

Palm West Alive

September 2023



Joy in the Word of God

Oh! how great and glorious a thing it is to have before one the Word of God! With that we may at all times feel joyous and secure; we need never be in want of consolation, for we see before us, in all its brightness, the pure and right way. He who loses sight of the Word of God, falls into despair; the voice of heaven no longer sustains him; he follows only the disorderly tendency of his heart, and of world vanity, which lead him on to his destruction.

—The Table Talk of Martin Luther

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

Claudia Burr, Connections Coordinator

connections@palmwestchurch.org

IN THIS ISSUE

- ◆ Pastor Jim, Tour of Greece, page 3,4
- ◆ Pastor Joe, Oasis Project, page 5
- ◆ Pastor Brian, Small Groups, page 6
- ◆ Gwendy Joysen, Modern Worship, page 7
- ◆ Tax Saving Donation Planning Refresher, page 8
- ◆ Connection Coordinator, page 9
- ◆ Women's Fellowship, page 10
- ◆ Birthday, Thank you, Discovering PWCC!, Baptism, page 11
- ◆ Education, page, 11, 12
- ◆ Vision Leader Team, End of Life Matters, page 13, 14
- ◆ Balance & Strengthening Exercise Class, page 15
- ◆ September Sermons, GriefShare, page 16
- ◆ Two Services, Fellowship Dinner, Intercessory Prayer, page 17
- ◆ Women's Connection, Quilt & Sew, Courtneys Creations, Coloring Fellowship, Fellowship Games, page 18
- ◆ September Meetings, New Members, Leadership Meeting, Prayer Requests, page 19, 20
- ◆ Missions, Hope Bags, page 21, 22, 23



Worship With Us In Person
Sunday Summer Worship Service
10:00 a.m.

Live Stream at 9:00 am
(on the website/app)
Church Office Hours:
Monday through Thursday
8:00 am—4:00 pm
Closed for lunch 12:00 pm—12:30 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

**Articles for the October newsletter should
be submitted to the office by
September 15.
Thank You.
admin@palmwestchurch.org**

PWCC Leaders

VLT Chair, Gary Lanning
Secretary VLT, Finance, Joyce Westlund
Treasurer, Chuck Crandall
Church Clerk, Joyce Westlund
Education, Dena Martin
Hospitality, Diane Koziol
Media, Jim Burroughs
Missions, Diane Preston, Interim Chair
Property, Terry Brafford
Worship, Kristine Seemiller/Rob Hilkemeier

Pastor Jim Powell

Senior Pastor



Survey Results and Fall Schedule

Earlier this summer we offered a short survey asking for input as we plan for a busy Fall. We ended up having 163 people who turned in surveys. An overwhelming majority of those were by full-time Arizona residents. Below are the results of the survey and the decisions we ultimately made regarding our Fall schedule.

Which Service do you plan to attend:

- 56% plan to attend Traditional
- 13% plan to attend Modern
- 15% plan to attend Both
- 10% are unsure which

Preference for Worship Times:

- 41% - 9:00am Traditional
- 21% - 10:45am Traditional
- 16% - No preference
- 10% - 9:00am Modern
- 5% - 10:45am Modern

If you watch online, which best describes you:

- 33% - Watch the service after it's been recorded
- 20% - Watch the service LIVE
- 10% - Watch equally LIVE and recorded
- 36% - Do not watch online

If you watch online, how to you access the video:

- 42% - Through YouTube
- 42% - Through the Webpage
- 13% - Through the Church App

What kind of interest would you have in a social time between services with coffee and snacks:

- 39% - Very Interested
- 39% - Somewhat Interested
- 22% - Not Interested

Pastor Jim Powell
Senior Pastor

(continued)

Here are my takeaways from these results...

First of all, a clear majority of those responding want to attend the traditional service. This is actually a POSITIVE thing, because the vision for our Modern Service is to reach new people who are not currently connected to Jesus or a local church. Our hope is that the Traditional Service will continue to flourish, even as the Modern Service reaches more people moving into SCW.

The second takeaway is that choosing service times is a challenge. If you look at the surveys the time preferences are all over the place. Yet a clear majority, by a 2-1 margin want the traditional service early. Yet the 21% who want it late, really want it later. Unfortunately, we cannot make everyone happy. Therefore, we have determined that when we go back to two services, we will have the Traditional at 9am and the Modern at 10:30am.

The third takeaway is that a clear majority of people are interested in some fellowship opportunities between services. Once the Pavilion is built this Fall, we hope to begin offering some coffee and snacks for people to enjoy. Unfortunately, there is no clear timeline on the Pavilion being completed. We finally got the permits back but we are now waiting on the materials, some of which are backordered.

In all this, I am reminded of the perpetual challenge of serving the church family and remaining missional and outreach focused as Jesus commanded (Mt 28:19-20). Existing church members often find changes and new initiatives challenging and scary. Yet for the church to reach its redemptive potential, we must sometimes do some things differently, even as Jesus shared (Mt 9:16-17). Therefore, we would beg for your prayers and your patience as we step into a busy fall season.

The heart of the staff and leaders at PWCC is to passionately serve and minister to our existing church members. Yet we must also look to the fields that are ripe for harvest, pursuing ways to seek and save those that are lost. It's not an either/or endeavor, but rather it's both/and. And in this next season as we step into this tension, if we are unified and faithful, I truly believe that we are going to see a wave of growth in our Traditional, Modern and Online ministries. All for the glory of God.

