

Palm West Alive

May 2026



ROOTED
in God's Love

And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high And deep is the love of Christ.

Ephesians 3:17-18, NIV



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

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Peg Rideout, Connections Coordinator

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**Articles for the June Palm West Alive are due
in the office by May 15.**

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

Livestream at 9:00 a.m.

Beginning May 24

One Service—10:00 a.m.

Livestream at 10:00 a.m.

Saturdays

Modern Worship

4:00 p.m. in Hoover Hall

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.

Fred Prince & Mark Bernier

Saturday Worship: Modern

4:00 p.m.— Karen Bates

Pastor Jim Powell

Senior Pastor



Movements of the Spirit – A New Series This May

This May, we're stepping into a new teaching series called *Movements of the Spirit*. Together, we'll explore who the Holy Spirit is and how He actively works in and through our lives today.

We begin Mother's Day weekend (May 9/10) with *The Presence of the Spirit*. Jesus reminds us that the Spirit is not an impersonal force, but a person who is with us and in us (John 14:16–17). We'll look at three tangible ways His presence shows up in our daily lives—He comforts us, teaches us, and lovingly convicts us.

The following weekend (May 16/17), we'll focus on *The Gifts of the Spirit*. Scripture teaches that every believer is uniquely gifted by God—not for self-promotion, but for service. Whether these gifts enhance natural abilities or introduce something entirely new, they are given to build others up and bring glory to God. We'll also talk about how to discover and use your gifts.

On May 23/24, we'll examine *The Fruit of the Spirit* from Galatians 5. As we walk in step with the Spirit, our lives begin to reflect His character. Love, joy, peace, and the rest are not things we manufacture—they are the natural result of staying connected to the Lord. Growth happens over time as we walk faithfully with the Spirit.

Finally, we'll close the series (May 30/31) with *The Power of the Spirit*. Jesus said we would receive power—*dunamis*—to live beyond our own strength (Acts 1:8). This is a power that works through us, in us, and around us as we trust and follow Him.

Join us this May as we discover more of the Holy Spirit and what it means to truly live in step with Him.

Pastor Jim



PHOENIX REFUGEE CONNECTIONS

Equipping the Church to love her refugee neighbors

At our last Fellowship Dinner, Mary Kaech from Phoenix Refugee Connections shared about her life and ministry connecting American Christians with our refugee neighbors. If you'd like to learn more about this local Christian ministry and how to be involved, [click here](#) or email Mary: mary@phxrc.org.

Connections Coordinator

Peg Rideout

Connecting with Our Pastor's Wife, Andrea Powell



As many of you know, on March 21, 2026, Jim Powell traveled to Nashville, TN to marry Andrea Herlong. A reception took place upon their return and they are now settling into married life. But you may want to know more about this lovely lady you see tagging along with Jim.

Here are a few questions I had for her and assumed you'd be interested in hearing her thoughts! I know from my brief interactions with Andrea, that she loves people and will make connections as she acclimates to Arizona and Palm West Community Church.

Tell us about yourself: I met Jesus when I was six years old living in Italy. I went to church with some women in the village, and I saw a crucifix hanging above the altar. I didn't know who he was, but I knew I had to know him. It was a need so deep within me that I couldn't ignore it. That was the beginning of my walk with God. I lived in Italy for three years and then moved to Nashville, where I lived until just last month. I have three children, ages 33, 31, and 28. Philip lives in Nashville, Kate lives in San Francisco, and Jackson lives in Chicago. They bring me so much joy! (no grandchildren yet!) I worked in Education for 33 years as a classroom teacher, a teacher of gifted students, and then as an administrator in the gifted and talented department. On the weekends, I served as a hospital chaplain working at the Nashville VA and Vanderbilt Medical Center; I was ordained as an Anglican priest and served in several churches in Nashville in different capacities. I have four degrees: a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education from the University of Tennessee, a master's degree in Educational Administration from Austin Peay State University, a master's degree in Pastoral Studies from Loyola University, and a doctoral degree in Ministry from Trinity Anglican Seminary in Ambridge, PA. I love to learn and always have a book nearby!

In 2019, I felt the urge to write a book. The book's title *Stepping Stones* is a reminder that we all must take steps to get where God is leading us. Each stone is an invitation to follow where it leads, and eventually, we are led to where we need to be. I love where my stepping stones have led me! I have met Jim, and I am now married to him and live in Arizona! What a blessing and a joy! I am so happy to be here!

