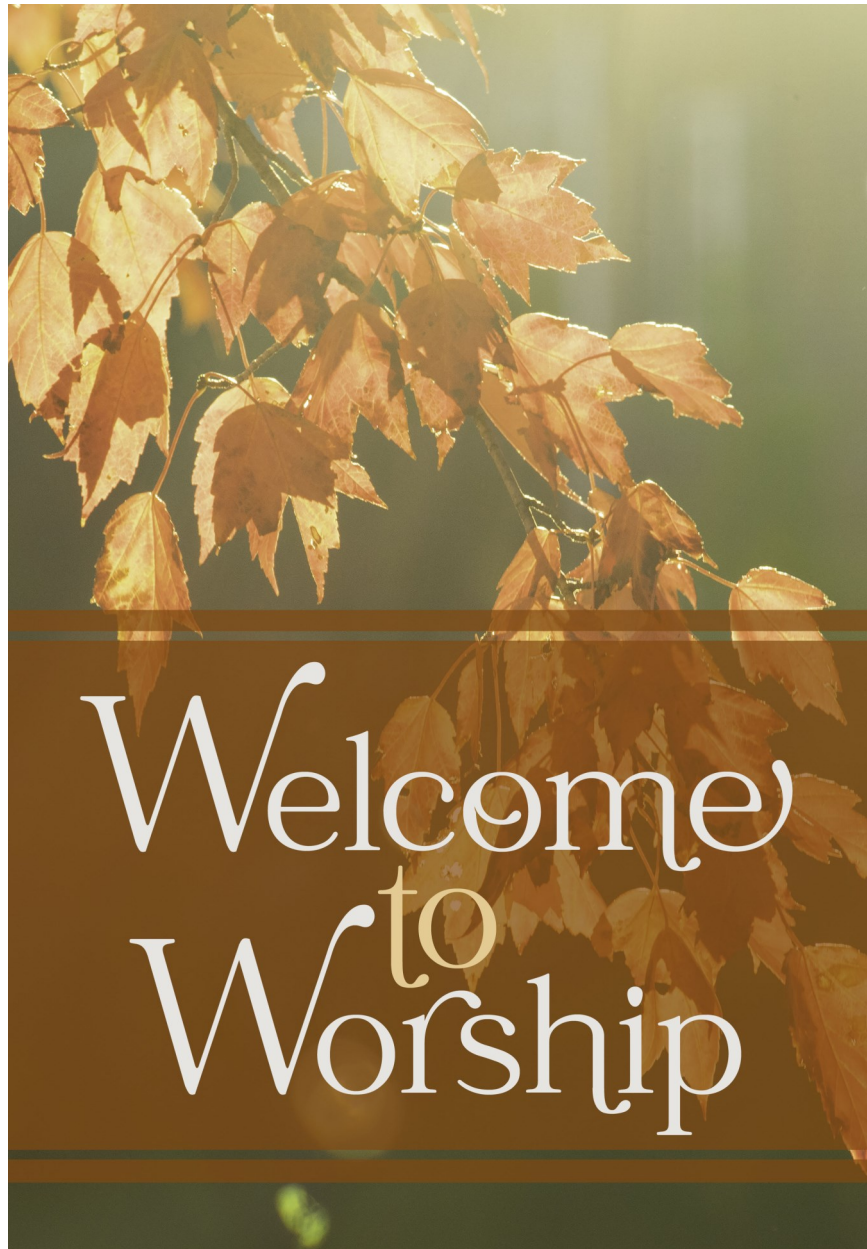


Palm West Alive

October 2021



ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 3

we will return to two worship services.

Join us at 9:00 a.m. or 10:30 a.m.

Pastoral Staff:

Jim Powell, Senior Pastor
pastorjim@palmwestchurch.org

Peter Kyhn, Associate Pastor of
Worship, Music and Discipleship
pastorpeter@palmwestchurch.org

Brian Thomas, Associate Pastor of Pastoral Care
pastorbrian@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



Worship With Us In Person Sundays

9:00 a.m. or 10:30 a.m.

