

# Palm West Alive

**December 2022**



## ***A prayer to the Christ-child***

***You have come to us as a small child, but you have brought us the greatest of all gifts, the gift of eternal love. Caress us with your tiny hands, embrace us with your tiny arms and pierce our hearts with your soft, sweet cries.***

—Bernard of Clairvaux (1090-1153)

### 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

### Office Staff:

**Joyce Sopilnick**, Church Administrator  
admin@palmwestchurch.org

**Joyce Davis**, Accounting Clerk  
accounting@palmwestchurch.org

**Butch Wilcox**, Facility Maintenance Technician  
fmt@palmwestchurch.org

# December

### Worship With Us In Person

#### Sunday Worship Service

9:00 a.m.

10:30 a.m.

### Live Stream at 9:00 am

(on the website/app)

### Church Office Hours:

Monday through Thursday

8:00 am - 3:00 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 January Palm West *Alive* should be submitted to the office, by December 12.

admin@palmwestchurch.org.

### PWCC Leaders

VLT Chair, John Sproule

Connections Director, Claudia Burr,  
Email:connections@palmwestchurch.org

Treasurer, Chuck Crandall

Financial Secretary, Joyce Westlund

Clerk, Jan Cooper

Education, Dena Martin

Hospitality, Diane Koziol, Helen Pollock

Media, Jim Burroughs

Missions, Barb Barborak, Diane Preston

Worship, Kristine Seemiller

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**Pastor Jim Powell**  
*Senior Pastor*



**Experiencing Christ at Christmas**

Now that Christmas is upon us, I thought it would be a good reminder to reflect upon one of the core aspects of Jesus coming to earth. As most of you know, one of the names given to Jesus was “Immanuel”, which means God with us (Isa 7:14; Matt 1:23). Obviously as Christians we believe that Jesus came to earth, but even when he physically left the earth and ascended into heaven He told us that He would still be with us (Matt 28:20). Through the Holy Spirit, Christ is always with those who believe, and as a result we will never be alone.

Yet, if we’re honest sometimes it doesn’t “feel” like God is with us. This can be especially true during the Christmas season. Even though we are bombarded with lights, decorations, Christmas music, plays, and programs we are often left feeling anything but God’s presence. To this point, I would like to quote a lengthy excerpt from a writing by Albert Day in “Discipline and Discovery”:

*“God is not real to most of us because of the condition of our consciousness. He is closer to our minds every moment than our own thoughts. He is nearer to our hearts than our own feelings. He is more intimate with our wills than our most vigorous decisions. If we are not aware of him, it is not because he is not with us. It is, in part, because our consciousness is so under the sway of other interests that it cannot turn to him with the loving attention which might soon discern him.*

*Did you ever encounter, on the street, a friend whose physical eyes looked at you without seeing you? You walked right into him before the alien look on his face changed into one of recognition. Then he confessed that he had been so absorbed in thought about some other matters that he had not been aware of you. You were there, yet he did not see you. Though actually in your presence, he was nevertheless as unconscious of you as if you did not exist.*

*That is the persistent failure of the emancipated consciousness. It can be so preoccupied by lesser realities that it does not sense the presence of the divine Reality surrounding and sustaining it. Something has to happen to end the absorption in other affairs, so that it can turn its attention to God.”*

God is with us, but we often don’t sense it or see it because we are so “preoccupied by lesser realities.”

After the Christmas Cantata I’ll be speaking for a few weeks on the subject of God’s presence in Church. Yet, until then, here are several ways that we can find Christ’s presence during the Christmas season. They all require time and a little focus, but if you are willing to do so, they will help you draw near to God during the holiday season; prioritize worship, spend some time in the Bible, find a quiet place and talk to God by casting all your concerns, fears, plans, etc. at His feet, read a spiritually uplifting book, listen to worship music, turn off the radio and TV for a little bit and just enjoy the silence. None of these are magical formulas, but they are all practices that often help us become more aware of the presence and reality of God in our life.

