

# *Palm West Alive*

**March 2026**



*Grace  
blooms  
like  
spring.*

Therefore  
let's approach  
the throne of grace  
with confidence.

Hebrews 4:16, NASB



**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

**Tony Mosti**, Modern Worship Leader

tony@palmwestchurch.org

**Office Staff:**

**Joyce Sopilnick**, Church Administrator

admin@palmwestchurch.org

**Peg Rideout**, Connections Coordinator

connections@palmwestchurch.org

**Articles for the April Palm West Alive are due in the office by March 12. Submit them to admin@palmwestchurch.org.**

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**Worship With Us In Person**

**Sunday Worship Schedule**

**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, Pam Vermeer

Education, Bob Ripley

Hospitality, Carol Graf

Media, Jim Burroughs

Missions, Phil Burdick

Property, Terry Brafford

Sunday Worship: Traditional:

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

Rob Hilkemeier

Saturday Worship: Modern

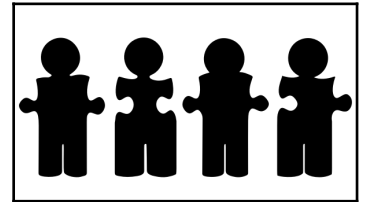
4:00 p.m.— Karen Bates

## Connections Coordinator

*Peg Rideout*



### Connecting to God through Doing Your Homework!



Do you remember your parents reminding you to do your homework each night? My parents were both teachers so we were expected to be prepared for the next day. As a result, I got good grades in school. As a mom (and teacher) I also checked in with my kids to make sure they were doing what their teachers asked them to do. This was done out of love and care. We all do better when we have a little accountability, don't we? I am in a formation group this year at church and have really grown through daily time with the Lord, reading His Word and journaling my prayers. We meet weekly to share our "journey with Jesus" with each other. Once this group is over, will I continue in this important discipline for my life? I sure hope so, and invite you to check in with me!

If you listen closely to Pastor Jim's weekly sermons, he invites us to "do a little homework" too. Recently we were challenged to memorize Psalm 23, and when we started the God in Art series, Jim asked us to reflect on how we will respond to Christ in a personal manner. Are we following the Lord in a manner that attracts others to Jesus?

**"Experiences, he said, are powerful teachers but poor theologians."** We don't serve a taskmaster who is demanding we study, but God woos us as a loving Father who always wants the best for His children. Won't you carve out time daily to "do your homework"? Your relationship with Him will grow deeper and your faith will strengthen. It's even better than seeing straight A's on your report card!

Peg Rideout

Connections Coordinator

317-460-0576, [connections@palmwestchurch.org](mailto:connections@palmwestchurch.org)



### Calling the "Crafty" Ones



If you enjoy crafting, and especially, "Diamond Painting", there is an opportunity for you to bless our Venues Care residents this Easter. We are working on a project to make a bookmark for each person we visit and we'd love your help! Each bookmark takes about two hours to make and we visit about 60 people so you do the math! If you'd like to help out with this short term project, please email. [Venues@palmwestchurch.org](mailto:Venues@palmwestchurch.org) and they will get you set up.

Thank you in advance for giving your time in order to bless someone you may never meet!

Tuesdays, March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 at 10:00 a.m. in the Hoover Hall classroom.

# Venues Ministry

Kim Sullivan

## Venues Care Ministry

### Is it for You?

I've been thinking about that Josh Wilson song, "Dream Small." (See link to song below.) I don't know that God always asks us to dream big, impressive dreams. Does God even ask us to dream? He asks us to be willing. He asks us to obey.

And honestly, I feel like that's our **Venues Care Ministry**.

We're not doing anything flashy. We're not changing the whole building in one afternoon. But I can promise you this — somewhere in that building is one person who has prayed, "God, I'm bored. I'm lonely. I feel forgotten."

They might have a wonderful family. They might be well cared for. But that doesn't mean they don't still feel alone or unloved sometimes.

And then you walk in. You sit down. You ask a question. You listen to a story you've maybe already heard before. You hold a hand. You pray.

And what feels small to you? It might have been the highlight of their entire week. I can tell you, it is the highlight of my week as well. I go in thinking I don't want to visit that day and I walk out that day blessed and filled and heart overflowing.

I've also been thinking a lot about the power of one. **One person really can make a difference.** One visit at a time. One idea at a time.

So maybe we don't have to dream big. Maybe we just have to be willing. And let God take care of the rest.

