

December 2015/January 2016

Desert Scroll
Paradise Valley United Methodist Church



What Are you Waiting for this Christmas?

Paradise Valley United Methodist Church and Christians around the world celebrate the season of Advent beginning **Sunday, November 29**, and ending on **Christmas Day**. The first day, we offer a Family Sunday, when children and youth worship with their families at one of our services in lieu of classes. We'll have another Family Sunday after Christmas on **Sunday, December 27**.

On **Christmas Eve — Wednesday, December 24** — PVUMC will again offer five worship services, with candlelight services at 5, 7, 9 and 11 p.m., and an Ignite-style service at 3 p.m. All services except for the 3 p.m. will be in the sanctuary. Our Family Service is at 5 p.m., and features the Praise Singers children's choir. At 7 and 9 p.m., the youth and adult choirs and handbell groups perform, accompanied by a string quartet, organ and piano music. At 11 p.m., communion will be available following the traditional "Lessons and Carols" worship. Childcare is available at 3, 5 and 7 p.m. Join us as we welcome the Christ child and end our season of "Waiting."

Throughout the month of December, we offer several ways to experience Christmas. On **Sunday, December 6**, at 6 p.m., we invite you to our PVUMC Christmas Concert, "And the Angels Sang," where all of our musical ensembles and choirs perform. On **Friday, December 11**, 6-8 p.m., families with children under 10 are invited to our Christmas Wonderland event, and on **Sunday, December 13**, we experience Christmas through the eyes of a child.

PVUMC Publishes Own Advent Study

PVUMC has written and published its first Advent study guide, *Waiting*. The book has five chapters, written by the clergy, as well as Christopher Wurpts, PVUMC's youth ministries director, and Keith Sobraske, an Adult Learning leader. PVUMC member Cheryl Del Monte did the initial content editing, and Pam R. Selthun, communications director, edited for style, format and consistency.



Each chapter focuses on a different type of waiting, offering brief commentary on passages of scripture, discussion questions to consider, and personal stories from members of our church family. Several small groups are meeting on campus to discuss the book, and we invite you to join one during this season. Check the website for the class offerings, on every day of the week except for Thursday and Saturday.

The paperback book is only available at the church, and costs \$10. More than 125 copies already have been sold. We also offer a digital version for \$6.99 at Amazon.com. Search for "Waiting Advent" or [click here for the direct link](#). Feedback and reviews are welcome!

Desert Scroll

Volume 53 Number 6

Published by Paradise Valley United Methodist Church to keep members and friends informed of programs of the church and to report news about the congregation.



God's Love in Action™

In This Issue:

Advent and Christmas.....	cover
Caring	9
Change the World Day 2015.....	5
Children.....	6-7
Facebook	2
Finance/Giving	4
From Paradise	12
Memorials	9
Missions	5
Music and Arts	8
On the First Tuesday	4
Our Church	4
Preschool	7
Serendipities	5
Staff.....	2
Sunday Worship.....	3
Transformational Living.....	11
Young Adults.....	10
Youth.....	10

The copy deadline for The Desert Scroll is the 10th of the preceding month.

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Social Media



"Like" Paradise Valley UMC
on Facebook at [Facebook.com/
ParadiseValleyUMC](https://www.facebook.com/ParadiseValleyUMC)

Twitter @PVUMC



Instagram @pvumc

Tumblr [http://
pvumc.tumblr.com/](http://pvumc.tumblr.com/)

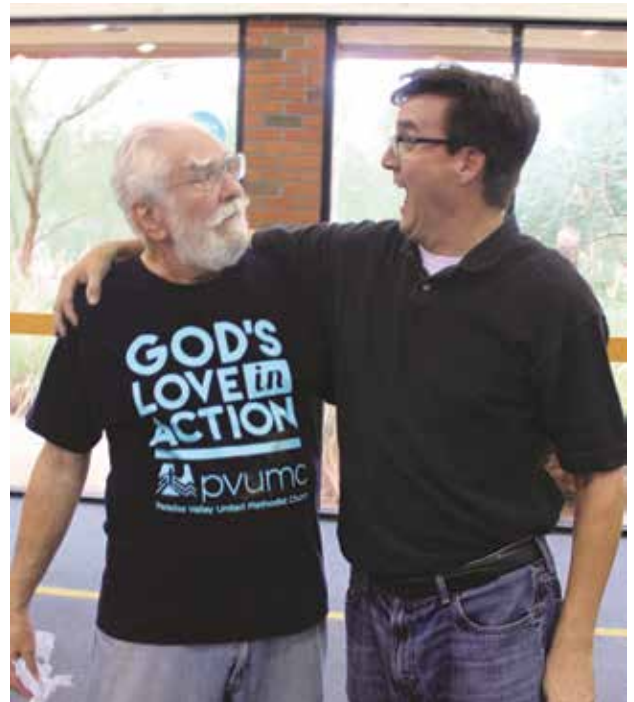


"Like" the Paradise Perk at
[Facebook.com/ParadisePerk](https://www.facebook.com/ParadisePerk)
Managed by Youth Ministry
Open Sundays 9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.



