I have been working on this transition, and we are excited for what God is doing in and through our church and its people. I'm grateful for this new opportunity to serve the Lord! As a fairly new member of the church one area of growth for me is to get to know YOU! I have loved the local church since I was a small child and believe that just like each piece in a jigsaw puzzle fits together, all people fit in the church, but it's important to find the right fit for each person. Will you join me in being open to where the Lord would use you in the coming year?

**Philippians 1:6 "He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion in Christ Jesus."**

Here's a quick snapshot of me. I'm married to Tim Kurtz who is involved in PWCC too. (Our picture is under Kurtz in the church directory.) As much as we love serving in the church, we are both active and involved in our community too. We have been full-time residents in Sun City West since October, 2022, but we are on the road often visiting many wonderful places in the USA. Between us we have four children and six grandchildren. My mom lives in an assisted living facility in Sun City West too. We are blessed. I am a former educator who served in many capacities in special education and believe strongly in capitalizing on the God-given strengths each of us possess. Now that I'm retired I find great joy in volunteering and have been blessed more than I could imagine by following God's lead.

**What open door will call you in 2024**



Whether PWCC is your "year-round" or "seasonal" place to worship and serve His Kingdom, YOU can also be a part of the PWCC Legacy Ministry.

Without affecting your personal finances now, you can easily establish a tax efficient legacy or memorial gift, that will support the work of the greater Kingdom, for making a positive difference for PWCC's future ministries and future generations. Consider a simple statement like this added in your will:

"I give and bequeath the sum of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (or the % of my estate) to go to the Legacy Ministry of Palm West Community Church in Sun City West, AZ."

For more detailed information, contact our church office at 623-546-2980 to setup a confidential conversation with our Legacy Ministry.

Blessings to you and your family this Christmas Season.

John Sproule, Chair

Legacy Ministry

***"You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in Thanksgiving to God" (2nd Corinthians; 9-11 )***

## Vision Leadership Team

Gary Lanning, Chair

### Accounting For Your Donations

#### Part 8

**“PWCC Reserves” by Gary Lanning, Vision Leadership Chair  
2 Corinthians 8:20 & 21**

***“We want to avoid any criticism of the way we administer this liberal gift. For we are taking pains to do what is right, not only in the eyes of the Lord but also in the eyes of man.”***

Financial stability is a key essential for church growth. Having a financial cushion---cash reserves--- is being good stewards of that which we have been entrusted.

**PWCC Reserves:** *“How much cash should our church have set aside in reserves?”*

**Starting in January of 2023, various church reserves were consolidated into the following four reserve accounts:**

◆ Operating Reserve

A church cash operating reserve is not unlike our personal need for an emergency fund. There is a broad spectrum of church cash reserves philosophies. On one end of the spectrum, some say churches should have few reserves because “God will provide.” On the other end of the scale, some take the position that 12 months of operating reserves should be maintained. PWCC leadership has chosen to maintain a minimum of two months and a maximum of three months operating reserves to cover fluctuations in giving and other unforeseen expenses.

◆ Facility Repair & Replace

I would refer you to the Part 7 Article in November’s PWA for how your church establishes funded depreciation reserve funds for our building repair needs. PWCC currently has R&R funds set aside to cover forecasted repairs for the next two years.

◆ Legacy Endowment

Pastor Jim shared, at the last Fellowship dinner, the vision to grow the existing endowment fund, that was started several years ago. John Sproule is the lead for the Legacy Ministry, and I would refer you to John’s article in the October PWA, Part 6 in this series. The legacy ministry’s purpose is to facilitate a dynamic planned giving program that allows church members to designate a part of their estate to the church to make significant differences in the lives of those who will follow in our footsteps.

◆ Vision Reserve

The Vision Reserve is the backbone of our current 3-Year vision. After consolidating multiple reserve amounts into this single reserve at the start of our 3-Year Vision, the Vision Reserve has supported the re-model of Hoover Hall, the building of a new church office, the audio-video and other equipment needs for the Modern Worship venue, the pavers, and benches, etc. for the Pavilion and the ongoing and continuing support for the Modern Worship Director and the back-ups. The Vision Reserve has sufficient funds to support vision venues through the balance of the 3-Year Vision ..... “To Share the Gospel of Jesus Christ ANEW!”

Church leaders plan (*consider Joseph’s story about planning for the famine*) and must consider the congregation’s cash reserves in terms of heart disposition and kingdom advancement.