OR

**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—1:00 pm

Phone: 623-546-2980

Fax: 623-546-9977

General Church Email:

staff@palmwestchurch.org

Website: www.palmwestchurch.org

**The Deadline for the November
Palm West Alive is:**



PWCC Leaders

VLT Chair, John Sproule
Moderator, Gini Baker
Treasurer, Chuck Crandall
Financial Secretary, Joyce Westlund
Clerk, Jan Cooper
Education, Dena Martin
Hospitality, Diane Koziol
Media, Jim Burroughs
Missions, Claudia Burr
Worship, Pat Royer/Dave Balzer

IN THIS ISSUE

- ◆ Pastor Jim, Holy Land Tour 2023, page 3
- ◆ Pastor Peter, page 4
- ◆ Pastor Brian, GriefShare, page 5
- ◆ Moderator, Two Services, page 6
- ◆ Thank You's, Fellowship, page 7
- ◆ Education, Book Review, Library, page 8
- ◆ Bible Studies, Save the Date, page 9
- ◆ October Sermons, Bible Study-Mark's Gospel, page 10,
- ◆ Christian Readers Book Club, Christmas Drama, page 11
- ◆ Quilters, Women's Connection, Coloring Fellowship,
Fellowship Games, page 12
- ◆ October Meetings, Online Giving, page 13, 14
- ◆ Stephen Ministry, page 15
- ◆ Hope Bags, page 16
- ◆ Missions, page 17-19

Pastor Jim Powell

Senior Pastor

In the Church and In the Home



Going back to the Old Testament, and even into the present, there has always been an emphasis on going to a specific place to worship God. Be it the tabernacle or temple for the Jews, or be it a church for Christians. There is something significant about being in a certain location with a gathering of people for the sole purpose of worshiping God. This was and always will be a good thing.

Meeting at church for worship can be a powerful and moving experience. It provides focused attention. Singing with others, hearing music played by gifted musicians, along with hearing God's word preached can be inspiring and motivates us to follow God more intently.

Yet, one significant element in the New Testament that often gets overlooked is the importance of integrating worship into the home. Over 100 times in the gospel we read about homes or houses. In most of those occurrences, it's Jesus entering someone's house for evangelism, healing, or teaching.

Furthermore, in the book of Acts we read *"Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts"* (Acts 2:46). Then a few chapters later we read again, *"Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Messiah"* (Acts 5:42). The early church did not just meet publicly for worship in the temple courts, but they also meet together in homes for study, prayer, evangelism, and fellowship.

Meeting in the homes with other believers is a more personalized experience. It allows for interaction, questions, relational support, and better care-giving. In over 30 years of ministry experience, I can say with 100% certainty that the people involved in a small group feel more cared for and connected to the church. Every. Single. Time. This is especially true the larger the church.

This is why we try to emphasize not only cooperate worship on the weekends, also the importance of small groups and bible studies. Just as we saw in the gospels and in the book of Acts, gathering in both the church and the home are important for a healthy and balanced spiritual life. So, stay connected with public worship. And if you are not yet involved, consider signing up and giving a small group a try. Because both are important.

Pastor Jim

Holy Land Tour 2023

Pastor Jim will be leading another tour of the Holy Land in February 2023. This will be an 11 day trip covering multiple locations where Jesus walked, talked, and taught.

For more information, brochures and registration forms are available in the office. If you register use the code: Powell23. You can also find more information online at:

<https://ittworld.com/tours/11-day-holy-land-tour-package/>

Pastor Peter Kyhn

Assoc. Pastor of Worship, Music & Discipleship



Martin Luther, the Reformation, and the People's Song

Each October 31 is the anniversary of the Protestant Reformation. The influence of the great reformer, German monk Martin Luther (1483-1546) is felt even in the congregational singing of present-day worshipers at Palm West Community Church.

The church of the late-medieval period used an order of worship that ignored any participation of the congregation except for the receiving of the consecrated bread: no spoken prayers or confessions, no responses, no singing. All those actions were performed exclusively by the clergy. The people could only listen and watch.

With the great rediscovery of biblical justification as God's gift of grace alone by faith alone in Christ only, Luther saw a marvelous opportunity to give the people's praise a voice. He was not only a theologian but a fine musician. In 1523 Martin Luther wrote to his friend, the court chaplain George Spalatin: "Following the example of the prophets and fathers of the church, I intend to make German Psalms for the people, i.e., spiritual songs, so that the Word of God even by means of song may live among the people."

A mere seven years after the 1517 posting of the 95 Theses on the Wittenberg castle door, the first Lutheran hymn collection, the "*Achtliederbuch*" ("*Book of Eight Songs*") appeared with eight hymns and four melodies.

Although Luther led the revolt against abuses by the Roman Catholic Church, he continued to make use of its texts and tunes: "He modified Roman Catholic tunes and texts to fit his new theology. As a result, people recognized familiar hymns and chants and felt at home in the new church. He used music which was already familiar to the majority of the people of Germany."

"Luther's *A Mighty Fortress*, which became the 'Battle hymn of the Reformation,' mirrors his strong personality. It is based on the Latin version of Psalm 46 'Our God is a refuge,' which in the Hebrew reads 'God is our Refuge,' and in the German: 'A mighty fortress is our God.' This chorale depicts Luther's struggle with Satan, including his belief in the presence and power of devils, and the triumph of Christ and God's kingdom over the forces of evil."