Have a great holiday season and may God richly bless you.

*Pastor Jim*

**Pastor Brian Thomas**  
*Assoc. Pastor of Pastoral Care*



***For the LORD is good. His unfailing love continues forever,  
and his faithfulness continues to each generation.***

Psalm 100: 5

As I write this, it's Thanksgiving week and I'm stuck at home with Covid. And yet, I'm struck by the many, many ways that I can see God's hand, right this instant, from my back porch. The open blue sky, the warmth of the sun that's tempered by the Autumn chill, the iridescent hummingbird who checks into our feeder multiple times each day, our temperamental little dog on the cushion beside me, relaxing without a care in the world. And these are just a few things in front of me this second not to mention the humbling ways that we've seen God move on a grand scale in Cindy's life this past year. It's no wonder that the Scripture writers come back to giving thanks time and again. From the early church on, those who have written about the spiritual life return to the importance of cultivating gratitude as a primary spiritual relationship tool (or discipline) as a concrete reminder of God's ongoing goodness, even when things don't feel that way.

I mentioned this several Sundays ago, but let me say it again here: Cindy and I are very thankful for YOU, our church family. We have received so much love over this past year and that was realized once again through the outpouring of love and encouragement and kind words and gifts that you bestowed on us for Pastor Appreciation. Your thoughtfulness and generosity are unmatched.

Praying abundant blessing on you,

Brian



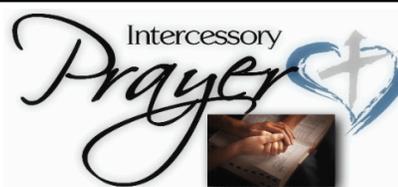
**Do you have a prayer request?**

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.

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.

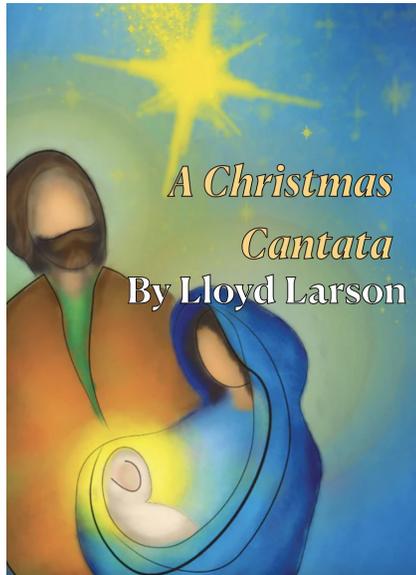
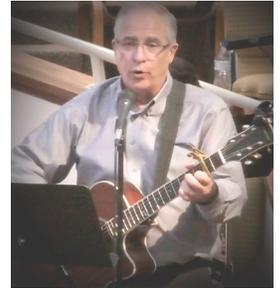


GriefShare is nearing the end of the fall session. The spring 13 week session will begin Tuesday, January 10, in the choir room at 10:00 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. All who have lost a loved through death are welcome to attend at no charge. This program is designed to assist grieving people on their journey from mourning to joy through videos of professional counselor and group discussion.

More information is available by calling the church office or Joyce and Bob Davis, Facilitators, 510-421-0220

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

Join us as we worship God together and  
celebrate of the ultimate gift...  
Jesus Christ, the Son of God.



The Chancel Choir and  
Chamber Orchestra of  
**Palm West Community  
Church** present **The  
Gift**

Sunday, December 11  
9:00 & 10:30 am

13845 W Stardust Blvd, Sun City West  
[palmwestchurch.org](http://palmwestchurch.org)

Thank you

Heartfelt thanks and appreciation to the staff and congregation.  
The thoughts, prayers and cards were deeply appreciated in our re-  
cent loss.

Helga and Brian Eichelberger and the family of Gisela Huhn.