And if all we do is faithfully show up for one person this week... that's enough. Because like the song says, "These tiny moments change the world."

Please contact [venues@palmwestchurch.org](mailto:venues@palmwestchurch.org) if you want to hear more about this ministry!

Josh Wilson, "Dream Small"

<https://youtu.be/ZrkYjmMAgN0?t=6>



**Kim Sullivan leads the Venues Care Team!**



**Linda Puttman loves well!**



**Carole Balley brings joy!**

## Finance Ministry

Joyce Westlund, Asst. Treasurer

Many congregants have reached out to me to ask if their pledge for the "Don't Hold Back" campaign has been met. Pastor Jim announced at the beginning of the year in his message that the campaign request amount of \$250,000 had been met, but I am sure you know that the cost is greater than that amount. If you are unsure if you have met your pledge, please contact me at [finance@palmwestchurch.org](mailto:finance@palmwestchurch.org) or call the church office and they will give me the message.

Earlier the Finance Department let our donors know that we are not automatically sending out statements for 2025. Some of you are having difficulty accessing it online in your profile or you cannot print it.

Please contact the church office and they will relay a message to me or send an email to [finance@palmwestchurch.org](mailto:finance@palmwestchurch.org) or call me at (623) 523-4407.

Thank you, Joyce Westlund, Assistant Treasurer



## Leadership Meeting

Our next leadership meeting will take place on

**Tuesday, March 17**

**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.

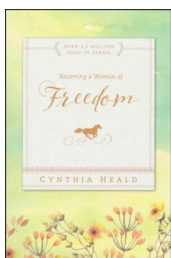
## Baptism Class

Pastor Jim will have classes on Saturday, March 7, 5:00 p.m. in the Hoover Hall classroom and Sunday March 8, 10:00 a.m. in the Worship Center classroom..



## Discovering PWCC!

**Our next class will be in April.  
Date to be announced.**



## *"Becoming A Woman of Freedom"* by Cynthia Heald

Renee Washburn will lead a six week bible study for women that addresses our identity in Christ. His truth sets us free as we set our eyes upon Him. Discover the joy and peace of running our race for His glory.

We begin on Monday March 16 through Monday, April 20, 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the Choir Room.

**Space is limited** due to the nature of the weekly meeting. We will be discussing the week's previous home study.

Sign-up on Saturdays & Sundays February 28, March 1; 7, 8; 14, 15. in the Hoover Hall foyer and in the Narthex.

Books may be purchased online for around \$12.00 (Scholarships are available.)

For more information, contact the facilitator, Renee Washburn at [rwashburn@cox.net](mailto:rwashburn@cox.net).

## Women's Fellowship Ministry

*Sharon Shepherd, 2026 Chair*



### **“SISTERS IN HARMONY” Women's Fellowship Retreat Just a Reminder for Ticket Holders**



**Friday, March 6, 2026— Appetizer Reception 4:15 - 4:45 p.m. / Program 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.  
& Saturday, March 7, 2026 – Continental Breakfast 8:15 - 8:45 a.m.  
Program and Lunch 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**

## Men of Palm West Church

*Tim Kurtz*

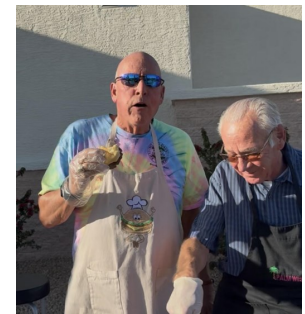
### **Men's Fellowship PWA March, 2026**

Men's Fellowship welcomes retired pastor, Jim Kennon, who will be our speaker. He will elaborate on this year's theme, ENGAGE.

Our dinner will be on Thursday, March 12 at 4:30 p.m. We will have sliders and hot dogs with all the fixings plus baked beans, potato salad and a surprise dessert. Cost is \$5.00.

Sign up on Saturdays and Sundays, before and after services in the Hoover Hall Foyer and the Narthex, February 28, March 1, and March 7, 8:

Come enjoy food and fellowship and hear about what's to come for the Men of Palm West. Questions? Contact Tim Kurtz 317-319-7551 (call or text)



**Tim Kurtz and Tony Jagger  
trying out the new grill!**

## Quilt and Sew

*Wilma Plett*



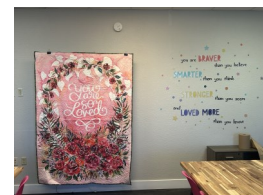
Our Palm West Quilt'n Sew donated 15 gift bags with quilts/blankets and weighted stuffed animals to Where Hope Lives at the "Morning for Hope Event" located at the Phoenix Dream Center on Saturday January 24.

