

# Defying Gravity

Break Free from  
the Culture of More

## **Living Simply** by Bethany Taylor

My Bible study group recently read and discussed Adam Hamilton's *Enough: Discovering Joy Through Simplicity and Generosity*. One of the book's premises is that we buy all this "stuff" but it doesn't bring us happiness. My daughters recently illustrated this point to me. While I feel like I don't buy them many toys, somehow their playroom grew to overflowing with "stuff." One night after they did not pick up their toys for the umpteenth time, I decided to pick up for them. I packed all their toys – ALL of them – into bins and put them in the garage.

The plan was after they asked for them, we would discuss their responsibility of putting their toys away. I would then bring back in a handful of toys and, once they demonstrated they could put them away, I'd bring in more, and so on. Well, a day passed, then two, then a week, even a month, and the girls never asked for their toys.

They saw the bins every day in the garage, but found other ways to entertain themselves. I was stunned. Didn't they want their toys? Three months have passed, and while I have brought in some of their toys, more than half remain in bins in the garage. Clearly, they had more than they needed or even wanted. Adam Hamilton's second premise in his book is that we find joy through giving generosity. We will test this premise when we donate the remaining bins of toys to the Caring Kids' Rummage Sale later this month. Proceeds will be donated to a local nonprofit charity: Child Crisis Arizona. [Read More\\*](#)

I have a goal every year to increase my pledge to the church, but often don't know where I will find the extra money. This year, the answer is simple. I'll cut back on toys for my girls and "stuff" for me. Funny how I had planned to teach my daughters an important lesson, but they actually taught me one.

## Paradise Valley United Methodist Church

# Defying Gravity

Break Free from  
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### **February 19, 2017**

Welcome to Paradise Valley United Methodist Church. Today in worship, learn how to **Defy Gravity** and "break free from the culture of more." Read Bethany Taylor's message inside this *Looking Ahead* — "Tethered to God" — and check out the Coughlin's 30-minute, zero-based budgeting workshop in H5 at 10:45 am. Get ready to make your financial commitment to PVUMC on **March 5**. [Read More\\*](#)

### **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**.

### **Sermons and Scriptures**

Sermons and scriptures are posted online at [pvumc.org](http://pvumc.org).

### **Christian Education**

- Sunday School classes for children at 9:30 am
- Childcare at all services
- Youth are on their winter retreat at Mingus Camp

### **Mission**

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

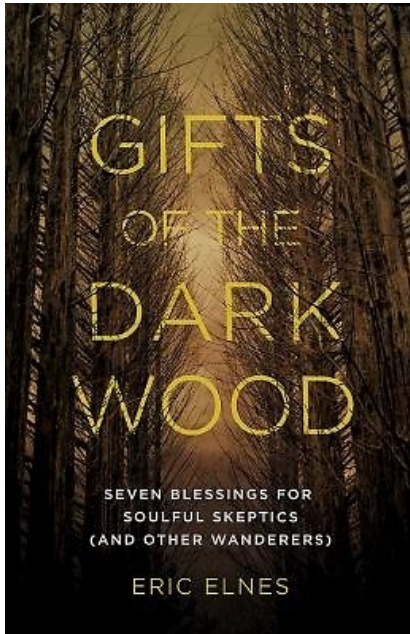
### **Vision**

*Love that crosses all barriers and embraces all people.*



**God's Love in Action™**

## Looking Ahead at PVUMC



### Lenten Study Books for Sale

The Adult Learning Ministry Team is selling *Gifts of the Dark Wood*, our Lenten study book, today following worship. Stop by the patio table and purchase a book for \$12. Several classes on campus will follow the study. The list is printed in this *Looking Ahead*, and available on the website. The team is also collecting the Advent book, *Sent*, in an effort to recycle this study and provide books for another church. Thank you for promoting learning at PVUMC and beyond.

[Read More\\*](#)

\* When you see "Read More" go to [pvumc.org/news](http://pvumc.org/news) to read more or just click the link if you are reading the online, interactive version of the *Looking Ahead*.



### Inclusiveness at PVUMC

About 100 members and constituents came to the church's final Roundtable to review, discuss and recommend one or more of several possible welcoming statements which the church may adopt at a later time. The Church Council will vote on a recommendation from the Reconciling Ministry Team later this month.

[Read More\\*](#)



### Children and Stewardship

Our Children's Ministries Team recently provided a giving calendar to children in our Sunday School. Email [brenda@pvumc.org](mailto:brenda@pvumc.org) if you would like one. Other resources are available too. Just ask!