**Thank You Everyone!**

**I want to thank EVERYONE for the prayers, cards, phone calls, meals and for those who provided transportation to the grocery stores, to the doctor appointments, physical therapy and to the hospital. Words cannot express how grateful I am for PWCC. I am healing and feel so much better.**

**Lucy Peek**





# Christmas

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## EVE SERVICE

*Saturday, December 24, 5:00 p.m.*



# Christmas Day Service

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25  
10:00AM

## Church Christmas Dinner



Sunday  
December 18, 2022

RH Johnson  
Social Hall

Doors Open at  
4:00 p.m.

Open Seating

\$25.00 per person

**Buffet Dinner: Chicken, Pork, mashed potatoes, carrots, salad, dessert!  
And Entertainment!**

**Tickets are available in the church office during the week  
through December 9.**

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

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

**Here is a preview of the centerpiece that will be on the tables  
for our Christmas Dinner.**

**They will be available for purchase for \$15.00.**

**If you are interested just let Joyce know at the dinner.**



## Pictorial Directory

Dear Church *family*,  
It's time for a New Directory!



We will be updating our pictorial directory.  
Look for more information in the January  
Palm West *Alive*.

**Treasurer**  
**Chuck Crandall**

**Finance Report Thru October 2022**

| Revenue                 | Actual            | Budget            |
|-------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| General Fund Offering   | \$ 701,668        | \$ 711,650        |
| Interest & Other Income | \$ 10,586         | \$ 10,833         |
| 12% Missions Allocation | \$ (84,200)       | \$ (85,398)       |
| <b>Total Income</b>     | <b>\$ 628,054</b> | <b>\$ 637,085</b> |

| Expenses                       |                        |                     |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| Salaries & Compensation        | \$ 373,240             | \$ 379,628          |
| Benefits                       | \$ 87,078              | \$ 77,584           |
| Administration                 | \$ 31,205              | \$ 28,583           |
| Ministries                     | \$ 109,073             | \$ 104,325          |
| Provision for Capital R&R Fund | \$ 41,666              | \$ 41,666           |
| <b>Total Expenses</b>          | <b>\$ 642,262</b>      | <b>\$ 631,786</b>   |
| <br><b>Net Ordinary Income</b> | <br><b>\$ (14,208)</b> | <br><b>\$ 5,299</b> |

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

**If you would like to sign-up for Online giving, go to our website  
 and follow the links to sign on to Subsplash giving.  
 If you need assistance, contact the church office.**



**Fellowship Dinner**  
**Barb Barborak**



Vera Lauck turned 99 on November 13. For her birthday she told me she had one wish, to cut one more pie for the fellowship dinner. I made sure her wish came true.  
 Vera was our official pie cutting lady for all the ladies that chaired the fellowship committee including me. Vera cut hundreds of pies over the years.  
 Happy Birthday Vera and thank you!

## Connection Coordinator

Claudia Burr



I recently read an article about gratitude and thankfulness that really made me think about how fortunate we are to have a loving Father and be part of a community of believers that find ways to support one another and serve cheerfully for His Kingdom. The article

suggested that to have a spirit of thanks:

- Develop an attitude of gratitude by never taking advantage of the privilege of our circumstances
- Choose to be thankful at any time, any place and be mindful of the many blessings in our lives
- Be thankful for what we have, what God can do for us in all circumstances, and proclaim His Greatness.

I am thankful for so many things but truly appreciate what God has done in our church family and church life this year and especially those who made it happen! Just to name a few:

- **Welcome** team at worship for Guest Services, Member Services, Greeters, Communion Servers, Ushers and Emergency Response – what a dedicated group of individuals who love the Lord, show up faithfully with grateful hearts, who reach out to welcome us to His House, His People, and our Worship services! We are thankful to the leaders of these marvelous teams: Linda Haley (Guest), Janet Barenberg (Members), Kristine Seemiller (9 am Worship), Pat Royer and Shiloh Meyers (1030 am Worship), and Diane Wilcox (Emergency Response Team) and every ministry lead who has been at the Member Services desk sharing about their ministry and answering questions.
- **Education** team for the Library Resources and updating of materials and book giveaways, the many Bible studies allowing us to go deeper with God and share with one another His Wisdom and Truth, all overseen by Dena Martin and led by Dave Witt, Bob Wilbur, Alice Paluch, Mary Ann Lind, Tom Phillips and Pastor Jim Powell.
- **Missions** and the active engagement of many in helping the world and our local community reach hearts for Christ through giving and serving. Barb Barborak and Diane Preston teamed up this year to lead Missions and Claudia Smith continues to inspire us with her dedication to Hope Bags ministry. Wilma Plett and Pat Seaberg have ramped up Quilting Ministry and Diane Preston started Courtney's Creations for baby items knitted or crocheted. Carol Coulter organized many Valley View Community Food Bank food drives and Shirley Pluess organized the Samaritan's Purse Christmas Child Project while Claudia Smith coordinated the new way to reach children locally at Christmas with the Angel Tree and Barb Barborak got us excited about socks for the homeless!!! There are so many wonderful people serving in Missions and each contributes uniquely. We are all so thankful for the servants' hearts!
- **Events** had special activities this year with Strength and Exercise with Sara Dunn. We experienced the best ladies' tea ever with Beth Doering coordinating (and she continues with Women's Fellowship craft days and gatherings). Linda Haley coordinated the *God, Country and Freedom* fellowship this summer. Cavin Harper provided a wonderful Courageous Grandparenting Seminar that was supported by a committee of hospitality minded servants, while Ginger Emerson coordinated the Veterans Day Commemorative Pinning of Vietnam and Vietnam Era Veterans Ceremony.
- **Outreach** ad hoc teams shared special events and invited friends and family to occasions such as the Easter and Christmas cantatas, health and wellness presentations, Bible studies, Women's Fellowship and special events.
- **Decorations** has done a wonderful job in keeping seasonal reminders through flower arrangements and decorative areas for the church life seasons, led by Leta Sproule with Barb Kennington sharing the load.

**Fellowship Dinner and Special Projects** included a wonderfully funny and positive talent show as well as sing-alongs, games, informative missions speakers and great fellowship with food but also participation in pastor appreciation and church-wide discipleship education and practice. There are so many “behind-the-scenes” volunteers that make these activities social, like the team that decorates for dinners and those who do the media for each event – especially Jim Burroughs and Doug Totel as well as Nancy Wright, just to mention a few!



## Connection Coordinator

Claudia Burr

(continued)

This list could go on forever but these are a few that were related to the “Expand” function of our church and it doesn't showcase all of the things that happened. I am so thankful for the many people who made this year a good year in the Lord! With so much of the world corrupt and evil around us, it is so good to be able to focus on the positive and have a grateful heart to give to the Lord and a thankful spirit to share with those willing to give of their time, their talents and their money to serve uniquely for God and especially through His Body of Christ at PWCC, THANK YOU FOR SHARING!

And now that we have reviewed how special and blessed we have been this year, I ask that if you are yearning to serve in 2023 but don't know where or how, consider the following opportunities and contacts:

- **Greeters and ushers** for both services (see Kristine Seemiller for 9 AM and May Bonneau or Claudia Burr for 1030 AM)
  - **Guest Services** Coordinator – either bimonthly or quarterly assignment team members to serve at the Guest Services table before, between and after 9 and 1030 services (see Claudia Burr)
  - **Decorations** – assist with decorations for Christmas (Dec 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Worship Center – 9 AM and Easter primarily) (see Leta Sproule)
  - **Emergency Response Team** – both services need 4 positions filled for each service with those who have a medical background and are CCO qualified to serve in position 1, who assesses the situation and directs the response, position 2 calls 911 and assists position 1, position 3 contains the crowd, and position 4 assists the family and friends related to the victim (see Diane Wilcox)
  - **Education** – team members to assist with the Library and help with team decisions (see Dena Martin)
  - **Events** Coordinator – plans and involves help in church-wide events such as movie nights, seminars, etc.
- Missions** – volunteer with Hope Bags, Quilting, Courtney's Creations, and Missions church-wide activities (see Mary Ann Lind or Claudia Smith)

