

COMMUNITY CHURCH *of the Verdes*

September 20, 2026



ORDER OF WORSHIP

Time for Centering

Stuck in the Wrong Place

Acts 24:24-27

Sometimes we find ourselves stuck-not necessarily because we have made a terrible decision, but because circumstances, fear, or our own hesitation keep us from moving forward. In Acts 24, Paul has the opportunity to speak to Felix about faith in Christ, righteousness, self-control, and the coming judgement. Felix is deeply disturbed by what he hears, yet instead of responding, he puts Paul off: "Go away for the present; when I have an opportunity, I will send for you."

Felix was in the wrong place spiritually. He heard the truth, felt its conviction, and yet chose to remain where he was. His story reminds us that there is a danger in continually postponing what God is asking us to do. "Someday" can become a way of resisting God today.

Yet Paul's imprisonment also reminds us that God can work even when we feel stuck. Paul may have been confined by circumstances, but God's purposes were not confined. William Cowper's hymn, "God Moves in a Mysterious Way," captures this truth. As the opening verse says, "God moves in a mysterious way/His wonders to perform." What looks like delay or a wrong turn to us may still be part of God's larger and often unseen work.

The question for us is not simply, "Where am I?" but, "What is God doing here, and how am I being called to respond?" Even when we feel stuck in the wrong place, God is not absent. He is still at work, calling us to trust him, respond to his truth, and take the next faithful step.

Order of Worship

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Introit

A Gentle Alleluia

(Sorenson)

Call to Worship

Pastor: Praise the Lord! Sing to the Lord a new song.

People: Sing God's praise in the assembly of the faithful.

Pastor: Praise God's name with dancing, making melody with tambourine and lyre.

People: Let the faithful exult in glory, glory for all his faithful ones.

All: Let us worship God!

**Hymn of Praise*

He Leadeth Me: O Blessed Thought!

#545

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession (spoken in unison) Text from the Book of Common Worship

Merciful God, You pardon all who truly repent and turn to you. We humbly confess our sins and ask your mercy. We have not loved you with a pure heart, nor have we loved our neighbor as ourselves. We have not done justice, loved kindness, or walked humbly with you, our God. Have mercy on us, O God, in your loving kindness. In your great compassion, cleanse us from our sin. Create in us a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within us.

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*

**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 *Just a Little Talk with Jesus* *(arr. Pethel)*

**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 Acts 24:24-27

²⁴ Some days later when Felix came with his wife Drusilla, who was Jewish, he sent for Paul and heard him speak concerning faith in Christ Jesus. ²⁵ And as he discussed justice, self-control, and the coming judgment, Felix became frightened and said, "Go away for the present; when I have an opportunity, I will send for you." ²⁶ At the same time he hoped that money would be given him by Paul, and for that reason he used to send for him very often and converse with him. ²⁷ After two years had passed, Felix was succeeded by Porcius Festus, and since he wanted to grant the Jews a favor, Felix left Paul in prison.

Leader: *The Word of the Lord.*

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Anthem *How Can I Keep from Singing?* *(arr. Althouse)*

Sermon *"Stuck in the Wrong Place"*

Time of Reflection

*Closing Hymn	<i>It Is Well with My Soul</i>	#561
<i>Charge and Benediction</i>		
*Closing Response	<i>O Christ, the Way, the Truth, the Life</i>	#432
<i>*Postlude</i>		

Music for today's worship includes:

Prelude: God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens (arr. Wood), How Firm a Foundation (arr. Wood), This Is My Father's World (Sheppard)

Time of Reflection: God Will Make a Way (Moen)

Postlude: He Is Exalted (Paris)

Duo: Sara Bruton, and Jeffrey Stevens

Volunteers assisting with worship today:

Communion Table: Diane Spang

Refreshment Stewards: Michele Mulleady, Rhonda Brenner, and Donna Peterson

Flower Committee: Sharon Severson, Jennifer Ristau, Linda Paulos, Lily Ann Bence

Lector: Nancy Lowe

Tellers: Barbara Cornelius and Terri Meyers

Ushers: John & Sue Cole

Road Signs: Bill Hickman, Ric Doerflinger, Tom Young

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome members and guests! 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 **98** in person; **265** joined online.

Today's flowers were donated by Margy Lee in loving remembrance of Bill Lee.

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 will resume in the Fall. Questions? Contact Greg & Weezy Smith at lift5800@gmail.com.

WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY (coming in October)

Jeremiah -Tuesdays, 4:00–5:00 PM • Founder's Hall Oct 6–Apr 27 • Led by Michael Northrup (*Two week Christmas break*) Jeremiah spoke God's truth in a time of national crisis and spiritual drift. This study explores how his message of warning and hope speaks to our own uncertain world. No homework; newcomers welcome. Recaps and recordings available by request for those who can't attend in person.

Michael Northrup has been actively teaching the Bible for 50 years in various settings: high school, college, youth director, Prison Ministry, and in our own community the past 15 years. He enjoys running and considers himself a perpetual learner, loving to continually study and teach. He and his wife Cathy live in Rio Verde.

Genesis - Thursdays, 8:00–9:00 AM • Founders' Hall Oct 22–Apr 1 • Led by Ed Carpenter (*One week Thanksgiving break; three week Christmas break*) Genesis lays the foundation for Christian belief and introduces the people who walked with

God—Adam, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph. All are welcome: believers, seekers, skeptics, and anyone curious about Scripture. Questions are emailed in advance for those who want them, but preparation is optional—no one is called on, and there are no grades. Bring your Bible; study notes or commentaries are welcome.

Ed Carpenter practiced corporate law in Minneapolis before retiring to Rio/Tonto Verde in 1996. He was a teaching leader in Bible Study Fellowship in the Minneapolis area for 11 years. In 1992 he became an Area Advisor for BSF Young Adult classes. He has led Bible studies in the Verdes for 25+ years. He lives in Tonto Verde where he enjoys all the community activities including golf and biking.

FALL BIBLE STUDY: THE BOOK OF REVELATION **WITH PASTOR STEVE**

Beginning Thursday, October 8, join us for a 10-week Bible study on the book of ***Revelation***. We will meet each Thursday at 4:00 p.m. in Founders Hall.

Together, we will explore this rich and often misunderstood book of Scripture, discovering its message of hope, perseverance, faithfulness, and the ultimate victory of Jesus Christ.

Led by Pastor Steve, this study will include thoughtful teaching, conversation, and plenty of opportunity for discussion. As we journey through Revelation together, we will consider what this remarkable book meant to the early church and what it continues to say to us about living faithfully in a world that can often seem uncertain.

All are welcome. Come join us as we discover together the hope at the heart of Revelation: Christ is victorious, God is faithful, and His people are never forgotten.

October 8 th	Revelation 1
October 15 th	Revelation 4
October 22 nd	Revelation 5
October 29 th	Revelation 6
November 5 th	Revelation 10
November 12 th	Revelation 12
November 19 th	Revelation 14
December 3 rd	Revelation 19
December 10 th	Revelation 21
December 17 th	Revelation 22





MISSIONS

Lunch making and delivery for Justa Center: The third Thursday of the month at 9:00am

Pad Project Ministry: Will start again in the Fall.

Prayer Shawl Ministry: Will start again Friday, November 13th @ 9:00am

Community Prayer

Come for a moment of prayer every Wednesday at 9am in the chapel with Pastor Steve.

If you are away and would like to receive the prayer liturgy by email, please contact Pastor Steve at sbeard@verdefaith.org.

Pastoral Care Team

The Pastoral Care Team for The Community Church of the Verdes has been formed to assist Pastor Steve Beard in his mission for our church. The team will walk alongside individuals by providing visitation, communion, listening, and prayer to those facing crisis, illness, or life transitions.

Your Pastoral Care Team members are: Donna Angiolillo, Diane Bronson, Julie Dadlani, Debbie Etcheson, Gary Etcheson, Lois Halberg, and Gary Hedstrom.

Care Team Prayers

Our newly created Care Team has begun praying weekly for members of our congregation. We are praying through our membership rolls alphabetically and will pray specifically for a small group of names each week.

If you have a specific prayer request, please email Donna Angiolillo at: donna.angiolillo@gmail.com.



GIVING NOTES

**Online Giving is available!
It's easy, fast and secure.**



Support CCV Ministries & Missions with Online Giving

Just scan the barcode or visit the website at verdefaith.org/give

With gratitude for the generosity of church members, we are currently operating within our projected budget. The Finance Committee is focused on keeping you informed of this measure and of other financial results. You can expect a high-level snapshot of Receipts, Disbursements, Capital Spending and Fund Balances on a quarterly basis. The first report is available in the office if you missed it in the bulletin.

For comments, suggestions or questions, please contact Kim Dadlani, Treasurer, at Kim.g.dadlani@gmail.com. Thank you for your faithful giving!!!

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

Legacy Endowment Fund

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. Historically, this amount was allocated to the Mission Committee to support charitable organizations.

