

COMMUNITY CHURCH *of the Verdes*

October 12, 2025



ORDER OF WORSHIP

Time for Centering

This Week's Text: Psalm 126 — "Joy Restored"

This fall we continue our journey through the Psalms of Ascent (Psalms 120–134)—songs the people of Israel sang as they traveled up to Jerusalem for worship. These ancient pilgrim songs give voice to the full range of human experience: struggle and hope, weariness and renewal, lament and joy. Each psalm invites us to remember that the life of faith is a journey—one that leads us, step by step, toward deeper trust in the God who walks with us.

Psalm 126 celebrates the astonishing grace of God who restores His people's fortunes and turns mourning into joy. It remembers a time when God's deliverance felt like a dream and expresses a longing for that joy to come again. The psalm teaches us that even in seasons of tears, God is at work planting seeds of laughter and renewal.

Calling this "the Christian's secret of a Christian life and of a God-honoring life," J.I. Packer says that we should take the following truths and "Say it over and over to yourself first thing in the morning, last thing at night, as you wait for the bus, any time your mind is free, and ask that you may be enabled to live as one who knows it is all utterly and completely true."

- 1. I am a child of God.*
- 2. God is my Father.*
- 3. Heaven is my home.*
- 4. Every day is one day nearer.*
- 5. My Savior is my brother.*
- 6. Every Christian is my brother too.*

Order of Worship

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Introit

Spirit of Comfort

(Nolan)

**Call to Worship*

Pastor: When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream.

People: Then our mouths were filled with laughter, and our tongues with shouts of joy.

Pastor: The Lord has done great things for us, and we rejoice!

People: Restore our fortunes, O Lord, like the streams in the desert.

Pastor: Those who sow in tears will reap with shouts of joy.

All: Let us worship the Lord who turns sorrow into joy and loss into new life!

**Hymn of Praise*

O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

#5

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, You are the One who restores and renews, yet we confess how easily we lose hope. We forget the joy of Your salvation and focus instead on what has been lost. We doubt that our tears can ever return to laughter, or that dry fields can bloom again. Forgive us when we cling to despair more than to Your promises. Restore our hearts, O Lord—plant in us the seed of faith, that we might rejoice again in Your steadfast love. Though Jesus Christ our Lord we pray, Amen.

Silent Confession

**Please stand as you are able*

Prayer Response *Hear Our Prayer, O Lord* #306
Hear our prayer, O Lord, hear our prayer, O Lord, incline thine ear to us, and grant us thy peace, Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

***Congregational Response** *Gloria Patri* #35
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

****Passing of the Peace***

Call to Offering

Offertory *How Great is Our God with How Great Thou Art* (arr. Hayes)

***Doxology** *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow* #46
Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heavenly host: Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

****Prayer of Dedication***

Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Scripture *Psalm 126*

¹ *When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream.*

² *Then our mouth was filled with laughter and our tongue with shouts of joy; then it was said among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for them."*

³ *The LORD has done great things for us, and we rejoiced.* ⁴ *Restore our fortunes, O LORD, like the watercourses in the Negeb.* ⁵ *May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy.* ⁶ *Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves.*

Leader: *The Word of the Lord.*

People: *Thanks be to God.*

<i>Anthem</i>	<i>God Gives the Song</i>	<i>(Courtney)</i>
<i>Sermon</i>	<i>"Our Longing for Joy"</i>	
<i>Time of Reflection</i>		
<i>*Closing Hymn</i>	<i>Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee</i>	<i>#102</i>
<i>*Charge and Benediction</i>		
<i>*Closing Response</i>	<i>God Be with You Till We Meet Again</i>	<i>#434</i>
<i>*Postlude</i>		

Music for today's worship includes:

Prelude: The Light of the World Is Jesus (Bliss), Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken (Haydn), Nothin' Gonna Stumble My Feet (Gilpin)

Time of Reflection: What a Friend We Have in Jesus (arr. Riley)

Postlude: Standing on the Promises #552

Trio: Debby Wojtas, Sara Bruton, Jeffrey Stevens

Volunteers assisting with worship today:

Communion Table: Kathy and Alex Stamey

Badge Table: Judy Sevier

Fellowship: Illa Alexander, Donna Peterson and Jennifer Ristau

Flower Committee: Sharon Severson, Diane Spang, Jennifer Ristau, Linda Paulos

Lector: Debbie Etcheson

Tellers: Scott Lalim and Sandra Shanley

Ushers: Denny and Terri Meyers

Road Signs: Tom Young and Jared Reisinger

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome members and guests! If you are visiting for the first time, please stop by our badge table for a welcome gift. Visit our website www.verdefaith.org for additional information. **Please complete the Fellowship Pad** at the end of each pew; pass it along, and back. **Fellowship is held following worship** in Founders Hall.

