

August/Sept 2017

Paradise Valley United Methodist Church

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Journeys: Choose Your Itinerary and Go

PVUMC's new *Journeys* small group ministry invites you to travel with others on the pathway to faith. It's up to you to decide where you'll go and what path you'll take to get there. Discover where God is leading you, explore areas of spiritual growth and renewal, and connect with others. Who will your traveling companions be? What will you discover about yourself, your faith, and about those who are journeying with you? Where will you see God and where will God meet you? Read more on pages 6-7.



Back-to-School Blessing Sunday, August 20

If there's one place for us to celebrate the start of a new school year, full of possibilities and hope, why wouldn't it be at church? After all, isn't our God one of new beginnings? In the book of Genesis, we read how God created the world out of nothingness. In the book of Revelation, we are given a vision of the Creator, sitting on a majestic throne, proclaiming, "Behold, I am making all things new!" Through the death and resurrection of Jesus, the apostle Paul reminds us that we have each been given the opportunity to start anew, casting off our old selves and living as (you guessed it) *new* creations. Join us as we bless our children and youth on **Sunday, August 20**. Praise God for new beginnings!

Desert Scroll Deadline

Have a story to share? The copy deadline is the 10th of the preceding month.

Pam R. Selthun, Editor

info@pvumc.org



Bible Blast: Sunday, August 27

Third graders, and any 4th graders who missed this event last year, are invited to the Bible Blast on **Sunday, August 27**. RSVP for your child to receive a *SPLASH Deep Blue Bible*, presented at the 9:30 am worship service. The Bible Blast event follows. Email Rev. Brenda Smith, brenda@pvumc.org, by **August 20** to reserve a Bible and participate.



New Member Orientation

Are you interested in learning more about PVUMC and perhaps joining our church as a member? Come to the next New Member Orientation on **Wednesday, September 13**, at 6:30 pm, with an invitation to join in worship **Sunday, September 17**. RSVP to 602-840-8360, the church office, and let us know if you need childcare.



Find Us on Social Media and on the Website

PVUMC has several active social media channels for you to follow and engage with others. Find us on Twitter @PVUMC, Instagram @pvumc and like us on Facebook at *ParadiseValleyUMC*, *ParadisePerk*, *PVUMC.Serendipities* and *pvumcpreschool*. Visit our website for [news](http://pvumc.org/news) and more. Our staff listing is at: pvumc.org/contact/staff-directory/. At pvumc.org/connect/worship-services/listen-previous-sermons/, you're invited to listen to previous sermons.



Feed My Starving Children

We invite you to pack meals with us once a month at the [Feed My Starving Children](#) warehouse: 1345 S Alma School Rd, Mesa, AZ 85210. Join us on **Saturday, August 12** or **September 9**, 4:30-6:30 pm. Register to participate by emailing Jim Bateman, jnbateman@aol.com. Include your name, phone number, number of participants, and emails for those over age 18. With the help of 1.1 million volunteers in 2016-17, FMSC fed nearly 800,000 starving children every day!

Mingus Celebrates 70 Years

On July 4th, 130 people traveled to Mingus Camp and Retreat Center to celebrate 70 years of camping ministries. Jack Shaffer served as Mingus Site Committee Chair and Master of Ceremonies for the Anniversary Dedication service. The weekend celebration included opportunities to fish, try out the zip line, and visit the archery range. PVUMC member Clint Miller brought his desert animals and reptiles for a discovery education session and Papa Jon Hearn, who received a volunteer award, led a craft time. The Rev. Ron Bartlow of Trinity United Methodist Church in Flagstaff gave the message at the service, and Shaffer presented awards to many who have made Mingus such a special place. An "All American" picnic prepared by the camp chefs and staff, including site directors Mike and Barbara Crevelt, followed the ceremony, which was attended by previous directors and staff. The day ended with a bus trip to see the Cottonwood Fireworks and s'mores by the campfire. More than \$11,000 was raised to start the Camp Mingus Endowment Fund and raise funds to build a new dining hall. If you would like to donate, please contact Dina Reid at 602-266-6956, ext 215, or DReid@dscumc.org.

Family Sunday, Sept 3

Join us for worship Labor Day weekend. Praise Paks are available for your children to use in worship, and childcare is available at all services. Preschool classes meet at 9:30 am.