Pastor Jim

Travel in the Footsteps of Paul

Pastor Jim is leading a trip to Greece April 1-10, 2024. The trip will include visits to many cities highlighted in the New Testament including Athens, Corinth, Thessaloniki, and Philippi. Included is a three-day Mediterranean Cruise with stops at Crete, Patmos, and Ephesus. Following the 10-day trip, there is an optional 3-day extension to Rome, Italy.

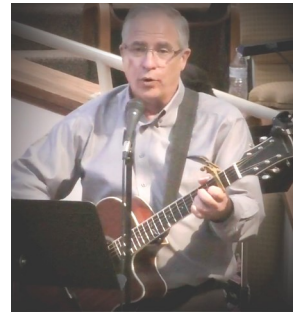


For more information, you can pick up fliers at the church.

Pastor Joseph Place
Minister of Music & Media

Oasis Project Events and Christmas Cantata

The Oasis Project at Palm West provides an opportunity to turn away from the worries and challenges of life for a time and rest in God's presence through music and worship.



Here are the opportunities coming up for the remainder of 2023:

Sunday, October 1, 3:00 p.m.

Bach Cantata #51 "Praise God in All Lands" and more!

Joseph Place, Trumpet and Anna-Lisa Hackett, Soprano with
"The Classic Touch Strings", Jan Kliever - piano, Christine Kyhn - organ.

General Admission tickets are \$15.00 here or at the door
(there is an additional ticket fee for credit card sales).

Bach Cantata 51 and More!



Sunday, November 5, 3:00 p.m.

Two flutes and piano recital with Lauren Erickson, Sara Taylor and Nancy Rhoades. Classical and Praise music. A free-will offering will be received.

Sunday, November 12, 3:00 p.m.

Worship with Jan Kliever and Family. Gather in the "living room" (Palm West Sanctuary) with Jan and her family for worship through music. A free-will offering will be received.

Christmas Cantata

Sunday December 17 in both morning worship services.

Save the date for our 2023 Christmas Cantata, "The Road To Bethlehem" by Lloyd Larson. Your Chancel Choir and Chamber Orchestra will take you on a journey to the newborn King! Save the date and be prepared to bring your friends and family.

Thank you for your participation in our Exalt Ministry through worship each Sunday and
for our special events!

We'll see you at Palm West, *Your Spiritual Oasis in the Desert!*

Pastor Brian Thomas
Assoc. Pastor of Pastoral Care



Hello friends-

As I type this on a sunny, 107 degree day in August, it's hard to believe that Fall is just around the corner. And with Fall, a number of our Palm West connection opportunities will soon relaunch. Let me highlight two of these:

- ◆ GriefShare returns on Tuesday, September 12 at 10:00 a.m. in the choir room and will run for thirteen weeks. So many people have found deep care, support, and love from our Palm West GriefShare group, it's pretty remarkable! If you have experienced the loss of a loved one, I highly recommend that you consider GriefShare. This powerful care opportunity is open and free to anyone in the church or neighborhood and you are welcome to join the sessions at any time. For more information, call the church office at 623-546-2980.
- ◆ Our Palm West small groups will also be returning this Fall. Small groups provide a level of connection and belonging that is integral to our call as a church. If you don't currently belong to a small group and are interested in joining one, details will be coming shortly on ways to connect to a group. Please stay tuned for that specific information. In the meantime, should you have questions, feel free to call the office at 623-546-2980.

Serving with you,
Brian

Small Groups
Gini Bradley, Small Group Coordinator

Small Groups Update

With the return of the cooler days and the look of fall, we also look forward to the gathering together of fellow believers in small groups. We are excited to have several returning small groups. Additionally, we also desire to recruit more small group facilitators. If you would be willing to facilitate a small group for PWCC, please contact Gini Bradley at 619-253-4854 or Bakerswim@aol.com.



Additional information on facilitating a small group:

1. You decide which day of week, time of gathering, and frequency
2. The group decides if they want to use weekly sermon questions or choose another route of fellowship
3. Group decides where to meet – Personal home or PWCC - (Church availability is limited and the office will assist with room availability and scheduling)
4. There will be in-service opportunities, guidance, and support for each of the facilitators.
5. Timing: As Pastor Jim is starting a new sermon series in October, it would be good to have groups formulated in late September, however we are very flexible!

For those wanting to join or change their small group: Stay tuned! Opportunities for this will be happening soon! Be on the lookout for upcoming announcements or feel free to contact Gini Bradley at 619-253-4854 or Bakerswim@aol.com.

Small groups are an important part of life at Palm West. We encourage you to take advantage of this distinctive way to connect and belong to this church family as we seek to follow Jesus together.

Director of Modern Worship

Gwendy Joysen



First of all, I want to thank everyone for the warm welcome and kindness extended to me as I've transitioned my life to Sun City West. I feel as though I have come home. You are a beautifully warm, loving congregation and I am both honored and blessed to be a part of this church body.

I am currently scouting for the right musicians and vocalists to start off our new modern worship service in excellence. It is my intention to gather a superlative team to establish an environment for deep worship and vibrant adoration of our Lord. To create the very best program possible, I will be diligent to explore talent before making final selections for vocal & instrumentalist placements. There will be many ways to serve in order to give more people an opportunity to participate while maintaining our vision.

Given the notably different nature of this service and team of musicians, I will be slow to integrate the group, allowing us time to get to know each other and become a cohesive unit. Please be patient with me as I mold the ensemble. The results of this process will be immediately recognizable when our service begins.

