

COMMUNITY CHURCH *of the Verdes*

October 26, 2025



ORDER OF WORSHIP

Time for Centering

*Today we celebrate **Reformation Sunday**, remembering how God's Spirit renews and reforms the Church through the power of grace and the truth of Scripture. Our **Call to Worship** is inspired by Martin Luther, and our **Prayer of Confession** was written by John Calvin.*

*Our sermon text, **Psalm 130**, begins in the depths of despair but rises toward the light of hope: "I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in his word I hope." This psalm reminds us that even when we are weighed down by guilt, grief, or uncertainty, God's mercy reaches deeper still.*

*The Reformation and Psalm 130 both proclaim the same truth: our hope is not found in ourselves, but in the steadfast love of God who redeems and restores. Out of the depths, we discover that hope is not a wish—it is a person: **Jesus Christ, our sure and living hope.***

Order of Worship

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Introit

This Is the Day!

(Besig)

**Call to Worship*

Pastor: God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

People: Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change and the mountains tremble.

Pastor: Our hope is not in our own strength, wisdom, or works—

People: Our hope is in Christ alone, our solid rock and mighty fortress.

Pastor: The Word of God stands forever, unshaken through every age.

People: The Spirit still renews and reforms the Church, calling us back to grace.

Pastor: Come, let us worship the God who is our refuge and strength.

People: Our mighty fortress, and our everlasting hope!

**Hymn of Praise*

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

#65

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession (spoken in unison)

Lord God, eternal and almighty: We acknowledge before Your hold majesty that we are poor sinners, conceived and born in guilt and in corruption, prone to do evil, unable of our own power to do good. Because of our sin, we endlessly violate Your holy commandments. But, O Lord, with heartfelt sorrow we repent and turn away from all our offenses. We condemn ourselves and our evil ways, with true sorrow asking that Your grace will relieve our distress. Have compassion on us, most gracious God, Father of mercies, for the sake of Your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. And in removing our guilt, also grant us daily increase of the grace Your Holy Spirit, and produce in us the fruits of holiness and of righteousness pleasing in Your sight: Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Please stand as you are able*

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

Joy in the Morning

(Sleeth)

**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

Psalms 130

1 Out of the depths I cry to thee, O LORD! 2 Lord, hear my voice! Let thy ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications! 3 If thou, O LORD, shouldst mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? 4 But there is forgiveness with thee, that thou mayest be feared. 5 I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in his word I hope; 6 my soul waits for the LORD MORE than watchmen for the morning, more than watchmen for the morning. 7 O Israel, hope in the LORD! For with the LORD there is steadfast love, and with him is plenteous redemption. 8 And he will redeem Israel from all his iniquities.

Leader: *The Word of the Lord.*

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Anthem *Only God* *(McDonald)*

Sermon *“Our Longing for Hope”*

Time of Reflection

**Closing Hymn* *The Church’s One Foundation* *#272*

**Charge and Benediction*

**Closing Response* *God, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing* *#439*

**Postlude*

Music for today’s worship includes:

Prelude: How Great Thou Art (Hine), Processional (Dubois), We Bow Down (Paris)

Time of Reflection: Living Hope (Wickham)

Postlude: Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing (#16)

Volunteers assisting with worship today:

Communion Table: Rockee Coalson

Badge Table: Judy Sevier

Fellowship: Sandra Shanley, Terrie Bunker and Tammy Hurst

Flower Committee: Sharon Severson, Diane Spang, Jennifer Ristau, Linda Paulos

Lector: Keith Betsch

Tellers: Deb Barth and Nancy Sheppard

Ushers: Bucky and Suzanne Distel

Road Signs: Rog Severson and Jared Reisinger

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 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 139; 243 joined online.

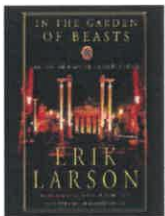
Today's flowers were donated by: Sabra & Bill Otteson: In celebration of their 49th wedding anniversary.

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. Questions? Contact Greg & Weezy Smith at lift5800@gmail.com. *Meetings will start again in December.*



SPIRITUAL THEME IN LITERATURE

The Spiritual Theme in Literature book discussion will be led by Winnie Leathers and will begin on Thursday, December 11 from 10am—11:30am in the library. The book for December will be *In The Garden of Beasts* by Erik Larson. All are welcome.