"Like" Youth Ministry
on Facebook at [Facebook.com/
PVUMC.Youth.Ministry](https://www.facebook.com/PVUMC.Youth.Ministry)

Change The World



Jon Hearn and Chris LaMont were God's love in action at the 2nd Annual Change the World Day, November 15, 2015. See more photos and a thank you from Rev. Eve Williams on page 5.— Photo by Stu Selthun

Sunday Worship

Visit pvumc.org for updates and to read scripture.

Sundays in Advent/December 2015

November 29 – Family Sunday *

1st Sunday of Advent

Worship Series: *Waiting*

Part 1: *Waiting for the End*

Dave Summers

Scripture: *Luke 21:25-36*

December 6

2nd Sunday of Advent

Worship Series: *Waiting*

Part 2: *Waiting on the World to Change*

Dave Summers (8 a.m. and 9:30 a.m.)

Eve Williams (11:15 a.m. Ignite)

Scripture: *Luke 3:1-14*

December 13

3rd Sunday of Advent

9:30 a.m., Children's Christmas Pageant

Worship Series: *Waiting*

Part 3: *Waiting Together*

Dave Summers (8 a.m. & 9:30 a.m.)

Andrea Andress (11:15 a.m. Ignite)

Scripture: *Luke 1:26-44*

December 20

4th Sunday of Advent

Worship Series: *Waiting*

Part 4: *The Wait Within*

Dave Summers (8 a.m. & 9:30 a.m.)

Christopher Wurpts (11:15 a.m. Ignite)

Scripture: *Luke 1:39-55*

December 24 – Christmas Eve

Worship at 3, 5, 7, 9 and 11 p.m.

Worship Series: *Waiting*

Part 5: *The Wait is Over*

Dave Summers

Scripture: *Luke 2:1-20*

December 27– Family Sunday *

1st Sunday after Christmas

Family Sunday – Worship at 9:30 a.m. and 11:15 a.m.

(No 8 a.m. service)

Worship Series: *Shift*

Part 1: *The Gift of a New Generation*

Brenda Smith

Scripture: *Luke 2:22-38*

* We invite you and your family to worship together on

November 29 and December 27, Family Sundays. There will

be no children's Sunday classes for K-6th grade at 9:30 a.m.,

but there will be childcare and preschool classes for ages 3-5.

Sundays in January 2016

January 3 – Epiphany Sunday

Worship Series: *Shift*

Part 2: *The Silent Generation*

Doug Norris and Andrea Andress

Scripture: *I Samuel 3:1-12*

January 10 – 1st Sunday after Epiphany

Worship Series: *Shift*

Part 3: *Boomers*

Dave Summers

Scripture: *Acts 10:1-20*

January 17 – 2nd Sunday after Epiphany

Worship Series: *Shift*

Part 4: *GenX*

Eve Williams

Scripture: *John 4:1-26*

January 24 – 3rd Sunday after Epiphany

Youth Sunday

Worship Series: *Shift*

Part 5: *Millennials*

Christopher Wurpts

Scripture: *Acts 8:26-40*

January 31 – 4th Sunday after Epiphany

Worship Series: *Earn, Save, Give*

Part 1: *Earn All You Can*

Dave Summers

Scripture: *Matthew 25:14-30*

CLU Interfaith Certificate Program

As we strive to be a Renaissance Church, PVUMC is pleased to announce that we have partnered with Claremont Lincoln University to offer members a new online course in Interfaith Understanding, beginning in January. The curriculum is designed to help a wide range of people understand, value, and communicate with those of other faiths.

Why should you consider taking the course? The world is changing. We interact with people of different faiths and cultural backgrounds in our workplace, in our neighborhoods, and in our communities. This course will give you the tools to navigate interfaith relationships with greater ease and effectiveness, making for a more engaged, peaceful and productive community and world. Check the website in 2016 for more information.



David and Joan Lincoln and CLU

Founded by PVUMC members Joan and David Lincoln, pictured above, Claremont Lincoln University is focused on furthering dialogue and collaboration across cultural, ideological, religious, and economic perspectives. PVUMC is pleased to partner with the school in offering a certificate program in Interfaith Understanding.

The program will be facilitated by Keith Sobraske and Stu Selthun, graduates of the pilot program. Read the article on this page to find out more about why this course is so important in today's changing global environment, or email Keith Sobraske, ksobraske@thinkiri.com.

