

# COMMUNITY CHURCH *of the Verdes*

*February 15, 2026*



## ORDER OF WORSHIP

## *Time for Centering*

### *This Sunday's Sermon: "Lead Us Not into Temptation"*

When Jesus teaches us to pray, "Lead us not into temptation," he invites us to trust God not only with our failures, but with our future. Like the shepherd of Psalm 23, God does not promise a path without valleys, but faithful guidance—leading us beside still waters, restoring our souls, and walking with us even through the darkest places. Temptation so often grows out of anxiety about what lies ahead and our urge to take control of what we fear to lose. As C.S. Lewis writes, "There is no future of which we can be afraid, since God is already there." This sermon explores how this petition of the Lord's Prayer calls us to release our grip on tomorrow and to follow the Shepherd today, trusting the God who goes before us and walks with us all the way.

# *Order of Worship*

## *Prelude*

## *Welcome & Announcements*

## *Call to Worship*

**Pastor:** *The Lord is our shepherd; we lack nothing.*

**People:** We trust in God's care.

**Pastor:** *God leads us beside still waters and restores our souls.*

**People:** *We come to worship the Lord.*

*\*Hymn of Praise*      *My Faith Looks Up to Thee*      #576

## *Call to Confession*

### *Prayer of Confession (spoken in unison)*

*Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.*

## *Silent Confession*

*Prayer Response*                    *Hear Our Prayer, O Lord*                    #306  
*Hear our prayer, O Lord, hear our prayer, O Lord, incline thine ear to us, and grant  
us thy peace, Amen.*

## *Assurance of Pardon*

*\*Congregational Response      Gloria Patri      #35*

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.*

\*Please stand as you are able

*\*Passing of the Peace*

*Call to Offering*

*Offertory*

*Pathway of Hope*

*(Martin)*

*\*Doxology*

*Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow*

*#46*

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host: Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

*\*Prayer of Dedication*

*Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer*

*Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.*

*Scripture*

*Psalm 23*

<sup>1</sup>The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.<sup>2</sup> He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters; <sup>3</sup>he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake. <sup>4</sup>Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. <sup>5</sup>You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.<sup>6</sup> Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD my whole life long.

*Leader:*      *The Word of the Lord.*

*People:*      *Thanks be to God.*

*Anthem*

*Teach Me Your Way, O Lord*

*(Larson)*

*Sermon*

*"Lead Us Not Into Temptation"*

*Time of Reflection*

*\*Closing Hymn*

*Just a Closer Walk with Thee*

*#557*

*Charge and Benediction*

*\*Closing Response*

*Go in the Grace of the Lord*

*(Barnard)*

## **\*Postlude**

### ***Music for today's worship includes:***

**Prelude:** Air from "Water Music" (G.F. Handel), A Mighty Fortress Is Our God with Awesome God (arr. Tornquist), Order My Steps (In Your Word) (arr. Schrader)

**Time of Reflection:** My Shepherd Will Supply My Need (arr. Wood)

**Postlude:** Old Ship of Zion (#539)

**Trio:** Debby Wojtas, Sara Bruton, Jeffrey Stevens

### ***Volunteers assisting with worship today:***

**Communion Table:** Rockee Coalson

**Badge Table:** Deb Barth and Bill Hickman

**Fellowship:** Jennifer Ristau, Jackie Williams and Sue Walsh

**Flower Committee:** Sharon Severson, Jennifer Ristau, Linda Paulos, Deb Barth

**Lector:** Debbie Etcheson

**Tellers:** Carol Horonzy and Frank Green

**Ushers:** Tom and Lisa Young

**Road Signs:** Bill Hickman and Ric Doerflinger

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Welcome members and guests!** If you are visiting for the first time, please stop by our badge table for a welcome gift. Visit our website [www.verdefaith.org](http://www.verdefaith.org) for additional information. **Please complete the Fellowship Pad** at the end of each pew; pass it along, and back. **Fellowship is held following worship** in Founders Hall.