There are many other places to serve as well. If you are interested in:

- Music, choirs, solos, instrumentals, and/or media, please talk with Pastor Joe Place.
- Prayer, pastoral assistance for homebound or temporarily needing companionship and help, please talk with Pastor Brian Thomas

Fellowship, property maintenance or office volunteering, please speak with Joyce Sopilnick, the Church Administrator. Things happen because you are willing to say, “sure, I can do that!” So I am forever thankful, always grateful and abundantly blessed that God puts that idea in your heart! As it says in Psalms 92:1-2, 12-15 *“It is good to give thanks to the Lord and to sing praises to Thy name, O Most High; to declare Thy lovingkindness in the morning and Thy faithfulness by night.....the righteous man will flourish like the palm tree. He will grow like a cedar in Lebanon, planted in the house of the Lord. They will flourish in the courts of our God. They will still yield fruit in old age; they shall be full of sap and very green, to declare that the Lord is upright, He is my Rock, and there is no unrighteousness in Him.”*

Call upon Him and then speak up! You are welcome to join in many, many places!

Blessings,

Claudia

## December Sermons



Things that Last  
Pastor Jim Powell

Dec 4 - Love

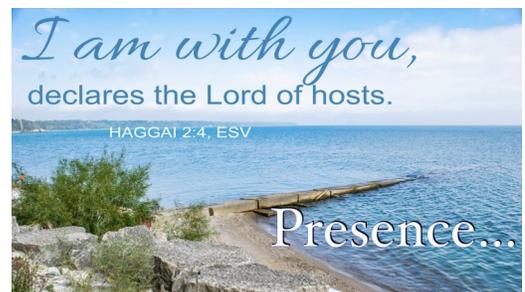
December 11 - Christmas Cantata

Presence Series

December 18 - God With Us - Before Jesus

December 24 - God With Us - In Jesus

December 25 - God With Us - Through Jesus



## Women's Fellowship Ministry *Pat Seaberg*

**Women's Fellowship Craft Day** was such a fun event! We would like to thank all of the ladies who came out to participate in the craft day, to create the glass blocks, ornaments, bracelets, snowmen, and tea lights. Thank you also to the Coloring group for the note cards and book-marks.



There were seventy-two ladies registered for this event and none of it would have been possible without the efforts of our amazing volunteers. A special thank you to Beth Doering for her fabulous vision, from the planning, preparation of supplies, training, and setup—you truly amaze us all. And thank you also to all those volunteers who helped prepare, set up, teach, and serve at this fun event—thank you so very much.



***Women's Connection***  
***Ladies, Join us for great conversation!***

***We will only be meeting on Monday mornings, 10:00—11:00 a.m., December 12 and 19*** in Hoover Hall classroom for an informal time of fellowship.

We discuss a different topic each week and have fun sharing and getting to know each other. Bring your own drink. For questions call the church office.



**Quilters Meeting**

**We will not be meeting in December.**

**We will have our next meeting on Friday, January 6 at 9:00 a.m.**

**In the Hoover Hall classroom.**

**Emergency Response Team (E.R.T.)**

Have you seen red lanyards worn by some church members at Church? Red Lanyards are worn by people who want to help when someone falls or need medical assistance. We would like to grow our team for our emergency response.

Please call Diane Wilcox at 720-556-8891 for more information.

**Courtneys Creations**

We meet on the first Friday of each month, January 6 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 January we will be meeting on  
January 10 and 24, 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 or Mary Beth Tyson

**Fellowship Games**

Join us in the Hoover Hall classroom  
Monday,  
January 16 at 2:00 p.m.