The program was informative and included a tour of the facilities and it was good to see our dear friend  
Elisia Vallejo - Development Director.



The Walk for Hope Event on Saturday January 31st was also a wonderful way to support "Where Hope Lives".

We continue to work towards completing our quilts and blankets for donation at the "Dedication Sunday" on March 15th. All our quilts and blankets are sewn with love. We do it all for the Glory of God (1Corinthians 10:31).



**Wall hanging quilt donated to Where Hope Lives-hanging on their teen campus.**



## Our March Fellowship Dinner is

Wednesday, March 18

4:30 p.m.

Hoover Hall

We will be serving Corned Beef, Cabbage, Red Potatoes,  
Carrots, Bread

\$5.00 per person at the door.

If you would like to help prepare the meal, set-up, clean-up, or bring dessert, check the box when you sign up.

Sign up Saturdays and Sundays - January 31, February 1; 7, 8; 14, 15

or contact the church office.

## Fellowship Dinner - All Hands Helping!

*Peg Rideout, Connections Coordinator*

The February Fellowship dinner included a delicious Italian meal followed by a tremendous and inspirational presentation by the Phoenix Rescue Mission. The Lord is making a difference in our own community through the generous support of Palm West Church and our Hope Bag volunteers. Another positive observed at this month's event was the outpouring of people who stepped up to set up, serve and clean up! I noticed many smiling faces staying around after we concluded to wipe tables, fold and put away the tables and arrange the chairs. Gary Graf, who handles these duties primarily, said that it saved him two hours the next day by the many helpers who gave a few extra minutes of their time. This is just another example of why Palm West is a wonderful place to be. As a reminder, Fellowship dinners are held on the third Wednesday of each month (except July). Mark your calendars!



## CHICKEN ENCHILADA CASSEROLE

- 2 - C OF CHICKEN**
- 1 - 8 OZ CREAM CHEESE**
- 1 - SM CAN GREEN CHILES**
- 1/2 - C OF DICED ONION**
- 1 - 28oz CAN GREEN ENCHILADA SAUCE**
- 12 - CORN TORTILLAS**
- 4 - C MEXICAN CHEESE**

**MIX CHICKEN, CREAM CHEESE, CHILES & ONION  
GREASE CASSEROLE DISH AND POUR A SPLASH OF ENCHILADA SAUCE ON THE BOT-  
TOM, LAYER TORTILLAS TO COVER THE BOTTOM, PUT HALF THE CHICKEN MIXTURE,  
TOP WITH CHEESE. DO A SECOND LAYER. TOP THE SECOND LAYER WITH TORTILLAS  
DIPPED IN THE ENCHILADA SAUCE, TOP WITH MORE CHEESE AND GARNISH WITH  
GREEN ONIONS & BLACK OLIVES.  
BAKE AT 350 UNTIL GOLDEN BROWN APPROX. 45 MINUTES**

**March Sermons**  
**Pastor Jim Powell**



**God in Art**

Pastor Jim Powell

**February 28, March 1**

**The Creation of Adam**

**Scripture:** Genesis 2-3; Acts 17:28; 1 John

**March 7, 8**

**The Church at Auvers .**

**Scripture:** Isaiah 56:7; Matt 5:14-16; Rom 15:7; 3 John 9-11

**March 14, 15**

**The Trinity**

**Scripture:** Genesis 18:1-3; John 17:21; Eph 2:18

**March 21, 22**

**The Storm on the Sea of Galilee**

**Scripture:** Mark 4:39-40

**March 28, 29**

**Isenheim Altar Piece**

**Scripture:** Isa 53:4-5; Heb 4:15; Phil 2:6-8; John 12:23-24



**GriefShare** continues Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m. in the Choir Room.

All are welcome, free of charge to anyone, church attendees as well as friends and neighbors. It doesn't matter when the loss occurred if the adjustment to a new life is still difficult.

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

Bob and Joyce Davis, Facilitators,

510-421-0220

## Wednesday Bible Study

Pastor Jim

Pastor Jim continues his Bible Study on the  
book of Hebrews.