Join Mini-Singers August 20

Shari Paris leads music at 10:30 am every Sunday morning during the school year for our littlest singers, 3 years to kindergarten. Teachers escort their students to the music class if they are signed up to go. Twice a year, Mini-Singers have a concert following 9:30 am worship. Music for older children and youth begins **Sunday, August 27**. Choir rehearsals for adults begin **Wednesdays, September 6**. Contact [Ashley Snaveley](#), director of music and arts ministries, for more information, 602-840-8360, ext 116.



Fall Classes Resume August 20

All students and teachers are asked to join us for 9:30 am worship **Sunday, August 20** for our Back-to-School blessing. Sunday School begins with all children, kindergarten and older, in the sanctuary. The preschoolers go directly to their classes.

Interested In Teaching?

Teaching teams are forming now and substitutes are always welcome. The 2-4 year-olds follow the [Deep Blue Cokesbury curriculum](#). Kindergartners experience [Godly Play](#) led by Lori Wiggs and her teaching team in E12/13; Bethany Taylor and her team use the [Way of the Child](#) curriculum with the 1st and 2nd graders in E10/11, and the 3rd and 4th graders explore their *Deep Blue Bibles* under the guidance of Meg Wolfe and Jennie Folts in H3. If you are interested in teaching, please come to the **Fall Teacher Orientation** at 9 am in H1 on **Saturday, August 12**.



Acolytes Dedicated in Worship

All 4th-8th graders are invited to serve as acolytes at the 9:30 am worship service. They bring the light of Christ, assist with communion and baptism, and take the light of Christ out of the service at the close. Training is **Sunday, August 13**. Dedication is the next Sunday. RSVP to Kimberly Peterson, Peterson.kk@cox.net or [Rev. Brenda Smith](#).

Syrian Sweets Event on October 1

Paradise Valley United Methodist Church hosts the 4th Syrian Sweets Exchange Phoenix on **Sunday, October 1**. The event focuses on providing support for local refugees by providing a venue where they can sell their homemade baked goods as well as other handmade items to support their families and build understanding and friendship within the community.

Read more at pvumc.org/news.



All-Embracing Ministry Team

The Reconciling Ministry Team has adopted a new name and a new mission. As the All-Embracing Ministry Team, the group hopes to live into our new invitational statement by reaching out to the LGBTQ community through ministry and mission. In the fall and early 2018, the team plans to invite speakers to the church campus to help us better understand the perspectives of those in the LGBTQ community. The Open Table Ministry recently graduated a transgender young adult from the program, who transitioned from homelessness to wholeness in a year. The team will look at connecting with other organizations like One-n-Ten, which serves LGBTQ at-risk youth, and One Community AZ, which fosters business relationships with an emphasis on inclusion. Look for changes to the church website as we declare ourselves an All-Embracing Church.

Centering Prayer Practice

Wednesdays in September and October, you're invited to join a Centering Prayer Practice in the meditation room, H6, 6:15-7:30 pm. Twice a month, beginning **Wednesday, September 13**, experience meditative silence and a method of prayer which helps us experience God's presence in a chaotic, busy world. Read more at pvumc.org/news.

Interfaith 9/11 Food Drive

Our Muslim brothers and sisters have partnered with our church and others for a 9/11 Food Drive. Please bring dry or canned food items to the church on **Sunday, September 10**. Food will be distributed to the Christian-sponsored Extended Hands Food Bank, www.ehfb.org, in Fountain Hills, and the Muslim-sponsored Cultural Cup Food Bank in downtown Phoenix, www.culturalcup.com.

UMOM Food Drive

Every first Sunday of the month, we invite you to bring nonperishable food items to donate to families at UMOM New Day Centers. We also have a dinner service mission opportunity at UMOM. Read more on the church blog at pvumc.org/news.

PVUMC: A Place to Belong

In September, PVUMC begins a new worship series called “A Place to Belong.” We’ll talk about how we can create community and transform lives by bringing God’s love into action.



PVUMC: A Place to Belong

Everyone wants to belong. In July, we looked at how we can be more inclusive to those on the margins of society: the disabled, the mentally ill, the poor. In August, we look at how to reboot our lives by trusting God, even when we make fatal mistakes or suffer terrible loss. In September, we invite you to find a place to belong at PVUMC by participating in *Journeys*, our new small group ministry. No matter where you’re at on your faith journey, you’ll find a place to belong at PVUMC and we hope you’ll find common ground.