"Luther's people learned to sing. Practices were set during the week for the entire congregation, and in the home after family devotions singing was commended to the family."

Swiss reformer, John Calvin (1509-1564) also knew the power of song to "inflame the hearts of men to invoke and praise God with a more vehement and ardent zeal." Calvin restricted his use of texts for his church songs mainly to the Psalms and his logic for doing this is as follows:

Although we look far and wide and search on every hand, we shall not find better songs nor songs better suited to that end than the Psalms of David which the Holy Spirit made and uttered through Him. And for this reason, when we sing them we may be certain that God puts the words in our mouths as if Himself sang in us to exalt His glory.

God's people raising their voice in song was as important to Calvin as it was to Luther.

"Music is a gift of God.... Next after theology I give to music the highest place and the greatest honor," Luther famously wrote.

So, with the psalmist, Martin Luther, and John Calvin we say:

*Worship the Lord with gladness;
come before him with joyful singing.*

Psalm 100:2

1. Sydnor, James Rawlings, *Hymns and Their Uses*, 1982, Agape, Carol Stream, page 53.
2. Eskew, Harry; McElrath, Hugh T., *Sing with Understanding*, 1980 Nashville, Broadman Press, page 91.
3. Ibid., page 91-92.
4. Bainton, Roland H., *Here I Stand: A Life of Martin Luther*, 1950, Nashville, Abingdon Press, page 271.
5. Sydnor, pages 55-56.
6. Bainton, page 266-267.

Pastor Brian Thomas
Assoc. Pastor of Pastoral Care

As we are now into a busy Fall season of caring for our church family, there is much that I could highlight.

Yet, allow me to emphasize 2 things here:

1) Palm West will hold a special Christmas "Celebration of Life" service on Saturday, December 4 at 3:00 p.m. for family and friends from our church. This time of reflective remembrance will include music, Scripture, and a presentation featuring the names of loved ones who have passed away. If you would like to remember your loved ones in this way, you will have an opportunity to sign up in the church lobby or you can contact the church office in the month of November.

2) In this newsletter, you will read about changes to Stephen Ministry. While you can read the details in that article, let me reinforce the big takeaways. If you are in a Stephen Ministry relationship, those relationships will continue. Pastoral Care is available to you when you need it and will fall under the umbrella of our Pastoral Assistance Team (PAT). Lastly, should we find the need for continuing Stephen Ministry and several people come forward interested in Stephen Ministry training, we can easily rekindle this.

As always, I'm happy to answer any questions you may have on any of this information!

Serving with you,

Brian

*All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is our merciful Father and the source of all comfort.
He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others... 2 Cor. 1:3-4a*



Announcing the Fall Session of Griefshare!

After a long, hot summer which has been filled with grief for so many, GriefShare offers help along the road to a new beginning without a loved one in our lives. No matter the time distance between the loss and the present, the struggles are real. The counsel and companionship of others who are also walking this journey has proven to be a tremendous benefit. The 13 week course includes videos of respected pastors and counselors knowledgeable in grief recovery to give professional insight. This is a Christ-centered ministry designed to bring us all closer to the only One who provides the peace, comfort, and direction needed in a very confusing and possibly overwhelming time. All are welcome, Palm West members and neighborhood friends, free of charge.

Meetings are held every Tuesday 10:00-11:30 a.m., in the choir room. All are welcome.

Blessings,

Bob and Joyce Davis, Facilitators



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.



Moderator Gini Baker

On September 14, 2021, PWCC had a diaconate meeting open to all and attended by church volunteer leaders. Pastor Jim used this meeting as an opportunity for ministries within the church to identify themselves and to list their needs and wishes. In October you will hear about volunteer ministry needs within PWCC. I encourage each of you to search your heart for where in the church you might be best suited to serve.

Volunteering has a **spiritual benefit** as well. By volunteering, an individual will often want to dive deeper into the life of the church. At the same time, they serve not only as a helping hand, but also as a witness of the Gospel message within the community.

This process will rank the volunteer needs within PWCC; is very transparent; will help balance needs; there will be orientations and ministry training as needed. Small groups are starting again and there is a need for volunteer hosts.