That said, meetings to establish the team are underway! If you are interested in becoming involved, please contact me so we can discuss your interests and strengths. We will begin group rehearsals in September. Our first meeting will be right after Labor Day and will be informal, intended to discuss the upcoming selection process, scheduling, the various opportunities to participate, my worship philosophies and how our doctrinal beliefs will be upheld in this new service.

Lastly, if you want to volunteer but feel you need growth opportunities and coaching or want some extra time to acclimate to this new setting, please don't let that deter you from contacting me. Starting in November, I will initiate a tiered mentorship program in which I will train section heads to coach newcomers along with me so you can progress toward joining the team.

2pm Tuesday, Sept 5th – Prospective Team Meeting (both musical & technical support)

3pm Tuesday, Sept 5th – Prospective Vocalists Meeting

4:30 – 5pm Thursdays starting Sept 7th – Vocalist Rehearsal

3pm Tuesday, Sept 11th – Praise Team Rehearsal (band only)

Again, a sincere Thank You to you all!

In Christ Alone,

~Gwendy



Tax Saving Donation Planning Refresher

For All Church Members

Good news to remember:

This tax filing reminder gives all of us the opportunity to utilize current federal tax codes that continues to be two ways to support our church and our Kingdom while reducing your ever-increasing Stock and IRA federal taxes. These two opportunities have been available for many years. **Be sure to consult with your attorney and/or tax advisor, as appropriate, to determine whether your donation is tax deductible in whole or in part.**

Donating Stock:

Donating appreciated stock directly to the church that you have held for more than one year can result in substantial personal tax savings.

If you donate the stock directly instead of selling it, tax code allows you to avoid paying the long-term capital gains tax. Additionally, if you itemize your deductions, you may receive a deduction for the fair market value of the stock. **Again, consult with your attorney and/or tax advisor, as appropriate, to determine whether your donation is tax deductible in whole or in part.**

Giving from a traditional IRA:

As you are planning for your giving to Palm West Community Church, consider a **Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD)** which can only come from your IRA account(s). To be eligible, you must be 70 ½ years of age and the donation needs to be transferred directly from the IRA to the church.

Tax benefits from this type of giving are listed below.

- Donation counts towards your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) AND doesn't increase your adjusted gross income.
- Reduces taxable income for those claiming the standard deduction
- Could help decrease taxable social security benefits
- May alleviate some itemized deduction phase-outs

The check needs to be payable to the church.

After you have spoken to your attorney and/or tax advisor, contact your investment source and they will assist you in the appropriate transfer process.

Make sure the check is identified as a donation from you.

Should you have any additional processing questions, you are welcome to contact John Sproule, Johnosproule@aol.com

If you are interested in the Financial Reports or the Vision Leadership Team minutes, contact the church office.

Connection Coordinator

Claudia Burr

Matthew 25:34-40, "Then the King will say to those on His right, 'Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me something to drink; I was a stranger, and you invited Me in.... Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them, you did it to Me.'"



We are seeing new faces at church. That is a real blessing. Not only do these wonderful people seek a place of worship to share faith with others, but they seek lasting relationships with other believers. I recently read that what motivates people and how they most effectively connect is by establishing and maintaining meaningful friendships. How can we help them.

BE A GOOD LISTENER Interesting people often ask questions and then listen. They encourage others to speak. Do we listen? Unfortunately, most of us wait to respond without actually listening to the other person. Listening is a skill which exercises our ears and not our mouth. Let's challenge ourselves to ask new people questions and then listen!

BE GENUINE OR AUTHENTIC Because we are naturally inwardly focused, it causes a couple of things to happen: 1) judgment and 2) exploitation. Judgment inhibits our ability to establish genuine relationships. Exploitation means that we seek to be served in the relationship versus serving in the relationship. To be genuine or authentic in friendship is to have pure intentions for the other person. Let's strive to do our best to be genuine and authentic!

"FORGET GOSSIP" Paul speaks plainly in Romans 1:29 about our belief in God is evident in us and "being filled with unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, evil; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, malice; they are all gossips."

SHOW UP – EVERY TIME When called to serve in friendship as we are in Christ, we must show up to demonstrate our commitment to the other person. Real friends show up in the good times and the bad. True friends always show up and we all know what a friend we have in Jesus.

GIVE FAR MORE THAN YOU TAKE We can't help it – we keep score. Our better intent is to contribute in a meaningful way to our friends without expectation of anything in return. This builds meaningful and lasting friendships.

RESPOND When a friend reaches out to you, respond. "No" is a perfectly acceptable answer, but not responding at all is unacceptable if your desire is to maintain meaningful friendships.

CONFIDENTIALITY Friendships are built on trust; we mustn't compromise confidentiality.

OFFER ADVICE UPON REQUEST Too often we are compelled to tell people what they should do. If you have the experience, then you may qualify to offer the advice but if you don't, perhaps ask questions to help the other person formulate their response and better understand their desired situational outcome.

DO NOT INTERRUPT The ultimate sign of disrespect is interrupting. There is no justification for frequently interrupting another person.

SHOW SINCERE RESPECT Respecting another person is fundamental for cultivating a lasting relationship.

"BRING THE JOY" Laughter is therapy and lasting friendships have lots of laughter. Be fun to be around, laugh at yourself, and laugh together (not at each other or tease too much).

EMPATHIZE Friends lean on friends and if we are unable to connect with empathy, the relationship will falter.