Attendance at last Sunday's service was 115; 297 joined online.

Today's flowers were donated by: Nancy Sheppard: In loving memory of her mother, grandmother and sister.

Stephen Ministers are trained, ready to listen, care, encourage, pray, and help through a crisis or difficult time. Contact one of our Leaders, Donna Angiolillo, Glenda Hage, Debbie Etcheson, John Pasnau, Dan or Judy Villanueva.

In need of prayers for you, your family, or friends? Contact Joan Brunner at 480-471-7274, or Pastor Steve with requests, or if you would like to serve on the team.

AA meetings are held weekly on Mondays at 8:00 am in the library.

PAL (Parents of Addicted Loved Ones) meetings are held every other Tuesday at 6:30 pm in the library. Questions? Contact Greg & Weezy Smith at lift5800@gmail.com. *Meetings have concluded for the season.*

Spiritual Theme in Literature

The Spiritual Themes in Literature book discussion will be led by Winnie Leathers and will begin on Thursday, December 11 from 10am—11:30am in the library. The book for December will be *The Garden of Beasts* by Erik Larson.

MUSIC NOTES...

Choir members and those wishing to join the choir...the first rehearsal of the season will be Wednesday, October 22nd from 4:00-5:30pm in the Sanctuary. No auditions are required. If you have questions please speak with Tom Wojtas or call him at 602-571-0023.

VOLUNTEERS FOR FELLOWSHIP NEEDED

Volunteers are needed for the following dates for Fellowship: **October 19th, October 26th. All dates in November are open as well.** Please sign up on the clipboard in Founders Hall, email Tami Burke, office manager at officemanager@verdefaith.org or call/stop by the office if you are available any of those days. Thanks so much!

FLOWER DONATION OPENINGS

The following dates are open for flower donations:

November 2nd

December 7th

December 28th

Please call 480-471-7239 or stop by the office and let Tami Burke (Office Manager) know if you would like to donate on one of the available dates. Thanks so much.

PIE WITH JULIE AND PASTOR STEVE

*****(DATE ADDED)*****

Here's your chance to get to know Julie and Pastor Steve! Please sign up to meet with them in a small group setting and enjoy pie or cookies and fellowship on one of the following date:

November 12th 3pm—4pm

Sign up sheets will be in Founders Hall following church service. You can also sign up by contacting Tami Burke by email at officemanager@verdefaith.org or by calling her at 480-471-7239. Each session will have **10 participants** and will meet in the Founders Hall Library.





MISSIONS

Lunch making and delivery for Justa Center: The third Thursday of the month at 9:00am.

FHCMA Food Closet: toothpaste, canned fruit, Saltine, and Ritz crackers.

Extended Hands Food Bank: non-perishable food items.

Pad Project Ministry: *will resume in the Fall.*

Prayer Shawl Ministry: *will resume in the Fall.*



**save the
family**
FOUNDATION OF ARIZONA

October Mission Drive

This month, we are collecting items for **Save the Family**. Their mission is to help families overcome homelessness and build a secure future in their journey to self-sufficiency.

Please help by donating:

Granola bars

Canned soup

Canned tuna

Canned chicken.

Place items in the Blue Bin in the Narthex or in the church office doorway. Thank you.

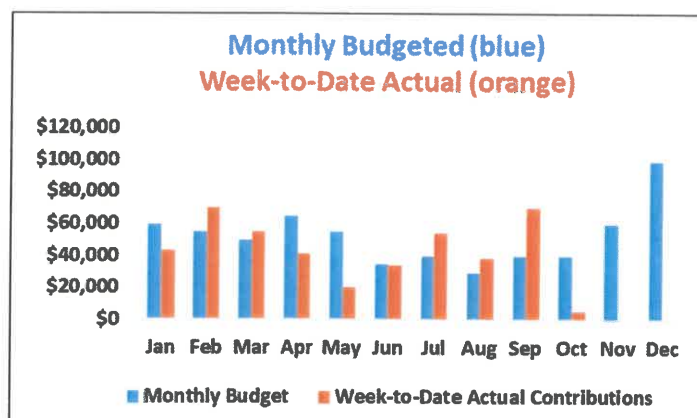


Every
Donation
Makes A
Difference

OPERATING FUND

YTD Actual contributions
through October 5 were
\$435,824

YTD Budgeted contributions
through October 5 were
\$440,000



Thank you for your continuing support!