## 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:

The February 2 wedding of Adele Beckwith to Gorden Smith  
The February 4 wedding of Mario Esquer to Kimberly Foster; son and daughter-in-law of Debby Esquer  
The February 13 birth of Giana Elizabeth Eden to James and Sasha Eden; grandparents Keith and Mindy Sobraske

### Hospice Care:

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

### Continuing Concerns:

Verna Grice, mother of Laurel Hickok; Jacob Hagerman; Pat Heath, sister-in-law of Brady Heath; Robin Henry, friend of Jan Elsea; Sharon Lay, friend of Donna Brandenburg; Garry Lozier; Sam Miranda, great nephew of Carlys Peterson; Lan Nguyen, friend of Leigh Shaffer; John Patchett, father of Stephanie Ireland; Bret Roy; Rich Sigtermans and family

### Our Church:

Giving Campaign  
International Mission Teams and their Stakeholders  
Youth Mission Dinner and Fundraiser  
Youth, Young Adults and volunteers at retreats

### Our Community, Nation and World:

All those in need  
Family and Friends serving in the military



### Prayer Requests

If you or someone you know needs prayer, submit a prayer request using our online request form at [pvumc.org](http://pvumc.org), <http://pvumc.org/contact/prayer-requests/>; e-mail Caring Ministries, Gretchen Holt, [gholt@pvumc.org](mailto: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 prayer 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](http://pvumc.org)

## This Week at PVUMC

### Sunday, February 19, 2017

YAL Winter Retreat	Off campus
Winter Youth Retreat	Off campus
Worship Service	8:00AM C1
Praise Singers	9:30AM H1
Preschool Sunday Classes	9:30AM E4 E7   E8
Children's Sunday Classes for Grades K-4	9:30AM E10 E11   E12   E13   H3
SPIRIT Sunday School	9:30AM F8
Worship Service	9:30AM A1
Mini Singers	10:30AM E9
Zero-based Budgeting Workshop	10:45AM H5
Wesley Sunday School	11:00AM G2
Concerned PVUMC Members on the Reconciling Movement	11:00AM H1
Ignite Worship Service	11:15AM C1
Youth Handbell Rehearsal	3:15PM A3
Youth Choir Rehearsal	4:00PM A4
Boy Scouts - Troop 30 Adult Committee Meeting	6:00PM H1

### Monday, February 20, 2017

President's Day - Campus Closed

### Tuesday, February 21, 2017

Staff Meetings	9:00AM G2
Caring Bible Study	10:30AM A2
Missions Ministry Team Mtg	6:00PM H4
Board of Trustees	6:00PM G2
Youth - Christian Group of Young Men (CGYM)	7:00PM E14

See the calendar at <http://pvumc.org/calendar/> for all our events 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. Connect with us on Facebook (ParadiseValleyUMC) or @PVUMC on Twitter or Instagram.



### Wednesday, February 22, 2017

Susanna Circle	9:30AM A2
Pastor's Bible Study	10:30AM F8
Paradise Singers Rehearsal	11:30AM A4
Prayer Team Meeting	11:30AM F5/6
Best Friends In Faith	2:00PM F8
Music Makers	4:30PM A4
Sojourners	4:30PM G2
Yoga	6:00PM H1
Bells of Paradise Rehearsal	6:00PM A3
Growing Together in Our Walk	6:00PM F8
Stewardship Team Meeting	6:00PM H6
Barriers to Spiritual Freedom: Habits of Emotions	6:30PM H2
Chancel Choir Rehearsal	7:30PM A4

### Thursday, February 23, 2017

Men's Breakfast Bible Study	7:00AM F5/6
MOPS - Mothers of Preschoolers	9:00AM H7
Executive Men's Club Mtg	11:00AM F5/6
Church Network Event	11:30AM H1
Lunch Conversations	12:00PM G2
Drumming for Health	6:00PM C1
Stephen Ministers Continuing Education/Supervision	6:00PM H5

### Friday, February 24, 2017

Brown Baggers Bible Study	12:00PM G2
Preschool Staff Meeting	12:00PM F1
AEA Curriculum Committee	1:00PM H5

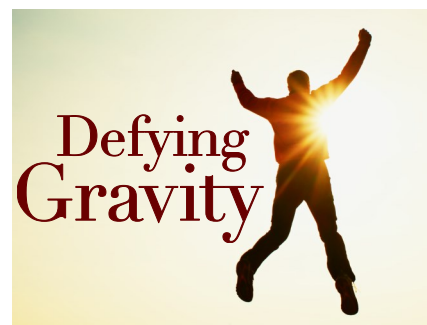
### Saturday, February 25, 2017

Open Table	9:00AM G2
Enneagram: Moving Beyond the Triggers and Blindspots of your Personality	9:00AM H1

### Ash Wednesday, March 1

**Wednesday, March 1 is Ash Wednesday** and the beginning of Lent. The clergy will have ashes available on the bridges and walkways in the morning for those who are dropping off children at the Preschool, and we will have two services: one at 12 noon in the chapel and one at 6:30 pm in the sanctuary. [Read More\\*](#)

## Looking Ahead at PVUMC



### 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 **TODAY, February 19** at 10:45 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 three 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\\*](#)

### Meeting Scheduled TODAY

PVUMC members who still have concerns about the proposed welcoming and inclusivity movement are invited to attend an 11 am meeting in Room H1. Please contact Dave Lex if you have questions: 602.448.3478.