### Hebrews

4—Hebrews 7

**Summary:** Melchizedek's priesthood is superior to Levi's, showing Jesus' eternal and perfect priesthood.

March 11—Hebrews 8

**Summary:** Jesus mediates a better covenant with better promises.

March 18—Hebrews 9

**Summary:** Christ's sacrifice is superior, once for all, securing eternal redemption.

March 25—Hebrews 10

**Summary:** Because of Jesus' sacrifice, believers are called to draw near, hold fast, and persevere.

April 1—Hebrews 11

**Summary:** The "Hall of Faith" celebrates men and women who trusted God and lived by faith.  
full promise.

April 8—Hebrews 12

**Summary:** Believers are called to run with endurance, endure discipline, and fix their eyes on Jesus.

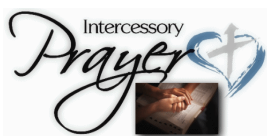
April 15—Hebrews 13

**Summary:** Practical instructions for Christian living,  
leadership, worship, and perseverance.

### 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.

### Praying With Others

Palm West is so blessed by the many people praying for the needs of our people. I want to thank all that have been willing to come forward at the end of services and pray with others at the front of the church.

Matthew 18:20 *Where two or more are gathered in my name I am there.*

You can contact the church office, Pastors, or the Coordinator—Dolores McCaslin.

Blessings

## March Meetings

### AA/Alanon

Wednesdays, March 4, 11, 18, 25	7:00 pm—8:30 pm	Hoover Hall & HH classroom
Saturdays, March 7, 14, 21, 28	7:00 pm—8:30 pm	Hoover Hall & HH classroom

### Baptism Class

Saturday, March 7	5:00 pm—5:30 pm	Hoover Hall classroom
Sunday, March 8	10:00 am—10:30 am	Worship Center classroom

### Cards With Friends

Friday, March 13, 27	1:30 pm—4:30 pm	Hoover Hall classroom
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### Choir Rehearsals

Wednesdays, March 4, 11, 18, 25	3:00 pm—4:30 pm	Choir Room
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### Christian Readers Book Club

Thursday, March 5	1:00 pm—2:00 pm	Worship Center classroom
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### Community Bible Study

Wednesdays, March 4, 11, 18, 25	9:30 am—11:30 am	Entire Campus
Breakfast, Wednesday, March 25	8:30 am—9:30 am	Hoover Hall

### Creative Arts Fellowship

Tuesdays, March 10, 24	10:00 am—11:30 am	Hoover Hall classroom
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### Discovering PWCC!

Thursday, March 5	1:00 pm—3:00 pm	Hoover Hall classroom
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### GriefShare

Tuesdays, March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31	10:00 am—11:30 am	Choir Room
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### Handbells

Mondays, March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30	10:30 am—12:00 pm	Sanctuary
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### Hope Bags

Friday, March 13	9:00 am—12:00 pm	Hoover Hall/classroom
Saturday, March 14	8:30 am—1:00 pm	Hoover Hall

### Fellowship Dinner

Wednesday, March 18	4:30 pm—6:30 pm	Hoover Hall
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### Fellowship Games

Mondays, March 2, 16	2:00 pm—4:30 pm	Hoover Hall classroom
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### Intercessory Prayer Gathering

Tuesdays, March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31	11:00 am—12:00 pm	Worship Center classroom
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### Leadership Meeting

Tuesday, March 17	9:00 am—10:00 am	Hoover Hall
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### Meet, Greet & Eat

Thursday, March 12	11:30 am—1:00 pm	Hoover Hall
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*(continued)*

## March Meetings

(continued)

### Men's Bible Study

Mondays, March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30      10:00 am—11:00 am      Choir Room

### Men of Palm West (Men's Fellowship) Dinner

Thursday, March 12      4:30 pm—6:30 pm      Hoover Hall

### Missions Meeting

Monday, March 9      1:00 pm—2:30 pm      Hoover Hall classroom

### Newcomer's Connect Class

Tuesdays, March 3, 10, 17      1:00 pm—2:30 pm      Hoover Hall classroom

### Pastor Jim's Bible Study

Wednesdays, March 4, 11, 18, 25      1:00 pm—2:00 pm      Sanctuary

### Women's Bible Study

Thursdays, March 5,      9:30 am—11:00 am      Sanctuary  
    March 12, 19, 26      9:30 am—11:00 am      Hoover Hall classroom