BIBLE STUDY WITH ED CARPENTER

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



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Volunteers are needed for the following dates for Fellowship:

November 2nd

November 9th

November 23rd

November 30th

Please sign up on the clipboard in Founders Hall, email Tami Burke, Office Manager at officemanager@verdefaith.org, call the office at 480-471-7239 or stop by the office if you are available any of those days. Our church wouldn't be as wonderful as it is without the help of volunteers! Thanks so much!

INTERESTED IN EXPLORING MEMBERSHIP

Q&A—*November 2 at 9:40am* in the library. Learn more about our church with Pastor Steve, followed by an optional tour of the church grounds.

New Member Wine & Cheese Gathering—*November 8 from 4:30pm—6:30pm*, by invitation.

New Member Sunday—*November 16th*. New members are recognized and welcomed during and after the service.





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: *will resume in the Fall.*

Prayer Shawl Ministry: *will resume in the Fall.*



**save the
family**
FOUNDATION OF ARIZONA

October Mission Drive

This month, we are collecting items for **Save the Family**. Their mission is to help families overcome homelessness and build a secure future in their journey to self-sufficiency.

Please help by donating:

Granola bars

Canned soup

Canned tuna

Canned chicken.

Place items in the Blue Bin in the Narthex or in the church office doorway. Thank you.

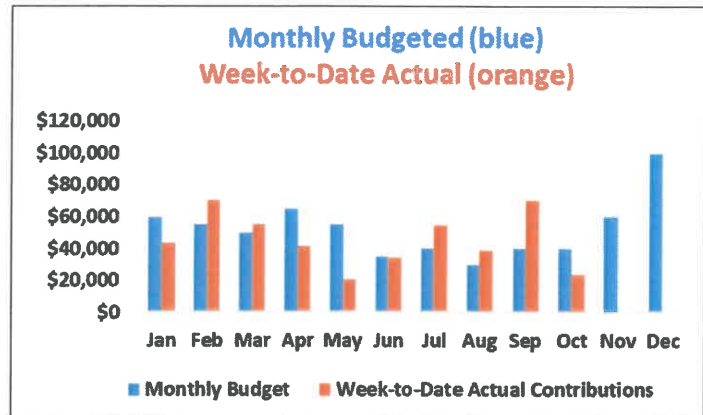


Every
Donation
Makes A
Difference

OPERATING FUND

YTD Actual contributions
through October 19 were
\$453,611

YTD Budgeted contributions
through October 19 were
\$460,000



Thank you for your continuing support!

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

Legacy Endowment Fund – current balance \$366,320

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 \$480,296

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 \$15,153

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, October 27

8:00am AA Meeting (Library)

Tuesday, October 28

No activities scheduled

Wednesday, October 29

4:00pm Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

Thursday, October 30

7:30am Bible Study with Ed (Founders Hall)

4:00pm Bible Study with Ed (Founders Hall)

Friday, October 31

No activities scheduled

Saturday, November 1

11:00am Gary Bryant Service (Sanctuary)

Sunday, November 2

8:30am Worship Service (Sanctuary)

9:30am Fellowship (Founders Hall)

10:00am St. Dominic (Sanctuary)

11:00am St. Dominic Fellowship (Founders Hall)

2025-2026

Schedule of Events

- Nov. 17 4pm** “Understanding Both Sides of the Israeli/Palestinian Conflict”
Mike Bussey, Speaker
- Nov. 17 5pm** Fall Dinner
- Jan. 16 7pm** Concert- - Scott Keo Big Band Show
(Michael Buble’ Tribute) ****ticketed event*
- Jan. 26 4pm** “Kindness and the Good Life”
Stephen Swensen MD, Speaker
- Jan. 31 9am** Men’ Retreat – Speaker Pastor Joel Johnson
- Feb. 2 4pm** “How PAL (Parents of Addicted Loved Ones) Saved My Life”
Kim Humphrey, Speaker
- Feb. 20 7pm** Concert – Yachtzilla
(Hits from the 60’s and 70’s) ****ticketed event*
- Feb. 23 4pm** “Choose Joy: Three Keys the Investing Your Time in Retirement”
Babs Plunkett, Speaker
- Mar. 8 4pm** “Fly Fishing Around the World”
Amy Hazel, Speaker
- Mar. 13 7pm** Concert - Crystal Stark
Celebrating Legendary Women Artists ****ticketed event*
- Mar. 16 4 pm** “The News Media; An Insider’s Secrets to How It Works”
Kerry Sanders, Speaker