True friendships are to be cherished, but also planted, nurtured, and grown. If you are looking for a way to meet new friends or get involved, please give me a call or send me an email and I will reach out to help you make connections with our church family and its ministries.



INVITE YOUR NEW FRIENDS AND FIND JOYOUS WAYS TO SERVE TODAY!

Claudia Burr, Connections Coordinator, connections@palmwestchurch.org , 480-371-7409

Women's Fellowship Ministry

Pat Seaberg, Chair

Hey Ladies,

Here's information on the upcoming women's conference we plan to attend in September.



The Lifeway Women Live Conference: Pursuing Christ Together in Faith is at Dream City Church (formerly Phoenix First Assembly) on Cave Creek Road in Phoenix.

The dates are: Friday evening, September 15 and Saturday, September 16.

Friday schedule: Doors open at 5:30 p.m. and the Conference is from 7:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Saturday schedule: Doors open at 8:00 a.m. and the Conference is from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. with lunch break from 12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.

We plan to carpool from PWCC to the event but if you want to stay in a hotel near the event, we have information available for that as well.

We can get a group discounted price of \$84.00 each ticket (plus tax) **IF** we have a group of ladies attending.

Handicapped seating is also available but must be noted at the time of ticket purchase.

A boxed lunch is also available to order in advance for \$17.00 (however our group may go out to lunch instead).

Please also consider inviting a friend to join us at the conference.

So, what's this women's conference all about?

Well, the process of faith seems simple at first, right? After all, Jesus said all we need is faith the size of a mustard seed. But what does belief look like in our everyday lives? On the good days and the days where faith the size of a mustard seed seems like an awfully large ask?

Let's tackle the hard questions together at Lifeway Women Live in Phoenix. We'll explore what it means to live by faith, exercise your faith, spur one another on in faith, believe what you can't reach out and touch, and so much more.

At the conference, you will:

- ◆ Spend a weekend centering your heart in Scripture, led by some of today's top Bible teachers.
- ◆ Engage with women who, like you, believe God's Word changes lives.
- ◆ Gain encouragement to continue pursuing Christ in the midst of your daily life.

The Conference includes five to six teaching sessions, two panel discussions, a new author interview, and several short breaks throughout.

More Information on the conference can be found here:

Lifeway Women Live Phoenix | Lifeway

Or Call Pat Seaberg at PWCC with any questions.

A special note: If you would like to participate in any of the Women's Fellowship activities, but cannot afford the ticket price, we do not want that to be an obstacle to you attending any of the functions. Please see Joyce in the office or Pat Seaberg.

There will be a planning meeting on Tuesday, September 5 at 10:00 a.m. for anyone interested in helping with Women's Fellowship Craft Day or Christmas Brunch.

Craft day is planned for Friday, October 27 and the Christmas Brunch on Friday, December 1.



Happy Birthday Shirley Lindaman

Shirley Lindaman celebrated her 99th birthday on July 15!
Shirley is an original Charter Member of Palm West Community Church.
Blessings and love from all of us!

You've Touched Our Hearts With Your Kindness.

Tom and I want to thank Steve and Chris (Lee) for helping us with our electricity problem. You came over so quickly and got the issue settled. God Bless both of you, Tom & Eva Ellis



Discovering PWCC!

Our next class will be Thursday, September 14, 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, September 17, at 11:15 a.m. in the Worship Center classroom for those who are interested in learning more about being baptized..



Education

Dena Martin, Chair

Bible Study Opportunities

Bob Wilber's **Sunday Morning Bible Study** continues in November with Ray Vander Laan's video lessons.

David Witt's **Men's Bible Study**, Monday's, 10:00 a.m. in the Choir Room.

Women's Bible Study, Resumes on Thursday, September 14 and continues each Thursday at 9:30am in the Hoover Hall Classroom.

Leaders Dorcus Van Horn and Sara Dunn. will look at Psalm 23 through the eyes of an experienced shepherd.

See you there; coffee and refreshments will be available.

In October, Mary Ann Lind will begin a study in Ephesians.

Christian Readers Book Club

1st Thursday's, 1:00 p.m. Worship Center Classroom

September – Share your favorite summer read.

October – *Stealing the Preacher*, Karen Witemeyer.

November – *Redemption*, Karen Kingsbury

Education

Dena Martin, Chair

(continued)

Library

The library will continue to offer our members and friends' free copies of "Our Daily Bread" devotional. Please take your copy from our display case outside the entrance door to the PWCC Library.

PWCC Library will continue to be open every Sunday morning and between services through May 2024 and daily 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon except for holidays.

PWCC library has a section in our Worship Center Classroom titled **Small Group Study Material**. If you plan a small group study in your home, you may want to review what we have to offer in the way of leader guides and DVD's. If you need more student books, we will be happy to order them for you.

Fiction/Non-Fiction Books & DVD'S New to Palm West Library



The library has received many books and DVDs over the summer months, too numerous to list each title here. Please visit the library and review. Our volunteers are happy to help you. Here are a few of the authors: Francine Rivers, Charles Stanley, Max Lucado, Ruth Reid, Jerry Sittser, Charles Swindoll, Janette Oke, Ann Gebhart just to name a few.

It is the Education Ministry's goal to provide members and friends the opportunity to have our Palm West Library ready and available with Christian books by Christian authors. Our Library is in the Worship Center just, to the right after you enter the building.

We want to supply books and DVDs that are educational, historical, biographies, and entertaining.