### Women's Fellowship

#### Board/Committee Meeting

Monday, March 2      12:00 pm—1:30 pm      Worship Center classroom

#### Retreat—*Sisters in Harmony*

Friday, March 6      4:15 pm—7:00 pm      Hoover Hall

Saturday, March 7      8:15 am—1:00 pm      Hoover Hall

### Quilt & Sew

Friday, March 6      10:00 am—12:00 pm      Hoover Hall classroom

### VLT

Tuesday, March 17      10:00 am—12:00 pm      Hoover Hall classroom

## Holy Week



## Education

Bob Ripley, Chair

### Bible Study Opportunities

**Sunday Morning Bible Study**— Join us as we continue a fast action account of Christ's life in Mark's Gospel at 10:30 a.m. in Hoover Hall classroom. Phil Burdick will teach about Jesus as a servant who came to seek and save the lost and was constantly on the move preaching, teaching and healing.

**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. We will continue our study of Luke. Bring your Bible.

**Women's Bible Study**—Thursdays, at 9:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary.

Women's Bible Study will continue the study on Revelation, taught by Mary Ann Lind, through March 5.

On Thursday, March 12 we will start a new series on the Book of James. We will be meeting in the Hoover Hall classroom. All women are welcome.

**The January, February & March Daily Bread is available in the Narthex and in the Hoover Hall Foyer.**

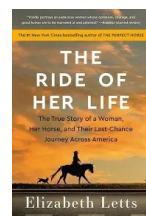
### Christian Readers Book Club

**Thursday, March 5 at 1:00 p.m. in the Worship Center Classroom**

#### March - Biography

*The Ride of Her Life* by Elizabeth Letts 336 pgs.

The book follows Annie Wilkins' journey across America from Maine to California while riding her horse and driving her dog. It is full of adventure.



#### April - Historical fiction

*A Fall of Marigolds* by Susan Meissner 400 pgs.

This book covers grief, renewed trust, and hope. It is set in New York City in 1911 and 2001-2011. Clara is a nurse dealing with the aftermath of the Triangle Shirtwaist Fire and Taryn became a widow after the Twin Towers fell. Both women are stuck in a grieving spiral and the unlikely source of a marigold-patterned scarf draws them out of it.



#### May - Romantic Suspense Mystery

*Double Take* by Lynette Eason 300 pgs. Book 1 of Lake City Heroes series.

This book is about a Physician's Assistant Laine who is being targeted by someone that seems to be her ex-fiance'. However, she believes she killed him in self-defense 18 months prior. A detective must help her figure out who is really after her and why.

We would like to welcome anyone who enjoys reading and sharing their thoughts with other Christian readers! Come ONE, come ALL.



## Education

(continued)

### Library

*Nancy Wright, Librarian*

Have you noticed the library is in transition mode? We have been moving the basic Non-fiction collection into the fiction area to make the Non-fiction more accessible. Some of the older fiction has been transferred into the other room. All of the Biography section has been moved into the front Library.

**DID YOU KNOW?** Our church library does not charge fines for Overdue books or give you a **DUE DATE**. However, when you borrow a book or other material, **YOU ARE ON YOUR HONOR TO RETURN IT WHEN YOU HAVE FINISHED READING/USING IT**. While doing a shelf inventory for this move the library computer has generated a rather long list of books that have been borrowed for many months! **PLEASE CHECK YOUR SHELVES** for books that need to be returned. Thank You! Spine labels are a quick way to identify a library book.

The **REFERENCE SECTION** is relocated into the library; it will be available to use whenever the library is “OPEN”. What’s the difference between a **CONCORDANCE** and a **DICTIONARY**? One will help you find a word and the other will give you a definition of the word.

Come see the changes we are making.

“Keep reading. It’s one of the most marvelous adventures that anyone can have”

## Help for Veterans

If anyone is a veteran **and has questions or issues concerning the VA, we have an attorney who specializes in this area. As a ministry to the Palm West Church family**, this church member is willing to sit down and offer free consultation to anyone who has issues pertaining to the VA, including meals, grave markers and flags. If you would like to take advantage of this, please contact the office and we will connect you with Mike Hurley.

## 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

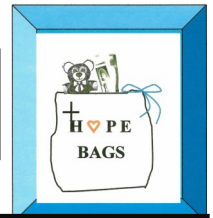
Come and join us at Fellowship Games for a couple of hours of fun, finger snacks, and good fellowship.

We have a committed “Mexican Train” group and also welcome other games.