I am working on a second book as well as a book of devotionals.

How do you stay spiritually grounded while serving others? I believe in thanking God for everything and keeping him close. In Ignatian spirituality, we use something called the Examen. The Examen involves thanking God and giving him gratitude for things throughout the day. By thanking him for things, big and little, it keeps us close to him and in conversation with him. In 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, Paul says to rejoice always, pray continually, and give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. I try to live this each day, being grateful for all things and thanking God throughout the day. This keeps me grounded and close to God.

How can members best pray for and support you? Thank you! Prayers for our marriage, for our children, and for the ability to discern God's will in our lives. I have felt so welcomed and loved by the people of Palm West, and I am so grateful.

(continues)

Connecting with Our Pastor's Wife, Andrea Powell

(continued)

Who has been a mentor or spiritual influence in your life? My first spiritual mentor was a nun in Italy named Madre Rina. I was only six years old, but she loved me, prayed for me, and taught me about Jesus. I felt seen, loved, and worthy of knowing how much God loved me. Currently, I have a spiritual director and a group of spiritual director friends who provide prayer, friendship, and spiritual support. I also love to read and have spiritual mentors in authors such as C.S. Lewis, N.T. Wright, Henry Nouwen, Dallas Willard, J.I Packer, and many more.

What gives you joy when you see it happening in a church family? I feel so much joy when someone is baptized, when someone gives their life to Jesus, when visitors come to church and feel welcomed and seen, when church groups give back to the community, and when joy is evident in those who are there.

How did God first call you into ministry? At 16, I knew I wanted to serve the Lord in some capacity, but I didn't know how or when God would call me. As a young mother, I believed God called me to focus on raising my children, teaching them about Jesus and his love for them, and filling my home with love and joy. I then felt led to study ministry which led to two more degrees and spiritual direction training. But the first and most important call was to raise my children to know God and to give them a good, solid foundation in the faith.

When you have a full day to yourself, what do you love to do? I love getting out in nature. I like to hike, to explore new places, and to spend time with God outdoors. But I also like to read and to spend time with friends and family.

My favorite Bible verse is Zephaniah 3:17:

“For the Lord your God is living among you.

He is a mighty savior.

He will take delight in you with gladness.

With his love, he will calm all your fears.

He will rejoice over you with joyful songs.”

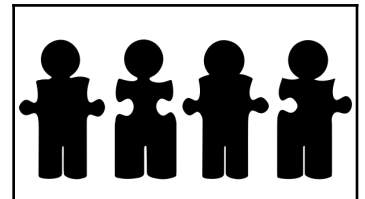
A few random things about me: I'm a vegetarian, I love to travel and have adventures, I enjoy baking, I love a good cup of coffee, and I always have several pieces of dark chocolate in my purse! Although, in Arizona, I may have to eat the chocolate fast before it melts! ☺

I know I speak from all of us in saying, Welcome Andrea!! We are glad you're here and know you will be blessed and a blessing to all who call Palm West their church home.

