

# COMMUNITY CHURCH *of the Verdes*

*March 8, 2026*



## ORDER OF WORSHIP

## *Time for Centering*

### **Lenten Series: The “I Am” Statements of Jesus**

This Lent at Community Church of the Verdes, we are walking through the powerful self-declarations of Jesus in the Gospel of John. Each week we are asking: *Who does Jesus say He is — and what does that mean for us?*

Today we turn to His words in John 8:12:

**“I am the Light of the world.”**

Spoken during the Feast of Tabernacles, against the backdrop of blazing temple lamps, Jesus declares Himself to be the true and lasting Light — the One who reveals truth, exposes darkness, and guides us into life. Lent invites us into honest self-examination. The Light of Christ does not merely comfort; it reveals. Yet it reveals in order to redeem.

As John Calvin wrote in his commentary on John,

“Christ is the only light of the world, by whose brightness all must be enlightened who would not remain in darkness.”

Today we continue our Lenten journey and consider what it means not simply to admire the Light — but to follow Him.

# Order of Worship

*Prelude*

*Welcome & Announcements*

*Introit*

*Blessing*

*(Dengler)*

*Call to Worship*

*Pastor: I lift up my eyes to the hills-from where will my help come from?*

*People: Our help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.*

*Pastor: The Lord is your keeper; He will neither slumber nor sleep.*

*People: The Lord watches over us by day and by night.*

*Pastor: The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in.*

*People: From this time on and forevermore. Let us worship the Lord.*

*\*Hymn of Praise*

*Jesus, Thou Joy of Loving Hearts*

*#101*

*Call to Confession*

*Prayer of Confession (spoken in unison)*

*God of the Covenant, Throughout these forty days, unseal within us the wellspring of your grace. Cleanse our hearts of all that is not holy, and cause your gift of new life to flourish once again. Sweep away our corruption and selfishness, and turn us to love our neighbors as an outward sign of our love for you. Grant these things through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.*

*Silent Confession*

*Prayer Response*

*Turn Your Eyes upon Jesus*

*Turn your eyes upon Jesus, Look full in His wonderful face, wonderful face, and the things of earth will grow strangely dim In the light of His glory and grace.*

*\*Please stand as you are able*

## *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 Lord Is My Light (Courtney)*

*\*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 John 8:12-20*

*<sup>12</sup> Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life." <sup>13</sup> Then the Pharisees said to him, "You are testifying on your own behalf; your testimony is not valid." <sup>14</sup> Jesus answered, "Even if I testify on my own behalf, my testimony is valid because I know where I have come from and where I am going, but you do not know where I come from or where I am going. <sup>15</sup> You judge by human standards; I judge no one. <sup>16</sup> Yet even if I do judge, my judgment is valid, for it is not I alone who judge but I and the Father who sent me. <sup>17</sup> In your law it is written that the testimony of two witnesses is valid. <sup>18</sup> I testify on my own behalf, and the Father who sent me testifies on my behalf." <sup>19</sup> Then they said to him, "Where is your Father?" Jesus answered, "You know neither me nor my Father. If you knew me, you would know my Father also." <sup>20</sup> He spoke these words while he was teaching in the treasury of the temple, but no one arrested him, because his hour had not yet come.*

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

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

**Anthem** *Fairest Lord Jesus* (arr. Hakes)

**Sermon** *"I Am the Light of the World"*

**Time of Reflection**

**\*Closing Hymn** *O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go* #540

**Charge and Benediction**

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

**\*Postlude**

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

**Prelude:** Lead, Kindly Light (arr. Wood), For All the Saints (arr. Park), Shine, Jesus, Shine (Kendrick)

**Time of Reflection:** I Have Decided to Follow Jesus (arr. Hayes)

**Postlude:** My Hope Is Built (#537)

**Volunteers assisting with worship today:**

**Communion Table:** Pat Strachan

**Badge Table:** Jackie & Jon Williams

**Fellowship:** Deb Etcheson and Donna Angiolillo

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

**Lector:** Scott Bronson

**Tellers:** Terri Meyers and Ron Lowe

**Ushers:** Nancy & Ron Lowe

**Road Signs:** Bill Hickman and Tom Young

# 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](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 296; 164 joined online.

**Today's flowers were donated by:** Bob & Linda Dietsche: In loving memory of Diane Dietsche, wife and best friend.

**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 **March 10th**. Questions? Contact Greg & Weezy Smith at [lift5800@gmail.com](mailto:lift5800@gmail.com).



## 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 **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



**Wednesday** at 11:00am Bible study: The Seven Deadly Sins 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: *The Seven Deadly Sins***

Pastor Steve is leading 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.

### ***EASTER LILIES***

***If you would like to purchase an Easter lily in memory/honor of a loved one:***

***-Use the pre-printed envelopes provided***

***-Print clearly; indicate who it is in memory, honor or recognition of (Information provided will be printed in the Easter bulletins)***

***-Enclose \$15 - check or cash (payable to Community Church of the Verdes)***

***-Place the envelope in the offering basket, or drop it off at the Community Church office MARCH 15<sup>TH</sup>—29<sup>TH</sup>***

***-DEADLINE FOR PURCHASE IS MARCH 29TH***



***\*\*Lilies may be picked up after St. Dominic Mass on Easter Sunday until 1:00pm. After 1:00pm they will be taken to be donated.***

## 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

## MARCH MISSION DRIVE

### SUPPORT THRIVE AZ

This month, we are collecting items for **Thrive AZ**. They walk alongside families who are at-risk of losing their kids to foster care and help young adults who have aged-out of the foster-care system. Please help by donating:

- ♥ **Sheets**
- ♥ **Blankets**
- ♥ **Standard pillows for twin beds.**

Items can be placed in the Blue Bin in the Narthex or in the church office doorway. For easy Amazon ordering, use the website link or contact Nancy Lowe at 203-395-9872 or [ntart94@gmail.com](mailto:ntart94@gmail.com).

