

Defying Gravity

Break Free from
the Culture of More

Discovering Gravity

by Lisa LaMont

We all have issues surrounding money. My attitude towards money was framed by watching my widowed mother struggle to provide for me and my sisters. As a result, I mistakenly believed that I had to control my own financial destiny and couldn't rely on anyone else to provide for myself and my family. My kingdom was built on the wealth I acquired and what I could control.

Whatever the reason, we all feel the pull of financial gravity: that invisible force that compels us to pursue our basic needs and wants. The problem is that as our list of wants grows, the pull of financial gravity increases. It is this gravitational pull of wealth that takes our focus away from the Kingdom of God. Our self-kingdom is

lonely and full of hurt. We find healing in the Kingdom of God.

Jesus offers us a way to enter the gravitational field of God's Kingdom. Jesus counseled the rich, young ruler to "go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven." (Matthew 16:21). Jesus wants us to dismantle our world and join Him in a different one. Jesus offers us a way to use our money and possessions to set us free.

As my faith has grown, my attitude about money has changed. I still struggle with relying on my own self-sufficiency and trying to control my kingdom, but I am learning to focus not on being a collector of wealth and possessions, but to be a steward of God's Kingdom. The pull of financial

Paradise Valley United Methodist Church

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February 5, 2017 Communion Sunday

Welcome to Paradise Valley United Methodist Church. Today we are **Defying Gravity** as we look at how to "break free from the culture of more" and tether ourselves to God. Our worship series this month focuses on stewardship and giving. Read Lisa LaMont's message inside this *Looking Ahead* about "Discovering Gravity" to learn more about how we can enter the gravitational field of God's Kingdom.

[Read More*](#)

Mission

Alive with the Spirit, we bring God's love into action by igniting faith, transforming lives, and creating community.

Vision

Love that crosses all barriers, and embraces all people.

Sunday Morning Worship

We offer two traditional services and one alternative service:

- 8 am in the chapel
- 9:30 am in the sanctuary
- Ignite: 11:15 am in the chapel

Ignite Moves Up to 11 am

Ignite moves to an earlier time beginning **Sunday, March 5**. The "come as you are" worship service will meet at 11 am instead of 11:15 am. Contemporary music will continue to dominate the service, led by the Ignite Band and worship leaders Andria Fennig and Tommy Strawser. We'll also have communion and a full sermon every week. Sermons and scriptures are posted online at pvumc.org.



God's Love in Action™

Looking Ahead at PVUMC



Book Club Meets Monday

The PVUMC Book Group meets the first non-holiday Monday of the month for a book discussion of a new title each month. Meetings are held in the church library (G2), 12:15-1:15 pm. Come a little earlier to chat. Join the group tomorrow, **Monday, February 6**, for a discussion of *Presidents' Club* by Nancy Gibbs and Michael Duffy.

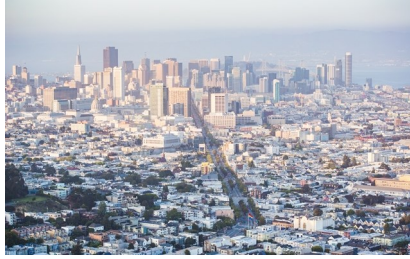
[Read More*](#)



Habitat for Humanity Build

The Mighty Methodist Coalition is building a home for the Perez family. PVUMC invites you to upcoming work days: **March 25** (drywall) and **May 13** (interior painting). Contact: donald.wall@squirepb.com and see the **Pathways** booklet for more information on this Habitat for Humanity project.

[Read More*](#)



Support Youth Missions

The Senior High Youth will take a mission trip to San Francisco this summer, and need your help to get there. The Mission Dinner and Auction Fundraiser on **Sunday, February 26** benefits all our youth mission trips and youth choir tour. Donate items of value from local businesses for the auction, and buy event tickets. For donation forms, and ideas of what to donate, email

[Christopher Wurpts](mailto:christopher.wurpts@pvumc.org), youth

ministries director, or call/

text him at 712.348.3791.

christopher@pvumc.org.

