

Defying Gravity

Break Free from
the Culture of More

Breaking Free by JP Coughlin

The word “stewardship” is floating around the church a lot these days. We hear it from our pastors in the pulpit, see it written in the *Desert Scroll* newsletter, and it’s here in our bulletin. For many people, it means it’s that time of year where the church asks for money to set the budget, and the faithful open their purses or wallets. Stewardship has become a synonym for giving.

However, stewardship has little to do with giving money to the church. By definition, a steward is simply someone who manages another person’s money or property. The mistake we make, as Christians, is that we assume that our wealth is ours.

God owns it all: the cattle on the hills, and the hills themselves. God doesn’t need our money, because it’s not ours

to begin with. We are only asked to manage God’s gifts, as stewards.

Proverbs 3:9 asks us to “Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the first fruits of everything you produce.” God claims the first fruits of everything. They belong to God. When we apply the principle of First Fruits or First Things First in our lives, we begin to see that all firsts should be given to the Lord: the first part of the day, the first day of the week, and the first of our income.

Pledging is a promise to reserve God’s first fruits. As stewards, we promise to reserve the best of the harvest to support God’s work. Each time we give, each time we understand that we’re not the owner of these things, we move along the spectrum from selfish to selfless.

This is the paradigm shift. This is how we break free.

Paradise Valley United Methodist Church

Defying Gravity

Break Free from
the Culture of More

February 12, 2017

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 JP Coughlin’s message inside this *Looking Ahead* about “Breaking Free” and learn more about how your gifts support ministry. Take a look at the “Frequently Asked Questions” and get ready to make your commitment **March 5**. [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

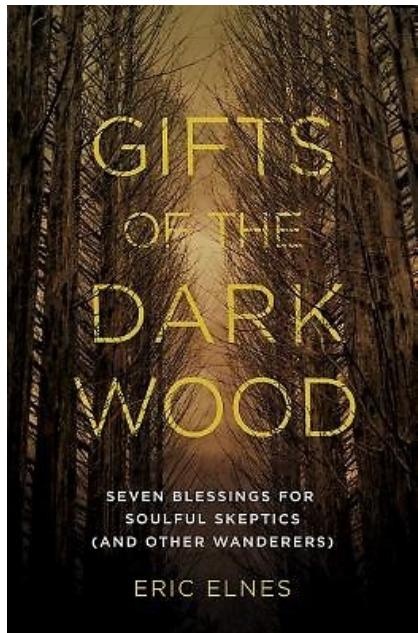
We offer two traditional services and one alternative service:

- 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.

Looking Ahead at PVUMC



You're Invited to Lunch and a Roundtable Discussion

Join us for the church's final roundtable discussion on the issue of PVUMC Welcoming and Inclusivity **TODAY, February 12**, in the Fellowship Center. If you RSVP'd for lunch, please come at 12:15 pm. The event will begin at 12:30 pm. Review, discuss and recommend one or more of several possible welcoming statements which the church may adopt at a later time.

[Read More*](#)

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. Pick up a list when you purchase your book or visit our website. The team is also collecting the Advent book, *Sent*, in an effort to recycle this study and provide books for another church. Thanks for promoting learning at PVUMC and beyond.

[Read More*](#)

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



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.

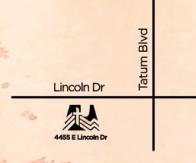


Dueling Divas: Americana

Friday, March 31, 2017 at 7pm, Sanctuary

PVUMC's own director of music and arts ministries, Ashley Snavley, 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>



Paradise Valley United Methodist Church
4455 East Lincoln Drive • Paradise Valley, AZ 85253
602.840.8360 • pvumc.org



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>



Inviting Prayers of Intercession

Joys:

God's abundant love

Hospital/Outpatient:

Hospice Care:

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

Deaths:

Cash J. Beechler, father of Cash Beechler

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; David Johnson, friend of Diane Tooker; Garry Lozier; Martha Merold; 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:

Defying Gravity
Giving Campaign
Discussions around PVUMC Welcoming and Inclusivity
International Mission Teams and their Stakeholders

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/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 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