If you would like to help us expand the Palm West Community Church library, please email us:

library@palmwestchurch.org

with suggestions of Christian authors, books, and DVDs for us to include in the Palm West Church library.

We are happy to accept donations of books and DVDs if you plan to downsize your home library. The donated books become the property of Palm West Community Church. If we have the book already on our shelf, we will donate it to another organization accepting books.

Vision Leadership Team

Gary Lanning, Chair

Accounting For Your Donations

Part 5

“Budgeting” by Joy Hoover, PWCC Assistant Treasurer

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.”

It is that time of year that Palm West Community Church embarks on the budgeting process for calendar year 2024. This exercise serves as a tool and discipline to ensure that our church remains financially healthy and that we are accomplishing the goals, mission, and vision that the Lord has intended!

So, as we approach the budgeting season, we believe that a well-structured approach can lead us to achieve our vision “To Share the Gospel of Jesus Christ, Anew!” This includes the following initiatives:

- ◆ Multi-Access Worship (on-campus worship with a traditional and modern service, online, offsite services at LifeCare Facilities)
- ◆ Transforming Discipleship (a discipleship philosophy and process that will be introduced in 2024)
- ◆ Legacy Initiative (a memorial and legacy fund that will be rolled out in 2024)

We are working with Church leadership to ensure they, and their teams and stakeholders are familiar with the initiatives above, and that they are well-communicated and incorporated into the budgeting process. Aligning the budget with our overarching goals will ensure that every financial decision supports our vision.

While our teams are working collaboratively on this process, we want to take time to reflect on why it is so important to the health of our Church community. Following are some reasons that contribute to the success of a strong and successful Church:

Financial Planning: Budgets provide a roadmap for our church’s financial activities over a specific period, usually a year. They outline how resources will be allocated to various activities, projects, and ministries. This planning helps us attain our financial goals and priorities.

Resource Allocation: Budgets help allocate resources, such as funds, personnel, and time, to different ministries we have deemed important, new, or existing projects, and activities based on our mission and vision. This ensures that resources are distributed optimally to achieve the outcomes that the Lord is expecting us to achieve!

Goal Setting: Budgets help set financial goals and targets for the organization. These goals can be things such as giving targets, expense limits, and capital investments. Budgets provide a benchmark against which performance can be measured.

Performance Evaluation: Budgets serve as a basis for comparing actual financial performance against planned performance. This comparison allows us to identify areas where we might be struggling or where we might have additional resources that we can then use to further our mission of “Sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ, Anew!”

Control and Accountability: Budgets provide a mechanism for controlling spending and financial activities within our church. Sometimes our spending does not align with our mission and vision and when we monitor those expenses, we can ensure that we stay within our financial means and adhere to our goals.

Decision Making: Budgets help in making informed decisions about resource allocation, expansion, investment, and other initiatives. Many times, we as church leaders are faced with competing demands for resources. And if our budgets are reflective of our goals and ministries then we can make informed choices.

(continued)

Vision Leadership Team

Gary Lanning, Chair

(continued)

Communication and Transparency: Budgets facilitate communication and transparency within our church. They provide a clear overview of how financial resources are being used and allow our leaders, stakeholders, and members to understand the financial health of the church.

Long-Term Planning: Beyond annual budgets, we use budgeting processes to plan for longer time horizons. This can involve projecting giving, expenses, and investments over multiple years to ensure alignment with future growth or investment in our membership and properties.

In summary, budgets are a fundamental tool that we use to manage our gifts wisely; the way God would want us to take care of his flock. Our collective efforts and commitment to prudent financial management help steer PWCC towards reaching its vision and mission of “Sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ, Anew”.

Joy Hoover

From Joyce Westlund, Financial Secretary :

If you wish to have a portion of your offering go into another fund, please mark it on your envelope, not in the memo of your check. We'd hate to miss it.

Thank you.

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, September 27 at 1:30 pm in the Hoover Hall classroom. Led by Rev. Fannalou Guggisberg. If you wish to sign up, contact the church office.

Balance and Strengthening Exercise Class 2023-2024 Series

Led by Sara Dunn

Mark Your Calendar If You Want Help Staying Fit For Jesus!

Sara Dunn wants you! Are you ready to say,
“goodbye aches and pains!
I'm choosing fitness and health!”



Have you ever stood up or walked and found yourself going in a direction you didn't plan? Well, sometimes our bodies don't always do what we want and that may be due to a lack of strength in our muscles for balance.

Sara Dunn has graciously accepted the commitment to lead us in monthly exercise on the second Thursday of each month beginning in October in Hoover Hall at 8:00 a.m. It is hopeful that each month we can build upon the previous session and provide tips for overall health improvement that will aid in strengthening our bodies and supporting good balance. We will use chairs for support so dress comfortably, wear supportive shoes, bring weights (or canned food to donate to Valley View Community Food Bank after the class) and learn of great ways to strengthen your muscles for better balance and health.

Please arrive early to sign the waiver and then pick a spot. Invite a friend! We can accommodate up to 60! If you have any questions, please contact the office, or sign up beginning mid-September, class by class, each succeeding month.

