Palm (Nest Alive

February 2025



Pastoral Staff:

Jim Powell, Senior Pastor pastorjim@palmwestchurch.org

Brian Thomas, Associate Pastor of Pastoral Care pastorbrian@palmwestchurch.org

Jeff Chariker, Associate Pastor of Music & Media pastorjeff@palmwestchurch.org

Gwendy Joysen, Director of Modern Worship gwendy@palmwestchurch.org

Office Staff:

Joyce Sopilnick, Church Administrator admin@palmwestchurch.org

Peg Rideout, Connections Coordinator connections@palmwestchurch.org

The Deadline for the March Palm West Alive is Friday, February 14, 2024.

Please send your article to admin@palmwestchurch.org.

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Worship With Us In Person

Sundays

Traditional Worship 9:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary

Saturdays

Modern Worship 4:00 p.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

Office Closed

Phone: 623-546-2980 Fax: 623-546-9977

General Church Email: staff@palmwestchurch.org Website: www.palmwestchurch.org

PWCC Leaders

VLT Chair, Bob Leavengood

Treasurer, Joyce Westlund

Education, Shari Goldade

Hospitality, Carol Graf

Media, Jim Burroughs

Missions, Phil Burdick

Property, Terry Brafford

Worship:, Traditional:

9:00 a.m. Kristine Seemiller 10:30 a.m. Rob Hilkemeier

Pastor Jim Powell

Senior Pastor

Finding Comfort in Difficult Times



"Turn to me and be gracious to me, for I am lonely and afflicted. Relieve the troubles of my heart and free me from my anguish."

— Psalm 25:16-17

Life often brings seasons of difficulty, loneliness, and sorrow that weigh heavy on our hearts. In these moments, it's easy to feel isolated and overwhelmed, unsure of where to turn for comfort. Yet, in Psalm 25:16-17, David reminds us that God is not only aware of our pain but is also ready to meet us with grace, compassion, and healing. These verses offer us a beautiful example of what it looks like to cry out to God in the midst of affliction, trusting Him to provide relief and comfort when our hearts are troubled.

David's words, "Turn to me and be gracious to me," reflect his deep dependence on God's presence. This is a reminder that when we feel alone, God's grace is always available. He is not a distant observer but a loving Father who listens intently to His children. Loneliness and affliction may be part of our human experience, but they are not meant to define us. By calling on God, we open our hearts to His reassurance that we are never truly alone, no matter how isolating our circumstances may feel.

The plea in verse 17, "Relieve the troubles of my heart and free me from my anguish," speaks to a God who understands the complexities of human emotion. David's prayer is not just about external challenges; it addresses the inner turmoil that often comes with pain. God desires to bring peace to our hearts, lifting the burdens we carry and giving us the strength to move forward. This freedom from anguish comes when we surrender our struggles to Him and trust in His ability to heal us.

As we reflect on these verses, we are encouraged to bring our pain to God, no matter how overwhelming it may seem. He invites us to be honest about our struggles, just as David was. In return, He promises to meet us with grace, comfort, and the peace that only He can provide. Let Psalm 25:16-17 remind us that even in the hardest seasons, God is near, ready to turn toward us and carry our burdens. May we find strength in His presence and trust in His love to guide us through every storm.

Pastor Jim

Director of Modern Worship & Venues Ministry

Gwendy Joysen

Hello, PWCC Friends!

As most of you know, I will be leaving PWCC after this week. My focus will turn back to finishing my certification for Biblical Counseling and recording another album project. In recent years, there has been a growing movement of Christian adults "deconstructing" their faith. Having experienced that firsthand myself, God has helped me recognize both the nuances of that process as well as the challenges of re-entering the Church when one comes back to the Lord. Through counseling, music, writing and speaking, my work going forward will be centered around assisting others as they take those reuniting steps. Praise be to God, that He draws us back to Him!



My time here with you has blessed me and truly helped clarify the next steps in God's will for my life. Thank you for being a part of my journey!

