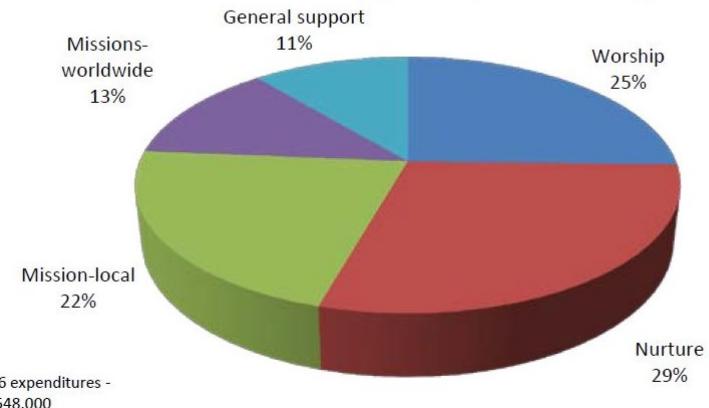


Paradise Valley United Methodist Church

Your Gifts Support Our Ministry



Frequently Asked Questions

Why should I give?

As Christians, we understand that everything we have comes from God. We give out of love and gratitude for God, and to support God's work through the church.

How much should I give? 10 percent?

The Bible teaches us giving in proportion to the material blessings we receive. We encourage committing a percentage of your income and increasing that percentage over time. Tithing means giving the first tenth or 10 percent of your income to God.

When should I give?

Regular, faithful giving cultivates a lifestyle of generosity and connects our generosity to our blessings. Pledge to give consistently — weekly, monthly, quarterly or annually.

Two Ways to Pledge

There are two ways to pledge your commitment to PVUMC: via our online form or via a pledge card. Both show your commitment to PVUMC, so choose just one.

Pledging 101: Two Ways

1) Online: Visit pvumc.org/pledge on February 27, 2017 or after and fill out the online form. When you finish, you will have the option to set up automatic electronic payments.

2) Pledge Card: If you prefer, complete a pledge card and bring it to worship on **March 5, Commitment Sunday**, or return it to the church office. Please contact us if you have questions. Call 602.840.8360 or email giving@pvumc.org. Your pledges help us determine our budget for 2017-2018. By pledging your support early, we can better budget for the future.

Start Your New Amount NOW

Instead of waiting until we begin our new fiscal year on July 1, 2017 to begin your new amount, why not begin NOW? Our new **God's Love in Action™** option allows you to start Defying Gravity NOW. Thank you for pledging your support to PVUMC. [Read More*](#)

Paradise Valley United Methodist Church

Defying Gravity

Break Free from
the Culture of More

February 26, 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 Cheryl Del Monte's message inside this *Looking Ahead* — "Practicing Generosity" — which she wrote based on Lydia's story and Paul's letters in the Bible and using the outside resource, *All the Women of the Bible*, by Edith Deen. Lydia is an example of someone who practices generosity every day. **March 5** is Commitment Sunday, when we ask you to be like Lydia and help build up our church by pledging to PVUMC. [Read More*](#)

Mission

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

Sunday Morning Worship

- 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 **NEXT Sunday, March 5**.

Sermons and Scriptures

Sermons and scriptures are posted online at pvumc.org.

Christian Education

- Sunday School classes for children at 9:30 am
- Childcare at all services
- Youth Mission Dinner and Auction fundraiser begins at 5:30 pm tonight. \$40/ticket.



God's Love in Action™

Looking Ahead at PVUMC



Support Youth Missions

The Mission Dinner and Auction is TONIGHT, **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](#). Tickets cost \$40/person. If you can't attend, please consider making a donation. Choose "Missions" and include "youth mission dinner" in the comments. Email [Christopher Wurpts](#), youth ministries director, or call/text him at 712.348.3791 for more information.

[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*](#)

Defying Gravity

Break Free from
the Culture of More

Practicing Generosity by Cheryl Del Monte

Lydia was a businesswoman who sold purple cloth dyed using the secretions of a particular shellfish found in the Aegean Sea. She lived in Philippi — now called Philippi — in Greece, on the northern panhandle. Though a Gentile, Lydia chose to worship the one Jewish God, rather than multiple gods, like most Gentiles of the area. One Sunday Sabbath in 50 or 60 AD, Lydia sought out a place to pray by the seaside.

Paul and Silas saw the small group of women with Lydia, who were praying and seeking spiritual understanding. When Lydia heard Paul's message of Jesus that day, she knew she had at last found a faith she could embrace.