Blessings,

Gary Lanning

Vision Leadership Chair

## Women's Fellowship Ministry

*Pat Seaberg, Chair*

**Hey Ladies,**

Our next big event is the Women's Fellowship Christmas Brunch that will be held on December 1. I hope you can join us this year as we begin the Christmas season together.

I also wanted to mention that all our women's events are open to all women. Our purpose is to connect women with Christ by bringing them closer to each other. You do not have to be a member of the church to come and join us. At any time, please feel free to bring a friend or neighbor to any of our events.

If you are new to Palm West Community Church, you might be wondering how to make a connection. A good way to start is the **Women's Connection**, which meets every Monday at 12:00 pm.

Our **Women's Bible Study** meets on Thursdays from 9:30 to 11:00 am. You can check the calendar or newsletter for the topic of the current study.

We also have a **Women's Fellowship group** which is a great way to get involved with the women of our church. We have one event each month, including shopping and lunch trips, Craft Day in November, Christmas Brunch in December, in-house Conferences with interesting speakers in February, and Ladies Tea in spring, and Salad Luncheons with women's testimonies in the summer.

We work hard to put on these events, but we honestly have a lot of fun and have grown closer through our conversations, sharing, and praying for each other. God has truly blessed our women's ministries.

There are many other ways for women to get involved in our church. For instance, if you like to decorate, you can help create beautiful table decorations for Fellowship dinners and for our Women's Fellowship events. If cooking and baking interest you, then work together with us in preparing meals for our brunch and lunches or help set up tables for Fellowship dinners. Or get involved in making and serving those wonderful dinners.

We try to make ordinary activities fun while we work together.

**Quilting is another wonderful way to get involved.** If you like to sew or quilt, please join us on the first Friday of the month at 10:00 am for a fun time of cutting, designing, sewing, and quilting to make beautiful small quilts for several ministries, including: the Dream Center, Street Light Ministries, Neighborhood Ministries, Thrive, and the Choices Pregnancy Center. We make quilts for babies, children, teens, and those aging out of the foster care system. We have a great time working together and my favorite part of the meeting is our "show-and-tell" where each lady shares the beautiful quilts she created this month.

**Other Ministries** - There are so many other ways that women can connect at PWCC including Small Groups, Prayer Ministry, Bible Studies, Missions, Care Ministry, Grief Support, Chancel Choir in our traditional service, singing or playing in our modern service, media and sound, Fellowship games, Coloring, etc.

If you have any questions, please contact Pat Seaberg, otherwise, come and join us—we would love to get to know you.

- Carol Nugent



## PWCC Annual VOTE

### 2024 Annual Vote Results

**The 2024 Annual Vote results gave over a 99% approval vote for Wanda Smith, Bob Leavengood and Steve Lee as VLT members, and the 2024 Budget.**



*Sunday, December 17*

*Christmas Cantata*

*9:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.*

*(Please note there will not be a Modern Worship Service on this day)*

*Sunday, December 24*

*Traditional Service*

*9:00 a.m*

*Worship Center*

*Modern Worship Service*

*10:30 a.m.*

*Hoover Hall*

*December 24*

*Christmas Eve Service*

*Time to be announced*

*Worship Center*

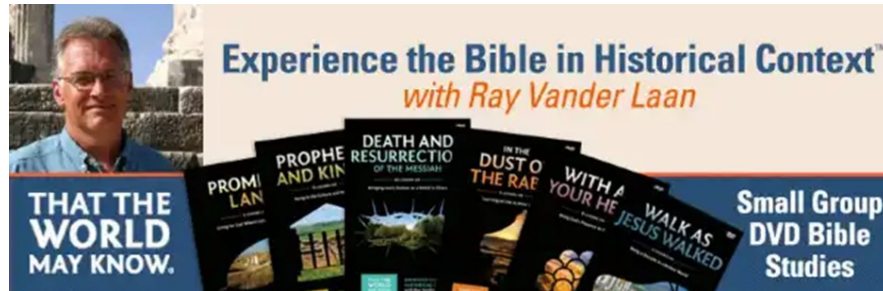


## Education

*Dena Martin, Chair*

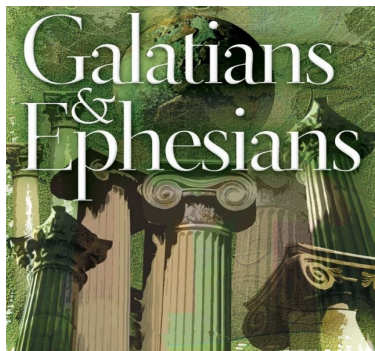
### Bible Study Opportunities

**Sunday Morning Bible Study** Leader Bob Wilber is continuing with Ray Vander Laan's "That The World May Know." 10:30am, 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. 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.