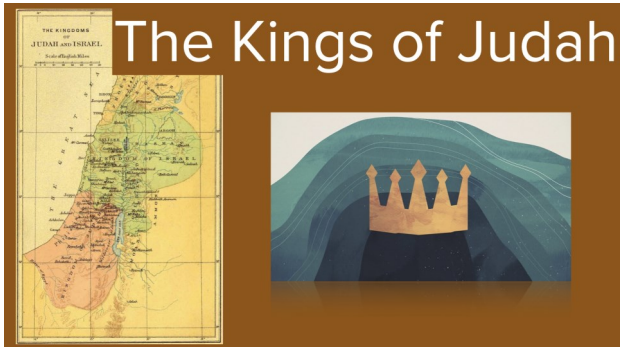
Scheduled Dates:

Thursday, October 12, 8:00 a.m.
Thursday, November 9, 8:00 a.m.
Thursday, December 14, 8:00 a.m.
Thursday, January 11, 2024, 8:00 a.m.
Thursday, February 8, 2024, 8:00 a.m.
Thursday, March 14, 2024, 8:00 a.m.
Thursday, April 11, 2024, 8:00 a.m.
Thursday, May 9, 2024, 8:00 a.m.
Thursday, June 13, 2024, 8:00 a.m.

I Corinthians 9:24-27 Paul says, “do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win. And everyone who competes in the game exercises self-control in all things. They then do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we are imperishable. Therefore, I run in such a way, as not without air; I box in such a way, as not beating the air; but I buffet my body and make it my slave, lest possibly after I have preached to others, I myself should be disqualified.”

Hebrews 12:1-2 ...let us lay aside every encumbrance, and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

September Sermons



Summer Sermon Series

Pastor Jim Powell

The Kings of Judah from 2 Chronicles

Continues September 3

The Fall of a Nation

Scriptures: 2 Chronicles 36

Sermon Series

Pastor Jim Powell

Setting the Stage

September 10 – Praying for God’s Work

Scriptures: Various

September 17 – Funding the Mission

Scriptures: Various

September 24 – Engaging in Community

Scriptures: TBA

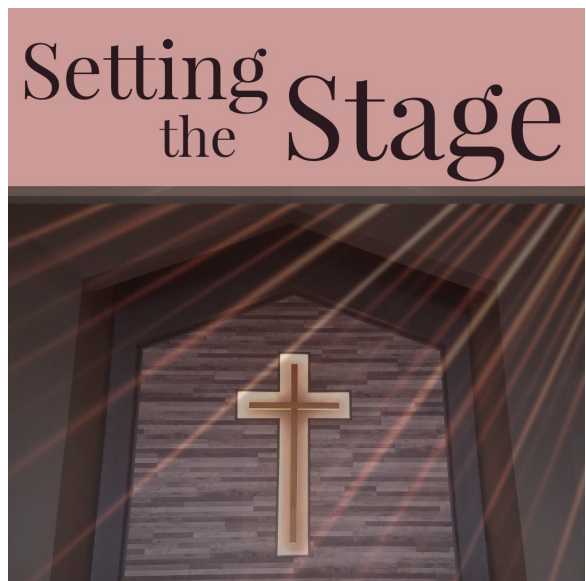
Pastor Brian Thomas

October 1 – Sharing with Others

Scriptures: Various

October 8 – Maintaining Unity

Scriptures: Various



GriefShare will begin the fall session on September 12 at 10:00 a.m. in the choir room. The program consists of 13 segments relating to the various aspects of grief which are common to all who find themselves in the throes of loneliness, frustration or, even anger in the midst of the loss of a loved one. The group finds solace in the company of like-minded people who understand what we all go through at this most difficult time. There are videos of professional counselors and a workbook to aid in the transition from mourning to joy. All are welcome, free of charge to anyone, church attendees as well as friends and neighbors. It doesn't matter when the loss occurred if the adjustment to a new life is still difficult.

Call the church for registration or Bob and Joyce Davis for more information.

Bob and Joyce Davis, Facilitators

510-421-0220

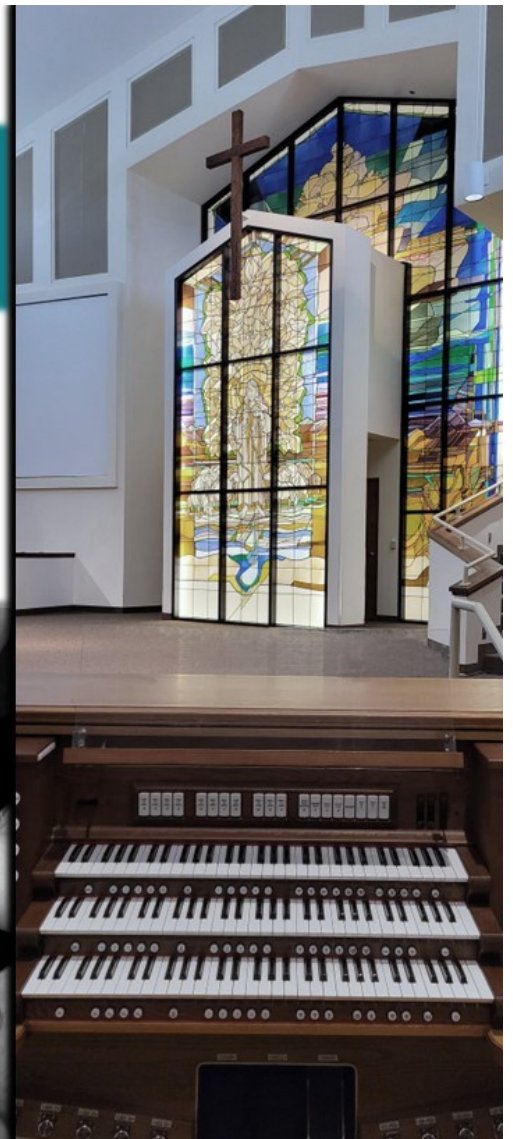


TWO SERVICES Starting on October 15th

Join us Sunday, Oct. 15th as we return to having two services each Sunday morning. We will hold both our unchanged traditional service as well as our new modern worship service each week.