**Attendance** at last Sunday's service was 267; 173 joined online.

**Today's flowers were donated by:** Nancy Sheppard: In loving memory of her husband Steve on what would have been his 70th birthday.

**Stephen Ministers** are trained, ready to listen, care, encourage, pray, and help through a crisis or difficult time. Contact one of our leaders, Donna Angiolillo, Glenda Hage, Debbie Etcheson, John Pasnau, Dan or Judy Villanueva.

**In need of prayers for you, your family, or friends?** Contact Joan Brunner at 480-471-7274, or Pastor Steve with requests, or if you would like to serve on the team.

**AA meetings are held weekly on Mondays at 8:00am** in the library.

**PAL (Parents of Addicted Loved Ones)** meetings are held every other Tuesday at 6:30 pm in the library. Next meeting is February 24th. Questions? Contact Greg & Weezy Smith at [lift5800@gmail.com](mailto:lift5800@gmail.com).

## SPIRITUAL THEME IN LITERATURE



The Spiritual Theme in Literature book discussion will be led by Winnie Leathers. The Book Club meets the second Thursday of each month in the Library @ 10:00am. The book for **February**-The Midnight Library by Matt Haig; **March**-American Dirt by Jeanine Cummins; **April**-Crying in the H Mart by Michelle Zauner; **May** - Before We Were Yours by Lisa Wingate. All are welcome.

## BIBLE STUDY



**Wednesday** at 11:00am Bible study: The Lord's Prayer with Pastor Steve is held in Founders' Hall. All are welcome.

**Thursday** Bible study with Ed Carpenter is held in Founders' Hall at 7:30am and 4:00pm. Both sessions are covering the same material. The subject is the Gospel of John. All are welcome.

## New Bible Study Begins Ash Wednesday: *The Seven Deadly Sins*

Beginning on February 18<sup>th</sup> (Ash Wednesday), Pastor Steve will lead a 6-week Lenten Bible study exploring the seven deadly sins—not as a list for shame, but as a spiritual diagnosis that names the habits and desires that distort our love of God and neighbor. Rooted in Scripture and the wisdom of the Christian tradition, the study invites honest self-examination, repentance, and the hope of transformation. The study meets Wednesdays at 11:00 a.m. in **Founders Hall** and is open to all.

Lent is a season for truth telling and grace; this study is an invitation to slow down, look within, and discover how God meets us not with condemnation, but with mercy and new life.

## BABS PLUNKETT

**“Choose Joy:**

***Three Keys to Investing Your Time in Retirement”***

**Monday February 23, 2026 @ 4:00pm**

Meet Babs!

“I am a passionate advocate for positive aging and joyful living. To help myself and others live joyfully, I became a Life Coach and Certified Professional Retirement Coach. As the author of the best-selling *Choose Joy: Three Keys to Investing Your Time in Retirement*, I interviewed over 100 people across the country, gaining their inspiration and insights on how to live with joyful purpose.” The interviews led Babs to discover that aging well is a choice; that joy is something we can choose.

***Curious about how to invest your time with joy and meaning?***

***Join us for this free presentation!***



## MISSIONS



**Lunch making and delivery for Justa Center:** The third Thursday of the month at 9:00am



**FHCMA Food Closet:** toothpaste, canned fruit, Saltine, and Ritz crackers



**Extended Hands Food Bank:** non-perishable food items



**Pad Project Ministry:** Monday's at 1:00pm



**Prayer Shawl Ministry:** 2nd Friday of the month @ 9:00am

## FEBRUARY MISSION DRIVE SUNSHINE ACRES



**This month, we are collecting items for Sunshine Acres. They provide a loving, Christian home to children separated from their parents to prepare them for a successful life. Please help by donating:**

- **Kids snacks**
- **Toothpaste and toothbrushes**
- **Individual hand soap bars**

**Items can be placed in the Blue Bin in the Narthex or in the church office doorway. Thank you!**

## GRIEF SUPPORT/SHARE GROUP

Open to all. Our Grief Support and Share Group meets every Thursday until March 12th. We will be meeting in the library from 3pm—4:30pm. If you have any questions, please contact Donna Angiolillo at 845-416-3445.



## ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

Join us on **Ash Wednesday (Feb 18th) 9:00 a.m.** in the **Chapel** for a brief service of prayer and Scripture, including the imposition of ashes, as we enter the season of Lent together.

# OPERATING FUND

**YTD Actual contributions  
through February 8 were  
\$78,315**

**YTD Budgeted contributions  
through February 8 were  
\$82,500**



**Support CCV Ministries & Missions with Online Giving**

**Thank you for your continuing support!**

**Please consider these other funds open to special giving in your estate planning...**

**Legacy Endowment Fund – current balance \$378,952**

The purpose of the Endowment Fund is to expand and enrich the mission of the congregation, to initiate new ministries or significantly change the scope of existing ministries. No more than 5% of the three year average fund assets may be distributed in any one year.

**Memorial Garden Fund – current balance \$482,645**

The purpose of the Memorial Garden Fund is to provide for the perpetual operation and maintenance of the Memorial Garden. Established in 1990, the Memorial Garden provides a resting place for the interment of the ashes of loved ones. It is open to current and former members and residents of Rio and Tonto Verde.

**Scholarship Fund – current balance \$20,153**

The Scholarship Fund promotes scholarships among young people involved in institutions we support through Mission giving. Recipients are chosen from applicants who are demonstrating academic excellence, commitment, and service in or to one of the following non-profit institutions or community: Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA), NPH (formerly Friends of the Orphans), Sunshine Acres. The Scholarship Fund's sole support is contributions from our members. Donors cannot be related to recipients.

**Did you know?... If you are age 70 1/2 or older, you can make a gift from your IRA to support the church.** It will not add to your federal taxable income; It counts toward your required minimum distribution, and allows you to experience a tax benefit, even if you do not itemize deductions. You should discuss any such gifts, before making them, with your financial advisor.

**The church is very appreciative of gifts from trusts, foundations, and stocks.** Occasionally, these gifts are received with no indication of who the donor is. So that we may properly recognize and record the gift, we ask that you either notify the church office or have your financial representative document the donor {and intent} when it is sent to us.

## WEEKLY CALENDAR

### **Monday, February 16**

8:00am AA Meeting (Library)  
9:00am Community Prayer w/ Pastor Steve (Chapel)  
10:30am PEO - Art Tour  
1:00pm Pad Project (Sunday School Room)

### **Tuesday, February 17**

9:00am Community Prayer w/Pastor Steve (Chapel)  
4:00pm ASU Lecture (Sanctuary)  
4:30pm Weekly Rosary St. Dominic (Chapel)

### **Wednesday, February 18**

9:00am Ash Wednesday Service (Chapel)  
10:00am St. Dominic Bible Study (Chapel)  
11:00am Bible Study: The Lord's Prayer w/ Pastor Steve (Founders Hall)  
4:00pm Choir Rehearsal  
5:00pm Ash Wednesday Mass St. Dominic (Sanctuary)

### **Thursday, February 19**

7:30am Bible Study w/ Ed Carpenter (Founders Hall)  
9:00am Sandwich Making Justa Center (Founders Hall)  
9:00am Community Prayer w/ Pastor Steve (Chapel)  
3:00pm Grief Support Group (Library)  
4:00pm Bible Study w/ Ed Carpenter (Founders Hall)  
4:00pm Board of Trustees Meeting (Boardroom)

### **Friday, February 20**

9:00am Community Prayer w/ Pastor Steve (Chapel)  
5:00pm Stations of the Cross St. Dominic (Courtyard)  
7:00pm Yachtzilla (Sanctuary) *doors open at 6:30pm*

### **Saturday, February 21**

9:45am St. Dominic Centering Prayer (Chapel)  
10:00am Brenda Knott Service (Sanctuary)

### **Sunday, February 22**

8:30am Worship Service (Sanctuary)  
9:30am Fellowship (Founders Hall)  
10:00am St. Dominic (Sanctuary)



## YACHTZILLA

**February 20, 2026 @ 7:00pm**

**(doors open at 6:30)**

**THIS FRIDAY**

**In the church Sanctuary**

A 6 piece live band that brings stadium energy to the smooth sounds of Yacht Rock. (60's & 70's music) Every show is a sing-a-long that feels like Saturday night at a dueling piano bar. Get ready to rock and reminisce with Arizona's premiere yacht rock band!