Peg Rideout

Connections Coordinator

317-460-0576, connections@palmwestchurch.org





BEGINS
May 24th

SER
VICE
TIMES
CHANGE

Saturdays @ 4:00pm
Sundays @ 10:00am

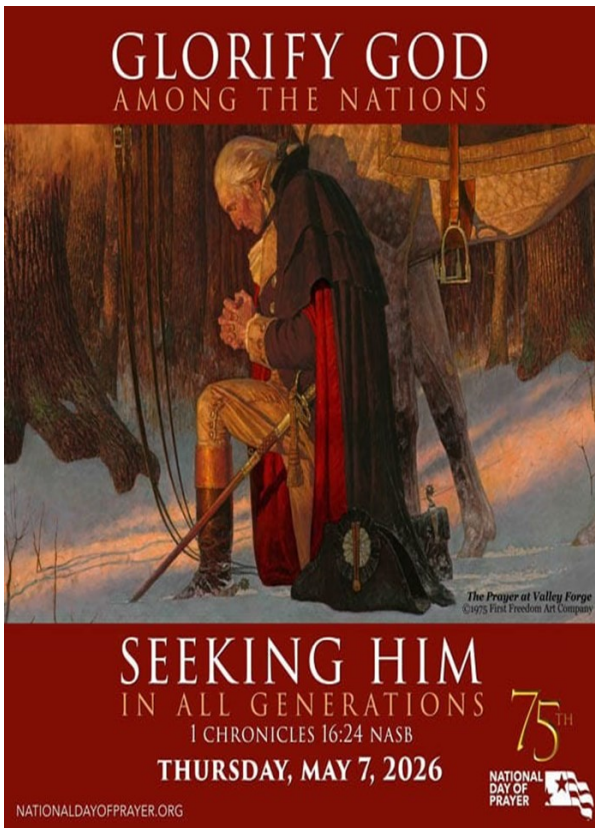


SUN CITIES NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

Thursday, May 7, 2026

12:00noon-1:00pm

First Baptist Church, Sun City West 17419 N. Conquistador
Drive, SCW



This year on May 7, 2026, we will unite and pray as our new 2026 theme calls us to, ***“Glorify God Among the Nations, Seeking Him in All Generations.”***

The National Day of Prayer’s 75th anniversary is taking place the year of America’s 250th anniversary. For generations, Americans have sought the Lord in prayer and glorified Him in every season and circumstance.

From the first national calls to prayer by our Founding Fathers seeking divine guidance, the truths of the Bible have been the foundation for prayer through every tragedy and triumph in our history.

In 2026, our theme is inspired by a passionate prayer of Thanksgiving, prayed by King David in I Chronicles 16 after bringing the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem.

This chapter records Israel celebrating the return of the Ark after being separated for 70 years earlier. While God was always watching over Israel and just a prayer away from them and King David, the Ark of the Covenant represented the presence of God having been constructed at the command of God and carried by the Levites with Moses as they wandered and waited to enter the Promised Land and eventually stolen from the tabernacle in Shiloh at their defeat in the battle in Ebenezer.

History reminds us that every true move of God has been preceded by an outpouring of effective, fervent prayer. Prayer marked by repentance, humility, and wholehearted seeking.



Quilt and Sew

Wilma Plett

Like to sew? Come check out our Palm West Quilt n Sew Team! Fun, Fellowship and Shared Joy!



New Groundskeeper (coffee not landscaping) Leaders

If you've enjoyed a cup of coffee and a cookie under the Pavilion between the traditional Sunday services, you may think this happens with the snap of a finger! We have committed volunteers who set up, serve and clean up each week along with volunteer coordinators who oversee the team. Paul Stadnik was our initial leader for the Groundskeepers and has served well since its inception. He is stepping back as he and his wife are going to be coming and going a bit more in order to be available to their family. Please join me in welcoming **Kent and Cathy Edwards** as the new leaders of the Groundskeepers team!



This sweet couple are newer to Palm West but are ready to jump in and serve the Lord! If you're interested in volunteering in any capacity with the Groundskeeper Team please contact Kent (623)810-1691 or Peg Rideout (Connections Coordinator) (317)460-0576.

May Sermons
Pastor Jim Powell



Guest Speaker

The weekend of May 2-3, we will have a guest speaker named Chuck Tate.

Chuck is a friend of Pastor Jim and the author of the book *41 Will Come*.



May 9, 10 – The Presence of the Spirit

Main Verse: John 14:16-17

Supporting Verses: *Various*

May 16, 17 - The Gifts of the Spirit

Main Verse: Romans 12:3-8

Supporting Verses: *1 Cor 12-14; Eph 4:3-16; 1 Peter 4:10-11*

May 24, 25 – The Fruit of the Spirit - ONE SUNDAY MORNING SERVICE—10:00 A.M.

Main Verse: *Galatians 5:16-23*

May 30, 31 – The Power of the Spirit

Main Verse: *Acts 1:8*

Supporting Verses: *Ephesians 3:20; Col 1:29*



Happy Smiling New Faces in our Greeter Coordinators!

Fred and Mark are co-leading our Greeter/Communion Team for the traditional services. Fred and his wife Marsha are snowbirds while Mark and his wife Lisa are here year round. We use greeters for all of our services and serve communion once a month. If you have a smiling face and a willing heart and would like to join this team, reach out to Peg Rideout (317)460-0576 and I will get you connected!

Fred Prince (L) and Mark Bernier (R) .

Creative Arts Fellowship

Tuesday's May 12 and 28

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 meet on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month.



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.



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

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, 4 & 18, in Hoover Hall Classroom

2:00 p. m.— 4:30 p.m.