Finance / Giving / Our Church



Mickey Price,
Church
Administrator
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ext. 113

Financial Ministry

Where Are We Now? Through the first 2 months of Fiscal Year 2016, **October 2015** year-to-date total receipts were lower than budget by \$26,923. Expenditures were lower than budget by \$41,436.

What Can You Do? Contact Church Administrator Mickey Price, mprice@pvumc.org or 602-840-8360, ext. 113, if you have questions regarding your contributions and/or pledge. We are grateful for all gifts, large and small.

October 2015

	Budget	Actual
Receipts	\$655,890	\$628,967
Disbursements	691,260	619,070
Net receipts over disbursements	<u>\$(35,370)</u>	<u>\$9,897</u>

PVUMC Book Group

The PVUMC Book Group meets the first non-holiday Monday of every month throughout the year. On **December 7**, the group has a potluck Christmas lunch and (unwrapped) book exchange in lieu of a discussion. In the new year, you are invited to join the group at 12:15 pm in G2 to discuss:

January 4

Dead Wake
by Erik Larson

February 1

The Residence
by Kate Anderson
Brower

March 7

The Wright Brothers
by David McCullough

For more information about the Book Group, please call Fran Clark, 480-945-6955.

PVUMC Announces GIVE NOW Button

Giving to PVUMC just got a whole lot easier. We have added a **GIVE NOW** button to our website at pvumc.org so you can give anywhere, anytime, 24 hours a day. The orange "GIVE NOW" button is located at the upper-right hand corner of the homepage top navigation menu. If you're on your mobile phone, you'll find it at the bottom of the drop-down menu. You can make a pledge payment, donate to a specific ministry or mission, and even contribute to Imagine No Malaria, UMCOR or our special Christmas missions offering.



On **December 1, Giving Tuesday**, we invite you to give to PVUMC's General Fund in support of our many ministries and missions. This nationwide giving day brings attention to many organizations who are doing good in

the world by using social media such as Twitter and Facebook. It's a great day to give online, and we ask you to give to your church so we can fulfill our mission to bring God's love into action by igniting faith, transforming lives and creating community. Thank you for giving to PVUMC and being God's love in action.

On the 1st Tuesday

On the First Tuesday Welcomes PV Mayor



PVUMC welcomes Paradise Valley Mayor Michael Collins as our guest speaker **On the First Tuesday, December 1**. Dinner begins at 5:30 p.m., with the speaker following at 6 p.m. Donations are welcome to offset dinner expenses.

Mayor Collins is a Navy Veteran and owner/CEO of a successful business with 45 employees in five states improving the way land use, engineering, and construction services are provided to military installations across the country. He gained his knowledge and love for the Town of Paradise Valley as a Planning Commissioner, Council Member and Vice Mayor from 2007 to 2014. He is a strong believer in the value of strategic and long-range planning and proud to lead an experienced Town Council that is dedicated to excellence in quality of life and service to town residents. Mayor Collins will speak about his role as mayor and update us on what's happening in our community. Mayor Collins is married with three children and has been a resident of the Town of Paradise Valley since 2000.

In January, On the First Tuesday welcomes Phil Beck, a designated airworthiness representative with the Federal Aviation Administration. Mark your calendar to join us on **Tuesday, January 5**.

Give to Missions this Christmas

Every year, we have an opportunity to show God's love in action through our missions offering at Christmas. Our Missions Ministry Team invites you to support the following organizations who assist those living in poverty in our own community:

- The Wesley Community & Health Center — <http://www.wesleycenterphx.org/>
- The Next Step Housing Program, UMOM New Day Centers (www.umom.org)
- The PVUMC Emergency Relief Fund

Change the World Day / Missions

On **Sunday, November 15**, PVUMC held its second annual *Change the World Day*, with nearly 400 participating in service projects on campus and off. Thank you for being God's love in action!

Change the World day at pvumc



Rev. Eve Williams,
Associate Pastor
pastoreve@pvumc.org
602-840-8360,
ext. 130



One Church, One Mission, One Day

Our 2nd Change the World Day has come and gone. It was yet another opportunity for us to put God's love into action in the Metro Phoenix area, showing our church's commitment to the "least of these." On behalf of the Missions Team, I want to thank some individuals and groups, realizing that I am probably missing someone. Without you, Change the World Day would still be just a vision instead of a reality.

First, thank you to the PVUMC Foundation, who underwrote much of the cost of Change the World Day, this year and last. Without this support, it simply would not have happened. Thank you, Pastor Dave, for allowing us to take over a whole Sunday morning. It shows a great deal of courage, vision and leadership to take such a bold step of faith.