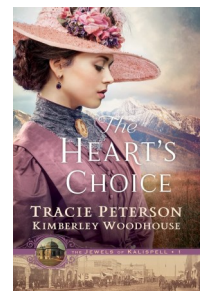
### Christian Readers Book Club

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

December – A Christmas Book (from church library, see display)

January – Under the Tulip Tree by Michelle Shocklee

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



## Education

*Dena Martin, Chair*

(continued)

### Fiction Books New to Palm West Library

In Alexa's Shoes by Rochelle Alexandra  
Finding Lady Enderly, by Joanna Politano  
Armando's Treasure by Melody Carlson

The Heart's Choice by Tracie Peterson  
Courting Calamity by Barratt, Meyer, Uhlarik  
**Plus, many more.**

### NON-FICTION

Expository Studies in 1<sup>st</sup> John by Ray Stedman  
The Hand of God by Allistair Begg

Spirit-Filled Jesus by Mark Driscoll  
Strange New World by Carl Trueman

If you would like to help us expand the Palm West Community Church Library, please email us at [library@palmwestchurch.org](mailto:library@palmwestchurch.org) with suggestions of Christian authors and DVDs to be included in the Palm West Church library.

We are happy to accept donations of books and DVDs at any time. Any donated books become the property of Palm West Community Church. If we have the book already on our shelves, we will donate it to another organization currently accepting books.



### Small Groups at PWCC



Given the short timeline with the end of the year and holidays fast upon us, new small groups will be developed in January. If you are interested in a small group, please let the office know your information and plan to attend the small group formation gathering in January.

You may also contact Gini Baker-Bradley, PWCC Small Group Coordinator, at [Bakerswim@aol.com](mailto:Bakerswim@aol.com).



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.

**Sermon Series**  
**Pastor Jim Powell**



**The Journey to Bethlehem**

**December 3—Starting the Journey**

Scriptures: Luke 1:26-38; Matthew 1:18-25

First week of Advent - Hope.

**December 10—Detours**

Scriptures: Luke 2:1-7

Second week of Advent – Peace.

**December 17—Cantata**

Traditional Cantata both services.

Third week of Advent – Joy.

**December 24—The Birth in Bethlehem**

Scriptures: Micah 5:2; Luke 2:4-20; 1 Corinthians 1:27

Fourth week of Advent – Love.

**December 24—Christmas Eve Service**

**Journey's End & New Beginning**

Scripture: Isaiah 9:6-7; Luke 2:21-38

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

**Do you have a prayer request?**

If so, email [prayer@palmwestchurch.org](mailto: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.





*Wednesday  
December 20*

***Palm Ridge Recreation Center  
Deer Valley Rd., Sun City West***

*Doors Open at  
4:00 p.m.*

***Open Seating***

***\$25.00 per person***

***Buffet Dinner!***

***Tickets will be on sale Sundays:***

***December 3,***

***December 10,***

***in the Narthex between services***

***and in the church office during the week through December 8.***

**A special note: If you would like to attend but cannot afford the ticket price, we wouldn't want you to miss this opportunity to join us for the dinner.**

**Please contact Joyce in the church office.**



## ***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 &**

### **Courtneys Creations**

**will not be meeting in December.**

**Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!**

**See you Friday, January 5!**



## **Balance and Strengthening Exercise Class**

*Led by Sara Dunn*



### **Mark Your Calendar !**

Thursday, December 14, 8:00 a.m.

**Hoover Hall**



## **Coloring Fellowship**



Come join us on the 2nd Tuesdays of this month.

For the month of December we will be meeting on  
December 12 , 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

## **Fellowship Games**

Join us in the Hoover Hall classroom

Monday's,

December 4 & 18



## December Meetings

**The church office will be close On Friday, December 22 and reopen on Tuesday, January 2.**

### **AA/Alanon**

Wednesdays, December 6, 13, 20, 27	7:00 pm—8:30 pm	Hoover Hall & HH classroom
Saturdays, December 2, 9, 16, 23, 30	7:00 pm—8:30 pm	Hoover Hall & HH classroom

### **Balance & Exercise Class**

Thursday, December 14	8:00 am—9:00 am	Hoover Hall
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### **CBS**

<b>Wednesdays</b> , December 6, 13	9:30 am—11:30 am	Whole Campus
Christmas Dinner, Friday, December 8	5:00 pm—8:00 pm	Hoover Hall