In Christ Alone, ~Gwendy Joysen

gwendyjoysen@yahoo.com (602) 935-6554





Pictorial Directory

We are updating our pictorial directory!

We will have a photographer on site on Sundays, February 2 & 23,10:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Monday, February 17, 11:00 a.m.—2:30 p.m. in Hoover Hall.

Pictures will be taken, they will be digital, no sales, they will be sent to you by email.

If you would like to use your current photo, just let us know.

For a new photo sign up on Sundays February 2, 9, & 16 in the Narthex before, between and after services, or on Saturdays February 1, 8, 15, before and after service, in the Hoover Hall Foyer, or call the office.

Connection Coordinator Peg Rideout



Connecting with Joyce; Our beloved Church Administrator



For almost ten years, and longer than any of our current pastoral staff, Joyce Sopilnick has managed the office at Palm West Community Church. She makes everyone look good and have what they need to fulfill their roles. She knows everything about everything and scurries around the church grounds making sure things are organized and ready to go for all the services and activities that take place throughout the week. But some of you may have never met Joyce! She prefers to be out of the spotlight, but she also attends mass at a catholic church with her husband. Joyce's grandma who was very instrumental in her life, was a devout Catholic and in whose footsteps Joyce follows. Let's learn more about this special lady!



If you talk to Joyce on the phone you'll pick up a distinct accent. She was born and raised in Floral Park, New York, in Queens County which is on Long Island. Joyce met Richard while she was at a local ice cream shop with her high school friends. Richard took one look at Joyce and knew she was the one! They have been married 51 years and have two daughters and six grandchildren - five boys and a girl. Her daughters and their families still reside in New York, but Richard and Joyce moved to Arizona in 1999 so that Richard, an only child, could be close to his parents in their later years.

Joyce is well-known at Starbucks where she picks up her morning coffee daily - a vanilla sweet cream cold brew. She admits that potato chips are her weakness, and her house is never void of Ruffles! When she visits her family in New York, she enjoys a meal at a family-owned Italian restaurant, King Umberto's. Beaches and Dream Girls are two of her favorite movies.

When I asked Joyce what the best thing was about working at PWCC, she immediately replied, "the people", and then under her breath said, "it's almost like not working. The people here are so kind and easy to work with." I can speak on behalf of our church family and say that we are the ones who are honored to have Joyce Sopilnick spend her days with us. She told me that she has had a blessed life and is grateful for her family and the ability to be a part of what goes on at Palm West Community Church.

If you're interested in using your talents to help with clerical tasks, there are openings for office volunteers. This is usually a half day commitment one day a week or on call to fill in occasionally. Let me know if you have any questions, or stop by or call the office and speak with Joyce.

1 Peter 4:10 says, "As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace."

Peg Rideout
Connections Coordinator
connections@palmwestchurch.org, 317-460-0576



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.



Modern Worship Second Saturday POTLUCK

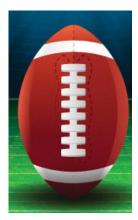
February 8 5:00 p.m. in Hoover Hall

Sign up Saturday February 1, or contact the church office.





3:00 p.m., Hoover Hall \$5.00 per person

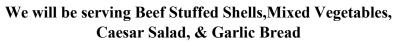


We will be serving Cranberry Meatballs, Mozzarella Sticks, Chili with Fixin's, Chex Mix, Pigs in a Blanket, Buffalo Dip, 7 Layer Dip, Veggie Tray. Sign up continues Saturday, February 1, Sunday, February 2 or call the church office.

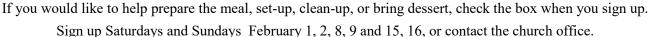
FellowshipCarol Graf, Chair



Our February Fellowship Dinner is Wednesday, February 19, at NEW TIME: 4:30 p.m. in Hoover Hall



\$5.00 per person at the door.



