

COMMUNITY CHURCH *of the Verdes*

March 1, 2026



ORDER OF WORSHIP

Time for Centering

This morning we continue our Lenten journey through the “I Am” statements of Jesus with His profound declaration: “I am the Bread of Life” (John 6:35). These words come in the aftermath of the feeding of the five thousand—a miraculous sign that satisfied physical hunger for a day. Yet Jesus makes clear that the miracle was pointing to something far greater. He did not come merely to provide bread; He came to be Bread.

He Himself is God’s provision for a hungry world.

We all understand physical hunger. It is immediate and undeniable. But beneath it lies a deeper hunger—the hunger for meaning, forgiveness, hope, security, and lasting peace.

We try to satisfy that hunger in many ways: achievement, relationships, possessions, distraction. Yet the human heart remains restless. In this bold claim, Jesus addresses that restlessness directly. He offers not advice, not a program, not a philosophy—but Himself. He is the sustenance of the soul, the One who meets our deepest need.

What does it mean to “feed” on Christ? How does faith become daily nourishment? And how does He sustain us in seasons of doubt, grief, weariness, or uncertainty? As we gather in worship during this Lenten season, we are invited not simply to admire His words, but to trust His promise—to come to Him with our hunger and receive the life He alone can give. “Whoever comes to me shall never hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.”

Order of Worship

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Introit *Surely the Presence of the Lord* #263

Call to Worship

Pastor: O taste and see that the Lord is good.

People: **Blessed are those who take refuge in Him.**

Pastor: The Lord is near to the brokenhearted.

People: **He saves those who are crushed in spirit.**

All: Let us worship God.

**Hymn of Praise* *Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee* #102

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession (spoken in unison)

Merciful God, You spread before us a table of grace, yet we confess that we often hunger for lesser things. We seek satisfaction in achievement, approval, and comfort, while neglecting the Bread of Life. We fail to trust Your provision. We cling to self-sufficiency, We wound one another in word and deed. Forgive us, O Lord, Renew in us a right spirit. Feed us again with Your mercy and truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Silent Confession

Prayer Response *Turn Your Eyes upon Jesus*

Turn your eyes upon Jesus, Look full in His wonderful face, wonderful face, and the things of earth will grow strangely dim In the light of His glory and grace.

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.

**Passing of the Peace*

Call to Offering

Offertory *Grace* (arr. Hayes)

**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*

Scripture *John 6:25-35*

²⁵ *When they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, "Rabbi, when did you come here?"* ²⁶ *Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, you are looking for me not because you saw signs but because you ate your fill of the loaves.* ²⁷ *Do not work for the food that perishes but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For it is on him that God the Father has set his seal."* ²⁸ *Then they said to him, "What must we do to perform the works of God?"* ²⁹ *Jesus answered them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent."* ³⁰ *So they said to him, "What sign are you going to give us, then, so that we may see it and believe you? What work are you performing?"* ³¹ *Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'* ³² *Then Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven.* ³³ *For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world."* ³⁴ *They said to him, "Sir, give us this bread always."* ³⁵ *Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.*

Leader: *The Word of the Lord.*

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Anthem *O Living Bread of Heaven* (Larson)

Sermon *"I Am the Bread of Life"*

**Words of Invitation*

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.

Words of Institution

Intinction

Prayer After Communion

**The Apostle's 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.

**Closing Hymn*

Here at Thy Table, Lord

#384

Charge and Benediction

**Closing Response*

Fourfold Amen

**Postlude*

Music for today's worship includes:

Prelude: God So Loved the World (Stainer), Allegro Energico (Cappelen), The God of Abraham Praise (arr. Hayes)

Communion: I Am the Bread of Life (Talbot), Bless the Lord, My Soul (J.S. Bach), Fill My Cup, Lord (Blanchard), Seek Ye First (Lafferty)

Postlude: I Love to Tell the Story (#480)

Volunteers assisting with worship today:

Communion Table: Pat Strachan

Communion Steward: Donna Angiolillo, Debbie Barth, Laura Spolum, Charla Smith, Rod Gray, and Pastor Steve. Nancy Sheppard & Jennifer McRae (will serve choir)

Badge Table: Tami Lillemoe

Fellowship: Debby Mullison and Connie Lewis

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

Lector: Rod Gray

Tellers: Frank Green and Carol Horonzy

Ushers: Denny & Terri Meyers, Bucky & Suzanne Distel

Road Signs: Bill Hickman and Tom Young

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 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 241; 174 joined online.

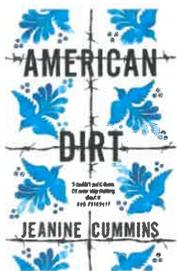
Today's flowers were donated by: Jane & Al Duffield in celebration of their 60th wedding anniversary.

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 10th 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 **March 10th**. Questions? Contact Greg & Weezy Smith at 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 **March**-American Dirt by Jeanine Cummins; **April**-Crying in the H Mart by Michelle Zauner; **May** - Before We Were Yours by Lisa Wingate. **Next meeting is March 12th**. All are welcome.



BIBLE STUDY

Wednesday at 11:00am Bible study: The Seven Deadly Sins, with Pastor Steve is held in Founders' Hall. All are welcome. **Please note that this weeks Bible Study will be at 1:30pm. It will resume back to the original time on the 11th.**

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 on Wednesday: *The Seven Deadly Sins*

Pastor Steve will lead this 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. **Please note that this weeks Bible Study will be at 1:30pm. It will resume back to the original time on the 11th.**

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.