Be God's love in Action

PVUMC has an active missions ministry, with monthly service projects at St Mary’s Food Bank, Project Cure, UMOM and FMSC. A recent home build with Habitat for Humanity drew people from all life stages — millennials, gen xers and boomers. If using your hands or feet strengthens your spirit, look at our missions opportunities to be God’s love in action.



Navigating Common Ground

In partnership with Salaam-Chai-Paradise, PVUMC invites you to explore your worldview, beliefs, cultural awareness and prejudices. PVUMC members Keith Sobraske, Stu Selthun and Ian Quinn have organized *Navigating Common Ground* to help you better understand your neighbors and yourself as you explore different perspectives and perceptions. Join us for **TED Talks on Thursdays, September 7, 14, 21 and 28**. Read more at pvumc.org/news.

Explore. Discover. Connect.

Where is God leading you to explore, discover and connect? Pray about it. Talk to others. Ask questions. There are no right or wrong answers. Take a leap of faith and choose a path.



Renew Your Mind

Journeys small groups ministry includes Bible studies and book-based classes for people of all ages and walks of life. Pick up your *Journeys* booklet on **Sunday, September 10** and choose an itinerary — a class, a group or a project that interests you. Can't decide where to go? Tour Guides will be at the dessert tables on **September 24, Celebration Sunday**, to help you find your way.

Groups for All Stages of Life



No matter what life stage you're in, you'll find a place to belong as you *explore, discover* and *connect* with others. Families with young children may want to check out Modern Family; parents with teenagers may want to serve at FMSC.

Retirees have Saguaros and young adults have YAL. Others may want to find an inter-generational group. We have those too. A Disciple Fast Track class and a class that asks us how we can be better Christians are among the itineraries you can choose. Read more at pvumc.org/news and get on board.



Finding Common Ground

After learning more about yourself and others in *Navigating Common Ground*, you're invited to journey further in *Finding Common Ground*. This series of scholarly lectures and roundtables in October invites you to take your new-found knowledge and apply it to PVUMC and those in your community. Wesley asks, "Though we cannot think alike, may we not love alike?" Our vision is to have a love that crosses all barriers and embraces all people.

Serendipities Gift Shop

Serendipities reopens on **Sunday, September 10** at 9 am with 50 percent off selected merchandise. All proceeds support local missions.



MOPS Begins August 24

MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers) connects moms of children from birth-five years old, and it's one of the *Journeys* groups this year. Embrace the journey of motherhood with other moms at PVUMC MOPS, beginning **Thursday, August 24**.

PVUMC MOPS meets the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month, August-May, 9-11 am, in room H7. Enjoy breakfast together and hear meaningful speakers at every session. Quality childcare is available with a 48-hour advance reservation.

The year's theme, "Free Indeed," invites you to *Let Love Be the Loudest Voice*, *Be Gutsy*, and *Go First*. The faith-based and open-minded group has a Facebook group, offers moms' nights out, and includes international MOPS membership for a \$90 annual fee.

For more information, visit:

www.mops.org/groups/pvumc

Join our Facebook group: [PVUMC MOPS](#)

Contact the MOPS coordinators:

Jenn Coughlin (jennhcoughlin@gmail.com)

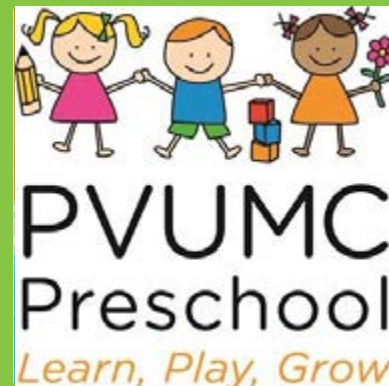
or Sarah Quinn (sarahquinn@ymail.com)

modern family at pvumc

Like the hit TV show, *Modern Family*, we know that families come in all shapes and sizes. If you have school-age or younger children, we invite you to check out our Modern Family class on Sunday mornings. Parents with young children are invited to be in community together as you explore, discover and connect on parenting and faith issues. Come learn more at the kick-off lunch on **Sunday, August 27** (place TBA), and join the group for the first class on **Sunday, September 10** at 11 am in room H5, where the group will watch and talk about the movie, *The Case for Christ*. Discuss how one man's journey from disbelief to conviction relates to our families and children.

