

VOL. 26 - ISSUE 10 • OCTOBER

THE SCROLL

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF CHURCH OF THE MASTER PC(USA)



FROM PASTOR BEN

BY THE REV. DR. BENJAMIN D. SELLER

Most of us know what it feels like to be in a room and still feel alone. You can sit in a crowded restaurant, walk through a busy store, scroll through hundreds of updates on your phone, even attend church on a Sunday morning, and still carry the quiet ache of wondering, “Does anybody really know me? Does anybody really notice when I’m gone? Does anybody really care?”

That’s one of the strange things about our time. We’re more connected than ever in certain ways, and yet many people are deeply lonely. We can message someone across the world in seconds, but we may not know the names of the people living across the street. We can follow people’s lives online, and still not have anyone we’d feel comfortable calling when life falls apart.

And if we’re honest, that kind of distance can creep into the church too. We can attend the same service, sing the same songs, hear the same sermon, and then slip out without ever really entering into life together. We can be polite without being present. We can smile without being known. We can say, “I’ll pray for you,” and then forget before we get to the car. We can agree that Christian community matters while still building a life where almost no one can get close enough to help us grow.

Jesus is quoted in John 13,
“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

As the body of Christ, we are to embody this. Many times we think of the church as a place to merely consume spiritual food. When is the last time you asked, “what can I do to help build community?” Imagine what the body could look like?

Imagine if those who are lonely found family here.

Imagine if those who are carrying grief found people willing to sit with them.

Imagine if new believers found patient spiritual brothers and sisters.

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FROM PASTOR BEN (CONTINUED)

BY THE REV. DR. BENJAMIN D. SELLER

Imagine if marriages under pressure found support instead of shame.

Imagine if students found adults who knew their names and prayed for their future.

Imagine if older saints felt honored, valued, and included.

Imagine if people who have been wounded by shallow religion encountered a church learning, imperfectly but sincerely, to love like Jesus.

Imagine...