Congregation, Staff, and countless members of my church. I miss all of you so much! I hope you will read this. I have loved it so much when Pastor Brian has visited me at my new home. I have gotten many cards from people I have never met. I miss all of you. You don't know what getting a card from you means—it sure brightens my day.

*Thank you so much. God loves all of you. Bless all of you and thank you!
God's Love, Peggy Samuelson*



May Meetings

AA/Alanon

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

Cards With Friends

Friday, May 8, 22	1:30 pm—4:30 pm	Hoover Hall classroom
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Choir Rehearsals

Wednesdays, May 6, 13, 20, 27	3:00 pm—4:30 pm	Choir Room
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Christian Readers Book Club

Thursday, May 7	1:00 pm—2:00 pm	Worship Center classroom
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Creative Arts Fellowship

Tuesdays, May 12, 26	10:00 am—11:30 am	Hoover Hall classroom
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Discovering PWCC!

Thursday, May 14	1:00 pm—3:00 pm	Hoover Hall classroom
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Handbells

Mondays, May 4, 11, 18	10:30 am—12:00 pm	Sanctuary
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Hope Bags

Friday, May 8	9:00 am—12:00 pm	Hoover Hall/HH classroom
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Education Meeting

Tuesday, May 12	1:00 pm—2:30 pm	Hoover Hall/HH classroom
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Fellowship Dinner

Wednesday, May 20	4:30 pm—6:30 pm	Hoover Hall
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Fellowship Games

Mondays, May 4, 18	2:00 pm—4:30 pm	Hoover Hall classroom
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Intercessory Prayer Gathering

Tuesdays, May 5, 12, 19, 26	11:00 am—12:00 pm	Worship Center classroom
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Leadership Meeting

Tuesday, May 12	9:00 am—12:00 pm	Hoover Hall/
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Men's Bible Study

Mondays, May 4, 11, 18`	10:00 am—11:00 am	Choir Room
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Missions Meeting

Monday, May 11	1:00 pm—2:30 pm	Hoover Hall classroom
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VLT

Tuesday, May 19	10:00 am—12:00 pm	Hoover Hall classroom
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Women's Bible Study

Thursdays, May 7, 14, 21, 28	9:30 am—11:00 am	Hoover Hall classroom
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Women's Fellowship Board Meeting

Wednesday, May 27	10:00 am—12:00 pm	Worship Center classroom
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Quilt & Sew

Friday, May 1	10:00 am—12:00 pm	Hoover Hall classroom)
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From Gratitude to Faithful Praise



Gratitude is the beginning of faith; faith leads us to the ultimate gratitude.

Gratitude is often the first quiet step of faith. Before answers come, before circumstances change, gratitude teaches the heart to notice God's presence and provision. Scripture reminds us, "In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you" (1 Thessalonians 5:18, KJV). Giving thanks, even in uncertain moments, opens our eyes to God's faithfulness already at work.

As gratitude grows, it naturally leads us into deeper trust. When we remember what God has done, faith finds solid ground. "Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen" (Hebrews 11:1, KJV). Gratitude strengthens that hope by anchoring it in God's past mercies. Each thankful prayer becomes a reminder that the same God who carried us before will carry us again.

Faith, in turn, leads us to ultimate gratitude, not just for blessings received, but for God himself. "Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift" (2 Corinthians 9:15, KJV). This gratitude reaches beyond circumstances and rests in Christ, the greatest gift of all. When gratitude begins our journey and faith guides our steps, our hearts learn lasting praise, thankful not only for what God gives, but for who he is.

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 the Book of James. We will be meeting in the Hoover Hall classroom. All women are welcome.

Librarian

Nancy Wright

Our non-fiction book section is now in the "Library Room" making it accessible whenever the library is open. The "Worship Center" classroom/ library " has all of the "Bible Study materials for small groups or individual and some older fiction series.

What is your reading pleasure? A book on prayer, dealing with grief or a biography on a Christian hero?

Some book titles from our "Non-Fiction " section:

All The Prayers of the Bible

Find It Fast in the Bible: Your complete Topical Reference

Your Home a Lighthouse

What the Bible Says About Angels

Becoming a Woman of Faith

Billy Graham in Quotes

Who's Who in the Bible

Jesus is Risen: Paul and the early church

The Gift of the Jews

Slightly Bad Girls of the Bible

Be joyful: even when things go wrong, you can have joy

Facing the Giants in Your Life

The Case for Christ: a journalist's personal investigation of the evidence

What does the Bible say about---: the ultimate Bible Answer Book

The Collapse of Evolution

Courageous, 10 Strategies for Thriving in a Hostile World

"Books are the training weights of the mind" - Epictetus

Education

(continued)

Library

Written by Peg Rideout

Calling One and All to the Library!!



