

# COMMUNITY CHURCH *of the Verdes*

*January 4, 2026*



ORDER OF WORSHIP

## *Time for Centering*

Today, we continue our sermon series on the Lord's Prayer with **Part Two: "Our Father Who Art in Heaven."**

Drawing from **Romans 8:14–17**, we will reflect on what it means to pray to God not as a distant ruler, but as a loving Father who claims us as children.

The apostle Paul reminds us that we have received not a spirit of fear, but a Spirit of adoption—by whom we cry, *"Abba! Father!"* Together we will explore the deep assurance, belonging, and hope that come from knowing we are heirs with Christ, held within the family of God.

This sermon invites us to pray the Lord's Prayer with renewed trust, confidence, and humility, grounding our lives in the grace of the One who reigns in heaven and yet draws near in love.

"The Lord's Prayer is not a ritual to be recited, but a guide to the life we are meant to live with God. It teaches us how to live in the Kingdom of God here and now." - Dallas Willard

# *Order of Worship*

## *Prelude*

## *Welcome & Announcements*

## *\*Call to Worship*

*Pastor: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.*

**People:** *And also with you.*

*Pastor: Come, let us turn our hearts toward God.*

**People:** *We come seeking mercy, hope and new life.*

*Pastor: The Lord is near to all who call upon him.*

**People:** *We will call upon the Lord with praise and thanksgiving.*

**Pastor: Let us worship God together.**

**People:** *We lift our hearts to the Lord.*

*\*Hymn of Praise*      *Open My Eyes, That I May See*      #586

## *Call to Confession*

## *Prayer of Confession*

*Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole hearts, nor loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have turned from your ways and trusted too much in our own. Forgive us, we pray. Renew us by your Spirit, and lead us again in the way of Jesus Christ. Amen.*

## *Silent Confession*

*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*      *The Journey*      (Larson)

*\*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*

## *Scripture*

*Romans 8:14-17*

**Leader:** *The Word of the Lord.*

**People:** *Thanks be to God.*

## *Anthem*                    *While We Pray*                    *(Lantz)*

## *“Our Father, Who Art in Heaven”*

### *\*Words of Invitation*

## *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.*

## *Words of Institution*

## *Intinction*

## *Prayer After Communion*

## **\*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.*

**\*Closing Hymn**      *In Christ There Is No East or West*      #687

**\*Charge and Benediction**

**\*Closing Response**      *Go, My Children, with My Blessing*      #431

## **\*Postlude**

### **Music for today's worship includes:**

**Prelude:** March Magnifique (Williams), Jesus Shall Reign *with* Great Is the Lord Almighty (arr. Tornquist), You Raise Me Up (Loveland and Graham)

**Communion:** Meditation (Massenet), Be Thou My Vision (arr. Wood) Fill My Cup, Lord (Blanchard)

**Postlude:** O Worship the King #17

### **Volunteers assisting with worship today:**

**Communion Stewards:** Darrel & Rhonda Brenner, Paul & Judy Dorwart, Tom Mulleady & Pastor Steve

**Communion Table:** Alex and Kathy Stamey

**Badge Table:** Julie Dadlani

**Fellowship:** Michele Mulleady and Debby Mullison

**Flower Committee:** Sharon Severson, Jennifer Ristau, Linda Paulos, Deb Barth

**Lector:** Tom Mulleady

**Tellers:** Nancy Sheppard and Barbara Cornelius

**Ushers:** Nell & Bob Bigley, Lita Hitchcock and Spencer Butts

**Road Signs:** Ric Doerflinger

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Welcome members and guests!** Visit our website [www.verdefaith.org](http://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.

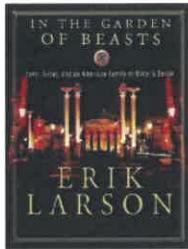
**Attendance** at last Sunday's service was 182; 232 joined online.