Here are 10 scriptures to ponder as you consider your gifts and volunteering at Palm West Community Church:

1. “God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them.” **Hebrews 6:10**
2. “The greatest among you will be your servant.” **Matthew 23:11**
3. “Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.” **Luke 6:38**
4. “For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” **Mark 10:45**
5. “Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God’s grace in its various forms.” **1 Peter 4:10**
6. “So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.” **Galatians 6:10**
7. “... And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’” **Acts 20:35**
8. “For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.” **Ephesians 2:10**
9. “Work willingly at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people. Remember that the Lord will give you an inheritance as your reward, and that the Master you are serving is Christ.” **Colossians 3:23-24**
10. “Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth.” **1 John 3:18**

TWO SERVICES

BEGINNING SUNDAY, OCTOBER 3

On Sunday, October 3 we will return to two worship services.

Join us at 9:00 a.m. or 10:30 a.m.

Dear Church Family,

Thank you so much for your prayer support. The many cards, emails, calls, food deliveries, and all the help getting us moved to Fellowship Square we received over the past eight months during my extended illness. Things are finally looking better as the fluid has disappeared around my heart and my autoimmune diseases are easing up somewhat. Warren and I are grateful for your support and caring. We have felt it strongly and have been comforted!

RoseMarie Isbell



We, along with our Grandson, Christopher, would like to thank everyone who prayed for his safety during his time in Afghanistan. We continue to pray for all those who are in harm's way over there. May God have His hand of protection on each of His children.

Jimmy and Claudia Smith

Words cannot express my gratitude for the cards and phone calls that I received following the death of my only child and nine days later the sudden death of my sister-in-law and the funeral of my brother two weeks earlier. It really makes a difference to know that others care. How blessed I am to be a member of such a loving congregation. A special thank you to Pastor Brian whose comforting phone calls were truly valuable during such a difficult time.

Trudy Siinnos

Fellowship

Diane Koziol, Chair



Welcome back to our Monthly Fellowship dinners.



As before, we will gather on the third Wednesday. We plan to “carefully” re-open the kitchen by offering simple meals made with love and the joy that we are re-gathering as church family. Our October dinner will have an Oktoberfest theme – bratwurst, German potato salad, coleslaw, sauerkraut and dessert - ice cream.

Watch for opportunities to serve with us. We will have sign-up sheets for food prep, set up and clean up in the days ahead.

“God takes particular pleasure in acts of worship—a different kind of sacrifice that takes place in the kitchen, workplace and on the streets.”

Hebrews 13:16 (Message bible)

Education

Dena Martin, Chair

(continued)

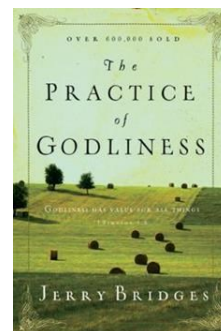
We would like to introduce you to a new book in our PWCC Library written by a member, Claudia Smith, also known as Ms. Puff. The title is “Messages From Heaven”. We have a signed copy in our library for check-out but if you wish to have one for your private collection, You can find ordering information in our library.

Book Review

Marilyn Ward

The Practice of Godliness, Jerry Bridges

Scripture tells us that God has given us “everything we need for life and godliness.” In the book, *The Practice of Godliness*, Jerry Bridges examines what it means to grow in Christian character and helps us to establish the foundations upon which that character is built. Bridges opens our eyes to see how character formation affects the way we relate to God, to ourselves, and to others. To live godly lives, we need an inward foundation of God-centeredness. This book will help you establish that foundation and then build an outward structure of godlikeness.



The church library is available for use throughout the week. If there is no one working, you may check out books by completing the library sheet, which is on the table. This sheet requires these items about the book. Your name, name of book, and bar code number from inside front cover. If you are not a member of PWCC you may still check out books by providing us with your information on a 3x5 card, provided for you, and leaving on the library table.

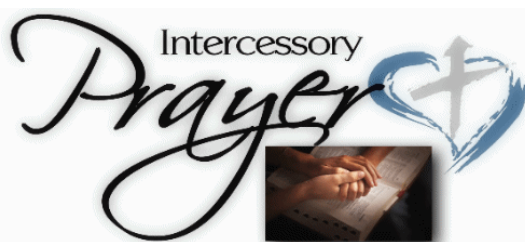
New to our Library:

Non-Fiction:

- *Evidence for the Resurrection* by Sean McDowell
- *The Stranger on the Road to Emmaus* by John R. Cross
- *The Gift of Years (Growing Older Gracefully)* by Joan Chittister
- *What To Do When You Don't Know What To Do* (Book of James) by David Jeremiah
- *A Woman's Walk With God* by Elizabeth George

Fiction

- *All She Ever Wanted* by Lynn Austin



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

Education
Dena Martin, Chair

Sunday Morning Bible Study

Continues at 9:00 a.m. with Bob Wilber's Bible Study "Promised Land"

Meeting in Hoover Hall classroom

For more information call Bob at 859-621-0709

Women's Bible Study

Alice Paluch

Women's Bible Study meets on Thursday's at 9:30 a.m. in the Hoover Hall classroom. The study of Ruth continues through October 7.

