

COMMUNITY CHURCH *of the Verdes*

February 8, 2026



ORDER OF WORSHIP

Time for Centering

Today's Sermon: Forgive Us Our Debts

In Psalm 51, the psalmist comes before God with unsparing honesty—asking not for excuses, but for truth in the inward being, a clean heart, and the restoration of joy. It is a prayer shaped by the recognition that we all carry debts we cannot repay: sins that burden the conscience and relationships marked by failure and regret.

In the Lord's Prayer, Jesus gives us words to bring those debts into the light and to receive the mercy that only God can give. But the prayer does not end with being forgiven. It binds God's mercy to our own lives, calling us to forgive as we have been forgiven. As C. S. Lewis reminds us, "Everyone says forgiveness is a lovely idea, until they have something to forgive."

Yet forgiveness, difficult as it is, is also the doorway to freedom. Lewis B. Smedes puts it plainly: "To forgive is to set a prisoner free and discover that the prisoner was you." This morning we will reflect on how confession, forgiveness, and freedom belong together—and how God's grace creates in us a clean heart and a renewed spirit.

Order of Worship

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Call to Worship

Pastor: *The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end.*

People: *They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.*

Pastor: *“The Lord is my portion,” says my soul, “therefore I will hope in him.”*

People: *We come to worship the Lord, our hope and our portion.*

***Hymn of Praise Just as I Am, Without One Plea #339**

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession (spoken in unison)

Thomas a Kempis

God of mercy, I offer to You all the sins I have committed from the moment I could first offend You. Consume them, one and all, in the fire of Your love, and burn away their stains. I also offer to You all that is good within me, though it is small and imperfect, that the good may become more perfect, and that I may be of use to Your coming kingdom. 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

*Please stand as you are able

**Passing of the Peace*

Call to Offering

Offertory

Great God, Everlasting!

(Lantz)

**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 51: 6-17

⁶You desire truth in the inward being; therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.
⁷ Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. ⁸ Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.
⁹ Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.¹⁰ Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.¹¹ Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me.¹² Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit.¹³ Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you.¹⁴ Deliver me from bloodshed, O God, O God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud of your deliverance.¹⁵ O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise.¹⁶ For you have no delight in sacrifice; if I were to give a burnt offering, you would not be pleased.¹⁷ The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

Leader: *The Word of the Lord.*

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Anthem

Still, My Soul, Be Still

(arr. McDonald)

Sermon

"Forgive Us Our Debts"

Time of Reflection

<i>*Closing Hymn</i>	<i>Amazing Grace</i>	#546
<i>Charge and Benediction</i>		
<i>*Closing Response</i>	<i>On Eagle's Wings</i>	#77
<i>*Postlude</i>		

Music for today's worship includes:

Prelude: All Are Welcome (Haugen), Sortie (Lemmens), The Old Rugged Cross (Bennard)

Time of Reflection: Create in Me a Clean Heart (Keith Green)

Postlude: Precious Name (#625)

Volunteers assisting with worship today:

Communion Table: Rockee Coalson

Badge Table: Dan & Linda Ballow

Fellowship: Karen Baldwin, Ruth Blakely, and Lynn Finn

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

Lector: Carol Wallman

Tellers: Brenda Bulcher and Maggie McMillan

Ushers: Denny & Terri Meyers

Road Signs: Bill Hickman and Ric Doerflinger

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.veredefaith.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 298; 204 joined online.

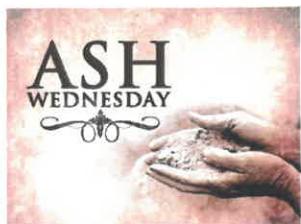
Today's flowers were donated by: Anonymous: In honor of the Stephen Ministry Team.

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.

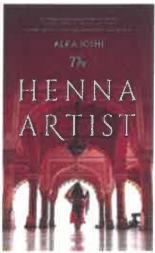
AA meetings are held weekly on Mondays at 8:00am in the library.

PAL (Parents of Addicted Loved Ones) meetings are held every other Tuesday at 6:30 pm in the library. Next meeting is February 24th. Questions? Contact Greg & Weezy Smith at lift5800@gmail.com.



ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

Join us on Ash Wednesday (Feb 18th) 9:00 a.m. in the Chapel for a brief service of prayer and Scripture, including the imposition of ashes, as we enter the season of Lent together.



SPIRITUAL THEME IN LITERATURE

The Spiritual Theme in Literature book discussion will be led by Winnie Leathers. The Book Club meets the second Thursday of each month in the Library @ 10:00am. The book for **February**-The Midnight Library by Matt Haig; **March**-American Dirt by Jeanine Cummins; **April**-Crying in the H Mart by Michelle Zauner; **May** - Before We Were Yours by Lisa Wingate. All are welcome.

BIBLE STUDY



Wednesdays at 11:00am Bible study: The Lord's Prayer with Pastor Steve is held in Founders' Hall. All are welcome.

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.

New Bible Study Begins Ash Wednesday: *The Seven Deadly Sins*

Beginning on February 18th (Ash Wednesday), Pastor Steve will lead a 6-week Lenten Bible study exploring the seven deadly sins—not as a list for shame, but as a spiritual diagnosis that names the habits and desires that distort our love of God and neighbor. Rooted in Scripture and the wisdom of the Christian tradition, the study invites honest self-examination, repentance, and the hope of transformation. The study meets Wednesdays at **11:00 a.m. in Founders Hall** and is open to all.