Let's shower the Phoenix Dream Center when they share with us at our dinner these needed items, twin sheet sets, bath towels, shampoo and conditioner, deodorant, and feminine products. fellowship items



Women's Connection Ladies, join us for great conversation!



Join us on Monday afternoons from 12:00 p.m. 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.



Creative Arts Fellowship

Tuesday's, February 11 & 25
10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
Hoover Hall
Open to all, invite your friends.
We start with a short Devotion.



This is a good way to connect with others who enjoy doodling on their iPad or in a coloring book! We will resume meeting on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays in the New Year.



Cards With Friends

We meet on the second and fourth Fridays 1:30—4:30 p.m. in the Hoover Hall classroom. Men, women, couples, singles and all your friends and neighbors are welcome.

We play a variety of card games and are happy to teach the rules. For more information call Bonnie 623-516-8778, or the church office.

This group has fun working our brains and sharing our love for Christ.

Fellowship Games

Come and join us at Fellowship Games for a couple of hours of fun, finger snacks, and good fellowship.

We have a committed "Mexican Train" group and also welcome other games. We will meet on Mondays, February 3 & 17, in Hoover Hall Classroom 2:00 p. m.— 4:30 p.m.





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 Fellowship Ministry

Pat Seaberg, Chair



Women's Fellowship Retreat

"This Isn't What I Signed Up For"

"Trusting God's Plan"

Friday, March 7, 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Saturday, March 8, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Hoover Hall



Sometimes life throws us a curve ball or unexpected detours. We try to second guess what went awry or if we missed a major signal. Struggling to be happy without regrets in where we find ourselves doesn't always work, and we wonder if our vision is foggy in understanding God's plan. The doubts and uncertainty about our purpose in accepting where we are in life is not a new concern but shared by women throughout history.

Carolyn Larsen will be featured at the PWCC Women's Retreat as she shares her own struggles as well as those experienced by contemporary Christian women and women in the Bible. As we search to understand, another question is do we really have the strength,

endurance, and interest to keep going. Being useful takes energy and passion. Carolyn's transparent insights are realistic and valuable as we face roadblocks along the way.

Carolyn Larsen is a best-selling author, actress and experienced speaker with a God-given passion for ministering to women. She has spoken at conferences and retreats around the United States, Canada and India. Authoring over 50 books for women and children has helped her work through her own doubts with solid outcomes. Trusting God's Plan will reveal His constant, redeeming, powerful love and give you courage, strength and faith to carry on.

You will be encouraged, entertained, and challenged as she unpacks the sentiment of **This Isn't What I Signed Up For....**but **Trusting God's Plan** fulfills His purpose.

Quilt and Sew

Wilma Plett

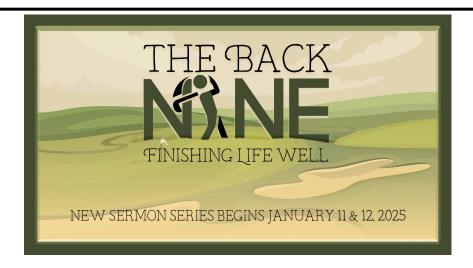
The Palm West Quilt & Sew Group will meet Friday February 7 at 10:00 a.m. in the Hoover Hall Classroom.

This is open to all ladies who are interested in sewing to make blankets to give comfort to babies, children and young adults that are in need.

To date we have completed approx. 390 blankets with more in progress to be done by March and given with the Hope Bags on Dedication Sunday.

We have lots of new fabric coming for our 2025 projects. Come and check us out!