**Today's flowers were donated by Terri Bunker:** Thinking of you on your heavenly birthday. From your loving family.

**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.



## SPIRITUAL THEME IN LITERATURE

The Spiritual Themes in Literature book discussion will be led by Winnie Leathers. The Book Club meets the second Thursday of each month in the library. The book for **January**—*The Henna Artist* by Alka Joshi; **February**—*The Midnight Library* by Matt Haig; **March**—*American Dirt* by Jeanine Cummins; **April**—*Crying in H Mart* by Michelle Zauner; **May**—*Before We Were Yours* by Lisa Wingate. All are welcome.



## BIBLE STUDY WITH ED CARPENTER

Thursday Bible study with Ed Carpenter is held in Founders' Hall at 7:30am and 4:00pm. Both sessions are covering the same material. The subject is the Gospel of John. All are welcome.

## 2025 Mission Activities Summary

The policy of the Community Church of the Verdes Mission Committee, adopted by the Board of Trustees, recommends to the Board tangible ways for the church to show God's love through outreach locally, nationally, and internationally. The Mission Committee does this through research, awareness, education, providing mission opportunities, and listening. In 2025, we kept our strong historic relationships with many missions we have supported in the past and have developed new relationships with other agencies. Our focus remains with Christian organizations assisting children and families with an emphasis on local agencies.

In 2025, the Board of Trustees funded a budget for the Mission Committee of \$66,000, which represents 10% of the church's contributions to the Operating Fund. With the Board's approval and your kind generosity, funds were distributed to the following agencies:

<b>Sunshine Acres</b>	\$10,000	Unrestricted
<b>Christian Family Care</b>	\$10,000	Unrestricted
<b>Hope Women's Center</b>	\$10,000	Unrestricted
<b>NPH USA/Friends of the Orphans</b>	\$10,412	Unrestricted
<b>Salvation Army</b>	\$12,088	SoCal wildfire & Texas flood relief, Phoenix
 		Kroc Center hands-on project
<b>Thrive, AZ</b>	\$ 5,000	Unrestricted
<b>The Pad Project</b>	\$ 4,500	Supplies & Unrestricted to Too Little Children
 		Unrestricted
<b>Parents of Addicted Loved Ones</b>	\$ 2,000	Phoenix students' summer camp
<b>Fellowship of Christian Athletes</b>	\$ 2,000	

In addition, the Board of Trustees annually distributes 5% of the Legacy Endowment Fund to expand and enrich the mission of the congregation, to initiate new ministries or significantly expand the scope of existing ministries. In 2025, the Board voted to direct the Mission Committee to determine a purpose for this distribution. The Committee recommended and the Board approved a gift of \$16,300 to **Harvest Compassion Center**.

Due to generous donations from our congregation for our Monthly Mission Drives, we continued to support our local community. In 2025, we organized collections for the **Justa Center, Sunshine Acres, Thrive, Az, Hope Women's Center, Christian Family Care, Save the Family, Extended Hands Food Bank, Fountain Hills Christian Ministerial Association Food Closet, Where Hope Lives and Harvest Compassion Center**.

Many volunteer hours are freely given by our church members. Agencies receiving their time and talents include, but are not limited to: **Sunshine Acres, Extended Hands Food Bank, Fountain Hills Christian Ministerial Association Food Closet, Justa Center Sandwich Making, Pad Project, Prayer Shawl Ministry, AA, PAL, Thrive, AZ, Stephen Ministry, VerdeCares, Habitat for Humanity, Unlimited Potential, Verdes Community Christmas Project, Reigning Grace Ranch, and Salvation Army**.

We are blessed with so many who are willing to give and provide a better life for the less fortunate. There are always opportunities and missions that need our "hands on" support as well as financial resources.

Thank YOU for all you do! You are a true blessing to others! The members of the Mission Committee and the Board of Trustees look forward to continuing and expanding our mission and outreach work in 2026. With your gracious support, we can do God's work in the world.