Thanks to PVUMC staff and our ministry teams, particularly Communications, Children's Ministry, Fellowship and Connectional, and Welcoming. Special thanks goes to "Papa" Jon Hearn and his kitchen crew, Simon Frost for his gifted guitar playing at our celebration, and to Colleen Lomax and the Home Improvement class for Snack and Pack.

The biggest thanks of all goes to those who served on Change the World Day and throughout the year. Your enthusiastic willingness to reach out to the under-served population and local non-profit organizations is an inspiration. You are God's love in action! — Rev. Eve Williams



One of the 12 off-campus groups, headed by Pastor Dave, served at the Scottsdale YMCA (above left). Above, Lelu Ausley and her youngest son helped beautify the Biblical Garden and Columbarium.

PVUMC Helps Feed Hungry Children

Every month, we offer an opportunity to pack meals at Feed My Starving Children's warehouse. To register for **upcoming packing dates on December 19 or January 16**, 4:30-6:30 p.m., email Jim Bateman, jnbateman@aol.com, and include a contact name and number, as well as the names and emails of adults age 18 and older. If you are registering children, just include their names and ages. FMSC's warehouse is at 1345 S Alma School Rd, Mesa, 85210. Thanks for continuing to be God's love in action!

Serendipities Open on Sundays

We invite you to shop for Christmas gifts and décor, 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. every Sunday morning during the Advent season at Serendipities. All proceeds support missions. See *Looking Ahead* for January specials.

UMOM Food Donation Sundays

Please bring your non-perishable food donations for our regular, first-Sunday-of-the-month food collection for UMOM on **December 6 and January 3**. Place your donations in the blue bins at the bridges or south parking lot.

Serve Dinner at UMOM

PVUMC offers opportunities to serve dinner to residents twice a month at the UMOM facility at 3333 E Van Buren. To offer your gift of service on any of the **2nd and 4th Saturdays**, please email Dave Hepburn, dhepburn@umom.org. To cook and/or serve dinner at the Watkins Basic Needs Shelter on the second Thursday of the month, please contact Elaine Heredia, emhere@cox.net.

Children's Ministries



Rev. Brenda Smith,
Children's Ministry
Director
bsmith@pvumc.org
602-840-8360,
ext. 141

Celebrate Jesus' Birthday December 20

Children are invited to celebrate Jesus' birthday on **Sunday, December 20** in their morning classes. We invite you to bring a birthday present for a child at UMOM, in honor of the baby Jesus' birthday. Gifts may be as simple as a package of diapers, or anything new that a baby would enjoy — bibs, bottles, toys, blankets. If you would like to bake cupcakes to share with your child's class, we welcome that gift too. Teach your child how important it is to give to others and how much Jesus loves all the little children of the world.



December 11 Christmas Wonderland

6-8 pm
Fellowship Center
The Fellowship &
Connectional Ministry
Team invites you and
your family to this
event with Santa,
cookies, hot cocoa,
a bounce house,
and more!



December 13 Christmas through the Eyes of a Child

9:30 am
Sanctuary
Music Makers
perform *Starry Night*,
Noisy Night

December 20 Jesus' Birthday

Join your classmates
in wishing Jesus a
happy birthday!

December 27 Family Sunday

January 3 Visit of the Magi

January 22 FaithQuakes Friday

Children's Sunday, December 13

Join us at 9:30 a.m. in the sanctuary on **Sunday, December 13** as we celebrate "Christmas through the Eyes of a Child." That morning, the Music Makers present this year's children's Christmas pageant, *Starry Night*, *Noisy Night*. This charming Christmas musical is filled with humorous references to modern distractions that prevent us from experiencing the true meaning of Christmas. The story is told from the stable animals' point of view: cows annoyed by the bright starlight; sheep spending so much time watching the activity outside the stable they almost miss the miraculous scene unfolding before them; and chickens too busy pecking out IMs to receive the message conveyed by the birth of Christ. The musical ends on a quiet, reverent, and worshipful note, turning away from life's distractions to celebrate God's great gift of love.

In addition to the musical, our children's handbell group, Celebration Ringers, and our Sunday morning children's choir, Praise Singers, will provide additional special music. Children in 1st-6th grades will also be serving as ushers and greeters. Come experience Christmas through the eyes of our children.

Magi Visit Children Epiphany Sunday

The Magi are traveling through PVUMC on their way to visit the new king, Jesus, on **Sunday, January 3**. They will visit all the Sunday morning children's classes, giving gifts to all the children and telling their story of how they followed the star to find the Christ child, and how they brought him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.



Thank God It's FaithQuakes' Friday!