On October 14 Mary Ann Lind will begin a series on the "Book of Daniel".

For more information call Alice at 623-300-9522.

All are welcome!

Men's Bible Study

Dave Witt

We meet from 8:30 am—9:30 am in the Hoover Hall classroom.

Jimmy Smith will continue the series on Romans through October 11. We also stream the sessions interactively using Zoom.

Contact the church office with any questions.

Save the Date!!



*Palm West Community Church
Christmas Dinner
Sunday, December 19, 3:00—7:00 p.m.
Briarwood Country Club
Tickets will go on sale in November.*

October Sermons



Just Jesus: The Gospel According to Mark

Pastor Jim Powell

October 3 — The Mystery of Jesus

Scripture: Mark Chapter 9

October 10 — The Challenge of Jesus

Scripture: Mark Chapter 10

October 17 — The Prophetic Fulfillment of Jesus

Scripture: Mark Chapter 11

October 24 — The Priority of Jesus

Scripture: Mark Chapter 12

Pastor Deveraux Hubbard

October 31 — The Return of Jesus

Scripture: Mark Chapter 13

On Wednesdays Pastor Jim continues his Bible Study here at the church on the History and Context of the book of Mark. This series will look at a number of themes that help us to better understand the Gospel and complement the present sermon series. The Bible Study is at 1:00 pm, here at Palm West. We are meeting in the Sanctuary and we are recording the lessons and make them available online for those who can not attend.

Christian Readers Book Club

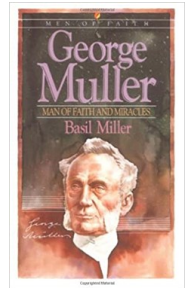
Gini Baker

1st Thursday of Month, 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. in the Worship Center Classroom

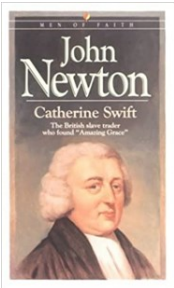
This is an awesome group. Read the book and join us for a great time of discussion and fellowship!

October 7 Book: *George Muller, Man of Faith & Miracles*, Basil Miller

The remarkable and challenging story of a man who dared to believe that God both could and would supply all his needs whether personal or for the thousands of orphans in his care! Though confirmed in the church at the age of 14, George Muller was raised without a real concept of God. By the time he was 16, he was in jail as a vagabond and thief. In his early twenties he met a group of people who regularly for prayed and did Bible study. Through their witness he was brought to a turning point in his life and was born into the family of God. Daily Bible reading and prayer immediately became an important part of his Christian life and a cornerstone of his future orphanage ministry. The personal story of one of the greatest prayer-warriors of the past



November 4 Book: *John Newton*, Catherine Swift



The amazing story of the “Old Converted Sea Captain” whose hymns are still loved today. John Newton (1725-1807) was a British sailor whose life of sin took him to the western coast of Africa, where he became a virtual slave before getting involved in the African slave trade. His dramatic conversion during a violent storm in the North Atlantic, however, did not end his involvement with slave trading. It would be six years before he gave up his career as a sea captain and went on to become an Anglican clergyman. Dissatisfied with the hymns of the day, Newton began writing his own, many autobiographical in nature, and is remembered for “Amazing Grace,” “How Sweet the Name the Name of Jesus Sounds,” and “Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken.” From a “wretched” prodigal son to a crusader against slavery.

For more info: Bev Crandall 623-584-9531

CHRISTMAS DRAMA

Your PWCC drama team is planning to present a Christmas drama on Sunday evening, December 5, and are looking for volunteers. This is a readers theater, so no memorization is necessary. If you feel comfortable reading aloud with feeling, we need you. Our first rehearsal will be Monday, Nov. 1, at 1:00 p.m. in Hoover Hall. At that time parts will be assigned. Subsequent rehearsals will be on Mondays at 1:00 p.m. in Hoover Hall.

Please come on November 1 and join this fun group as we prepare to usher in the holiday season.

If you have any questions contact Nancy Rambadt, 623-214-3422 or nancyharb08@gmail.com





Quilters Meeting

Quilt & Sew will meet Friday, October 1, 9:00 a.m.
Please join us in the Hoover Hall Classroom if you enjoy sewing and are interested in making a Blanket or Quilt to bring comfort to a child in need.
Please come and join us for fun and fellowship.
Fabric provided.