[Read More*](#)



Yoga on Wednesday Nights, H1

Practice yoga with instructors from Desert Song at 6 pm in H1 every Wednesday. See the Pathways booklet or go to our website for more information.

[Read More*](#)

community concert series

2016-2017



Dueling Divas: Americana

Friday, March 31, 2017 at 7pm, Sanctuary

PVUMC's own director of music and arts ministries, Ashley Snaveley, and contemporary worship leader and accompanist, Andria Fennig, are back by popular demand. Last year, the Dueling Divas made their debut, and released their first CD: *Two Grands, Four Hands: Live at PVUMC*. Their new four-hand piano concert features works from American composers including Sondheim, Bernstein and Gershwin.

Free-will offering taken at the event benefits the PVUMC Community Concert Series. Childcare available with a 48-hr reservation; call 602-840-8360, ext 134. Register at <https://pvumc-concerts-3-31-17.eventbrite.com>



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community concert series 2016-2017



Mill Ave Chamber Players Friday, March 3, 2017 at 7pm, Sanctuary

The Mill Ave Chamber Players, a professional chamber music ensemble based in Phoenix, Arizona, embarks on its ninth season this year. The woodwind quintet — flute, oboe, clarinet, horn, and bassoon — will be joined by PVUMC's pianist, Andria Fennig, for this classical concert featuring pieces composed by Mozart and Poulenc.

Free-will offering taken at the event benefits the PVUMC Community Concert Series. Childcare available with a 48-hr reservation; call 602-840-8360, ext 134. Register at <https://pvumc-concerts-3-3-17.eventbrite.com>



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Inviting Prayers of Intercession

Joys:

Wayne and Cindy Pratt's
50th wedding anniversary

Hospice Care:

Karen Momyer, sister-in-law
of Judith Tunell
Patti Wolfe, sister-in-law
of Aimee Bridge

Deaths:

Ruth Stockinger, sister of
Esther Socolofsky and
aunt of Mary Sue Ingraham

Continuing Concerns:

Herb Andrews; Verna Grice,
mother of Laurel Hickok; Pat
Heath, sister-in-law of Brady
Heath; Robin Henry, friend of
Jan Elsea; Garry Lozier; David
Johnson, friend of Diane Took-
er; Martha Merold; Sam Miran-
da, great nephew of Carlys Pe-
terson; Lan Nguyen, friend of
Leigh Shaffer; John Patchett,
father of Stephanie Ireland;
Bret Roy; Rich Sigtermans
and family

Our Church:

Defying Gravity—February's
Giving Campaign
Discussions around PVUMC
Welcoming and Inclusivity
International Mission Teams
and their Stakeholders

Our Community, Nation and World:

Refugees of the world
Family and Friends serving
in the military



Prayer Requests

If you or someone you know
needs prayer, submit a prayer
request using our online re-
quest form at [pvumc.org](http://pvumc.org/contact/prayer-requests/),
[http://pvumc.org/contact/](http://pvumc.org/contact/prayer-requests/)
[prayer-requests/](http://pvumc.org/contact/prayer-requests/); e-mail Caring
Ministries, Gretchen Holt,
gholt@pvumc.org; or call the
church office at 602.840.8360.
Prayer request cards are also
available in pew pockets and
can be put in the offering plate.
Requests are shared with our
pastors, staff, and e-mail pray-
er team members (200+).

Pastors on Call



We have a
pastor on call
24/7. Call the
church office
anytime. Our
number is
602.840.
8360. If you
call the office
after hours,
follow the instructions or press
"2." Leave a message and a
pastor will return your call.