All 4th-6th graders are invited to hang out together with their friends at TGIFF. Parents who chaperone play or ride for half price. Join us on **Friday, January 22** for Laser Tag, 6-9 pm. *RSVP by January 17*. Fee: \$20, includes dinner. Meet in the Fellowship Center.

Children's Ministries

November Cookie Walk Raises \$700 for Mingus Mountain Challenge Course

Thank you to everyone who baked and bought cookies for our annual Cookie Walk this year. We raised \$700 in donations for Mingus Mountain Camp's Challenge Course. Thanks too, to Debby Kidwell, for her leadership of this event. We appreciate your support for our UMC camp and its ministry to young people.



Christmas Wonderland, December 11

If you have children under 10, you don't want to miss our Christmas Wonderland on **Friday, December 11**. It's a time for you and your family to meet Santa (bring your camera!), eat cookies and drink hot cocoa, play in the bounce house, make arts and crafts, and enjoy family time at this special time of year. Please bring new socks or a new toy to donate to homeless children served by UMOM New Day Centers.

Family Sunday December 27

Join us for a **Family Sunday on December 27**. Children in kindergarten through 6th grade are invited to remain in worship with you, and you have an opportunity to serve together as ushers or greeters if you so desire. Studies show that modeling your faith helps your child's faith grow.

PVUMC Preschool

December and January Happenings

December begins with Spirit Days on **December 3 and 4**. On these two days, PVUMC Preschool students, staff and teachers wear their snuggly pajamas and we all gather in Fellowship Center to hear a Christmas story and share sugar cookies and apple juice. Our Annual Christmas Musical Celebration will be **December 16 and 17** at 9:15 a.m. in the sanctuary. All of the preschool classes will perform and everyone is invited to join us for these special performances.

When January comes, winter officially arrives at the PVUMC Preschool. Snow magically appears for our Spirit Days on **January 7 and 8**. These fun days offer the children a chance to experience snow in the desert. Open Houses on **January 20 and 21** are for interested families to learn more about the preschool and the registration process for 2016-2017.

Also in January, watch for information about a new MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers) group starting. Read more on page 11.



Pastor Dave and the M&Ms

A group of moms (some from the church and some from the preschool) have been meeting for a Monday Morning Bible study in the Paradise Perk with Pastor Dave Summers. The Monday Morning Moms, known as the M&Ms, decided to serve together on Change the World Day. What a great way to create community!

April 28, 2016: Annual Ice Cream Social

Save the date to join us in April for this annual fund-raising event for the PVUMC Preschool. Business sponsorships available! Read more in the next *Scroll*.



To arrange a tour of the preschool, or to register for classes, please contact the school office or PVUMC Preschool Director Mindy Sobraske, msobraske@pvumc.org, or 602-840-8265. Visit us online at pvumcpreschool.org.

Music and Arts Ministries



Ashley Snavley,
Music and Arts
Ministries Director
and Organist
asnavley@pvumc.org
602-840-8360, ext. 116

Concerts/Music in Worship

December 6
Christmas Concert
Community Concert
6 pm, Sanctuary
(all choirs and bells
participate)

December 13
Music Makers
present *Starry Night*,
Noisy Night Pageant
at 9:30 am Worship

December 20
Youth Choir, 9:30 am

Christmas Eve
December 24
Children sing at 5 pm,
Youth sing at 7 pm,
Chancel Choir and
Bells at 7 and 9 pm,
and Paradise Singers
at 9 pm.

January 15
Southern Comfort

January 22
An A Cappella
Evening
Community Concert

Photo of the sanctuary
by Bob Atherton,
Change the World Day

PVUMC Christmas Concert

Last year, more than 600 people came to this evening concert, one of the most popular in our annual Community Concert Series. Come and get your seats early; the concert begins at 6 p.m. on **Sunday, December 6**. The event weaves music, poetic texts, and audience sing-alongs for an unforgettable evening that ushers in the Christmas season. Sit back, listen and watch as our children, youth, adults, brass and percussion sing, ring, and play some of the best Advent and Christmas music in the repertoire. A reception follows in our Fellowship Center for a chance to continue the warmth of the evening over dessert and conversation.



New Schimmel Grand Piano Acquired

We are excited to announce that a family in our church has made it possible for the beautiful 7'2" Schimmel grand piano featured in the Dueling Divas concert to remain in the PVUMC sanctuary for generations to come. By underwriting the cost of the piano, this family has allowed our church to more fully live into its vision as a Renaissance church — a center for engagement for the community, with open doors to all. Our hope is to draw in people who are not already here, and better ignite faith, transform lives, and create community.