Our library is feeling lonely and needs new visitors! If you're an avid reader but haven't taken time to peruse our library, please stop by. It is located in the Worship Center just off the foyer. It extends into the classroom at the back of the sanctuary. We have a wide assortment of fiction and non-fiction options on a host of topics and the check out process is easy. If you're a snowbird and headed out soon, you are welcome to borrow some summer reading books. If you're here and looking for relief from the heat, a good book could be the answer! If you don't consider yourself a reader, I would encourage you to stop by and talk to our librarian, **Nancy Wright**, who can point you to something that may inspire, challenge or encourage you. We have some excellent choices for small group study too. The library is open before and after Sunday services as well as during regular office hours for the church (M-Th 8-4). For those of you who use the library - spread the word!

"The more you read, the more things you will know, the more that you learn the more places you'll go."

Dr. Seuss

**The April, May, June Daily Bread is available in the
Narthex and in the Hoover Hall Foyer.**

Christian Readers Book Club

Thursday, May 7 at 1:00 p.m. in the Worship Center Classroom

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.



Hope Bags

Gary & Carol Graf



The Hope Bag Story

On a recent Sunday, Steve, Manny, Solomon, and I attended the service at Palm West Community Church. I went thinking we were simply picking up a fresh supply of Hope Bags for our families, but I left with so much more. We were treated to a morning of beautiful worship and hymns of praise, followed by a moving presentation of the Hope Bags as the baton was passed to a new, loyal couple to lead the charge. It made me reflect on how this incredible mission began.

The Heart of a "Farmer"

The story starts in Green Bay, Wisconsin, with a woman named Claudia Smith. During the cold winter months, she began sewing cloth bags, but soon found herself asking, "Lord, what am I going to fill these with?" The answer came when she found a local women's shelter that graciously accepted her handmade bags filled with hygiene products, a pair of socks, and a "Hope Bible." That was the birth of the Hope Bag.

In the early 2000s, Claudia and her husband, Jimmy, moved to Sun City West. They brought that spark with them to Palm West Church, and by 2004, the ladies of the church were sewing and filling bags by the hundreds. Along the way, they added quilts to their mission—wrapping those in need in physical and spiritual warmth.

When we talk about our theme "Together We Rise," this group is the perfect example. To date, these dedicated volunteers have:

Distributed 13,100 Bibles * Gifted 4,500 handmade quilts

Dedicated over 180,000 hours of quilting time

Every second Friday of the month, the "Soulful Sewers" gather to share their work. They even have two sisters, aged 96 and 102, who attend regularly! It truly shows that when it comes to serving the Lord, age is never a factor.

I was so touched by something Claudia Smith once said:

"I thought I was a city girl. Little did I know, I was really a farmer, planting seeds!"

At Thrive AZ, we are honored to be the ones who help those seeds grow. During every delivery we make, we hand out a Hope Bag and several quilts to each family. For a family reunifying or a young woman moving into her first apartment, these aren't just supplies—they are a message that they are loved by a community they haven't even met yet. Together, we rise. Diana Thrive AZ

Missions

Phil Burdick, Chair

Choices

Willma Plett, Liaison



Choices need your help!

Since January, they have already given away over **4,000 clothing items** to babies and families in need. The summer items are disappearing fast and what's left won't last much longer in their boutiques.

Will you help moms and babies in need?