* Read more at pvumc.org

This Week at PVUMC

Sunday, February 5, 2017

Worship Service	8:00AM	C1
Praise Singers	9:30AM	H1
Preschool Sunday Classes	9:30AM	E4
		E7 E8
SPIRIT Sunday School	9:30AM	F8
Squad 57 Class	9:30AM	H6
Worship Service	9:30AM	A1
Youth: SML-Seniors Speak	9:30AM	E14
Love Feast Grades 1-4	9:30AM	E10
		E11 E12 E13 H3 H7
Mini Singers	10:30AM	E9
Youth Handbell Rehearsal	10:35AM	A3
Youth - Velocity Meeting	10:35AM	E14
Caring Kids	10:45AM	H1
Modern Family	10:45AM	H5
Bible, Beliefs and Beyond	11:00AM	F5/6
New Testament Bible Study	11:00AM	H4
Wesley Sunday School	11:00AM	G2
Ignite Worship Service	11:15 AM	C1
Youth Choir Rehearsal	12:00PM	A4
S.U.N. Light (Supporting Unique Needs)		
Task Force	3:00PM	H5
Young Adult Super Bowl		
Sunday Party	4:00PM	
		Off campus
Youth - VIBE - Super Bowl		
Sunday Event	4:30PM	
		Off campus
Squad 57 Guys Meetup	5:00PM	E14

Monday, February 6, 2017

Mustard Seed Bible Study	9:00AM	F8
The M&Ms - Monday Morning Moms		
Book Study w/Pastor Dave	9:15AM	Perk
PVUMC Book Group	12:15PM	G2
Men's Emmaus		
Covenant Group	4:00PM	F8
Open Table 12	6:00PM	H6
Journey of Faith: An Introduction		
to Pathways	6:30PM	F8

Connect with us on Facebook
(ParadiseValleyUMC) or @PVUMC
on Twitter or Instagram.



Tuesday, February 7, 2017

Staff Meetings	9:00AM	G2
Caring Bible Study	10:30AM	
		Off campus
Welcome Team Meeting	5:00PM	A2
Women's Retreat Planning	5:30PM	H6
Transformational Ministry		
Team Meeting	6:30PM	H6
Youth - Christian Group of		
Young Men (CGYM)	7:00PM	E14

Wednesday, February 8, 2017

St. Mary's Food Bank		
Service Project	8:00AM	
		Off campus
Susanna Circle	9:30AM	A2
Pastor's Bible Study	10:30AM	F8
Paradise Singers Rehearsal	11:00AM	A4
Prayer Team Meeting	11:30AM	F5/6
Music Makers	4:30PM	A4
Sojourners	4:30PM	G2
PVUMC Career Connecting		
Planning Meeting	5:30PM	H5
Yoga	6:00PM	H1
Bells of Paradise Rehearsal	6:00PM	A3
Growing Together		
in Our Walk	6:00PM	F8
Barriers to Spiritual Freedom:		
Habits of Emotions	6:30PM	H2
Chancel Choir Rehearsal	7:30PM	A4

Thursday, February 9, 2017

Men's Breakfast Bible Study	7:00AM	F5/6
MOPS - Mothers of		
Preschoolers	9:00AM	H7
Lunch Conversations	12:00PM	G2
Centering Prayer Practice	6:15PM	H6
Marketing & Communication		
Ministry Team Meeting	6:30PM	H5

Friday, February 10, 2017

Brown Baggers Bible Study	12:00PM	G2
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Please see our website calendar at <http://pvumc.org/calendar/> for all our events, classes, meetings and programs. Youth meet weekly on Sundays, and children's classes are at 9:30 am with Caring Kids and Modern Family at 10:45 am.

Looking Ahead at PVUMC

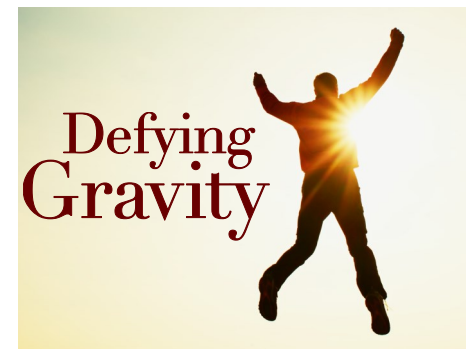


You're Invited to Lunch and a Roundtable Discussion

The church plans to have its final roundtable discussion on the issue of PVUMC Welcoming and Inclusivity on **Sunday, February 12** at 12:30 pm in the Fellowship Center. If you would like a light lunch, please RSVP to Betty Price at betty@pvumc.org and come to the event at 12:15 pm. Roundtable participants will be asked to review, discuss and recommend one or more of several possible welcoming statements which the church may adopt at a later time. All are welcome to attend. If you need childcare, please call 602.840.8360, ext 134 at least 48 hours before the event. [Read More*](#)

PLEASE NOTE:

The **Central East District Discipleship Training** event has been cancelled. If you have any questions, please contact Susan Brims, District Superintendent, or her assistant, Carla Whitmire, at 602.798.8236.