Love you, Pastor Ben

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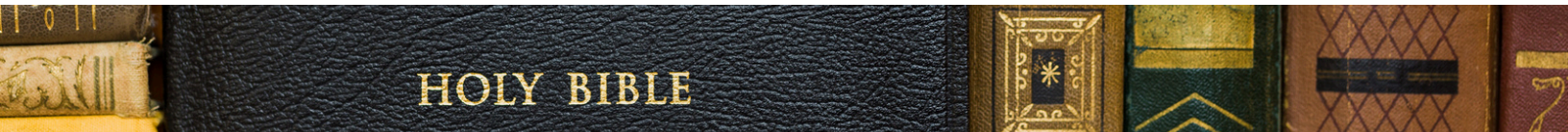
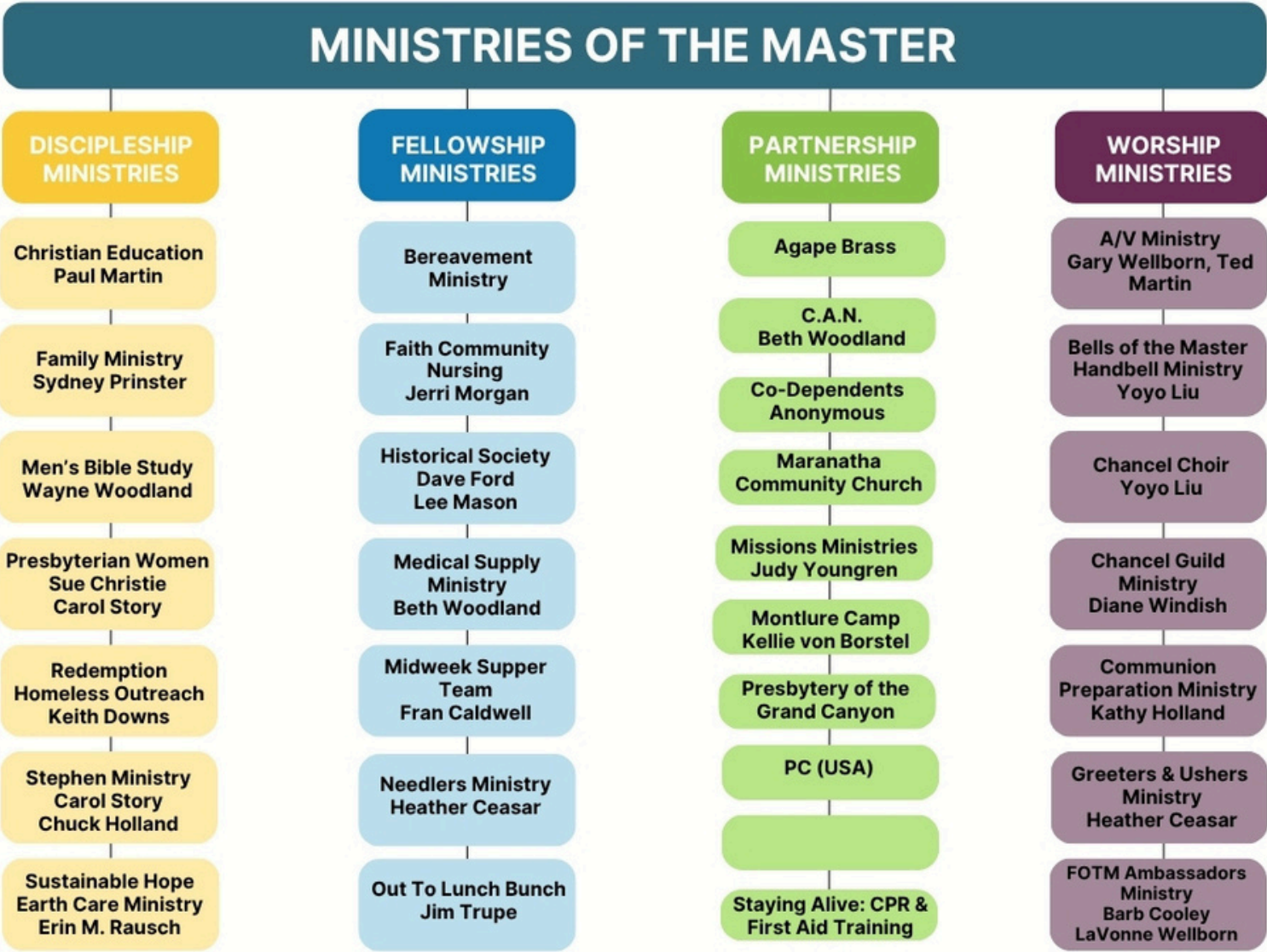
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HIS WORK, OUR HANDS

We are a community built on the love of Christ here at Church of the Master. Take a moment to review the four Pillars of Ministry that support our House of Worship. Within each, you will find just a few of the active, diverse ministries we embrace. For more information, call the office to connect with each ministry leader.



DEACON'S CORNER

Fall has arrived! This is my favorite of all the seasons. Growing up in Iowa, fall meant harvesting corn and soybeans, beautiful trees with piles of leaves and, of course, football. It's the culmination of the previous seasons. Spring is the wonderful rebirth of everything after a long, cold winter. It's plowing and planting, baby animals, flowers, and fresh breezes. Summer brings long, sunny, and often humid days of work - in the fields, in the garden, in the house. So, fall is when you are rewarded for all of your hard work. There are fairs, festivals, and fall color tours. And as fall turns into winter, activities slow down or move indoors where you are able to seek comfort and rest. So goes life in the Midwest.

Here in Arizona, the order of things is a little different. We slow down in summer to spend as much time as possible in the air conditioning or leave town altogether. Fall is the renewal time with the arrival of cooler temperatures and snowbirds. By winter, activities are in full swing and we are on the go. When spring rolls around, activities slow down, the snowbirds leave, and the rest of us batten down the hatches for another scorching summer.