Traditional Worship: 9am
Worship Center

Modern Worship: 10:30am
Hoover Hall



Fellowship Dinner

Diane Koziol



Our next Wednesday Fellowship Dinner will be September 20, 5:00 p.m.
Hoover Hall

We will be serving chicken and pasta salad.

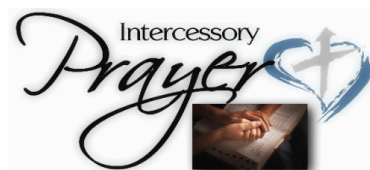
Sign up to bring a dessert, help set-up or clean-up, when you sign up to come to the dinner.

\$5.00 per person at the door!

Neighborhood Ministries will be our speakers this evening.



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.



Women's Connection

Ladies, join us for great conversation!



We meet Monday mornings from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. in the Hoover Hall 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



The Quilt and Sew Ladies of Palm West Community Church make quilts and sew blankets in baby, toddler, children and youth sizes to be given, with the Hope Bags, dedicated in love and prayer, to community groups for encouragement and glorification of our Savior Jesus Christ.

These community groups are The Phoenix Rescue Mission, Changing Lives Center, The Neighborhood Ministries of Phoenix, Thrive Arizona, The Phoenix Dream Center and Short Creek.

Our next meeting will be Friday, September 1 at 9:00 a.m.
in the Hoover Hall classroom.

Do you like to sew?

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

Fabric and instructions are provided!

Courtneys Creations

We meet on the first Friday of each month.

Join us at our next meeting on September 1 at 11:00 a.m. in the
Worship Center classroom

Many beautiful crocheted and knitted items have been donated to moms at this very critical time in their lives.

Thank you all for your sharing your time and talents with us.

Please call Diane Preston for more info 651-278-5868.



Coloring Fellowship



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

For the month of September we will be meeting on
September 12 and 26, 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,
September 11.



September Meetings

The church office will be closed Monday, September 4 in observance of Labor Day.



AA/Alanon

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

Baptism Class

Sunday, September 17	11:15 am—11:45 am	Worship Center classroom
----------------------	-------------------	--------------------------

CBS

Wednesdays, September 6, (Leaders)	9:00 am—3:00 pm	Hoover Hall classroom
Wednesdays, September 13, 20, 27	9:30 am—11:30 am	Whole Campus

Christian Readers Book Club

Thursday, September 7	1:00 pm—2:30 pm	Worship Center classroom
-----------------------	-----------------	--------------------------

Choir Practice

Thursdays, September 7, 14, 21, 28	3:00 pm—4:30 pm	Choir Room
------------------------------------	-----------------	------------

Coloring Fellowship

Tuesdays, September 12, 26	10:00 am—11:30 am	Hoover Hall classroom
----------------------------	-------------------	-----------------------

Courtneys Creations

Friday, September 1	11:00 am—12:00 pm	Worship Center classroom
---------------------	-------------------	--------------------------

Discovering PWCC

Thursday, September 14	1:00 pm—3:00 pm	Hoover Hall classroom
------------------------	-----------------	-----------------------

End of Life Matters

Wednesday, September 27	1:30 pm—3:00 pm	Hoover Hall classroom
-------------------------	-----------------	-----------------------

Education

Friday, September 1	9:00 am—10:00 am	Worship Center classroom
---------------------	------------------	--------------------------

Fellowship Dinner

Wednesday, September 20	5:00 pm—7:00 pm	Hoover Hall
-------------------------	-----------------	-------------

Fellowship Games

Monday, September 18	2:00 pm—4:30 pm	Hoover Hall classroom
----------------------	-----------------	-----------------------

Hope Bags

Friday, September 8	9:00 am—12:00 pm	Hoover Hall/Hoover Hall classroom
---------------------	------------------	-----------------------------------

Intercessory Prayer Gathering

Tuesdays, September 5, 12, 19, 26	11:00 am—12:00 pm	Worship Center classroom
-----------------------------------	-------------------	--------------------------

September Meetings

(continued)

Leadership Meeting

Tuesday, September 12 9:00 am—10:00 am Worship Center classroom

Men's Bible Study

Mondays, September 11, 18, 25 10:00 am—11:00 am Choir Room

Missions

Monday, September 25 1:00 pm—3:00 pm Hoover Hall classroom

Women's Bible Study

Thursdays, September 14, 21, 28 9:30 am—11:00 am Hoover Hall classroom

Women's Connection

Mondays, September 11, 18, 25 10:00 am—11:00 am Hoover Hall classroom

Women's Fellowship—Conference Trip

Friday, September 15, Saturday, September 16—offsite Dream City Church, Phoenix

VLT

Tuesday, September 19 8:00 am—12:00 pm Hoover Hall classroom



Dave & Yvonne Sohm



On Sunday, August 3 Pastor Jim introduced
Our newest members.
Welcome to Palm West Community Church!



Kevin & Maggi Barrett

Leadership Meeting

Our next leadership will take place on Tuesday,

September 12,

9:00 a.m. in Hoover Hall.

This 60ish minute gathering is a time of prayer,
celebration, vision casting, communication and coaching.

All are welcome to attend!