### **Celebration of Life Service**

3:00 pm—6:00 pm	Worship Center & Hoover Hall
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### **Christian Readers Book Club**

Thursday, December 7	1:00 pm—2:30 pm	Worship Center classroom
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### **Choir Practice**

Thursdays, December 7, 14, 21	3:00 pm—4:30 pm	Choir Room
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### **Coloring Fellowship**

Tuesday, December 12	10:00 am—11:30 am	Hoover Hall classroom
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### **Courtneys Creations**

Cancelled For December	11:00 am—12:00 pm	Worship Center classroom
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### **Education**

Monday, December 4	9:00 am—10:00 am	Worship Center classroom
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### **Fellowship Games**

Monday, December 4, 18	2:00 pm—4:30 pm	Hoover Hall classroom
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### **Finance Meeting**

Thursday, December 21	10:00 am—12:00 pm	Worship Center classroom
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### **Formation Group**

Mondays, December 4, 11, 18	9:00 am—10:00 am	Worship Center classroom
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### **GriefShare**

Tuesdays, December 5, 12	10:00 am—11:30 am	Choir Room
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### **Handbells**

Fridays, December 8, 15, 22	9:00 am—10:00 am	Sanctuary
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### **Hope Bags**

Friday, December 8	9:00 am—12:00 pm	Hoover Hall & HH classroom
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### **Intercessory Prayer Gathering**

Tuesdays, December 5, 12, 19	11:00 am—12:00 pm	Worship Center classroom
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*(continued)*

## December Meetings

(continued)

### Men's Bible Study

Mondays, December 4, 11, 18      10:00 am—11:00 am      Choir Room

### Modern Worship Rehearsal

Thursdays, December 7, 14, 21      2:00 pm—4:00 pm      Hoover Hall

### Missions— Meeting & Lunch

Monday, December 11      1:00 pm—3:00 pm      Hoover Hall classroom

### PAT Training

Mondays, December 4, 11, 18      1:00 pm—3:00 pm      Choir Room

### Women's Bible Study

Thursdays, December 27, 14, 21      9:30 am—11:00 am      Hoover Hall classroom

### Women's Connection

Mondays, December 4, 11, 18      12:00 pm—1:30 pm      Worship Center classroom

### Women's Fellowship Christmas Brunch:

Friday, , December 7      11:30 am—2:00 pm      Hoover Hall

### Quilt & Sew

Cancelled for December      10:00 am—12:00 pm      Hoover Hall classroom



## New Members

### Welcome to Palm West Community Church!



**On Sunday, October 29, Pastor Jim introduced  
new members  
Gary & Carol Graf.**

**On Sunday November 19, Pastor Jim announced Linda Puttmann.**

## Baptisms

**On Sunday, November 5, Pastor Jim baptized eleven of our members and friends.**

**Gary & Carol Graf  
Terrence & Christine Corcoran  
Ken Richards  
Dee Coumont  
Charmaine Nilles  
Linda Puttmann  
Michael Hurley  
Linda Mazich  
William Sandefur**



### **Discovering PWCC! Out 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.

## **TOBYMAC Hits Deep Tour**

Mark your calendars! 19 seats are available for Toby Mac Concert February 3, 2024 at the Desert Diamond Arena in Glendale, AZ. Call the church office for tickets.





## Mission Moments

### MISSION AVIATION FELLOWSHIP (MAF)

*Peggy McAlpine, Liaison*



MAF's vision is to see isolated people changed by the love of Christ. Their mission is serving together to bring help, hope, and healing through aviation. They have doctors and missionaries that serve Haiti, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) in Africa, Dakar, Senegal and South America. On November 4, 2022 one of MAF's pilots was taking supplies to an orphanage in Africa with the help of two So. Africans. They were taking vitamins, over the counter meds, and medical supplies. They were stopped by the police, accused of supporting terrorism and arrested. Our Missions Team has been praying for the pilot, Ryan Koher, and the two men helping him. Ryan's wife and two sons live in Mozambique but went to stay with her parents in Idaho. She was finally able to talk to Ryan via phone in February, 2023. Ryan was finally released in March of this year but must remain in Mozambique for his case is still ongoing. We will continue to pray for Ryan and his family during this difficult time.

### CHOICES

*Maryann Lind, Liaison*

As the population of Phoenix grows, so also does the number of women and men who must make a crisis decision regarding a pregnancy and whether or not to seek an abortion. Furthermore, the number of non-surgical abortions has risen dramatically due to the availability of telemedicine and by-mail abortion pills. In Arizona new efforts by pro-abortion activists are underway to roll back abortion restrictions through a constitutional amendment that would eliminate all restrictions. The goal is to have such an amendment on the ballot in 2024.