### Paradise Perk Perk Purchases Support Youth Missions

The Paradise Perk is open Sundays, 9 am-1 pm. Every purchase you make there supports youth missions and ministry. The Perk is managed by volunteers, led by Shannon Curkendoll, Perk manager. Even though the youth are on their winter retreat, the Perk is still open. Thanks, Eric and Amber! Stop by and support youth missions.



### Death and Dying Explored

On **Thursday, March 2**, clergy from three faiths present the final session, "After Life (?)," of the Salaam-Chai-Paradise event on Jewish, Christian and Muslim views about Death and Dying: "The End of Life Here... and the Life Hereafter (?)." The first session was on "Caring for the Terminally Ill," held at Temple Chai in January and the second was at PVUMC in February. Come at 6:30 pm to register, have refreshments and chat. The program begins at 7 pm.

[Read More\\*](#)



# Looking Ahead at PVUMC



## Support Youth Missions

The Mission Dinner and Auction is next week, **Sunday, February 26**. This fundraising event benefits all our youth mission trips and youth choir tour. Buy your dinner tickets today on the patio after worship or online at [GIVE NOW](#). Choose "Missions" and include "youth mission dinner" in the comments. If you have last-minute donations for the auction, email [Christopher Wurpts](#), youth ministries director, or call/text him at 712.348.3791.



[Read More\\*](#)

## Spring 2017 Pathways

Our [Spring 2017 Pathways](#) program encourages you to "Step Out of Your Pew and Onto a Path."

[Read More\\*](#)

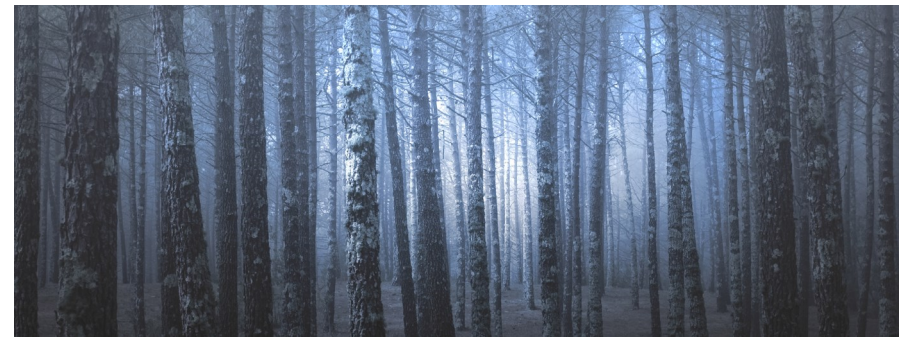


## 2017 International Mission Teams Need Stakeholders

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\\*](#)



## Lent 2017: Gifts of the Dark Wood Books and Classes

PVUMC invites you to experience the *Gifts of the Dark Wood*, the church-wide Lenten study for 2017. Each chapter in Eric Elnes' book focuses on different types of unexpected gifts we find when we're in a dark place — lost, uncertain, tempted, alone — or when we feel we somehow don't belong. The nine-chapter book costs \$12, and is available on the patio on Sunday mornings after worship.\* You can pay for the book using [GIVE NOW](#) at [pvumc.org](#) (choose "other" and type "Lenten study book—2017" in the comments section). To get the most out of the book, we invite you to join one of our Pathways classes listed below, and study it with others in our faith community. See the website for class updates: <http://pvumc.org/2017/01/30/lent-2017-gifts-of-the-dark-wood/>.

- Sunday:** SPIRIT – 9:30 am, F8 (Fireside Room)  
Wesley Sunday School Group – 11 am, G2 (Library)  
New Testament Bible Study – 11 am, H4
- Monday:** Pastor Eve's Book Study – 6:30 pm, H3 – Starting 2/27
- Tuesday:** Caring Bible Study – 10:30 am, A2 (Parlor) – Starting 3/7
- Wednesday:** Susanna Circle – 9:30 am, A2 (Parlor)  
Pastor's Bible Study – 10:30 am, F8 (Fireside Room)  
Sojourners – 4 pm, G2 (Library) – Starting 2/15  
Growing Together in Our Walk – 6 pm, F8 (Fireside Room)
- Friday:** Brown Baggers – 12 noon, G2 (Library)

\* The Adult Learning Ministry Team is collecting Advent books to send to other churches who may not have the resources to purchase their own books. Drop them off Sunday when you pick up your new book, or in the church office.

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