The piano will be used in concerts we host for the broader community, in concerts by guest performing groups, and of course, in our own worship services. We are deeply thankful for this generous gift. However, to properly insure, care for, and dedicate this instrument, we need to continue raising funds, and are asking each of you to consider becoming a Piano Partner. As a Piano Partner, your tax-deductible gifts will not only help us fully cover the cost of the piano (including the cover, humidifier, lock, and maintenance) but would help our church host a spectacular 2016 celebration concert with doors open to all who

would join us. For more information, or to become a partner, please contact Ashley.

Southern Comfort Concert Announced

Please join us on **January 15** at 7 p.m. for a concert featuring soprano Nina Cole Garguilo and our own Dr. Andria Fennig. The concert has been named *Southern Comfort* because it is themed on texts, dialect, and music from the American South. Nina is currently researching American Music as part of her doctoral program in voice. Originally from Memphis, she was most recently seen as Despina in *Così fan tutte*. She has also performed roles including Lauretta (*Gianni Schicchi*), Bellomy (*The Fantasticks*), and in scenes as Maria (*West Side Story*). A teacher as well as a singing artist, Nina loves helping students of all ages and abilities, and aims to instill confidence in her students, whether they are learning new techniques or preparing for stage performance. A free-will offering will be taken at the concert in support of the piano fund.

An A Cappella Evening: ASU's Priority Male and The Pitchforks — January 22

Love a cappella music? PVUMC brings you two award-winning a cappella groups from Arizona State University. ASU's only all-male a cappella group, Priority Male, and the Pitchforks, ASU's only all-female a cappella group, will thrill all ages with music from Frank Sinatra to The Beatles to Maroon 5 and Usher. Join us for the first PVUMC Community Concert of 2016. No tickets necessary! A free-will offering will be taken at the event. Register via Eventbrite in 2016.



Caring Ministries

The Saguaros Invites Everyone to Monthly Lunch Programs and Trips

Saguaros is a fellowship group that meets on campus every month for lunch and entertainment, and occasionally goes off-campus on special trips. Everyone is invited to join them. The monthly lunch and entertainment program begins at 10 a.m. in the Fellowship Center. See the schedule below:

Saguaros Lunch Programs



December 17
Former Valley TV news and sports anchor, Mike Chamberlain, The Singing TV Guy
Potluck menu:
A-K, dessert; L-Z, salad

January 21 – Lynn Roberts, Celebrity Impersonator
Potluck menu:
A-K, salad; L-Z, dessert

If you would like to receive meeting announcements and reminders, please contact Gretchen Holt. See her contact info in the sidebar.



Saguaros Trips

The group takes trips together, generally once a month. Transportation is provided by the church.

Barleen's Family Theatre Christmas Concert Friday, December 11 at 10:45 a.m.

Cost is \$38 per person; includes lunch and show.
Cathy Rondeau: 480-949-9406; catdeau@juno.com

Christmas Lights Tour Monday, December 21 at 5:30 p.m.

Contact Carol Duff, 602-996-7276

Palo Verde/APS Visitor Center Wednesday, January 20 at 9:00 a.m.

Tour and lunch afterwards in Goodyear.
Contact Scott Govett, 480-991-9264.

Mystery Trip Thursday, February 11

Contact Rita Winters, 480-250-4181.



In October, the Saguaros took a day trip to visit Camp Mingus. Read more about their adventure, and see more photos, on our website at <http://pvumc.org/2015/10/09/saguaros-visit-mingus-share-camp-stories/>.



Gretchen Holt,
Caring Ministries
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602-840-8360,
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Joys & Concerns

Joys...

Garry and Sandy Lozier's 60th wedding anniversary in September.

The November 7 marriage of Lindsey Summers and Kent Reynolds; proud parents are Dave and Kim Summers.

Our Christian Sympathies to...

Karen Eynon and family on the October 24 death of her mother, Martha Lawson

Alberta Hagerman and Faye O'Harra and families on the October 22 death of their sister, Catherine Opaline Reichard.

Dave Henderson and family on the October 31 death of his mother, Ruby Logan

Randy Hickok and family on the September 20 death of his aunt, Elaine Hickok

Cheryl Morrow and family on the October 20 death of her father, William Morrow

Cleta Sagramoso and family on the October 12 death of her sister, Carol Carney

Memorials

Memorial in memory of Heidi Paley

Designated to: Undesignated
Memorial Given By: Ruth & Rick Thrash

PVUMC Women's Retreat May 20-22, 2016

Save the date to join us at Spirit in the Desert, Carefree, AZ.
Retreat Leader:
Rev. Eve Williams

More information and registration will be available in January, 2016.

UMW Alumnae Christmas Lunch

Please join us for a Christmas salad lunch at 10:30 am, **Tuesday, December 8** at JoAnn Boyd's home. Please bring a lunch item to share, along with individually wrapped snacks for children, and/or bath and hygiene items for adults, i.e. shampoo, deodorant, toilet paper etc. The snacks and toiletries will be donated to the Wesley Community and Health Centers. RSVP to Sue Beechler at 602-996-7332 (home) or 602-370-4011 (cell).