## December Meetings

### **Celebration Bells**

Fridays, December 2, 9, 16                      9:00 am—10:00 am                      Choir Room

### **Choir**

Sundays, December 4, 11, 18                      8:15 am—8:40 am                      Choir Room

Thursdays, December 1, 8, 15, 22                      3:00 pm—4:30 pm                      Choir Room

### **CBS**

Wednesdays December 7, 14                      9:30 am—11:30 am                      Entire Campus

Friday, December 9 Christmas Dinner                      5:00 pm—9:00 pm                      Hoover Hall

### **Christian Readers Book Club**

Thursday, December 1                      1:00 pm—2:30 pm                      Worship Center classroom

### **Christmas Decorating Committee**

Friday, December 2                      1:00 pm—3:00 pm                      Worship Center & Hoover Hall

Saturday, December 3                      8:00 am—3:00 pm                      Worship Center & Hoover Hall

### **Coloring Fellowship**

Tuesday, December 13                      10:00 am—11:30 am                      Hoover Hall

### **Courtney's Creations**

Friday, December 2                      11:00 am—12:00 pm                      Worship Center classroom

### **GriefShare**

Tuesdays, December 6, 13                      10:00 am—11:30 am                      Choir Room

### **Education**

Monday, December 5                      9:00 am—10:00 am                      Worship Center classroom

### **Exaltation Bells**

Fridays, December 2, 9, 16                      10:30 am—11:30 am                      Choir Room

### **Fellowship Games**

Mondays, December 5, 19                      2:00 pm—5:00 pm                      Hoover Hall classroom

### **Hope Bags**

Friday, December 2                      9:00 am—12:00 pm                      Hoover Hall

### **Intercessory Prayer Gathering**

Tuesdays, December 6, 13, 20                      11:00 am—12:00 pm                      Worship Center classroom

## December Meetings

(continued)

### Missions

Monday, December 12                      1:00 pm—2:00 pm                      Hoover Hall classroom

### Prayer Gathering

Thursdays, December 1, 8, 15, 22                      11:00 am—2:00 pm                      Choir Room

### VLT

Thursday, December 1                      10:00 am—11:30 am                      Worship Center classroom

Tuesday, December 6                      10:00 am—11:30 am                      Hoover Hall classroom

### Women's Bible Study

Thursdays, December 1, 8, 15, 22                      9:30 am—11:00 am                      Hoover Hall classroom

### Women's Connection

Mondays, December 12, 19                      10:00 am—11:30 am                      Hoover Hall classroom

### Women's Fellowship Christmas Brunch

Monday, December 5                      10:30 am—2:00 pm                      Hoover Hall



**The Church Office will be closed  
Monday, December 26 through Monday, January 2.  
We will re-open on Tuesday, January 3.  
The phone messages will be checked daily.**

## Education/Library

Dena Martin, Chair

**Library** The Education Committee and the Library staff have been diligently working to provide Christian based Fiction books as well as our Biography, and Non-fiction library in the room next door to the main library in the Worship Center. We have folks looking for books that are not currently on our shelves. With some research we find folks are keeping books out more than 30 days. We do not fine our members and friends for overdue books. Therefore, we are asking that you check your home library and please return books and DVD's 30 days after checkout. Thank You

The library will continue to offer free "Our Daily Bread" booklets. 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 before, after and inbetween services through May 2023 and daily 9am to 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 this winter, you may want to review what we have to offer you in the way of leader guides and DVD;s. If you need more student books, we will be happy to order them for you.

### New to the Palm West Library

DVD-Great People of the Bible

DVD-Women of the Bible

DVD-The End Times

DVD-The Holy Land Revealed

DVD-Helena 1<sup>st</sup> Pilgrim of the Holy Land

DVD-Joseph and his Brethren

DVD-What a Friend we have in Jesus

DVD-In Search of the Holy Grail

DVD-The Gates of Jerusalem

DVD-The Gospel of Mark

DVD-Acts

DVD-Solomon

DVD-The Gates of Jerusalem

DVD-The Bible in Chronological Order

God's Answers to Life's Difficult Questions by Rick Warren

Hitlers Cross by Erwin W. Lutzer

Good Christians, Good Husbands? By Doreen Moore

A Jewish Christmas by Frank Straight

New Christian's handbook by Max Anders

The Gospel according to God by Macarthur

The Dowry of Miss Lydia Clark

Apples Never Fall by Liane Moriarty

The Courtship of the Vicar's Daughter by Lawana Blackwell

The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek by Kim Michele Richardson