***\*\*Get your tickets during normal business hours in the church office.***



## CRYSTAL STARK

**COMING MARCH 13<sup>TH</sup>**

Tina Turner, Carole King, Aretha Franklin, Dolly Parton, Ella Fitzgerald, Whitney Houston... all of these artists have taken the stage and the world by storm with their powerful voices and incredible determination. Crystal Stark, an American Idol finalist and vocal powerhouse in her own right, pays tribute to these First Ladies of Song with tunes that will make you laugh, smile, cry, and appreciate the fortitude of those fierce female firsts. You won't want this show to end.

## My Faith Looks Up to Thee

576



1. My faith looks up to thee, thou Lamb of Cal - ya - ry,  
2. May thy rich grace im - part strength to my faint - ing heart,  
3. While life's dark maze I tread, and griefs a - round me spread,



Say - ior di - vine! Now hear me while I pray; take all my  
my zeal in - spire; as thou hast died for me, oh, may my  
be thou my guide; bid dark-ness turn to day; wipe sor-row's



guilt a - way; oh, let me from this day be whol - ly thine.  
love to thee pure, warm and change- less be, a liv - ing fire:  
tears a - way; nor let me ev - er stray from thee a - side.



WORDS: Ray Palmer, 1831, alt.  
MUSIC: Lowell Mason, 1832

OLIVET  
664.6664



1. I am weak, but thou art strong; Je-sus, keep me from all wrong,  
 2. Through this world of toil and snares, if I falter, Lord, who cares?  
 3. When my feeble life is o'er, time for me will be no more;  
 Refrain: Just a clos-er walk with thee; grant it; Je-sus, is-my plea,



D. C. for Refrain



I'll be sat-is-fied as long as I walk, let me walk close to thee.  
 Who with me my bur-den shares? None but thee, dear Lord, none but thee.  
 guide me gent-ly, safe-ly o'er to thy shore, dear Lord, to thy shore.  
 dai-ly walk-ing close to thee: let it be, dear Lord, let it be.



WORDS and MUSIC:

Anonymous

CLOSER WALK  
Irr. w. refrain



### ***Vision Statement***

***To be a Christ centered church that inspires individuals to grow closer to God and to serve others with loving and compassionate hearts.***

### ***Faith Statement ~ The Apostles' Creed***

*I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.*

**Community Church of the Verdes  
25603 Danny Lane, Suite 1  
Rio Verde, Arizona 85263**

**Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 9:00am-2:00pm  
Friday —9:00am—12:00pm  
Telephone: (480) 471-7239  
[www.verdefaith.org](http://www.verdefaith.org)**

**Pastor: Rev. Stephen Beard  
Pastor's cell: (732)546-5332  
Pastor's email: [sbeard@verdefaith.org](mailto:sbeard@verdefaith.org)  
Director of Music: Tom Wojtas  
Office Manager: Tami Burke**

**A/V Operator: Skyler Evans  
Vocalists: Debby Wojtas, Jeffrey Stevens, Sara Bruton**

### **Board of Trustees**

**Class of 2026**  
Jody Anschutz (Fellowship)  
Gary Etcheson (Facilities)  
Dan Larson (Finance)

**Class of 2027**  
Karla Lalim (President)  
Nancy Lowe (Mission)  
Jared Reisinger (Technology)

**Class of 2028**  
Pat Peterson (Education)  
Nancy Sheppard (Worship)  
Julie Peacock (Membership)



*Affiliated with the International Council of Community Churches*



*We are a Stephen Ministry Congregation*



*Find us on Facebook "Community Church of the Verdes"*