Coffee and Conversation Women's Connection

Please join us on Monday mornings 10:00—11:00 a.m. 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.



Fellowship Games



Searching for a friendly group and Christian atmosphere around a relaxing table game? Look no further. Meet people, make new friends, share interests, stretch your brain. We play Mexican train and are open to other games.

Join us on the first and third Mondays (except for holidays) of each month at 2:00 p.m. in the Hoover Hall classroom

Date: September 20, 2:00 p.m.

Coloring Fellowship

Join us for Coloring Fellowship on October 26 (the 4th Tuesday) with an emphasis on Fellowship. We have supplies if you want to color and need supplies. All are welcome.

Details:

Date: October 26, 2021

Time: 10:00—11:30 a.m.

(you don't have to stay the whole time)

Place: Hoover Hall

We hope to see you there,

Deborah Phillips and Mary Beth Tyson



October Meetings

Bible Study—History & Context in Mark's Gospel

Wednesdays, October 6, 13, 20, 27	1:00 pm—3:00 pm	Worship Center
Christian Readers Book Club		
Thursdays, October 7	1:00 pm—2:30 pm	Worship Center classroom
Choir		
Thursdays, October 7, 14, 21, 28	3:00 pm—4:30 pm	Choir Room
Coloring Fellowship		
Tuesday, October 26	10:00 am—11:30 am	Hoover Hall
Community Bible Study		
Wednesdays, October 6, 13, 20, 27	9:30 am—11:30 am	Entire Campus
Education		
Monday, October 4	9:00 am—11:30 am	Worship Center classroom
Fellowship Dinner		
Wednesday, October 20	5:00 pm—7:00 pm	Hoover Hall
Fellowship Games		
Mondays October 4, 18	2:00 pm—5:00 pm	Hoover Hall classroom
Finance Meeting		
Thursday, October 7	9:00 am—10:30 am	Choir Room
4:10 Group		
Monday, October 25	1:00 pm—2:00 pm	Choir Room
GriefShare		
Tuesdays, October 5, 12, 19, 26	10:00 am—11:30 am	Choir Room
Handbells		
Fridays, October 1, 8, 15, 22, 29	9:00 am—10:00 am	Choir Room
Hope Bags		
Friday, October 1	9:00 am—12:00 pm	Hoover Hall
Intercessory Prayer Gathering		
Tuesdays, October 5, 12, 19, 26	11:00 am—12:00 noon	Worship Center classroom
Men's Bible Study		
Mondays, October 4, 11, 18, 25	8:30 am—9:30 am	Hoover Hall classroom
Missions		
Tuesday, October 5	11:00 am—1:00 pm	Hoover Hall
Prayer Gathering		
Thursdays, October 7, 14, 21, 28	11:00 am—12:00 pm	Choir Room
Quilters Meeting		
Friday, October 15	9:00 am—12:00 pm	Hoover Hall classroom

(continued next page)

October Meetings

(continued)

Stretching Class

Fridays, September 3, 10, 17, 24

1:00 pm—2:00 pm

Hoover Hall

VLT

Tuesdays, October 5, 19

10:00 am—11:30 am

Hoover Hall classroom

Women's Bible Study

Thursdays, October 7, 14, 21, 28

9:30 am—11:00 am

Hoover Hall

Women's Connection

Mondays, October 4, 11, 18, 25

10:00 am—11:30 am

Hoover Hall classroom

Make the Switch

Online Giving



Our new website has our new online giving service.

Over the next 2 months we ask that you switch from

Vanco to Subsplash.

If you need assistance contact the church office.

Stephen Ministry

Karen Owen

Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Romans 12:2

Stephen Ministry is a Christian ministry that matches a trained Stephen Minister with a care receiver who is experiencing a period of difficulty in life. Stephen Ministers have been trained to use their God given gift of caring to help a care receiver get back to a joyful and thankful life.

Three things are needed to make Stephen Ministry successful: God's continued leading and provision, trained Stephen Ministers, and people who desire a Stephen Minister to walk with them during a difficult season in life.

Over the last 18 months, we have lost half our trained Stephen Ministers through death or personal situations that don't allow them to continue in this ministry. To make this ministry viable, trained Stephen Ministers must be available. Yet, it has been difficult to find prospective Stephen Ministers who will agree to the 50 hours of training needed to comply with national Stephen Ministry standards. While this training is comprehensive, it is invaluable in preparing for the wide spectrum of situations that a Stephen Minister may encounter.