Memorial Garden Fund

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 internment of the ashes of loved ones.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Monday, September 21

8:00am AA Meeting (Library)

8:00am St. Dominic Weekly Mass (Chapel)

Tuesday, September 22

4:30pm Weekly Rosary St. Dominic (Chapel)

Wednesday, September 23

8:00am St. Dominic Weekly Mass (Chapel)

9:00am Community Prayer w/ Pastor Steve (Chapel)

Thursday, September 24

8:00am St. Dominic Weekly Mass (Chapel)

Friday, September 25

No activities scheduled

Saturday, September 26

No activities scheduled

Sunday, September 27

8:30am Worship (Sanctuary)

9:30am Fellowship (Founders Hall)

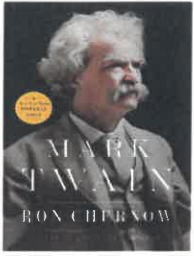
10:00am St. Dominic (Sanctuary)

OFFICE HOURS

MONDAY—THURSDAY: 9AM TO 2PM

FRIDAYS: CLOSED





SPIRITUAL THEMES IN LITERATURE

The Book Club will resume on the second Thursday in December (**December 10th**) with Winnie Leathers. We will review Mark Twain by Ron Chernow. We will meet on subsequent months on the second Thursday of the month until May 2027.



Sept. 27th	Title: Proclaiming the Kingdom of God
	Scripture: Acts 28
Oct. 4th	Title: Made for Blessing
	Scripture: Ephesians 1: 1-14
Oct 11th	Title: Made to do Good Works
	Scripture: Ephesians 2:1-10
Oct 18th	Title: Made to be Citizens with the Saints
	Scripture: Ephesians 2:11-22
Oct 25th	Title: Made to be Loved by Christ
	Scripture: Ephesians 3:14-21
Nov 1st	Title: Made to be Members of the Body
	Scripture: Ephesians 4:14-16
Nov 8th	Title: Made to Renounce Old Ways
	Scripture: Ephesians 5:6-20

545 He Leadeth Me: O Blessed Thought!

1. He lead - eth me: O bless - ed thought! O
 2. Lord, I would place my hand in thine, nor
 3. And when my task on earth is done, when,

words with heaven - ly com - fort fraught! What - e'er I do, wher -
 ev - er mur - mur nor re - pine; by wa - ters still, o'er
 by thy grace, the vic - tory's won, e'en death's cold wave I

e'er I be, still 'tis God's hand that lead - eth me.
 trou - bled sea, still 'tis thy hand that lead - eth me.
 will not flee, since God thro' Jor - dan lead - eth me.

Refrain

He lead - eth me, he lead - eth me, by his own hand he lead - eth me:

his faith - ful fol - lower I would be, for by his hand he lead - eth me.

WORDS: Joseph H. Gilmore, 1862
 MUSIC: William B. Bradbury, 1864

HE LEADETH ME
 LM w. refrain

It Is Well with My Soul

561

1. When peace, like a riv - er, at - tend - eth my way,
 2. Though Sa - tan should buf - fet, though tri - als should come,
 3. My sin, oh, the bliss of this glo - ri - ous thought!
 4. May God haste the day when my faith shall be sight,

when sor - rows like sea bil - lows roll; what - ev - er my
 let this blest as - sur - ance con - trol, that Christ has re -
 My sin, not in part but the whole, is nailed to the
 the clouds be rolled back as a scroll; the trump shall re -

lot, thou hast taught me to say, it is well, it is
 gard - ed my help - less es - tate, and hath shed his own
 cross, and I bear it no more, praise the Lord, praise the
 sound, and the Lord shall de - scend, e - ven so, it is

Refrain
 well with my soul.
 blood for my soul. It is well with my soul,
 Lord, O my soul!
 well with my soul. It is well with my soul,

it is well, it is well with my soul.

WORDS: Horatio G. Spafford, 1873
 MUSIC: Philip P. Bliss, 1876

VILLE DU HAVRE
 11 8.11 9 w. refrain



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 — Closed

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

Director of Caring Ministries: Donna Angiolillo

Office Manager: Tami Burke

A/V Operator: Skyler Evans

Vocalists: Debby Wojtas, Jeffrey Stevens, Sara Bruton

Board of Trustees

Class of 2027

Pat Peterson (President)

Nancy Lowe (Mission)

Jared Reisinger (Technology)

Julie Peacock (Education)

Nancy Sheppard (Worship)

Kim Dadlani (Treasurer)

Rod Bulcher (Facilities)

Linda Smiley (Fellowship)

Jackie Williams (Membership)



Affiliated with the International Council of Community Churches



We are a Stephen Ministry Congregation



Find us on Facebook 'Community Church of the Verdes'