## TOUR THRIVE AZ SHOPS:

### NEW DATE:

**TUESDAY, MARCH AT 11 O'CLOCK**

Join church members and guests on a tour of **Thrive AZ's** satellite location where their young adults learn business skills operating their **Thrift to Thrive** and **Grounds to Thrive** Shops. On the tour, we will grab a coffee and meet their President and CEO, Steve Vogel, who will talk about their foster care prevention and family reunification work.

The address is: **839 E Camelback Road, Phoenix**

Please register in Founders Hall or on the website and if you need transportation contact Nancy Lowe [ntart94@gmail.com](mailto:ntart94@gmail.com) or 203-395-9872.



# OPERATING FUND

YTD Actual contributions  
through March 1 were  
\$177,062

YTD Budgeted contributions  
through March 1 were  
\$121,000



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 \$390,481**

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 \$485,367**

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 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, March 9

8:00am AA Meeting (Library)  
9:00am Community Prayer w/ Pastor Steve (Chapel)  
10:00am Fellowship Meeting (Library)  
1:00pm Pad Project (Sunday School Room)  
2:00pm Performing Arts Meeting (library)  
4:00pm Lecture: Amy Hazel

## Tuesday, March 10

9:00am Community Prayer w/Pastor Steve (Chapel)  
4:00pm ASU Lecture (Sanctuary)  
4:30pm Weekly Rosary St. Dominic (Chapel)  
6:30pm PAL Meeting (library)

## Wednesday, March 11

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

## Thursday, March 12

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

## Friday, March 13

9:00am Community Prayer w/ Pastor Steve (Chapel)  
5:00pm Stations of the Cross St. Dominic (Courtyard)

## Saturday, March 14

9:45am St. Dominic Centering Prayer (Chapel)  
4:30pm New Member Gathering (off-site location)

## Sunday, March 15

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



## Notice of Annual Meeting of the Congregation

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation of **Community Church of the Verdes** will be held on **Sunday, March 15**, in **Founders Hall**, **immediately following the morning worship service**. At this meeting we will review the life and ministry of the church over the past year, receive important reports, and conduct the necessary business of the congregation, including the **election of new board members and officers**. All members are encouraged to attend and participate in this important gathering in the life of our church.



# CRYSTAL STARK

MARCH 13<sup>TH</sup>

7:00PM

(DOORS OPEN AT 6:30)

Crystal Stark, an **American Idol Finalist** and vocal powerhouse in her own right, pays tribute to the First Ladies of Song with tunes that will make you laugh, smile, cry, and appreciate the fortitude of fierce female firsts. You won't want this show to end.

**\*\*tickets on sale now for \$40 in the office during normal business hours or at the door on the day of the concert.**

## **FEATURED SPEAKER EVENTS:**

**Amy Randall Hazel**

**"Adventures in Fly Fishing"**

**Monday March 9, 2026 at 4:00 PM**



Come hear Amy's story and her message about how the relaxing experience of fly fishing connects us with nature and promotes a sense of peace. Standing in a river, surrounded by flowing water, birds singing, and fresh air naturally calms the mind.

**KERRY SANDERS, JOURNALIST**

**"Inside the Business of Television News"**

**Monday March 16, 2026 4:00 PM**



Kerry Sanders is a renowned journalist with over 40 years of experience, celebrated for his exceptional reporting and engaging storytelling. As a prominent correspondent for NBC News, he has covered some of the most significant events in recent history, establishing himself as a trusted voice in television news.

***\*\*The Speakers are free events. All are welcome\*\****

## Jesus, Thou Joy of Loving Hearts

101

1. Je - sus, thou joy of lov - ing hearts, thou fount of  
 2. Thy gra - cious word hath ev - er stood: thou sav - est  
 3. We taste thee, O thou liv - ing bread, and long to  
 4. Our rest - less spir - its yearn for thee, wher - e'er our  
 5. O Je - sus, ev - er with us stay; make all our

1. life, thou light of light, great - er than plea - sure  
 2. those that on thee call; to them that seek thee,  
 3. feast up - on thee still; we drink of thee, the  
 4. change - ful lot is cast: glad when thy gra - cious  
 5. mo - ments calm and bright; ban - ish the sin of

1. earth im - parts, thy love is true and pure de - light.  
 2. thou art good; to them that find thee, all in all.  
 3. foun - tain - head, and thirst our souls from thee to fill.  
 4. smile we see; blest when our faith can hold thee fast.  
 5. earth, we pray; shed o'er the world thy ho - ly light.

WORDS: Latin (12th century); tr. Ray Palmer, 1858, alt.  
 MUSIC: Henry Baker, 1854

QUEBEC  
 LM

540

O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go

1. O Love that wilt not let me go, I rest my  
 2. O Light that fol-lowest all my way, I yield my  
 3. O Joy that seek-est me through pain, I can not  
 4. O Cross that lift-est up my head, I dare not

wea - ry soul in thee; I give thee back the life I owe, that  
 flick-er-ing torch to thee; my heart re-stores its bor-rowed ray, that  
 close my heart to thee; I trace the rain-bow through the rain, and  
 ask to fly from thee; I lay in dust life's glo - ry dead, and

in thine o - cean depths its flow may rich - er, full - er be.  
 in thy sun-shine's blaze its day may bright-er, fair - er be.  
 feel the prom-ise is not vain that morn shall tear - less be.  
 from the ground there blös-soms red life that shall end - less be.

WORDS: George Matheson, 1882  
 MUSIC: Albert L. Peace, 1884

ST. MARGARET  
 88.886



### ***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**

**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"*