Contact the church office for more information.



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.

Mission Moments

Diane Preston, Interim Chair

Mission of the Month

Linda Hall, Liaison

Along Side Prison Ministries – discipling and equipping incarcerated Christians to transition successfully into the community.

The facts: 42,000 people in jail in Arizona.

The problem: 65% of all inmates released in Arizona will return to prison.

The solution: 92.3% of Along Side graduates get out and stay out.

Along Side partners with local churches to provide spiritual and practical guidance and support to incarcerated Christian men and women as they transition from prison back to the community and the church. ASM trains and equips men and women volunteers to mentor the ex-offender in finding employment, housing, and maintaining accountability. Mentors provide relational support and spiritual guidance. The ministry provides the resources to assist Christian ex-offenders in their re-entry.

Go to www.alongside-ministries.com for more information and stories, and click [Here](#) for annual report.



ASM Group Picture



Bible Study



Alongside Praying



ASM Alumni Prayer

Mission of the Month

Samaritans Purse

Shirley Pleuss & Judi Dillard, Liaisons

PWCC Shoebox Ministry – Operation Christmas Child 2023 – Shirley Pleuss and Judi Dillard, Campaign Coordinators



With the busy holiday season approaching, donations for Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child Project will launch on Sunday October 22nd. This project is held annually by Samaritan's Purse for children in over 170 countries around the world who will receive a filled box. This wonderful program is committed to bring the joy of Christmas, and the love of Jesus to children around the world, by introducing them to our Lord, and providing them with a filled box of toys, school supplies, crafts, and personal care items. We praise the

Lord for this, and all who have donated to this effort in the past, because over 200 million children have received a filled box since 1983. Palm West has been very generous in supporting this project and we are so very thankful for your help. There are several ways for you to donate:

• **The First, and preferred method** by Samaritan's Purse is online, and they will fill the boxes.

Palm West will get credit for each online order. The linked website address is:

<https://build-a-shoebox.samaritanspurse.org/view/e288a399-7898-4a2a-a815-0c41abb2b69f>

For those who do not have access to a computer, a kiosk will be available at the church, starting

August 15, 2023 or you can use the QR Code .

• **The Second, is by donating \$25 per box per child to PWCC**, and our team will order and fill your boxes online.

• **The Third, is for the joy of shoppers.** Starting Sunday, October 22nd, you may pick up empty shoe boxes in the foyer at either service. You can purchase items noted below to fill 102 boxes. However, if you choose that method of donation, please enclose a \$10 check in each filled box to cover shipping costs. The filled shoe boxes will be collected October 29th through November 12th, dedicated on that Sunday and delivered to the drop point on Monday, November 13th. The suggested items are:

- Pencil pack
- Spiral bound tablet (small enough to fit in the shoe box)
- Toothbrush
- Small toys, like a jump rope, ball, yoyo, or harmonica
- Flashlights with batteries
- Bar of soap and washcloth (no liquids of any kind)
- Stuffed animal or appropriate special toy for boy or girl age 2-4, age 5-9, or age 10-14
- T-shirt, sandals, and/or sunglasses for a boy or girl of appropriate ages



Let's accept this wonderful opportunity, and exceed our past gift giving. Your generosity will help spread the love of Christ worldwide!!! With your generous hearts and wonderful support, I'm sure we will have no trouble in again making this project a wonderful success. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me, Shirley Pleuss (623-444-6641), or my co-coordinator Judi Dillard, (623-734-0074).

Hope Bags

Claudia Smith



September's Supper Surprise

When you attend Septembers' Fellowship Dinner you will be surprised to learn about all the ways PWCC is helping **Neighborhood Ministries** in their mission to lead souls to Christ. Yes, **YOU** have been playing a role in bringing many children and adults into the family of God by your generous donations and prayers. You won't want to miss their sharing on September 20, **exciting things are happening in our own backyard.**

Hands Working for the Lord



Crocheted cords inserted into Hope Bags



Quilters selecting fabrics



Cutting Hope Bags with precision

Summer in Arizona, what a perfect time to stay indoors and continue to work for the Lord! How you might ask? Just check in with our quilters and they can share with you. They have been busy working right through all this heat by using their God given talents to make lovely quilts for the children in the missions the Hope Bag Ministry serves; OR, you might ask the folks who are sewing the 1,550 Hope Bags for our dedication Sunday March 17, 2024. You might even have seen skeins of yarn being passed to people in our congregation. What does yarn have to do with this ministry? These folks are crocheting all the cords that will be put through the casing in each of the Hope Bags. Yes, Summer in Arizona CAN be a time of service!

Changing Lives Center

(Division of the Phoenix Rescue Mission)

I have never found the word "RETIREMENT" in the Bible, but I do believe we move into new directions and seasons of life where we can continue to serve the Lord. The following is an excerpt from a tutor at PRM Changing Lives Center. Cathy drives an hour each way to volunteer her experience as a math teacher.

"Being with these women has given me so much compassion. It changes how I might have looked at one of them on the street before I understood their story," she shared through tears. Cathy described a recent phone call from a young woman she had tutored. "She was excitedly screaming that she passed her GED, and it felt so special to be a part of her success." Perhaps the greatest gift of being a tutor is the way her own faith has deepened. "When I serve, I feel close to the heart of Jesus. To have found a way to use my experience in this way—that is really the blessing."

Serving the Lord in a New Season of Life!

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



13845 W. Stardust Blvd.
Sun City West, AZ 85375