DIRECTOR OF CARE MINISTRIES (PART-TIME)

Community Church of the Verdes is seeking a part-time Director of Care Ministries to help coordinate and strengthen our congregational care efforts, including visitation, prayer support, and follow-up care.

If you are interested or would like more information and a position description, please contact Pastor Steve.

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

MARCH MISSION DRIVE

SUPPORT THRIVE AZ

This month, we are collecting items for **Thrive AZ**. They walk alongside families who are at-risk of losing their kids to foster care and help young adults who have aged-out of the foster-care system. Please help by donating:

- ♥ **Sheets**
- ♥ **Blankets**
- ♥ **Standard pillows for twin beds.**



Items can be placed in the Blue Bin in the Narthex or in the church office doorway. **For easy Amazon ordering,** use the website link or contact Nancy Lowe at 203-395-9872 or ntart94@gmail.com.

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.

OPERATING FUND

YTD Actual contributions
through February 22 were
\$159,951

YTD Budgeted contributions
through February 22 were
\$110,000



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 \$390,481

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 \$485,367

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 \$23,653

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, March 2

8:00am AA Meeting (Library)
9:00am Community Prayer w/ Pastor Steve (Chapel)
1:00pm Pad Project (Sunday School Room)
2:00pm Mission Committee (Board Room)
3:00pm Harmony Committee (Library)

Tuesday, March 3

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

Wednesday, March 4

9:00am Community Prayer w/ Pastor Steve
10:00am St. Dominic Bible Study (Chapel)
1:30pm Bible Study: The Seven Deadly Sins w/ Pastor Steve (Founders Hall)
4:00pm Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, March 5

7:30am Bible Study w/ Ed Carpenter (Founders Hall)
9:00am Community Prayer w/ Pastor Steve (Chapel)
3:00pm Grief Support Group (Admin Office #2)
4:00pm Bible Study w/ Ed Carpenter (Founders Hall)
4:00pm Facilities Committee Meeting (Stephen Ministry Room)

Friday, March 6

9:00am Community Prayer w/ Pastor Steve (Chapel)
5:00pm Stations of the Cross St. Dominic (Courtyard)

Saturday, March 7

9:45am St. Dominic Centering Prayer (Chapel)
4:30pm Wine & Cheese New Members Event (Off campus)

Sunday, March 8

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



CRYSTAL STARK

MARCH 13TH

7:00pm (doors open at 6:30pm)

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.

**tickets on sale now (\$40) in the office during normal business hours or at the door on the day of the concert.



Community Speaker Event

Featured Speaker: Amy Randall Hazel

March 9, 2026 at 4:00 PM

Adventures in Fly Fishing with Amy Hazel

Come hear Amy's story and her message about how the relaxing experience of fly fishing connects us with nature and promotes a sense of peace. Standing in a river, surrounded by flowing water, birds singing, and fresh air naturally calms the mind.

All are welcome.



MONDAY—THURSDAY 9AM - 2PM

FRIDAY 9AM - 12PM

IF YOU NEED ASSISTANCE AFTER HOURS, PLEASE MAKE AN APPOINTMENT BY CALLING 480-471-7239

102 Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee

1. Je - sus, the ver - y thought of thee,
 2. No voice can sing, no heart can frame,
 3. O hope of ev - ery con - trite heart,
 4. Je - sus, our on - ly joy - be thou,

with sweet - ness fills my breast; but sweet - er far thy
 nor can the mind re - call a sweet - er sound than
 O joy of all the meek, to those who ask, how
 as thou our prize wilt be; Je - sus, be thou our

face to see, and in thy pres - ence rest.
 thy blest name, O Sav - ior of us all.
 kind thou art! How good to those who seek!
 glo - ry now, and through e - ter - ni - ty.

WORDS: Attr. Bernard of Clairvaux (12th century); tr. Edward Caswall, 1849
 MUSIC: John B. Dykes, 1866

ST. AGNÈS
 CM

Here at Thy Table, Lord

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1. Here at thy ta - ble, Lord, this sa - cred hour,
 2. Sit at the feast, dear Lord, break thou the bread;
 3. Come then, O ho - ly Christ, feed us, we pray;

O let us feel thee near, in lov - ing power;
 fill thou the cup that brings life to the dead;
 touch with thy pierc - ed hand each com - mon day;

call - ing our thoughts a - way from self and sin.
 that we may find in thee, par - don and peace;
 mak - ing this earth - ly life full of thy grace,

As to thy ban - quet hall we en - ter in.
 and from all bond - age win a full re - lease.
 till in the home of heaven we find our place.

WORDS: May P. Hoyt (19th century)
 MUSIC: William F. Sherwin, 1877

BREAD OF LIFE
 64.64D



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

Pastor: Rev. Stephen Beard

Pastor's cell: (732)546-5332

Pastor's email: sbeard@verdefaith.org

Director of Music: Tom Wojtas

Office Manager: Tami Burke

A/V Operator: Skyler Evans

Vocalists: Debby Wojtas, Jeffrey Stevens, Sara Bruton

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Affiliated with the International Council of Community Churches



We are a Stephen Ministry Congregation



Find us on Facebook "Community Church of the Verdes"