No matter how the seasons affect us, don't they represent how our lives move through the years? Your spring could have been your baptism, confirmation, or when you received Christ as your Lord and Savior. Your summer is that time where you learned and worked to serve Him. For many of you, this is a long and very precious time. In fact, you still may be in endless summer! And as we get older and autumn draws near, we may turn the reins of our projects over to other "summer people". We may move to calmer pursuits like Bible study, mentoring, or just enjoying the growth and spiritual relationships you've developed with God and others.

Then there's winter. At least it's not long, dark, and cold here. Many of us are heading toward or are smack dab in the middle of the winter of our lives. But it certainly isn't the end. Only God knows that! So what are we supposed to do in the meantime? Sit back and relax? Read Max Lucado? Visit a friend? Pray for our country and neighbors? Give to a charity? Spend time enjoying our family? See the world? There are lots of choices. The point is that God's plans for you are as endless as the continuous cycles of the seasons. Stay ready and keep your eyes open for whatever comes next - whatever your season.

In His service with love,
Fran

Food for Thought: "The measure of a life, after all, is not its duration but its donation." Corrie Ten Boom

October Wednesday Night Dinner Menu

October 7 - Oktoberfest with brats

October 14 - Baked Potato Bar

October 21 - Breakfast for Supper Potluck

October 28 - Fall Festival - no meal but hot dogs available



STEPHEN MINISTRY



Stephen Ministry

A Stephen Minister comes alongside a hurting person and meets with that person on a weekly basis to listen, care, encourage, pray, and provide emotional and spiritual support. Men are paired with men; women with women. This care is entirely confidential—no one knows the identity of a care receiver except for his or her Stephen Minister and the Stephen Leader who paired the two together. The care receivers featured here stepped forward to share their stories.



"My Stephen Minister is Truly a Gift"



"I Can Tell Him Anything"



"It Was Such a Burden Off My Shoulders"

Go to <https://www.stephenministries.org/stephenministry/default.cfm/1597> to hear their full stories.

If you or someone you care about benefit from the care and support we offer here at Church of the Master, we encourage you to reach out to us Stephen@CotmMesa.org or 480-985-1660 ext. 1 to learn how to receive support through care from a Stephen Minister or from one of our other resources.



Equipping God's People for Ministry since 1975



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN



Presbyterian Women's Season Is Off to a Great Start!

Our Bible study is underway but you can join us anytime! Per the Presbyterian Women website, in Corinthians

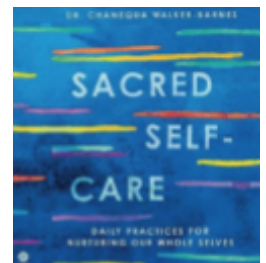


"Paul wrote at a time when Christians expected Jesus' imminent return; he challenged his friends to be ready when that day came. Two thousand years later, the church is still waiting, still affirming that Jesus will return, and still proclaiming that this world has already been transformed by God's life-giving love. Our challenge remains to live in ways that demonstrate our trust in the resurrection." In this study, we seek to learn how to do this--through prayerful reading, thinking, and discussion. Together we will be inspired to do everything in love.

Our Bible studies are held each **first Thursday of the month**, now in the morning (**10 a.m. in Memorial Hall**) and evening (**6pm in the Sabbagh Room**). And we have many other activities planned for this upcoming season.

October Events

Sacred Self-Care: Daily Practices For Nurturing Our Whole Selves by Dr. Chanequa Walker-Barnes. This seven-part devotional asks what your divine creation means for how you care to be available to do the work God created you to do. All meetings will be held on ZOOM the **first Monday of each month, October 2026 through April 2027 at 6:30 p.m.** A book suggested by Presbyterian Women's Racial Equity Committee is available online at Amazon, Thriftbooks, Alibris and World of Books, or at a local bookstore.



