

COMMUNITY CHURCH *of the Verdes*

April 26, 2026



ORDER OF WORSHIP

Time for Centering

Today we continue our journey through the book of Jonah, turning to chapter 2—the prayer from the depths. Here we meet Jonah not in strength, but in surrender; not in clarity, but in confusion; not moving forward, but held still in the belly of the fish. And yet, it is precisely there—in that place of helplessness—that Jonah begins to pray. As Eugene Peterson reminds us, *“In prayer we become most human, most ourselves, open and responsive to God.”*

Jonah 2 shows us that God often does some of his deepest work in us when we have reached the end of ourselves. When our plans unravel, when our direction is lost, when we are forced to stop striving—these are not interruptions to the spiritual life, but invitations into it.

We will reflect alongside a poem by Wendell Berry that captures this paradox:

*It may be that when we no longer know what to do
we have come to our real work,
and that when we no longer know which way to go
we have come to our real journey.
The mind that is not baffled is not employed.
The impeded stream is the one that sings.*

We are at our best when we listen for God’s voice—not only in moments of clarity, but also in the depths, where grace meets us and begins to lead us home.

Order of Worship

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Introit

Jesus Calls Us O'er the Tumult

#337

Call to Worship

Pastor: Out of the depths we cry to you, O Lord.

People: Lord, hear our voice.

Pastor: When we are overwhelmed, God is near.

People: When we are lost, God hears our prayer.

Pastor: From the depths, Jonah cried-and the Lord answered him.

People: From the depths of our lives, we also turn to God.

Pastor: Come, let us worship the One who meets us in the deep places.

People; Let us worship God with honest hearts and open lives.

**Hymn of Praise*

I Am Thine, O Lord

#601

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession (spoken in unison)

Merciful God, we confess that we often resist your call. Like Jonah, we run from your ways and cling to our own understanding. When life overwhelms us, we strive instead of turning to you. Forgive us for our wandering hearts and draw us back to yourself. Meet us in the depths, O Lord, and teach us to trust you. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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.

*Please stand as you are able

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 *What a Friend* (arr. Schrader)

**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 *Jonah 2:1-10*

¹ Then Jonah prayed to the LORD his God from the belly of the fish, ² saying, "I called to the LORD out of my distress, and he answered me; out of the belly of Sheol I cried, and you heard my voice. ³ You cast me into the deep, into the heart of the seas, and the flood surrounded me; all your waves and your billows passed over me. ⁴ Then I said, 'I am driven away from your sight; how shall I look again upon your holy temple?' ⁵ The waters closed in over me; the deep surrounded me; weeds were wrapped around my head ⁶at the roots of the mountains. I went down to the land whose bars closed upon me forever; yet you brought up my life from the Pit, O LORD my God. ⁷ As my life was ebbing away, I remembered the LORD, and my prayer came to you, into your holy temple. ⁸ Those who worship vain idols forsake their true loyalty. ⁹ But I with the voice of thanksgiving will sacrifice to you; what I have vowed I will pay. Deliverance belongs to the LORD!" ¹⁰ Then the LORD spoke to the fish, and it vomited Jonah out onto the dry land.

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 **243** in person; **193** joined online.

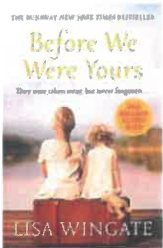
Today's flowers were donated by: Diane Bronson: In loving memory of their daughter Julie.

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) The last meeting for the season is this Tuesday April 28th @ 6:30 in the library. 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 **May** - Before We Were Yours by Lisa Wingate. All are welcome.

BIBLE STUDY



Thank you Ed Carpenter for taking the time to teach at your amazing Bible Study! Looking forward for it to start again in the Fall.

From the Mission Committee: Food Donations

We are grateful for your past donations to our food collection efforts and would like to notify you of some upcoming changes.

The **Fountain Hills Christian Ministerial Association** informed us they are ending their Food Closet Program, so we will no longer collect food for them. **Extended Hands Food Bank**, is undergoing some exciting changes with a new location, multiple drop-off sites and new programs. As a result, the Mission Committee determined the impact of our support can be most effective by focusing our collections during the month of October on their **School Pantry Food Drive** program that will serve schools in Fountain Hills.

Therefore, **the last collection in the Little Red Wagon will be on April 30th**. Beginning May 1st, if you would like to donate food before you leave for the season, there will be a bin for Extended Hands in the Post Office managed by the Rotary Club of the Verdes.

If you would like to support **Extended Hands Food Bank** throughout the year, visit their website ehfb.org, indicate your affiliation with Community Church of the Verdes and we will be notified of your donation.

The church continues to address the crisis of food insecurity with its support of **Harvest Compassion Center** and the **Justa Center**. If you have any questions, please contact Nancy Lowe at ntart94@gmail.com or 203-395-9872.