Because of our decrease in trained Stephen Ministers, our Stephen Ministry leadership has decided to absorb Stephen Ministry into our Pastoral Assistance Team. While similar in their care-giving mission, these 2 ministries differ in that Stephen Ministry generally provides more in-depth and longer-term care. As part of the Pastoral Assistance Team, our Stephen Ministers (because of their prior comprehensive training) will be available for those care situations that require an extra level of care.

With this change, please note these 3 important take-aways:

1. Current Stephen Ministry relationships: Existing Stephen Ministry relationships will continue. While new caring relationships will not be launched under the Stephen Ministry banner, currently existing relationships will continue under the guidance and supervision of our existing Stephen Ministry leadership.
2. Care: Care is still available when you need it. New caring relationships will now come via the Pastoral Assistance Team.
3. The future: The benefit to absorbing Stephen Ministry into the Pastoral Assistance Team is that it allows options for the future. Should several individuals come forward willing to engage in Stephen Ministry training and there is continued demand for this more in-depth type of care, Stephen Ministry can be easily re-launched.

If you have a desire to become a Stephen Minister, please let one of the members of our Leadership Team know. If you need the kind of care that a Stephen Minister can provide, please contact Pastor Brian Thomas. He and the Pastoral Assistance Team will assist you in your time of need.

We, as leaders, look to the past with thankfulness for the quality care that Stephen Ministers have provided Palm West. We, also, look to the future with hope as we effectively care for our church family. We ask that you keep Stephen Ministry, its leadership, Stephen Ministers, and anyone in need of Christian care in your prayers.

Leadership Team for Stephen Ministry,

Karen Owens

Nila Hiskey

Pastor Brian Thomas



Hope Bags

Claudia Smith

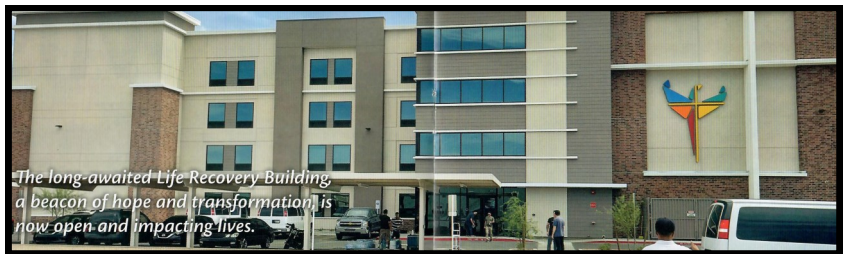


Pressing On Toward the Goal

PWCC Hope Bag Team continue to work toward our goals of filling 1,550 Hope Bags on March 26, 2022. If you sew and would like to be part of a dynamic group, join our quilters. Wilma Plett has her team meeting once a month and the sharing, laughter and fellowship is priceless. Our entire team meets once a month to discuss progress and challenges. Inventory follows each 30 minute meeting, where we count items and share fellowship with our brothers and sisters under the direction of Rebecca Oaks.

WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH OUR MISSIONS?

Phoenix Rescue Mission: the four-story Life Recovery Building is now a beacon of hope to the hungry and hurting, declaring that new life is not only possible - it's within reach. Here is what God's providence and PWCC support and prayers have done: Everyone is affected by homelessness. These people live in our community. We are a family in this Valley, and if not us, then who?



Phoenix Dream Center: PDC offers, not only their leadership school where each student enrolls in a college of their choice. Here they learn and strengthen their natural leadership abilities. By the time they leave, each person is ready to excel in whatever capacity God has called them even full-time ministry. One of the graduates says: "The Dream Center people have shown me God's love, and it's been changing me." THRIVE is an offshoot of PDC. They are impacting the lives of the aged-out foster kids, and their Foster Care Prevention program is keeping children safe with their families. One of the greatest needs of THRIVE in their new location is a **GOLF CART**. If you have a golf cart you are considering selling, you might consider donating it to THRIVE. It is a tax write-off. Also they are in need of Pots, pans, towels, linens, and silverware.



Neighborhood Ministries: NM teaches about Lament prayers. They help the children learn to speak truth to God about their heartaches, their pain and their sufferings. Lament is a powerful understanding of prayer enabling us to ask God to deliver us from sin. It is designed to persuade God to act on our behalf. NM has a new Pastor for the kids, and their neighborhood church is back. Katy's Kids give thanks to the grace of God and support from friends like PWCC.



If you have any questions about the Hope Bag Ministry, please call Claudia Smith: 623-933-3054.