PVUMC Preschool Begins New Year

PVUMC Preschool begins its 2017-2018 year with a parent orientation on **Monday, August 14**. In an article posted on the PVUMC website, PVUMC Preschool Director Mindy Sobraske shares her appreciation for the staff, teachers and Preschool Board, and talks about plans for improvement. Now in the third year of their five-year NAEYC Accreditation cycle, she is looking at adding a STEM component to the curriculum. Read more below and at pvumc.org/news.



As I think about the 2017-2018 preschool year, I feel like it's a good time in our accreditation journey to focus on making improvements to our teaching curriculum and the learning opportunities offered in our classrooms and outdoor play environments.

I have been reading and researching information on STEM — Science, Technology, Engineering and Math — in the early childhood setting. Preschoolers spontaneously engage in STEM activities on a regular basis, and we already offer several STEM experiences in our classrooms, but with a little more intentional guidance, we can further enhance children's opportunities to engage in STEM learning and their development of critical thinking and problem-solving skills. A new adventure awaits! — *Mindy Sobraske, PVUMC Preschool* (read more at pvumc.org/news)



UMOM Walk at the Phoenix Zoo

You're invited to join Team PVUMC for the annual UMOM Walk for Homeless Families and Youth on **Saturday, September 23**, at the Phoenix Zoo. In the past, the church has raised thousands of dollars in donations toward ending the cycle of homelessness in Maricopa County. We have a goal of 50 walkers and hope to raise \$5,000 in support of the homeless families and youth that UMOM serves. Look for posters and information about how to join Team PVUMC in the weekly *From Paradise E-News* and at pvumc.org/news. Be God's love in action!

Walk to Emmaus in October

The Walk to Emmaus is a three-day Christian Spiritual Renewal retreat at PVUMC. This three-day intensive journey includes singing, learning, laughing, worshipping, reflecting, praying and participating in small groups. It is an invitation to have a closer walk with Christ for the rest of your life. A Men's Walk is scheduled for **Oct. 12-15**; the Women's Walk is **Oct 19-22**. To register, contact [Rev. Andrea Andress](mailto:Rev.Andrea.Andress@pvumc.org) at the church office.

Pledge to PVUMC

Making a commitment to support PVUMC helps us honor our mission to be God's love in action. Visit <https://pvumc.org/pledge/> today!



End-of-Year Finance Report

Where Are We Now? Through the 12 months of Fiscal Year 2017, June 2017 year-to-date total receipts were lower than budget by \$10,126. Expenditures were under budget by \$60,345. These are preliminary results and subject to review by our CPA firm. Contact Church Administrator Mickey Price, mprice@pvumc.org or 602-840-8360.

June 2017

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>
Receipts	\$2,005,000	\$1,994,874
Disbursements	<u>2,015,000</u>	<u>1,954,655</u>
Net receipts over (under) disbursements	<u>\$(10,000)</u>	<u>\$40,219</u>



Financial Peace University

J.P. and Jenn Coughlin return this fall to teach Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University (FPU) **Tuesdays, September 12-November 14** (no class on Halloween).

FPU teaches God's ways of handling money through videos, class discussions and interactive small group activities (like cutting up credit cards!). Learn biblical, practical steps to get from where you are to where you've dreamed you could be. Whether you make \$30,000 a year or \$300,000 a year, this class will help you make peace with your pocketbook.

The FPU classes begin at 6 pm and meet for around an hour and a half each week for nine weeks. The cost is \$93 per family. Register today online at <https://fpu.com/1041540>. Financial assistance is available. Free, quality childcare is available by calling 602-840-8360, ext 134 at least 48 hours before the class. Call again to cancel. Questions? Email J.P. Coughlin jpcoughlin@gmail.com.



VBC 2017 Success

Many thanks to all the hard-working teen and adult

volunteers who helped lead 135 children at our week-long Vacation Bible Camp this July. Under the direction of Rev. Brenda Smith, 40 volunteers mobilized to teach, assist, take photos, and do games, crafts, and science at Hero Central. Thank you for being super heroes to all God's children!

Welcome Mary Maxie: New Prayer Coordinator

Mary Maxie joined the staff as the Prayer Chain Coordinator in July. She has been an active member of PVUMC since 2005. Originally from Canada, Mary has worked in real estate, business, and writing. She has also been an active volunteer with Girl Scouts and other organizations, and is a member of the adult Chancel Choir. To send a prayer request or to join the prayer chain, please email prayer@pvumc.org. A digital prayer request form is available at pvumc.org/contact/prayer-requests/.



Our Joys...