It wasn't long until Lydia and members of her household were baptized, and Lydia invited Paul and Silas to be guests in her home. Lydia became the first Christian woman in Europe, opening her doors to believers and helping the small church to grow. Paul wrote letters to the Philippians, encouraging

them to think on things that were "honest, just, pure, lovely and of good report" (Phil. 4:8). And exhorting them with: "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" (Phil. 4:13).

Lydia possessed a great generosity of spirit. She invested in the church of Jesus Christ by opening her home to others of the faith and by using her considerable wealth to build up a fledgling church. Paul and other disciples who followed knew to make their way to Lydia's home for safety and shelter. Because of Lydia's commitment to the faith, the words of Christ spread far and wide in Europe.

In the United States, we fought for our freedom to choose how we worship. We often take for granted the freedoms bought for us with bloodshed on battlefields around the world. So often, we practice generosity out of a feeling of obligation or tied to a selfish "what's in it for me?" attitude. But Lydia found a faith strong enough for her to find joy in risking everything to build up the church. When we get it right, like Lydia, we practice generosity with a faith that leads to lifelong stewardship.

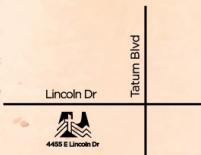


Dueling Divas: Americana

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>



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

Inviting Prayers of Intercession

Joys:

Bob and Joan Morgan's 60th wedding anniversary

Hospice Care:

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

Continuing Concerns:

Joel Antley; Carolanne Fulterton, friend of Nora Conover; Verna Grice, mother of Laurel Hickok; Jacob Hagerman; Pat Heath, sister-in-law of Brady Heath; 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:

Defying Gravity Giving Campaign
International Mission Teams and their Stakeholders
Youth Mission Dinner and Auction fundraiser tonight

Our Community, Nation and World:

All those in need
Family and Friends serving in the military

* 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.

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.

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+).



Children and Stewardship

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

This Week at PVUMC

Sunday, February 26, 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		
Grades K-4	9:30AM	E10
	E11 E12 E13 H3	
Squad 57 Class	9:30AM	H6
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
Youth Handbell Rehearsal	3:15PM	A3
Youth Choir Rehearsal	4:00PM	A4
Youth Mission Dinner and Auction Fundraiser	5:30PM	F1

Monday, February 27, 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
Lenten Study led by Pastor Eve	6:30PM	H3
Boy Scouts Court of Honor	6:30PM	A1
Boy Scouts - Troop #30	7:00PM	F1
		G2

Tuesday, February 28, 2017

Staff Meetings	9:00AM	G2
Caring Bible Study	10:30AM	A2
Foundation Meeting	4:30PM	F8
Church Council Meeting	6:30PM	F5/6
Youth - Christian Group of Young Men (CGYM)	7:00PM	E14

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



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*](#)

Wednesday, March 1, 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
Ash Wednesday		
Worship Service	12:00PM	C1
VBC Planning Team	1:00PM	H4
Music Makers	4:30PM	A4
Sojourners	4:30PM	G2
Yoga	6:00PM	H1
Bells of Paradise Rehearsal	6:00PM	A3
Ash Wednesday		
Worship Service	6:30PM	A1
Barriers to Spiritual Freedom:		
Habits of Emotions	6:30PM	H2
Chancel Choir Rehearsal	7:30PM	A4

Thursday, March 2, 2017

Men's Breakfast Bible Study	7:00AM	F5/6
Lunch Conversations	12:00PM	G2
Women's Group	1:00PM	A2
Salaam-Chai-Paradise Seminar	6:30PM	F1

Friday, March 3, 2017

Brown Baggers Bible Study	12:00PM	G2
Mill Ave Chamber Players	7:00PM	A1

Saturday, March 4, 2017

AEA Board Meeting	10:00AM	H5
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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.



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>



Looking Ahead at PVUMC

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 Cerkendoll, Perk manager. Stop by and support youth missions, and if you'd like to volunteer, talk with Shannon.



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 Herafter (?)." 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*](#)



Contribute to Qualifying Charities, Receive Tax Credit

When you make a direct contribution to qualifying charitable organizations that help the homeless, elderly, foster children and others in need in Arizona, you can get a dollar-for-dollar Arizona state tax credit up to \$800. You have until **April 18, 2017** to contribute.

[Read More*](#)



March 18 – Raku Workshop

Musette Young, local Raku expert and artist, will lead a pottery painting and Raku firing workshop on **Saturday, March 18**. To RSVP for "The Gift of Emptiness," 9 am-12 noon, email Kathleen Kupper at kathleen.kupper@gmail.com. You may pay the \$25 fee separately. The class is limited to 12 adult participants. Students 6th grade and up may attend with an adult.



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 – Starting 2/22
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.