February Sermons



Series The Back Nine: Finishing Life Well Pastor Jim Powell

February 2—Letting Someone Else Drive the Cart Verses: 1 Kings 19:19-21; 2 Kings 2:8-14

> February 9—Enjoying Each Shot Verses: Col 3:15-17; Lam 3:22-23

February 16—Facing Hazards
Verses: John 21:18-22; Joash in 2 Chronicles 24:15-19; Hebrews 12:1-2

February 23—Looking Ahead Verses: Various



Leadership Meeting

Our next leadership meeting will take place on Tuesday, February 11
9:00 a.m.—10:00 a.m.in Hoover Hall

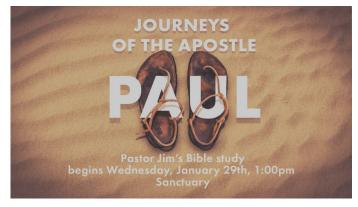
This gathering is a time of prayer, celebration, vision casting, communication and coaching.

All are welcome to attend!

Contact the church office for more information.

Pastor Jim's Wednesday Bible Study Continues 1:00 p.m. Sanctuary

The Journeys of the Apostle Paul



Feb 5 - No Class (Aspire Conference)

Feb 12 – Second Missionary Journey
Acts 16:1-10

Feb 19 – Philippi Acts 16:11-40

Feb 26 – Thessalonica & Berea Acts 17:1-15

> March 5 – Athens Acts 17:16-34

March 12 – Corinth Acts 18

March 19 - No Class (Vacation)

March 26 - No Class (Spiritual Growth Retreat)

April 2 – Ephesus Acts 19

April 9 – Macedonia Acts 20

April 16 – Jerusalem Acts 21-23

April 23 – Caesarea Acts 23-26

April 30 – Rome Acts 27-28

February Meetings

AA/Alanon		
Wednesdays, February 5, 12, 19, 26	7:00 pm—8:30 pm	Hoover Hall & HH classroom
Saturdays, February 1, 8, 15, 22	7:00 pm—8:30 pm	Hoover Hall & HH classroom
CBS		
Wednesdays, February 5, 12, 19, 26	9:30 am—11:30 am	Whole Campus
Breakfast, Wednesday, February 26	8:30 am—9:30 am	Hoover Hall
Cards With Friends		
Friday's, February 14, 28	1:30 pm—4:30 pm	Hoover Hall classroom
Celebration Bells		
Mondays, February 3, 10, 17, 24	10:30 pm—12:00 pm	Sanctuary
Choir Rehearsals		
Wednesdays, February 5, 12, 19, 26	3:00 pm—4:30 pm	Choir Room
Christian Readers Book Club		
Thursday, February 6	1:00 pm—2:00 pm	Worship Center classroom
Creative Arts Fellowship		
Tuesday', February 11, 25	10:00 am—11:30 am	Hoover Hall classroom
Fellowship Dinner		
Wednesday, February 19	4:30 pm—7:00 pm	Hoover Hall
Fellowship Games		
Mondays, February 3, 17	2:00 pm—4:30 pm	Hoover Hall classroom
GriefShare		
Tuesdays, February 4, 11, 18, 25	10:00 am—11:30 am	Choir Room
Hope Bags		
Friday, February 14	9:00 am—12:00 pm	Hoover Hall & HH classroom
Intercessory Prayer Gathering		
Tuesdays, February 4, 11, 18, 25	11:00 am—12:00 pm	Worship Center classroom
Leadership Meeting		
Tuesday, February 11	9:00 am—10:00 am	Hoover Hall
Men's Bible Study		
Mondays, February 3, 10, 17, 24	10:00 am—11:00 am	Choir Room
Missions		
Monday, February 10	1:00pm—2:30 pm	Hoover Hall classroom
PAT Meeting		
Tuesday, February 18	1:00 pm—2:30 pm	Choir Room
Super Bowl Party		
Sunday, February 9	3:00 pm—7:00 pm	Hoover Hall
		(continued)

February Meetings

(continued)

Wednesday Bible Study—Pastor Jim		
Wednesdays, February 12, 19, 26	3:00 pm—4:30 pm	Sanctuary
Women's Bible Study		
Thursdays, February 6, 13, 20, 27	9:30 am—11:00 am	Hoover Hall classroom
Women's Connection		
Mondays, February 3, 10, 17, 24	12:00 pm—1:30 pm	Worship Center classroom
Women's Fellowship Leaders Meeting		
Monday, February 3,	900 am—11:30 am	Hoover Hall classroom
Quilt & Sew		
Friday, February 7	10:00 am—12:00 pm	Hoover Hall classroom

Men of Palm West Church

Calling all men of Palm West Community Church!