Missions International Ministries

Barb Barborak, Liaison

Matt and Lori Mann, International Ministries (Thailand and Laos) – COMING OCTOBER 31

Luke 4:18-19 - *"The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."*

Matt and Lori Mann will be visiting PWCC on October 31. They will share information about their ministry and after the 10:30 am service will answer questions from you! The Manns continue to minister to children affected by human trafficking through the HOPE Project, which is a Christian ministry that exists to bring hope and restoration to children and youth who have suffered the worst forms of abuse and/or exploitation, including sexual exploitation and child trafficking. The ministry does this by reaching out to children of the streets, children in slum communities who are caught up in child labor, children who are exploited in other ways, including begging and child trafficking, and children who are in highly abusive situations or are at high risk of commercial exploitation. Just this summer they found a 13 year old boy named "Mon" who was addicted to methamphetamines that had great difficulty with withdrawal symptoms as he came to HOPE project to change his life. There were continue challenges with the COVID-19 threat as well.



Making facemasks in the Homes.



Distributing
facemasks
and food
(top & left).

The Manns provide safe living, learning, and playing environments, where these children can hear and experience the Good News of Jesus' love and concern for them and be restored mentally, physically, and spiritually into the persons that God intended them to be. The ministry is the only Christian ministry in Laos specifically focusing on child abuse and exploitation in so many forms, and is the only opportunity most of these children will have for experiencing love, especially God's love. The very core of this ministry is to reflect God's love in Laos through working with the poor—particularly the children of the poor.

Missions

Claudia Burr, Chair

Our missions team develops a budget at this time of year for the upcoming fiscal year. During the summer each member of the team was assigned at least one of our approved missions to communicate with and receive data from a survey they sent out to demonstrate how PWCC's contributions, monetary and in-kind services, have impact. This process allows our Missions team to be good stewards of your generosity and commitment to missions. We use specific criteria developed in 2015 to evaluate the qualities of a mission to consider and then we monitor its effectiveness regularly through communication and reporting.



Did you know that 12% of the income received by the church is dedicated to Missions? By covenant agreement, PWCC contributes a minimum of 2% and up to 3% of its income to Transformation Ministries and then 10% of the income is allotted to approved missions annually. Part of that allotment is reserved for emerging needs in missions. This year, PWCC donated \$1,000 to Fellowship of Christian Athletes to buy 1,277 Bibles for students and coaches to share the Good News through study and fellowship.

We have also contributed to Choices Pregnancy Centers of Greater Phoenix through special offering, and tons of food, clothing and cash donations to Valley View Community



Food Bank as well as Hope Bags to 4 local ministries, and are considering Alongside Ministries, a prison ministry to round out the challenge Jesus provided in Matthew 25:36-

Choices

40 *"I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me. Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see*

you sick or in prison and go to visit you?' The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'" May all that we accomplish be for His glory and honor! Thank you for entrusting us (your Missions Team) with the challenge of making an real impact through giving and service in these times of competing mission needs and grave challenges locally and around the world.

If you have a missions ministry you believe PWCC should support, please contact me to consider options at jandcburr@yahoo.com or by phone, 480-371-7409.

In His Love,

Claudia Burr, Missions Chair



Missions

Samaritan's Purse

Dave Evans, Coordinator/Liaison

Operation Christmas Child 2021 is an evangelistic missions ministry reaching children around the world at Christmas time with the love of Jesus Christ. Samaritan's Purse is committed more than ever to bring the joy of Christmas and the love of Christ to a world facing the COVID-19 and variant pandemic and political upheavals. We need and ask for your help!

This year the collection (date turned in) is November 23, 2021, which means that our church family has the opportunity to participate in advance of that time (**between now and November 7**) by:

- ◆ **praying** for the children who will receive the boxes
- ◆ **ordering filled boxes** through Samaritan's Purse online, our preferred method at;
<https://build-a-shoebbox.samaritanspurse.org/goal/view/8759b616-742b-4498-a1de-622280323b6c>
- ◆ **OR donating \$25 per box per child** to PWCC and our team will order and fill boxes for you online
- ◆ **purchasing items** noted below to fill 180 boxes on the church campus, please include a \$9 check for shipping

- * pencil pack
- * spiral bound paper tablet small enough to fit in a shoe box
- * toothbrush
- * stuffed animal or appropriate special toy for a boy or a girl age 2-4 or age 5-9 or age 10-14
- * small toys like a jump rope or ball or harmonica
- * flashlight with batteries
- * bar of soap and washcloth for hygiene (no liquids of any kind)
- * T-shirt, sandals and sunglasses for a boy or a girl age 2-4 or age 5-9 or age 10-14
- * personal note of love to the child recipient



Your generosity will spread the love of Christ worldwide! A shoe will be displayed on a goal board during the month of October to let you know how we are doing. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 623-214-6870 for donations or Claudia Burr (480-371-7409 or email: jandcburr@yahoo.com) for online orders.





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