Lent is a season for truth telling and grace; this study is an invitation to slow down, look within, and discover how God meets us not with condemnation, but with mercy and new life.

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:** Monday's at 1:00pm
-  **Prayer Shawl Ministry:** 2nd Friday of the month @ 9:00am

FEBRUARY MISSION DRIVE SUNSHINE ACRES



This month, we are collecting items for Sunshine Acres. They provide a loving, Christian home to children separated from their parents to prepare them for a successful life. Please help by donating:

- **Kids snacks**
- **Toothpaste and toothbrushes**
- **Individual hand soap bars**

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

GRIEF SUPPORT/SHARE GROUP

Open to all. Our Grief Support and Share Group meets every Thursday until March 12th. We will be meeting in the library from 3pm—4:30pm. If you have any questions, please contact Donna Angiolillo at 845-416-3445.

OPERATING FUND

**YTD Actual contributions
through February 1 were
\$65,894**

**YTD Budgeted contributions
through February 1 were
\$68,750**



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 \$378,952

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 \$20,153

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, February 9

8:00am AA Meeting (Library)
9:00am Community Prayer w/ Pastor Steve (Chapel)
12:45pm Membership Committee (Library)
1:00pm PAD Project (Sunday School Room)
3:15pm St. Dominic's Pastoral Meeting (Boardroom)

Tuesday, February 10

9:00am Community Prayer w/Pastor Steve (Chapel)
1:00pm Stephen Ministry Leaders (Stephen Ministry Room)
2:00pm Stephen Ministers (Library)
4:00pm Finance Committee (Boardroom)
4:00pm ASU Lecture (Sanctuary)
4:30pm Weekly Rosary St. Dominic (Chapel)
6:30pm PAL Meeting (Library)

Wednesday, February 11

9:00am Community Prayer w/ Pastor Steve (Chapel)
10:00am St. Dominic Bible Study (Chapel)
11:00am Bible Study: The Lord's Prayer w/ Pastor Steve (Founders Hall)
4:00pm Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, February 12

7:30am Bible Study w/ Ed Carpenter (Founders Hall)
9:00am Community Prayer w/ Pastor Steve (Chapel)
10:00am Spiritual Theme in Literature (Library)
3:00pm Grief Support Group (Library)
4:00pm Bible Study w/ Ed Carpenter (Founders Hall)

Friday, February 13

9:00am Community Prayer w/ Pastor Steve (Chapel)
9:00am Prayer Shawl Ministry (Sunday School Room)
2:00pm Art Tour (Courtyard)

Saturday, February 14

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

Sunday, February 15

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



YACHTZILLA

February 20, 2026 @ 7:00pm

(doors open at 6:30)

In the church Sanctuary

A 6 piece live band that brings stadium energy to the smooth sounds of Yacht Rock. (60's & 70's music) Every show is a sing-a-long that feels like Saturday night at a dueling piano bar. Get ready to rock and reminisce with Arizona's premiere yacht rock band!

***Get your tickets during normal business hours in the church office.*



CRYSTAL STARK

COMING MARCH 13TH

Tina Turner, Carole King, Aretha Franklin, Dolly Parton, Ella Fitzgerald, Whitney Houston... all of these artists have taken the stage and the world by storm with their powerful voices and incredible determination. Crystal Stark, an American Idol finalist and vocal powerhouse in her own right, pays tribute to these First Ladies of Song with tunes that will make you laugh, smile, cry, and appreciate the fortitude of those fierce female firsts. You won't want this show to end.

Just as I Am, Without One Plea 339



1. Just as I am, with - out one plea, but
 2. Just as I am, though tossed a - bout with
 3. Just as I am, thou wilt re - ceive, wilt
 4. Just as I am, thy love un-known, hast



that thy blood was shed for me, and that thou bid'st me
 man - y a con - flict, man - y a doubt; fight - ings and fears with-
 wel - come, par - don, cleanse, re - lieve; be - cause thy prom - ise
 bro - ken ev - 'ry bar - rier down; now, to be thine, yea,



come to thee, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!
 in, with-out, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!
 I be - lieve, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!
 thine a - lone, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!



WORDS: Charlotte Elliott, 1835
 MUSIC: William B. Bradbury, 1849

WOODWORTH
 LM

Amazing Grace!

546

1. A - maz - ing grace! How sweet the sound that
 2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
 3. Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares, I
 4. When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright

saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
 grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that
 have al - read - y come; 'tis grace hath brought me
 shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to

now am found; was blind, but now I see.
 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved.
 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

WORDS: John Newton, 1779; st. 4 anonymous

NEW BRITAIN
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-2:00pm
Friday — 9:00am — 12:00pm
Telephone: (480) 471-7239
www.verdefaith.org*

*Pastor: Rev. Stephen Beard
Pastor's cell: (732)546-5332
Pastor's email: sbeard@verdefaith.org
Director of Music: Tom Wojtas
Office Manager: Tami Burke*

*A/V Operator: Skyler Evans
Vocalists: Debby Wojtas, Jeffrey Stevens, Sara Bruton*

Board of Trustees

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Gary Etcheson (Facilities)
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Jared Reisinger (Technology)*

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Nancy Sheppard (Worship)
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Affiliated with the International Council of Community Churches

We are a Stephen Ministry Congregation

Find us on Facebook "Community Church of the Verdes"