Make plans now to join us for a men's hot breakfast to hear more about opportunities to grow spiritually, give back through service and enjoy social interactions with others in our church family.

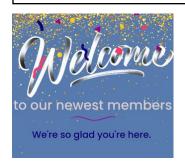
When: Saturday, February 22

Time: 8:30 AM Where: Hoover Hall

Sign up at the Member Service Table. All men are welcome and invited!

Contact Tim Kurtz 317-319-7551 tik8822@gmail.com with questions

Welcome to our New Members



On Sunday, January 26 Pastor Jim welcomed our newest members.

Dawnetta Miller

Earl & Barbara Paasch

We will have their pictures in the March newsletter.

Education

Shari Goldade, Chair

Bible Study Opportunities

Sunday Morning Bible Study—New Location—Hoover Hall classroom

Sundays at 10:30 a.m. in the Hoover Hall classroom. Bob Wilber continues the topic of Cultures and Conflicts.

Men's Bible Study— Mondays at 10:00 a.m. in the Choir Room. We 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. Rick Vance continue s the study of the book *The Gift of God* by Richard Seymour.

Women's Bible Study—Mary Ann Lind will continue the intensive study of The Gospel of John . Thursdays 9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. in Hoover Hall classroom. All are welcome!.

The January, February & March Daily Bread is available at both services.

Library

Nancy Wright, Librarian

What is your reading pleasure? If your answer is non-fiction, may I ask If you have visited the non-fiction/biography section of our library? This portion of the library is located in the Worship Center Classroom. All books are available for check out by writing your name and the book's barcode number on the sign out sheet in the fiction library room located in the lobby. Following are a few interesting books on the topic of "prayer" found on the 230/240 shelf.

- 231.7/STA How To Listen To God by Charles Stanley "Learn to listen to the God who wants to speak to you"
- 248.3/AND **When God Says No** by Leith Anderson "With wisdom and warmth, Leith Anderson probes prayer's toughest mysteries, leading readers anew to the God who is worth trusting."
- 248.3/CHE **Healing Prayer** by Reginald Cherry, M.D. "...takes you inside a Christian doctor's office and shows you not only the medical but also the spiritual side of healing.
- 248.3/McK Every Moment Holy Vol. II: Death, Grief, and Hope by Douglas McKelvey [One of Pastor Brian's favorites]
- 248.3/MUN Understanding the Purpose and Power of Prayer: earthly license for heavenly interference by Dr. Myles Munroe
- 248.3/WES **Praying for My Life** by Marion Bond West "For all those who have almost given up hope, almost stopped believing, almost ceased praying, almost"
- 248.3/YAN **Prayer: Does it Make a Difference**? By Philip Yancey "Does prayer work? More personally, does it work the way we think it should? What can we really expect from prayer?
- 264.1/LOC All the Prayers of the Bible by Herbert Lockyer

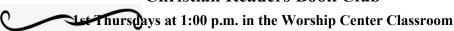


Education

Shari Goldade. Chair

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Christian Readers Book Club



Our next meeting will be Thursday, February 6 at 1:00 p.m.

Please join us and invite your friends. Our group is open to all who love to read and enjoy good wholesome fellowship.