MISSIONS



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



Pad Project Ministry: Monday's at 1:00pm (will start again in the Fall)



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

APRIL MISSION DRIVE

SUPPORT HOPE WOMEN'S CENTER



This month, we are collecting items for **Hope Women's Center**. They provide physical, emotional and spiritual support for vulnerable women and kids. Please help by donating: **full size, new unopened bottles of:**

- ♥ **Shampoo**
- ♥ **Conditioner**
- ♥ **Body wash.**

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 and indicate "Community Church of the Verdes" in the gift receipt. Thank you!

MISSION COMMITTEE FOCUS ON CHARITIES: CHRISTIAN FAMILY CARE



Today we are joined by Alyssa Spitale, Development Officer, of **Christian Family Care**. Their mission is to strengthen families and serve at-risk kids by placing them in homes with loving, Christ-centered families through foster care and adoption. We will support their preschool, **Family Care Kids**, with a backpack drive during the month of May. Please welcome Alyssa in Founders' Hall during Fellowship time to learn more about their work.

GIVING NOTES

Online Giving is available!

It's easy, fast and secure.



Support CCV Ministries & Missions with Online Giving

Just scan the barcode or visit the website at verdefaith.org/give

With gratitude for the generosity of church members, we are currently operating within our projected budget. The Finance Committee is focused on keeping you informed of this measure and of other financial results. We are developing a more comprehensive method of reporting this information to you. You can expect a high-level snapshot of Receipts, Disbursements, Capital Spending and Fund Balances on a quarterly basis. The first report will be available in early July.

For comments, suggestions or questions, please contact Kim Dadlani, Treasurer, at Kim.g.dadlani@gmail.com. Thank you for your faithful giving!!!

Scholarship Fund Important News

The church's Scholarship Fund has provided awards to recipients who have demonstrated academic excellence, commitment, and service with our mission partners. The Board of Directors recently evaluated the fund and voted to terminate it because we have received fewer and fewer qualified applicants over the years. The final recipients are: Erin Louise Chartier, FCA, \$4,000. Dustin Caleb Crenshaw, FCA, \$4,000. Robert Daved Holt, Sunshine Acres, \$4,000. Angelito Alvarado, Sunshine Acres, \$3,000. Christian Family Care, Family Care Kids Preschool scholarship fund, \$8,550.

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

Legacy Endowment Fund

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. Historically, this amount was allocated to the Mission Committee to support charitable organizations.

Memorial Garden Fund

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.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Monday, April 27

8:00am AA Meeting (Library)
9:00am Community Prayer w/ Pastor Steve (Chapel)
10:00am Fellowship Meeting (Library)

Tuesday, April 28

9:00am Collaboration Meeting (Boardroom)
9:00am Community Prayer w/Pastor Steve (Chapel)
4:30pm Weekly Rosary St. Dominic (Chapel)
6:30pm PAL Meeting (Library)

Wednesday, April 29

9:00am Community Prayer w/ Pastor Steve (Chapel)
4:00pm Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, April 30

9:00am Community Prayer w/ Pastor Steve (Chapel)
3:00pm Christian Sing-along (Choir Room)
4:00pm Facilities Meeting (Library)

Friday, May 1

9:00am Community Prayer w/ Pastor Steve (Chapel)
6:00pm Walen/Humiston Wedding (Sanctuary)

Saturday, May 2

9:45am St. Dominic Centering Prayer (Chapel)

Sunday, May 3

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

FRIENDLY SING-ALONG:

All are welcome to join on **Thursday, April 30, 3-4pm** in the Choir room. Classic American songbook and favorite tunes. Accompanied by guitar or piano, this is a low stress gathering to sing and reflect. Led by Mary Derby.

If you are leaving for the season, Safe Travels! Please stay connected by logging on to the church website to keep up with any new information. Also make sure that you sign up for our **You Tube Channel** so that you can continue to watch Pastor Steve's service online.

<https://www.youtube.com/@communitychurchoftheverdes>

Send us an email and let us know how you are doing once in awhile.

We always

love to hear from our church family!

Remember the website is your "Go To" for all of your questions and answers about the church. Please take advantage of this amazing site that was put together for your convenience.

SEE YOU IN THE FALL!



I Am Thine, O Lord

1. I am thine, O Lord, I have heard thy voice, and it told thy love to
 2. Con - se - crate me now to thy serv - ice, Lord, by the pow'r of grace di -
 3. O the pure de-light of a sin - gle hour that be - fore thy throne I
 4. There are depths of love that I can - not know till I cross the nar - row.

me; but I long to rise in the arms of faith, and be
 vine; let my soul look up with a stead-fast hope, and my
 spend, when I kneel in prayer, and with thee, my God, I com -
 sea; there are heights of joy that I may not reach till I

Refrain

clo - ser drawn to thee.
 will be lost in thine. Draw me near - er, near - er, bless - ed Lord,
 mune 'as friend with friend!
 rest in peace with thee. near - er, near - er,

to the cross where thou hast died; draw me near - er, near - er,

near - er, bless - ed Lord, to thy pre - cious, bleed - ing side.