Births and Baptisms

The birth of Landen Alexander Dunn, April 28, to Kelley and Michael Dunn; grandparents are Janet and Gary Henglefeldt

The birth of Kennedy Jane Bode, June 3, to Tim and Jordan Bode; grandmother is Diana Bode

Baptism of Barron Kevin Tully, May 21, son of Keith and Reagan Tully

Baptism of Teagan Joelson, May 21, daughter of Cassandra Holmes and Greg Joelson

Weddings and Anniversaries

Wedding of Joe Dean and Dana Cecile Faris, June 3, 2017

Wedding of Julia Fincher, daughter of Richard and Mary-Jeanne Fincher, to Matt Grassi, June 3, 2017

50th Wedding Anniversaries:

Pat and Dan Bacon, June 24

Frieda and Jim Bateman, July 8

Our Christian Sympathies to...

Judith and Bruce Tunell on the death of her sister-in-law, Karen Moymer, May 13, 2017

Carol Mosser on the death of her mother, Iris McAfee, May 15, 2017

Peggy Howard on the death of her mother, Dorothy Yeoman, May 18, 2017

The family of Pat Heath on Pat's death, May 19, 2017

Bill Rimsza on the death of his mother, Elaine Rimsza, June 5, 2017

Jennie Folts on the death of her friend's daughter, Wendy Hosking-Spivey, June 11, 2017

Janice Novak on the death of her mother, Jean Martin, June 11, 2017

Jim Poley on the death of his mother, Catyann Poley, June 11, 2017

The family of Jean Martin on Jean's death, June 11, 2017

Susan Bedier on the death of her husband, Roger Bedier, June 12, 2017

The family of Winn Oliver on Winn's death, June 20, 2017

Christopher Miller on the death of his grandmother, Doris Miller, June 20, 2017

Bill Beverage on the death of his father, Bill Beverage, Sr., June 22, 2017

Elizabeth Bannister on the death of her mother, Ann Bannister, June 28, 2017



Paradise Valley United Methodist Church

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

Please share our good news with each member of your family.



From Paradise

By Dave Summers, Senior Pastor

All of us have made journeys. Do you recall a favorite journey? Maybe you took a trip that was exciting, filled with discovery, wonder or joy. Maybe you took more of a metaphorical or developmental journey where you found independence, became a professional, or deepened your faith. Some journeys are life changing. On **Sunday, September 10**, we'll unveil *Journeys*, a new small groups program at PVUMC. I invite each and every one of you to choose an itinerary, find some traveling companions and journey together. It will be new and exciting; it will allow you to grow spiritually. It will be an adventure!

When we take a journey of faith, we can explore, discover and connect with others. God works in us and transforms our faith, deepening our spiritual understanding as we learn to trust God more. As we journey with others, we make friends and learn to lean on each other. God longs for us to travel together.

We weren't made to stand still. Biblical characters provide examples of this, such as Abraham, who God called to leave home and venture to a new land. Later, Moses led the Israelites on a journey that lasted 40 years. But when they arrived in the Promised Land, they understood why they had to go so far. Mary and Joseph and Paul all made journeys of faith, and they rarely walked those roads alone. Jesus took the ultimate journey to the cross, but along the way, he traveled with his disciples and taught them to seek out brothers and sisters to travel with them. Every one of us is on a journey which ultimately takes us to our final and eternal home, but Jesus asks us to follow him NOW, to be his disciples, to learn from him. It is my heartfelt desire that everyone in our church walk more intentionally with Jesus, who shows us the way.

On July 1, our pastoral staff and respective responsibilities changed. Rev. Andrea Address and Rev. Brenda Smith are both full-time Deacons, with Pastor Brenda working as Director of Family Ministry, overseeing children's ministry programming as well as youth and young adults. She also works with the Fellowship Ministry Team, Open Table and emerging Disabilities Ministry. Pastor Andrea is Director of Spiritual Formation and Discipleship, assisting me in worship, and working with the newly combined Adult Learning/Transformational Living teams, Missions, Change the World Day, and Caring Ministries. She will also coordinate the *Journeys* small groups and oversee the new All-Embracing (formerly Reconciling) Ministry Team.

As Senior Pastor, I will continue to preach, lead our staff and clergy, and take on more responsibility for planning and coordinating the Ignite service. All of us will do visitations, weddings and funerals. This is a season of change at PVUMC, and I invite you to hold the church in prayer as we journey where God leads.

— Pastor Dave Summers, pastordave@pvumc.org