Here are our monthly books:

February book is To Win Her Favor by Tamera Alexander
March Book is The Captured Bride by Michelle Griep
April book is The Unlikely Yarn of the Dragon Lady by Sharon Mondragon
May book is Just Once by Karen Kingsbury
June Book is The Hidden Prince by Tessa Afshar

Missions

Phil Burdick, Chair

VILLAGE MISSIONS

Linda Hall, Liaison

Palm West Church supports Village Missions which for 75 years has been committed to helping country churches in rural communities survive and thrive across North America. This is accomplished through providing financial assistance for pastors to help struggling or closed rural churches get back on their feet. Currently VM has missionary pastors or couples serving full time in 200 churches across North America. In Arizona, VM supplies financial assistance to missionary pastors in the rural communities of Tonto Basin and Mayer, AZ.

Additionally, VM is looking for qualified missionary pastors to fill positions in 24 additional churches who have applied to VM for help to start or maintain a church in their rural community. Missionaries could be retired pastors or students just finishing their seminary training. Missionaries are given a simple charge: Preach the Word and Love the People. They do this on Sundays and throughout the week through Bible Studies, children's and youth programs, and a variety of outreach events. They fill an urgent need when a crisis hits, when the community is searching for somewhere to turn to for answers. Some are volunteer first responders or chaplains. Others coach sports or drive a school bus or help at the local food bank or resource center. All are committed to declaring the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Palm West is privileged to support this vital mission through our regular mission giving. To explore more about Village Missions, the missionaries and the churches where they serve, visit www.villagemissions.org.



Executive Director John and Candy Adams



Summer Missions Team Vacation Bible School in Glenwood Washington



Village Missionary Mike Roush does a baptism in Greenville, CA

H P P E BAGS

Hope Bags *Claudia Smith*

Learn How God Is Working

God is working through PWCC and our fellow brothers and sisters are on the front lines. Did you know that over 3,000 women and 1,000 children are homeless in Maricopa County right now? Did you know that the Phoenix Dream Center is one of the largest and most successful in the nation, designed to help young women find safety, healing and a fresh start? **COME** to our February fellowship dinner **Wednesday**, **February 19**, **2025** and learn how PDC is making a difference in the lives of our women and children who so desperately need our help. **NO**, the PDC does not receive government funding. They rely completely on our financial donations to make the programs free to those in need. Come learn how you have helped give hope and a future to one of Jesus' children.

Let's shower the Phoenix Dream Center at our fellowship dinner by bring an item to the dinner to present to them, along with the quilts that our church has made. Items needed include twin sheet sets, bath towels, shampoo and conditioner, deodorant, and feminine products.

Bringing Hope To A Child

Put yourself in the place of a foster child here in Arizona. You are turning 18 and given a plastic bag to hold anything you might own and sent out into the world with no place to live, no job, not even a High School diploma, no food and no person to help. That is what foster children face in Arizona. THRIVE AZ is providing Hope for these children, housing, education, Bible studies, life skills classes, food and **Hope**. You can give each child some hope and dignity by providing a suitcase, yes, a **Suitcase**. sounds too simple, doesn't it? But now they have something that shows that people care, giving them the courage to go through the programs at THRIVE AZ and become contributing members of our community. Thank you for caring.



Help Through Donations

As you are doing your Spring Cleaning, or redoing your home with new furniture, drapes, bedding, clothing, etc. please think about calling **Gary Graf**, 206-369-8659. Gary will pick up your donations, or he will arrange for pickups of furniture. You can put small items in the **Red Bins** in the Narthex of the Sanctuary or Hoover Hall. Gary is taking the donations down to the missions we support through Hope Bags. They are in need of many items you no longer need. Your donations will be a tax write off for you, and provide necessities for the folks who have nothing. Give your love.

Put March 15 On Your Calendar!

You won't want to miss the fellowship and excitement of seeing 1,550 Hope Bags filled in less than two hours. Yes the 15th of March is the day we fill the Hope Bags with all of the items you have brought in for this mission during the year. Everyone is invited to help, bring a friend! Coffee and doughnuts are provided for energy!

If you have any questions about the Hope Bag Ministry, please contact Jimmy or Claudia Smith. 928-899-8230 or 623-692-7911.



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

E IS PATIENT,	

1 Corinthians 13:4