Sweet Hour of Prayer!

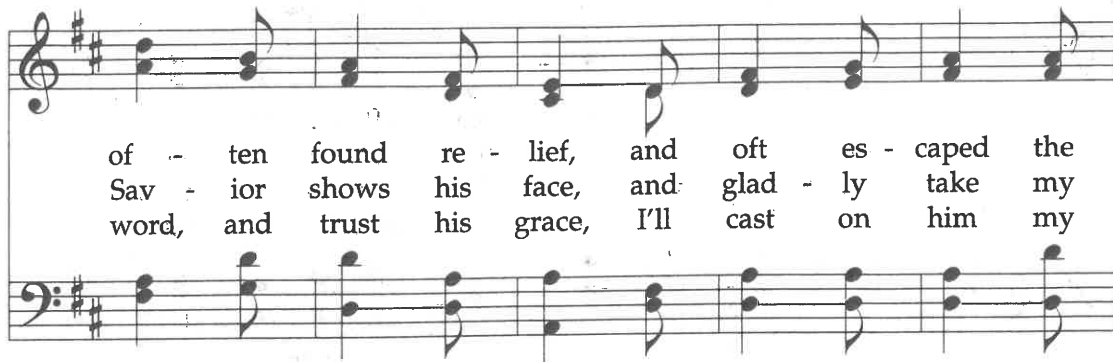
1. Sweet hour of prayer! sweet hour of prayer! that calls me
 2. Sweet hour of prayer! sweet hour of prayer! the joys I
 3. Sweet hour of prayer! sweet hour of prayer! thy wings shall

from a world of care, and bids me at my
 feel, the bliss I share of those whose anx - ious
 my pe - ti - tion bear to him whose truth and

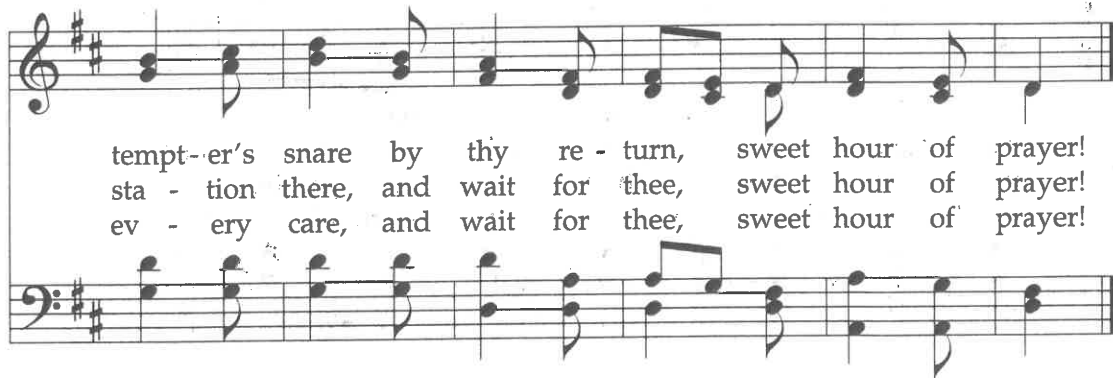
Fa - ther's throne make all my wants and wish - es known.
 spir - its burn with strong de - sires for thy re - turn!
 faith - ful - ness en - gage the wait - ing soul to bless.

In sea - sons of dis - tress and grief, my soul has
 With such I has - ten to the place where God my
 And since he bids me seek his face, be - lieve his

PRAYER AND GUIDANCE



of - ten found re - lief, and oft es - caped the
Sav - ior shows his face, and glad - ly take my
word, and trust his grace, I'll cast on him my



tempt - er's snare by thy re - turn, sweet hour of prayer!
sta - tion there, and wait for thee, sweet hour of prayer!
ev - ery care, and wait for thee, sweet hour of prayer!



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

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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

Board of Trustee

Class of 2026

Pat Peterson (President)

Rod Bulcher (Facilities)

Kim Dadlani (Treasurer)

Nancy Lowe (Mission)

Julie Peacock (Education)

Jared Reisinger (Technology)

Nancy Sheppard (Worship)

Linda Smiley (Fellowship)

Jackie Williams (Membership)



Affiliated with the International Council of Community Churches



We are a Stephen Ministry Congregation



Find us on Facebook "Community Church of the Verdes"