Please consider these other funds open to special giving in your estate planning...

Legacy Endowment Fund – current balance \$366,320

The purpose of the Endowment Fund is to expand and enrich the mission of the congregation, to initiate new ministries or significantly change the scope of existing ministries. No more than 5% of the three year average fund assets may be distributed in any one year.

Memorial Garden Fund – current balance \$480,296

The purpose of the Memorial Garden Fund is to provide for the perpetual operation and maintenance of the Memorial Garden. Established in 1990, the Memorial Garden provides a resting place for the interment of the ashes of loved ones. It is open to current and former members and residents of Rio and Tonto Verde.

Scholarship Fund – current balance \$15,148

The Scholarship Fund promotes scholarships among young people involved in institutions we support through Mission giving. Recipients are chosen from applicants who are demonstrating academic excellence, commitment, and service in or to one of the following non-profit institutions or community: Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA), NPH (formerly Friends of the Orphans), Sunshine Acres. The Scholarship Fund's sole support is contributions from our members. Donors cannot be related to recipients.

Did you know?... If you are age 70 1/2 or older, you can make a gift from your IRA to support the church. It will not add to your federal taxable income; It counts toward your required minimum distribution, and allows you to experience a tax benefit, even if you do not itemize deductions. You should discuss any such gifts, before making them, with your financial advisor.

The church is very appreciative of gifts from trusts, foundations, and stocks. Occasionally, these gifts are received with no indication of who the donor is. So that we may properly recognize and record the gift, we ask that you either notify the church office or have your financial representative document the donor {and intent} when it is sent to us.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Monday, October 13

8:00am AA Meeting (Library)

Tuesday, October 14

No activities scheduled

Wednesday, October 15

4:00pm Trio Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

Thursday, October 16

9:00am Justa Center Sandwich Making (Founders Hall)

Friday, October 17

No activities scheduled

Saturday, October 18

11:00am Robert Connors Service (Sanctuary)

11:00am Robert Holthe Service (Memorial Garden)

Sunday, October 19

8:30am Worship Service (Sanctuary)

9:30am Fellowship (Founders Hall)

10:00am St. Dominic (Sanctuary)

11:00am St. Dominic Fellowship (Founders Hall)