Zero-based Budgeting Workshop on February 19

You're invited to a 30-minute workshop on zero-based budgeting based on material from Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University on **Sunday, February 19** at 10:45-11:15 am in H5, where Modern Family usually meets. JP and Jenn Coughlin will lead this brief session, teaching you how to budget no matter if you have a fixed salary or an irregular income. Only 1 in 3 American families budget, but after just 3 months of detailed monthly budgeting, 84 percent of people say they feel more in control of their money. Join the Coughlins and learn how to take the first step to Defying Gravity! [Read More*](#)

YAL Super Bowl Party TODAY

The Young Adults will have a Super Bowl Party TODAY, 4 pm, at Rachel Smith's house, 4201 E Marlette Ave. Bring a snack to share and a swimsuit. For the gate code and questions, contact Rev. Brenda, brenda@pvumc.org, 602.740.7134.

Looking Ahead at PVUMC



2017 International Mission Teams Need Stakeholders

PVUMC is sending two mission teams to Latin America again this March, and we invite you to become a 2017 Stakeholder to support their mission work in Costa Rica and Guatemala (March 4-13). A gift of \$25 or more will help pay for the teams' in-country supplies, including construction materials, medical supplies, and children's bible education curriculum. Stakeholders receive news from team members during the trips, and are invited to post-trip meetings where team members will share stories and photos to show how lives were changed. Use the [GIVE NOW](#) button on the church website to become a stakeholder no later than **February 28, 2017**.

Simply choose "Missions" and type "Costa Rica/Guatemala 2017 Stakeholder" in the "Comments" section. If you prefer to write a check, make it payable to PVUMC and write the info above in the memo line. [Read More*](#)



Spring 2017 Pathways

Our [Spring 2017 Pathways](#) program encourages you to "Step Out of Your Pew and Onto a Path." Take the *Pathway of the Soul* with weekly **Lunch Conversations**, 12-1:15 pm in G2, the church library; a **Centering Prayer** class on the 2nd Thursday of the month, **February 9**, 6:15-7:15 pm in H6; and a **Meetup** on the 3rd Thursday, **February 16**, 6:30-8:45 pm in H7: "The 9 Love Languages of the Enneagram," led by Jaye Andres. Cost: \$10/person or \$5 for current [Arizona Enneagram Association](#) members. [Read More*](#)



Church Directory Sign-Ups

Be a part of our new church directory. Photos will be taken **February 14-18, 2017**. Sign up online NOW at [pvumc.org](#) or on the patio.

Salaam-Chai-Paradise

Invites you to
a seminar and discussion series on

The End of Life Here... and the Life Hereafter (?)

A Tri-Faith Exploration of Death & Dying

Session 1: January 26, 2017, 7-9 pm
Meet & Mingle at 6:30 pm

Caring for the Terminally Ill

Imam Anas Hlayhel
Rabbi Bonnie Koppell
Pastor Dave Summers

Temple Chai
4645 E. Marilyn Road, Phoenix



Session 2: February 16, 2017, 7-9 pm
Meet & Mingle at 6:30 pm

Rituals for the Deceased

Brother Ahmed Ewais
Rabbi Elana Kanter
Pastor Andrea Address



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Session 3: March 2, 2017, 7-9 pm
Meet & Mingle at 6:30 pm

After Life (?)

Imam Sabahudin Ceman
Rabbi Bonnie Koppell
Pastor Kelly Bender



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Join Salaam-Chai-Paradise for the next two sessions held at PVUMC on the topic of death and dying. Discover how each faith tradition looks at "Rituals for the Deceased," and "After Life (?)." Clergy from all three faiths will be represented at each session.