### Small Group Bible Studies' New to the Library

Secrets of the Vine, DVD and Guide by Bruce Wilkinson

The Storm Inside, DVD and Study Guide by Sheila Walsh Joseph,

The Journey to Forgiveness, Bible Study by Melissa Spoelstra



## Education/Library

Dena Martin, Chair  
Bible Studies

- ⇒ Bob Wilber's Sunday Morning Bible Study continues with Ray Vander Laan's lessons, God Heard Their Cry, Finding Freedom in the Midst of Life's Trials at 9:00 a.m. in Hoover Hall Classroom There will not be classes on Sunday, December 25.
- ⇒ David Witt's Men's Monday Bible Study in Deuteronomy, 10:00am in the Choir Room. The class will take a break from Thanksgiving through the New Year. It will resume on Monday, January 9, 2023.
- ⇒ Tom Phillips Study "The Drama of Ephesians" 1:00pm in Hoover Hall Classroom will resume in January
- ⇒ Women's Thursday Bible Study in the Hoover Hall classroom at 9:30 a.m. Current session is "Genesis" led by Mary Ann Lind. There will not be class on December 29.

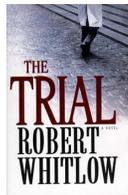
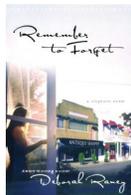
## Christian Readers Book Club

1st Thursday of each month, 1:00 p.m.

Worship Center Classroom

- December "Remember to Forget" by Deborah Raney  
January "The Trial" by Robert Whitlow  
February, "Full Steam Ahead" by Karen Witemeyer

Join us on December 1, 1:00 p.m. in Worship Center Classroom



## Missions Moments

Diane Preston, Communications

### Christmas Sock Drive



Men's, Women's, Children's and Infant's sized socks for warming feet during the cold, winter months for the families in need and the homeless. Collection of socks will be December 4 and 11. Thank you for sharing your gifts with those who are less fortunate. To God be the glory and may we be blessed through our giving, love and devotion to Christ Jesus, Son of God, Son of Man, the Messiah!

Merry Christmas!

These are the ministries we are supporting:

The Phoenix Dream Center

The Phoenix Rescue Mission

Thrive

Neighborhood Ministries

Valley View Community Food Bank

## Missions Moments

Diane Preston, Communications

(continued)

### Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA)



Matt Palmer is our contact with the mission of FCA. Its mission is working to see the world transformed by Jesus Christ through the influence of coaches and athletes. Matt, as the Northwest Valley Regional Director does this by cultivating a culture to make disciples through engaging, equipping and empowering coaches and athletes to know and grow in Christ and lead others to do the same. This summer they had a leadership conference at Tonto Rim



Christian Camp, another mission we support. They had many decisions to follow Christ this summer and Tonto Rim is a fabulous place to balance sports activities with deep conversations about Jesus Christ. They use 8 core principles in developing young Christians.

They are:

1. Join God's Team – this is where they help young people see how sin separates them from God
2. Live with God's Power – this principle helps them know about renewal of spirit and the power of God to help them choose wisely and righteously
3. Train Spiritually – this principle challenges youth to make a plan and execute it to the glory of God and not themselves
4. Communicate with God - this principle challenges youth to have a prayer life
5. Study God's Playbook – this principle encourages daily Bible reading and study and acknowledgement of the Word as God's truth
6. Team Up with Others - this principle encourages fellowship to support and strengthen faith
7. Know Your Role – this principle assures each youth that God made them uniquely to have a role in the church and on the team by serving and loving one another
8. Share With Others – this principle encourage youth to share the Gospel of the good news with friends, family and teammates.