Faithfully submitted,

Nancy Lowe  
Mission Committee Chairperson

**Mission Drives:** The Mission Committee is grateful to everyone who donated to our Monthly Mission Drives for various charities during the season. We will continue to collect food for the Extended Hands Food Bank and FHCMA Food Closet throughout the summer.

## MISSIONS



**Lunch making and delivery for Justa Center:** 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:** meets weekly on Mondays at 1:00 pm.

## JANUARY MISSION DRIVE

### JUSTA CENTER

This month, we are collecting items for **Justa Center**. They assist homeless seniors on their path to housing by providing life-sustaining resources. Please help by donating:

- ♥ **New sweatshirts (Sizes M, L & XL)**
- ♥ **Hand warmers**
- ♥ **Adult-size gloves**

Items can be placed in the Blue Bin in the Narthex or in the church office doorway. Thank you!



**SCOTT KEO**  
**NATIONAL TRIBUTE ARTIST**  
**COMING TO COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
**OF THE VERDES**

**JANUARY 16TH 2026 @ 7:00PM**  
**doors open at 6:30pm**

Get your tickets today after service or in the Administrative office during normal business hours.

Scott Keo is the #1 Michael Bublé' tribute artist. So get ready for a fantastic evening. Tickets are \$40 or buy the whole concert series for \$100 and get \$20 in savings. Coming February 20th -Yachtzilla (Classic Soft Rock) and March 13th- Crystal Stark (Iconic Woman Artist and American Idol Finalist).

# OPERATING FUND

**YTD Actual contributions through December 28 were \$642,312**

**YTD Budgeted contributions through December 28 were \$630,000**



[Support CCV Ministries & Missions with Online Giving](#)

**Thank you for your continuing support!**

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

**Legacy Endowment Fund – current balance \$381,952**

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 \$482,645**

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 \$23,653**

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 may not 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, January 5**

8:00am AA Meeting (Library)  
9am Community Prayer (Chapel)  
1:00pm Pad Project (Sunday School Room)  
2:00pm Mission Committee (Board Room)  
3:00pm Harmony Committee (Library)

### **Tuesday, January 6**

9:00am Community Prayer (Chapel)  
4:30pm Weekly Rosary St. Dominic (Chapel)

### **Wednesday, January 7**

9:00am Community Prayer (Chapel)  
10:00am Bible Study w/ Pastor Steve (Founders Hall)  
10:00am St. Dominic Bible Study (Chapel)  
4:00pm Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

### **Thursday, January 8**

7:30pm Bible Study with Ed (Founders Hall)  
8:30am Finance Meeting (Board Room)  
9:00am Community Prayer (Chapel)  
10:00am Spiritual Theme In Literature (Library)  
2:00pm Art Tour  
4:00pm Bible Study with Ed (Founders Hall)  
4:00pm Facilities Meeting (Library)

### **Friday, January 9**

9:00am Prayer Shawl Ministry (Sunday School Rm)  
9:00am Community Prayer (Chapel)

### **Saturday, January 10**

9:45am St. Dominic Centering Prayer (Chapel)

### **Sunday, January 11**

8:30am Worship (Sanctuary)  
9:30am Fellowship (Founders Hall)  
10:00am St. Dominic (Sanctuary)  
11:00am St. Dominic Fellowship (Founders Hall)



### **Art Tour January 8, 2026 @ 2:00pm**

Meet in the courtyard of Community Church of the Verdes to discover the Art of LOOKING. On this DEEPER DIVE into 3 works of art, you will be invited to slow down, look closely, and share your thoughts if you so choose. Looking forward to seeing you Thursday, January 8.



## MEN'S ON-SITE RETREAT

January 31, 2026

8:30 am - 2:30 pm

In this retreat, led by **Pastor Joel K. Johnson**, founding pastor of Westwood Community Church in Chanhassen, Minnesota, we will apply the “Rhythms of Life” to its three fundamental questions: Who am I? Why am I here? Where am I going? In this Retreat we will bring clarity to life’s purpose. In Joel’s words “We are going to have fun together; it’s going to be a meaningful time...and God is going to meet us in personal and powerful ways”.