*** All events are in the Sanctuary

65

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God



1. A might-y for-tress is our God, a bul-wark nev-er fail-ing,
2. Did we in our own strength con-fide, our striv-ing would be los-ing,
3. And though this world with dev-ils filled, should threat-en to un-do us,
4. God's word a-bove all earth-ly powers, no thanks to them, a-bid-eth.



our pres-ent help a-mid the flood of mor-tal ills pre-vail-ing.
 but there is one who takes our side, the one of God's own choos-ing.
 we will not fear for God has willed the truth to tri-umph through us.
 The Spir-it and the gifts are ours, through Christ, who with us sid-eth.



For still our an-cient foe doth seek to work us woe, with craft and
 You ask who that may be? Christ Je-sus, it is he with might-y
 The powers of dark-ness grim, we trem-ble not for them; their rage we
 Let goods and kin-dred go, this mor-tal life al-so. The bod-y



pow-er great, and armed with cru-el hate, on earth with-out an e-qual.
 pow'r to save, vic-to-rious o'er the grave, Christ will pre-vail tri-um-ph-ant!
 can en-dure, for lo, their doom is sure: One lit-tle word shall fell them.
 they may kill, God's truth a-bid-eth still, God's reign en-dures for-ev-er.



WORDS: Martin Luther, c. 1529; tr. Frederick H. Hedge, 1852;
 adapt. Ruth Duck, 1981, 1990

MUSIC: Martin Luther, c. 1529; harm. from *The New Hymnal for American Youth*, 1930

EIN' FESTE BURG
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1. The chur-ch's one foun-da-tion is Je-sus Christ our Lord;
 2. Called forth from ev-ery na-tion, yet one o'er all the earth;
 3. Though with a scorn-ful won-der the world sees us op-pressed,
 4. Mid toil and trib-u-la-tion, and tu-mult of our war,
 5. We now on earth have un-ion with God the Three in One,

1. we are his new cre-a-tion by wa-ter and the Word;
 2. our char-ter of sal-va-tion: one Lord, one faith, one birth.
 3. by schis-ms rent a sun-der, by her-e-sies dis-tressed,
 4. we wait the con-sum-ma-tion of peace for-ev-er-more;
 5. and mys-tic sweet com-mu-nion with those whose rest is won.

1. from heaven he came and sought us to be his ho-ly bride;
 2. One ho-ly name pro-fess-ing and at one ta-ble fed,
 3. yet saints their watch are keep-ing; their cry goes up, "How long?"
 4. till with the vi-sion glo-rious our long-ing eyes are blest,
 5. Oh, hap-py ones, and ho-ly! Lord, give us grace that we

1. with his own blood he bought us, and for our life he died.
 2. to one hope al-ways press-ing, by Christ's own Spir-it led.
 3. And soon the night of weep-ing shall be the morn of song.
 4. and the great church vic-to-rious shall be the church at rest.
 5. like them, the meek and low-ly, on high may dwell with thee.

WORDS: Samuel J. Stone, 1866, alt.; st. 2 adapt. Laurence Hull Stookey, 1983, alt.
 MUSIC: Samuel S. Wesley, 1864; desc. Charles H. Webb, 1980

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St. 2 adapt. © 1983 The United Methodist Publishing House; desc. © 1980 Harold Flammer Music
 (ASCAP), a div. of Shawnee Press, Inc.



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

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Rio Verde, Arizona 85263

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

Friday—9:00am—12:30pm

Telephone: (480) 471-7239

www.verdefaith.org

Pastor: Rev. Stephen Beard

Pastor's cell: (732)546-5332

Pastor's email: pastor@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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Affiliated with the International Council of Community Churches



We are a Stephen Ministry Congregation



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