This Week at PVUMC

Sunday, February 12, 2017

Worship Service	8:00AM C1
Worship Service	9:30AM A1
SPIRIT Sunday School	9:30AM F8
Preschool Sunday Classes	9:30AM E4 E7 E8
Praise Singers	9:30AM H1
Children's Sunday Classes	9:30AM E10 E11 E12 E13 H3
Grades K-4	9:30AM E10
Squad 57 Class	9:30AM H6
Youth: SML	9:30AM E14
Mini Singers	10:30AM E9
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	11:15AM C1
Reconciling Ministry Roundtable on Welcoming Statements	12:15PM F1
YAL Lunch & Discussion	12:30PM
Off campus	
Youth Handbell Rehearsal	3:15PM A3
Youth Choir Rehearsal	4:00PM A4
Squad 57 Girls Meetup	5:00PM E14

Monday, February 13, 2017

Mustard Seed Bible Study	9:00AM F8
The M&Ms - Monday Morning Moms	
Book Study w/Pastor Dave	9:15AM Perk
Men's Emmaus	
Covenant Group	4:00PM F8
Church & Society Ministry	
Team Meeting	6:00PM H5
Journey of Faith: An Introduction to Pathways	6:30PM F8
Worship, Music & Fine Arts	
Ministry Team Meeting	7:00PM A2/3
Boy Scouts - Troop #30	7:00PM F1 G2

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



Tuesday, February 14, 2017

Staff Meetings	9:00AM G2
Caring Bible Study	10:30AM
	Off campus
Church Directory	
Photo Sessions	1:00PM E14
PSPRC Meeting	5:30PM G2

Wednesday, February 15, 2017

Project Cure Service Project	8:00AM
	Off campus
Preschool Board Meetings	9:00AM H5
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
Church Directory	
Photo Sessions	1:00PM E14
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
Barriers to Spiritual Freedom: Habits of Emotions	6:30PM H2
Chancel Choir Rehearsal	7:30PM A4

Thursday, February 16, 2017

Men's Breakfast Bible Study	7:00AM F5/6
Saguaro Program and Potluck Lunch	10:00AM F1
Lunch Conversations	12:00PM G2
Church Directory	
Photo Sessions	1:00PM E14
Finance Ministry Team Mtg	6:00PM G2
Salaam-Chai-Paradise "Rituals for the Deceased" Seminar	6:00PM F1

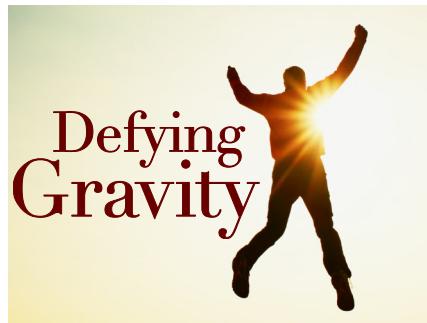
Friday, February 17, 2017

Brown Baggers Bible Study	12:00PM G2
Church Directory	
Photo Sessions	1:00PM E14

Saturday, February 18, 2017

Church Directory	
Photo Sessions	10:00AM E14
Saguaro Event	11:00AM
	Off campus

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 on **Sunday, 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 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*](#)

Meeting Scheduled Feb 19

After attending today's Roundtable, 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.

Join the Saguaro February 16 for a Program and Potluck

The Saguaro group welcomes Anthony Rolando, US Accordion Champion, and his wife, Valerie Vacco for a musical performance on Thursday, February 16 at 10 am in the Fellowship Center. Bring a potluck dish to share and \$3. Menu: A-C, salad; D-L, desert; and M-Z, main dish. To join the Saguaro mailing list and receive invitations to their monthly lunches, contact Gretchen Holt, 602.840.8360 or gholt@pvumc.org.



Paradise Perk Purchases Support Youth Missions

The Paradise Perk is open on Sundays, 9 am-1 pm, and every purchase you make there supports youth missions and ministry. The Perk is managed by volunteers. If you'd like to join their team, talk with Shannon Cerkendoll, Perk manager.

Looking Ahead at PVUMC



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. Buy your dinner tickets today on the patio after worship and donate items of value from local businesses for the auction. 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*](#)



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*](#)

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 Andress



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



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.