A continental breakfast and light lunch will be included. Tickets are \$20. Register either after the 8:30 service in the Founders Hall, at the Church office, or on-line at [verdefaith.org](http://verdefaith.org)



Stephen Swensen M.D.

Monday, January 26, 2026

4:00 p.m. Church Sanctuary

“*Kindness and Good Life*” is Dr. Swensen’s message of hope.

*Kindness* is helping others do better and better has no limit. If the *Good Life* is optimal health span, fulfillment, and positive life assessment, then kindness is central to achievement. Dr. Swensen will show how kindness improves the mental, physical, social and spiritual well-being of people.

Dr. Swensen is a recognized speaker, interdisciplinary researcher and expert in well-being, leadership and organizational development. For 35 years, he served patients at the Mayo Clinic as a clinician, scientist, educator and leader. He lives in Fountain Hills, has been married for 48 years, and has two children.

**Please join us for this free event as we enter the New Year with a positive message of hope!**

# Open My Eyes, That I May See

586

1. O - pen my eyes, that I may see glimps- es of truth thou  
 2. O - pen my ears, that I may hear voic - es of truth thou  
 3. O - pen my mouth, and let me bear glad - ly the warm truth

hast for me place in my hands then won-der-ful key  
 send - est clear, and while the wave - notes fall on my ear,  
 ev - ery-where; o - pen my heart and let me pre - pare

*Refrain*

that shall un - clasp and set me free.  
 ev - ery-thing false will dis - ap - pear. Si - lent - ly now I  
 love with thy chil - dren thus to share.

wait for thee, read - y, my God, thy will to see.

O - pen my eyes,  
 O - pen my ears, il - lu - mine me, Spir - it di - vine!  
 O - pen my heart,

687 In Christ There Is No East or West

1. In Christ there is no east or west, in  
 2. In Christ shall true hearts ev' - ry - where their  
 3. Join hands, dis - ci - ples of the faith, what -  
 4. In Christ now meet both east and west in  
  
 him no south or north, but one com - mu - ni -  
 high com - mun - ion find; his ser - vice is the  
 e'er your race may be; all chil - dren of the  
 him meet south and north; all lov - ing hearts are  
  
 ty of love through - out the whole wide earth.  
 gold - en cord close - bind - ing hu - man - kind.  
 liv - ing God are sure - ly kin to me.  
 one in him through - out the whole wide earth.

WORDS: John Oxenham, 1908, alt.  
 MUSIC: Alexander R. Reinagle, c. 1830

ST. PETER  
 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**  
25603 Danny Lane, Suite 1

Rio Verde, Arizona 85263

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

**Friday 9:00am – 12:00pm**

**Telephone: (480) 471-7239**

**[www.verdefaith.org](http://www.verdefaith.org)**

**Pastor: Rev. Stephen Beard**

**Pastor's cell: (732) 546-5332**

**Pastor's email: [sbeard@verdefaith.org](mailto:sbeard@verdefaith.org)**

**Director of Music: Tom Wojtas**

**Office Manager: Tami Burke**

**Independent Contractors:**

**A/V Operator: Skyler Evans**

**Sexton: Glen Langenfeld**

**Vocalists: Debby Wojtas, Jeffrey Stevens, Sara Bruton**

### **Board of Trustees**

**Class of 2026**  
Jody Anschutz (Fellowship)  
Gary Etcheson (Facilities)  
Dan Larson (Finance)

**Class of 2027**  
Karla Lalim (President)  
Nancy Lowe (Mission)  
Jared Reisinger (Technology)

**Class of 2028**  
Pat Peterson (Education)  
Nancy Sheppard (Worship)  
Julie Peacock (Membership)



Affiliated with the International Council of Community Churches

We are a Stephen Ministry Congregation

Find us on Facebook "Community Church of the Verdes"