Young Adult / Youth Ministries



Rev. Brenda Smith,
Young Adult Ministry
Coordinator
bsmith@pvumc.org
602-840-8360,
ext. 141



Christopher Wurpts,
Youth Ministries
Director
Christo-
pher@pvumc.org
602-840-8360, ext. 147

Please contact Christopher about youth ministry activities. The youth meet on Sundays for classes in the morning and VIBE in the evening. They occasionally do mission projects together with the Young Adults, like the St Mary's food bank outing in October (see the photo above).

Stop by the Paradise Perk on Sundays, 9 am - 1 pm. All proceeds support Youth Ministry and missions.

Young Adults Meet Weekly

YAL is for young adults in their 20's, plus or minus a few years, who are interested in exploring their faith in a supportive and friendly community. We like to mix it up and keep our activities interesting by offering new and different options throughout the year. Here's what December and January look like:

- December 6 Christianity's Family Tree**
Pentecostalism
led by Bruce Hendershott
- 13 Service Sunday at FMSC**
(Feed My Starving Children)
Carpool together after church and serve from 1-3 p.m.
RSVP to Brenda.
- 20 First Mission Trip meeting**
12:30 p.m., H1. \$50 w/RSVP.
- 20 Christmas Celebration**
Join us for a Scavenger Hunt at The Phoenix Zoo; ZooLights; IHOP afterwards. Meet at 6 pm at the Zoo. Let us know if you'll be there. (Buy your Zoo ticket online and save \$2. Bring \$10 for IHOP.)
- 27 No Meeting; Merry Christmas!**
- January 3 Lunch & Current Event Topics**
"First Watch," 32nd Street and Camelback, 12:30 p.m. \$10.
- 10 World Religions**
Understanding Hinduism
12:30 p.m., H1
- 15-17 Ski & Sledding Retreat**
\$50. Lessons are available.
RSVP by Dec. 31, 2015 with a \$25 deposit. Talk to Brenda about other arrangements.
- 24 World Religions**
Understanding Buddhism
12:30 p.m., H1
- 31 YAL Team Planning Meeting**
12:30 p.m., H4

*** YAL MISSION TRIP: The week of July 24, 2016. \$50 Deposit / RSVP 12/20/15.**



If you want reminders or more information about YAL, please email Rev. Brenda Smith, YAL staff coordinator, brenda@pvumc.org.

PVUMC Career Connecting Begins

PVUMC Career Connecting is an exciting new initiative led by young professional members, but designed to connect and engage members of all ages. The goal is to provide the tools for professional and personal growth while fostering intergenerational sharing of expertise, wisdom, and experience. Regardless of industry, profession, or level of experience, programs will stimulate and motivate participants, helping them become more effective in their professional life, as volunteers, and at home. At the same time, valuable and trusted relationships will be formed with fellow Christians.

An array of speakers and programs will support career development, business-to-business connecting, and mentoring. Visitors, colleagues, friends, and family members are encouraged to participate, and this is a great way to introduce them to PVUMC. Childcare will be available. By tapping into the vast wealth of member knowledge and experience, some of our most valuable assets, this initiative hopes to make our community stronger.

An online survey is available to those who want to participate as mentors, resources, or business-to-business contacts. Search for "PVUMC Career Connecting" on the website or contact PVUMC members and co-leaders, Heather Knies or Courtney Sucato, for more information.

Transformational Living

Parenting Support



New MOPS Group Begins in January

PVUMC will start a new Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS) group in January under the Children and Families ministry umbrella. Meetings at PVUMC will be held on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays, January through May, 9-11 a.m. Gatherings include:

- Life-enriching speakers
- Informative demonstrations
- Creative activities & crafts
- Small group discussions
- Socializing & fun
- Quality, loving childcare
- Yummy breakfast

Why join MOPS? All mothers need support, and MOPS encourages, equips, and develops every mother of a preschooler (birth through kindergarten) to realize her potential as a woman, mother, and leader. MOPS also recognizes that the years from infancy through kindergarten are foundational in a mother-child relationship and are filled with unique needs.

MOPS is an international organization that began in 1973 with a group of eight moms who had the desire to meet together for support and encouragement. Since that time, MOPS has grown, expanded, and developed into a ministry that reaches across the country and around the world. There are now nearly 4,000 MOPS groups worldwide! For more information about MOPS and MOPS International, please visit their website at <http://www.mops.org>. Please consider joining PVUMC's new MOPS group. Email the PVUMC MOPS leaders for more information: Jennhcouglin@gmail.com or Sarahquinn@ymail.com.