[h"ps://us02web.zoom.us/j/81127319573?pwd=XleZ1pb0huaBzBoMsG8vaMLhbgJgUo.1](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81127319573?pwd=XleZ1pb0huaBzBoMsG8vaMLhbgJgUo.1)

Meeting ID: 811 2731 9573

Passcode: pwssw



Salon Music Concert on Sunday, October 25th at 12:30p.m. in the Choir Room concert begins at 1 p.m.,). Soprano Amelia Osuga and pianist Aimee Fischer will feature music celebrating female poets and composers. Come early to enjoy treats before we listen perform.

ALL WOMEN HERE ARE PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Our studies and activities are open to all. We invite you to drop in and check us out!

Contact us at info@cotmmesa.org for more information.

FAITH COMMUNITY NURSING HEALTH MINISTRY TEAM

The Faith Community Nursing and Health Ministry Team is excited to host our first official health event at the church!

Blood Pressure Screening Event - and More!

Sunday, October 11, immediately following the service

- Learning the proper way to measure your blood pressure at home.
- Bring your home blood pressure monitor, if you have one, and we'll check it for accuracy.
- Learn about high blood pressure, heart attacks, and strokes.
- Start a personal blood pressure log to share with your doctor.
- Sign up to receive church emails and join the prayer notification list.
- Add an emergency contact person and basic medical information to your phone. If you cannot speak during an emergency, first responders and others will be able to access this information- even when your phone is locked- and contact the loved one or friend of your choice who will need to know you had a medical emergency.
 - Fellow congregants will be available at the church to assist you.
- **Questions? Please see Jerri Ann, RN, Faith Community Nurse, COTM.**





COME CELEBRATE
WITH US!



FALL FESTIVAL



October 28th, 2026 5pm to 7pm

COME JOIN US FOR:
TRUNK OR TREAT
BOUNCE HOUSE
GAMES AND
HOT DOGS!

Wear your best costume and
decorate your trunk for a chance
to win a prize!



CHURCH OF THE MASTER
6659 E UNIVERSITY DR,
MESA, AZ 85205





Join us in celebrating our friends!

Shelley Pritzl - 10/01
Nancy Duff - 10/02
Pete Kuck - 10/02
Steve Kinsman - 10/03
Sandy Garpner - 10/06
BettyJo Halterman - 10/07
Owen Murray - 10/08
Paula Turner - 10/09
Melissa Ann Harrison - 10/15
Doris Caldwell - 10/16
Kelly Brickman - 10/16
Linda Burns - 10/16

Don Meginnis - 10/18
Judi Burns - 10/19
Bill Hughes - 10/19
Sara Hildreth - 10/24
Donna Fredricks - 10/24
Carol Hornaday - 10/25
Cheri Goforth - 10/30
Fran Caldwell - 10/30
Howard Mitchell - 10/30
Jack Conklin - 10/31
Debbie Jacoby - 10/31



ANNOUNCEMENT

Choir and Handbells Looking for Members!

Choir and the Handbell Choir are looking for more members! We are in specific need of more tenors and basses, but all are welcome! Please talk to Qian Yoyo Liu, if interested!

If you have questions, feel free to email Yoyo at music@cotmmesa.org or you can reach her here in the office by calling 480-985-1660.

Midweek Bible Study

Please join us on Wednesday evenings! Dinner will be at 5 in the Memorial Hall, and Bible Study will be in the Choir Room, at 5:45. We hope to see you there!

The Out to Lunch Bunch - September

The Out to Lunch Bunch is heading to Bobby Q's BBQ at 1610 S. Stapley Dr. Mesa, AZ 85204 this month! Lunch will be at 11:30AM on September 24th. Call Jim Trupe with questions at 480-217-9356.

Fall Festival!

Please join us for our annual fall festival on Wednesday, October 28 from 5-7PM. There will be hot dogs, bounce houses, games, trunk or treat, and more!