2025-2026

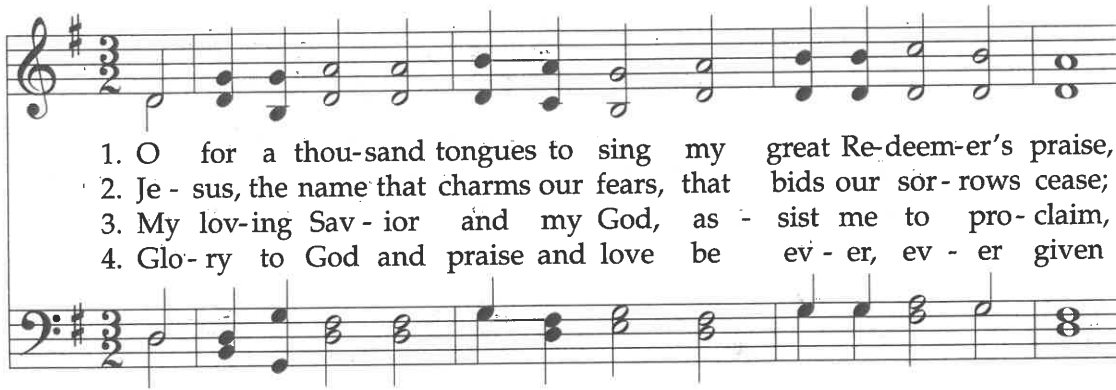
Schedule of Events

- Nov. 17 4pm** “Understanding Both Sides of the Israeli/Palestinian Conflict”
Mike Bussey, Speaker
- Nov. 17 5pm** Fall Dinner
- Jan. 16 7pm** Concert- - Scott Keo Big Band Show
(Michael Buble’ Tribute) ******ticketed event***
- Jan. 26 4pm** “Kindness and the Good Life”
Stephen Swensen MD, Speaker
- Jan. 31 9am** Men’ Retreat – Speaker Pastor Joel Johnson
- Feb. 2 4pm** “How PAL (Parents of Addicted Loved Ones) Saved My Life”
Kim Humphrey, Speaker
- Feb. 20 7pm** Concert – Yachtzilla
(Hits from the 60’s and 70’s) ******ticketed event***
- Feb. 23 4pm** “Choose Joy: Three Keys the Investing Your Time in Retirement”
Babs Plunkett, Speaker
- Mar. 8 4pm** “Fly Fishing Around the World”
Amy Hazel, Speaker
- Mar. 13 7pm** Concert - Crystal Stark
Celebrating Legendary Women Artists ******ticketed event***
- Mar. 16 4 pm** “The News Media; An Insider’s Secrets to How It Works”
Kerry Sanders, Speaker

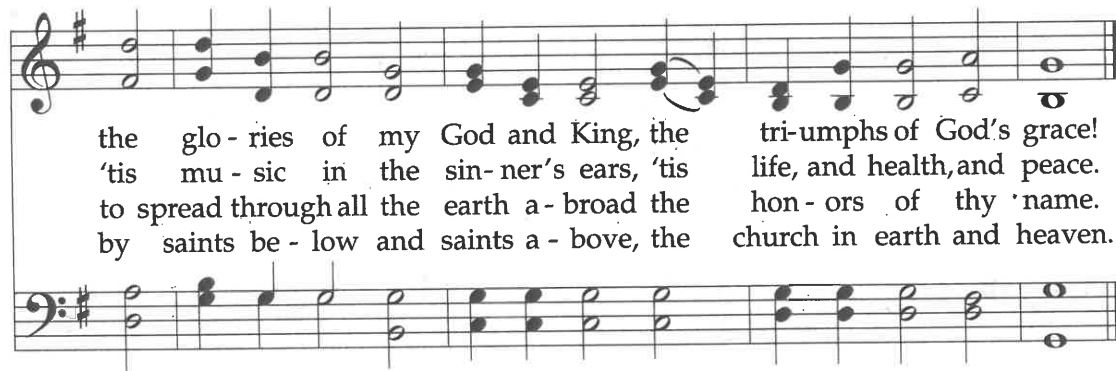
******* All events are in the Sanctuary

O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

5



1. O for a thou-sand tongues to sing my great Re-deem-er's praise,
2. Je - sus, the name that charms our fears, that bids our sor - rows cease;
3. My lov-ing Sav - ior and my God, as - sist me to pro-claim,
4. Glo-ry to God and praise and love be ev - er, ev - er given



the glo - ries of my God and King, the tri-umphs of God's grace!
'tis mu - sic in the sin-ner's ears, 'tis life, and health, and peace.
to spread through all the earth a - broad the hon - ors of thy 'name.
by saints be - low and saints a - bove, the church in earth and heaven.

WORDS: Charles Wesley, 1739, alt.
MUSIC: Carl Gotthelf Gläser, 1828; arr. Lowell Mason, 1839

AZMON
CM

102 Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee

1. Je - sus, the ver - y thought of thee,
 2. No voice can sing, no heart can frame,
 3. O hope of ev - ery con - trite heart,
 4. Je - sus, our on - ly joy be thou,

with sweet-ness fills my breast; but sweet - er far thy
 nor can the mind re - call a sweet - er sound than
 O joy of all the meek, to those who ask, how
 as thou our prize wilt be; Je - sus, be thou our

face to see, and in thy pres - ence rest.
 thy blest name, O Sav - ior of us all.
 kind thou art! How good to those who seek!
 glo - ry now, and through e - ter - ni - ty.

WORDS: Attr. Bernard of Clairvaux (12th century); tr. Edward Caswall, 1849
 MUSIC: John B. Dykes, 1866

ST. AGNES
 CM



Vision Statement

***To be a Christ centered church that inspires individuals to grow closer to God
and to serve others with loving and compassionate hearts.***

Faith Statement ~ The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Community Church of the Verdes

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Rio Verde, Arizona 85263

Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 9:00am-3:00pm

Friday — 9:00am — 12:30pm

Telephone: (480) 471-7239

www.verdefaith.org

Pastor: Rev. Stephen Beard

Pastor's cell: (732)546-5332

Pastor's email: pastor@verdefaith.org

Director of Music: Tom Wojtas

Office Manager: Tami Burke

A/V Operator: Skyler Evans

Vocalists: Debby Wojtas, Jeffrey Stevens, Sara Bruton

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Affiliated with the International Council of Community Churches



We are a Stephen Ministry Congregation



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