The good news is that Choices pregnancy center provides free pregnancy tests, ultrasound, Abortion Pill Reversal as well as baby supplies for new moms and assisting moms and dads with parenting classes. Most of all, the love of Christ is extended through compassionate care, a listening ear, and outstanding medical care.

Through the generosity of the Palm West community, we are able to give financial and prayer support to Choices. The goal of the Glendale Clinic is to remain open at night and on weekends. Please continue to pray for this life saving ministry, for the precious lives of the unborn, and for the women, men and families who come through the doors of Choices. Pray also for the staff and volunteers who face a hostile culture. We will soon be announcing our annual Baby Bottle campaign so remember to save your change! The lives of the unborn are precious indeed.



### THANK YOU!! THANK YOU!! THANK YOU!!

The Samaritans Purse Operation Christmas Child Ministry (OCC) for 2023 is now complete. This year, as usual the members of Palm West Community Church opened their hearts and were very giving and generous.

We collected 69 shoe boxes online and 66 in person for a total of 135 shoe boxes filled with wonderful things to share the love of Jesus with children around the world.

Each shoe box will reach children around the world, filled with toiletries, school supplies, toys, and information about our Lord Jesus. In many cases, this is the first gift that the child has ever received, and for many this introduction to Jesus is a tool that starts their spiritual growth.

Your kindness and ongoing support is so very much appreciated for this important project. Thank you, again.

Shirley Pluess, Christmas Child Project Coordinator

## Mission Moments

(continues)

### THANK YOU!

**The Valley View Community Food Bank  
Turkey Drive was a huge success!**



**We collected 67 turkeys, 5 hams and Over \$750.00 in cash!**

Thank you for your generous support.

Happy Thanksgiving !

Barb Barborak, Liaison, Valley View Community Food Bank



## Fellowship Ministry

Diane Koziol

### Hospitality/Kitchen Transition

My time as Chairperson has come to fruition and I will be passing the baton to a very capable and enthusiastic group of kitchen folks headed up by Caro Graf. Many thanks to Sara Dunn, Helen Pollock and the many helping hands along the way.

My biggest thanks would be to the Lord for His nudging and equipping~~ both me and my fellow workers.

My next biggest thanks goes to two special people, my husband Dave (my agent) who is always an encouragement and protector. Barbara Lotz, who has been with me since day #1—staying late hours to close up shop, singing hymns as we were slap happy by the end of the night.

***“Whatever you do in word of deed, do everything as unto the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father, through Him.” Col 3:17***

Grateful and Blessed by His Grace,

Diane Koziol

## Hope Bags

Claudia Smith



### Helping Kids and Families Thrive

THRIVE AZ is all about Foster Care prevention and saving aged-out Foster Kids in Arizona.

Since 2016 this mission has made a significant impact on the lives of many children and families here in our own backyard. Some statistics about THRIVE AZ are: 7,500+ new beds given; 10,009 children served; 2,320 preventions; 900 aged-out young adults saved.

There are over **14,000** children in Arizona in Foster Care. THRIVE AZ is helping save these aged-out children...when they turn 18 they may take a plastic bag with all their belongings and are left out on the streets. Many of these children have not graduated from high school, don't have a job, no place to live and no food. Where do they go for help? THRIVE AZ will take a youth in and house, feed, cloth and help them get an education; give them spiritual guidance and direction to be self-sufficient.



**Her very own bed**



**Essential supplies for family**

THRIVE AZ helps prevent children from being removed from their families due to lack of basic needs and resources. Their goal is to support families in the prevention, reunification, and aged out process to build stability and create hope for a positive future.

They opened a new "Thrift to Thrive" store this year. Every dollar raised goes toward purchasing items that DCS required families to have in order to keep children from entering AZ's crowded foster care system.

**Your old suitcase can help an aged-out kid have some dignity by carrying their possessions in it instead of a plastic bag.**



**Baby saved out of foster care program**



**Coffee shop at new thrift store**

*Psalm 90:17 "May the favor of the Lord our God rest upon us; establish the work of our hands for us, yes, establish the work of our hands."*

Your donations have helped so many families and children thrive with hope. If you have furniture, suit cases, clothing, household items, etc. you would like to donate, please contact Jimmy Smith, 928-899-8230 or [jimmhro1937@gmail.com](mailto:jimmhro1937@gmail.com)

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





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