Most in need of clothing 18 months – 5T and onesies 12 months

Shorts

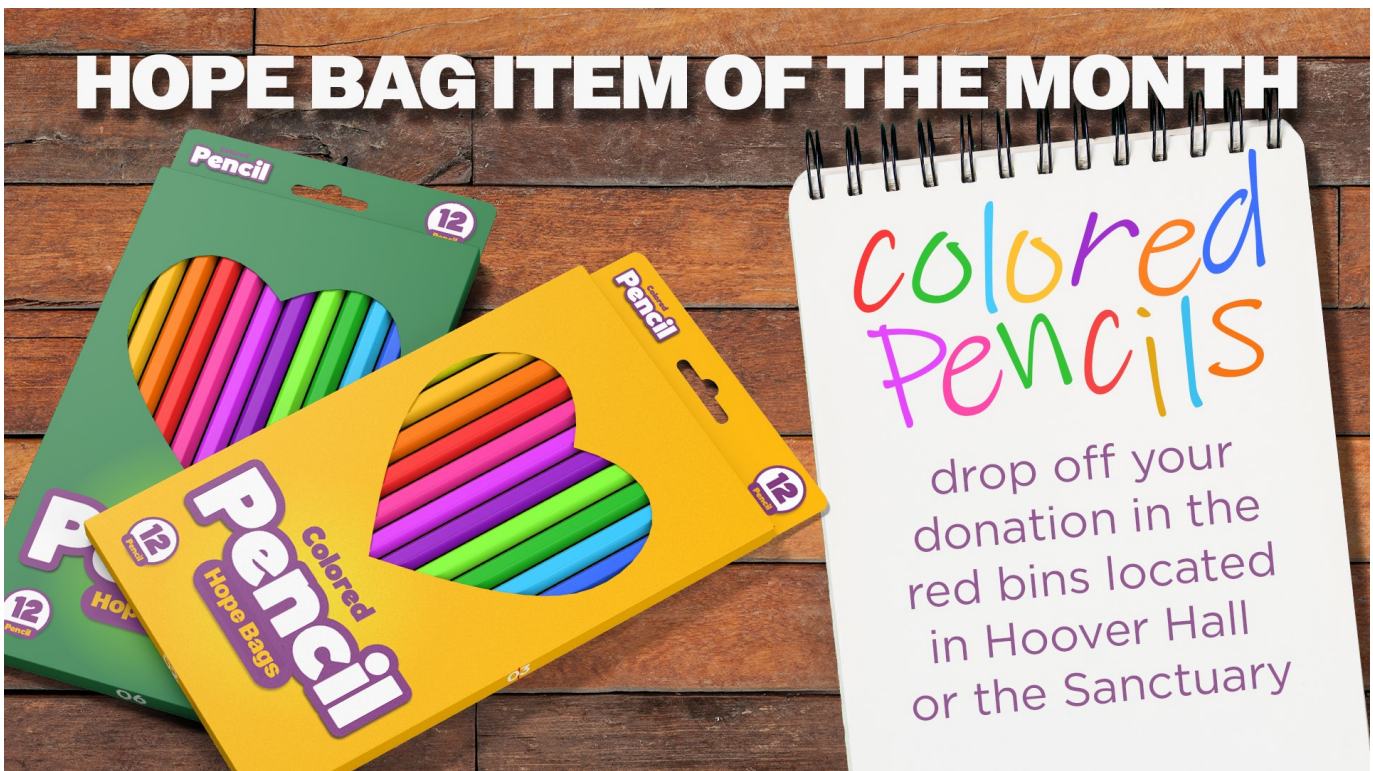
T-shirts

Light sleepwear

Dresses

Rompers

Onesies



Missions

Phil Burdick, Chair

(continued)



Valley View Community Food Bank collects donations of **non-perishable** foods throughout the year. With summer months approaching and many residents leaving the area during the summer, it's important to keep the shelves stocked at the food bank. Let's remember to drop off donations to the bins in Hoover Hall so that no one in our community needs to go hungry at any time. Your Missions committee thanks you for your continued generosity.



United Indian Mission Aviation™

Written by Sherry Burdick

United Indian Mission Aviation (UIMA) serves indigenous people groups in mountainous areas of Mexico. A small fleet of planes are maintained and upgraded at a private hangar in Tucson. The planes are flown by well-trained missionary pilots who transport people from remote villages for vision and dental care. Teams of medical volunteers recently provided eye glasses for 23 people who could not otherwise have been able to receive the gift of better vision.



While ministering to the physical needs of individuals in the villages, pastors and church leaders that are flown into the region have the opportunity to share the love of Christ. One group brought blankets and supplies for the people and while there witnessed for Christ, teaching and encouraging the community. Amazingly, one of the pastors was able to share the message of Christ with a local witch doctor who received Christ. As a respected leader in his community, the witch doctor's testimony has potential for powerful impact on the people of the community.

Often, upon receiving the Lord, the witch doctor burns all their tools used in witchcraft. Some of those items are often family heirlooms passed down from one generation to another. This act demonstrates their conversion experience and shows that the old way of life has been left behind. We pray that the witch doctor's changed life will be a strong testimony and that others will come to faith in Christ as a result.



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