How does PWCC fit into this plan? We provide the bibles for item 5 that opens doors for spiritual growth. What a blessing these young people are. They attend each fellowship dinner and are applying the principle of number 7 – Know Your Role. They come to serve fellow Christians. Take time to know and encourage them! We can also partner with them and here is what is going on:

- ◆ Prayer for campus ministry by district
  - ⇒ Peoria, Deer Valley, Dysart, Glendale, Phoenix, Agua Fria, Buckeye, Tolleson, Paradise Valley, Fountain Hills, Scottsdale and Tempe
- ◆ Prayer for the FCA team
  - ⇒ Dra Rogers, Kelly Schmidt, Jon Singh, Nick Nikias, Emily Whitlow, Sarah Blomgren, Matt Palmer
- ◆ Support local huddles
  - ⇒ Volunteer support needed to show up and serve coaches athletes in person or provide donuts / pizza for campus meetings – Contact Matt Palmer ([mpalmer@fca.org](mailto:mpalmer@fca.org)) for more specific information for dates, times and locations, etc.

Marge Arnold  
FCA Liaison, PWCC Missions

**Missions Moments**  
Diane Preston, Communications

*(continued)*

**Christmas Child Project –  
Shoeboxes**

Dear PWCC! Thank you for your generosity this season. Our goal was 200 and the final total of boxes is as follows:

|                  |   |     |
|------------------|---|-----|
| Online Purchases | – | 210 |
| Filled onsite    | - | 129 |
| Total            |   | 339 |

Each online order had the following personal note placed inside the box:

“Hello, we want you to know God loves you very much! We hope you enjoy all the items in your shoebox gift! We picked these items just for you. We are praying for you. Your friends at Palm West”

To God be the Glory!



**Turkey Drive**  
**Thank you all for your generosity!**

Thank you so much for your outpouring of love to Valley View Food Bank through your very generous donations of 71 turkeys, canned goods and monetary gifts.

Many lives were blessed through your giving!



## Hope Bags Claudia Smith

### Celebration

A huge **THANK YOU** for all the gifts and financial donations you so generously gave to Neighborhood Ministries 40th Christmas celebration for the children. The Angel Tree was a vehicle for us to brighten some child's Christmas, (who otherwise might not receive anything). Those from PWCC who attended the Christmas Fiesta on December 3rd were blessed to experience the joy and celebration of these children. Their bright smiles as they took the trolley; enjoyed the petting zoo; the live music; food and the live Nativity including receiving their toy from the Angel Tree.



You were Jesus to these little ones.



### Our Work Has Just Begun

Our Hope Bag Team is experiencing the joy of being the hands of Jesus. We are continuing to collect items to fill the Hope Bags on March 18, 2023. Our Quilters, under the leadership of Wilma Plett have already made over 200 quilts as of this writing, and continue to create more for the children. Lucy Peek is leading the effort of the Hope Bag sewers, (aka "The Soulful Sewers") as they work on 1,550 bags and crochet the colorful cords. We have a friend at Royal Oaks who has volunteered her crocheting skills and made over 100 cords for our project.



For those of you who may not have been to a Hope Bag dedication in past years, PWCC donates to the local missions who are Christ-centered, and have programs reaching at-risk families in our Valley. Rebecca Oaks is a faithful servant keeping the inventory for over 40,000 items. George Shoop is our chairman of receiving and processing all the items and we are blessed to add Laurie Alexander who is in charge of procuring all the bulk items needed.

In addition we have 58 people on the Hope Bag Team who all help at different times to sort, count and box the items to get them ready for our "Fill Day".

### **Teamwork Makes the Dream Work!**

It take ALL of us to work together to bring the Gospel Message to the at-risk folks in urban Phoenix.

If you have any questions, or would like to attend one of our meetings .please call Claudia Smith at 623-933-3054, or just to come to a meeting. you are welcome any time.

Our next meeting will be January 13 in the Hoover Hall Classroom at 9:00 am.



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