We will meet on Monday’s, March 2 & 16, in Hoover Hall Classroom  
2:00 p. m.— 4:30 p.m.



## Hope Bags Gary & Carol Graf



# COME JOIN THE FUN



Join us in filling 1500 Hope Bags on Saturday,  
March 14, 2026 @ 9:00 a.m.  
In Hoover Hall  
Coffee & Refreshments @ 8:30 a.m.  
Everyone is welcome!!!

## HELP THROUGH DONATIONS

This is a reminder that we are always looking for direct donations for the ministries that we support. We'd be happy to pick up any household items, clothing or furniture. If you have a few small things to donate, I can pick them up at your convenience or you can drop them off at the back right corner of Hoover Hall in the blue tub, if you have a larger donation, I can make arrangements for the ministries to come by with their trucks.  
Call: **Gary Graf 206-369-8659**



## Partner *With Us* in Prayer

Your prayers matter as much as your financial gifts. Here are specific ways you can lift up the Mission's work in 2026:

**For Those We Serve:** Pray for men, women, and families experiencing homelessness to find us before crisis deepens. Ask God to soften hearts hardened by trauma and addiction.

**For Geographic Expansion:** Much of the Valley remains unreached. Ask for wisdom as we determine where to expand next and for resources to sustain growth.

**For Our Teams:** Lift up our Street Outreach workers serving until 10 p.m. in challenging conditions. Ask God to strengthen our staff and volunteers as they show Christ's love.

**For Unity:** Pray for continued collaboration between cities, businesses, churches, and service organizations. When the Valley unites around our homeless neighbors, transformation accelerates.

**For Lasting Change:** Above all, pray that those who find physical restoration here also discover spiritual transformation. Pray they'll embrace their identity as beloved children of God.

Your prayers create an invisible foundation supporting everything we do. Thank you for covering this work in prayer throughout 2026.

## Missions

*Phil Burdick, Chair*

### Reach Beyond

*Phil Burdick, Liaison*

Reach Beyond is very grateful for the long-term relationship they have had with Palm West Community Church. Reach Beyond is reaching Muslims for Christ and is working in 50 different countries with Voice and Hands projects. The VOICE PROJECTS broadcast Evangelical programs through FM, shortwave, satellite and Internet radio into areas that are closed to missionaries openly sharing the Gospel. HANDS PROJECTS drill clean water wells and improve health conditions in Muslim villages that open opportunities for sharing the Gospel.

Recently, Richard, a project manager with Rolls Royce from the UK, went with a Reach Beyond team to inspect wells that have been drilled in Muslim vil-

lages in West Africa. Richard learned that drilling wells has given Reach Beyond the opportunity to develop positive relationships with chiefs in villages. Chiefs are highly respected and have great influence over the entire village. One chief said, "We are so grateful for how they (Reach Beyond missionaries) keep coming back and are looking after us." That is a positive witness of what God is doing in those villages through relationships.

Drilling wells has provided a way to share the Gospel with villagers. Before wells were built, villagers used dirty water that caused disease and they had to go a long distance from their village to get water. Drilling wells has helped villagers improve their health conditions. Richard has become more involved in short-term mission trips with Reach Beyond to maintain wells in Muslim villages. He is using the skills he developed in the secular world to serve Muslim chiefs and villagers.



### Fellowship of Christian Athletes

*Marge Arnold, Liaison, Written by Sherry Burdick*

Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) is one of the local missions Palm West Church supports. Last fall, new high school student leaders were trained to step out in faith to boldly make an eternal impact on their campuses. Across the valley coaches and athletes are being equipped to live out their faith and to share the love of Christ with their teams and schools. FCA is grateful that our church is part of their financial and prayer support.

For 49 years, Arizona FCA hosted the Fiesta Bowl Breakfast. What began as a ministry for visiting teams evolved into a ministry serving our entire community and celebrating God's work statewide. The breakfasts continue, gathering and connecting coaches, athletes, student leaders, volunteers, and donors, inspiring and encouraging each one in their ministries to the various leagues. In Arizona, FCA has grown from 104 huddles to 240 statewide, reaching nearly 10,000 coaches and athletes. Last year FCA distributed 4,000 Bibles and welcomed nearly 900 campers.

To learn more about the impact FCA is making in our area, be sure to attend the Fellowship dinner at church, March 18<sup>th</sup>, when we will hear personally from the area director and some of the student leaders. Continue to pray for the lives that are being changed as they learn to trust Christ.



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