Modern Family: Love and Logic®

Sundays, 10:40-11:30 a.m., H5

Parenting the Love and Logic Way™ led by Rev. Andrea Address continues in January. The group began in the fall and takes a break during the busy December holiday season. Please contact PVUMC member Erin Zeller or Rev. Address for information about this class designed for parents of young children.

Yoga Classes Continue in January

Weekly morning yoga classes, led by certified yoga instructor Kim Kent, return in January. Please check the website calendar for dates and times. All ages are welcome. Please bring your mat, blocks and a belt if you have them. Extra items are available at the class.

Lunch Conversations on Thursdays

Lunch Conversations for Transformational Living meet every Thursday in the church library, G2, 12-1:15 p.m. Bring a lunch and join us for lecture and discussion on living our lives intentionally. We discuss spiritual and individual growth, and the Enneagram. Currently, we are using *Nine Lenses on the World: The Enneagram Perspective* by Jerome Wagner. A weekly class schedule, with specific topics outlined, is available from Rev. Andrea Address. The class will be on break Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve.

Centering in God through Scripture

January 6, 13, 20, 27; 6:30-7:30 p.m., H6

This weekly class engages scripture through reading and prayer in a contemplative manner, modeled after "Lectio Divina," the process of holy reading developed through the centuries. Following the reading, participants enter a Centering Prayer practice. A companion book for the class, *Gathered in the Word: Praying the Scripture in Small Groups*, is available.

Enneagram MeetUps Happen Monthly

Enneagram MeetUp is an online social networking portal that facilitates offline group meetings at various locations. **General Enneagram MeetUps** are offered the third Thursday of each month from 6:30-8:45 p.m., H7.

December 17 – *The Gifts of Each Type*
by Jaye Address

January 21 – *What is the Enneagram?*
by Carole Whittaker

Register: <http://arizonaenneagram.org/special-event-aea-meetup/>.



Rev. Andrea Address,
Associate, Spiritual
Formation of Children
and Families,
602-840-8360,
ext. 142

AEA Registration

PVUMC is host to several Arizona Enneagram Association (AEA) programs. To register for any of these, please contact Diane Shevlin at 480-367-1998 or register online: arizonaenneagram.org. Full class descriptions, costs and more details can be found on the AEA website. For scholarship assistance, contact Rev. Andrea Address.

*Growing into Holiness:
Panels on the Higher
Divine Qualities*

**Dec. 2 and 9
6:30-8 pm, H7**

*Foundations of the
Enneagram Subtypes*
**Saturday, January 30
9 am-5 pm, H1**
Led by Carole Whittaker
Fee: \$80



Paradise Valley United Methodist Church

4455 East Lincoln Drive • Paradise Valley, AZ 85253

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Alive with the Spirit, we bring God's love into action by igniting faith, transforming lives, and creating community. Please share our good news with each member of your family.



FROM PARADISE

By Dr. Dave Summers, Senior Pastor

Dear Friends,

Can you hear the sound of the future? We heard it recently in church one Sunday morning. You might have missed it. It wasn't the easiest sound to hear. Some may have been upset about it. Some might not have recognized it, but the baby in the back who was exercising his vocal chords, let us know he was there. That cry was the sound of the next generation of our church, and that child may become a future leader or pastor.

I love the sound of children and babies in church. It means the church is alive. It means we are a place where young families are comfortable, and want to bring their children. Sadly, this young family was told by someone sitting near them that they should take their child to the nursery. It left them feeling unwelcome. I have found that many parents, when they visit the first few times, are not always comfortable leaving their child in a strange place with a complete stranger they have never met before. I can't blame them for wanting their child with them in church until they have reached a level of trust and comfort with us. If we want young families at PVUMC, every one of us will need to be welcoming. It might mean we lay aside our own comforts in worship to help a young family know we are glad to have them, even if their child makes a little noise.

I hear another sound of the future coming. Our Church and Society Ministry Team is sponsoring an important presentation on inclusiveness and how we understand Christianity and homosexuality. We've been inviting discussion in our adult groups and classes about this issue, and making time to learn and listen to one another.

Being a welcoming church for our LGBT brothers and sisters is sometimes a difficult topic for us. We understand we are called by God to love all who come to us. I support building a more inclusive church that welcomes everyone, including our LGBT members. I also want a church that is open to having conversations about important issues. We never want to be a church that avoids tough issues out of fear of controversy.

What do we know about the future? We know that God will be there. Just as God has been with us in the past and present, we know God will meet us in the days ahead. We face the future guided by our vision of a "love that crosses all barriers and embraces all people."

This vision will build a strong and diverse community of faithful believers who "bring God's love into action." — *Pastor Dave Summers*