

COMMUNITY CHURCH *of the Verdes*

July 5, 2026



ORDER OF WORSHIP

Time for Centering

Can anyone be beyond the reach of God's grace? Saul of Tarsus certainly seemed to be. A fierce persecutor of the early church, Saul was determined to silence the followers of Jesus. Yet on the road to Damascus, the risen Christ interrupted his journey, transforming an enemy of the gospel into its greatest missionary.

God's interruptions are rarely convenient, but they are always purposeful. He often steps into our carefully laid plans, redirects our paths, and calls us toward a future we never imagined. What feels like an interruption to us may actually be God's invitation to a deeper life of faith and discipleship.

This morning we hear one of Scripture's great stories of conversion. Eugene Peterson describes every conversion this way:

"Every (conversion) story is different. Yet every story is the same. In the telling we recognize the common plot of God's grace setting us apart, personally calling us and revealing his Son to us. We also recognize the great care with which he respects and uses every individual feature of our bodies and emotions and minds so that each story is totally fresh and original."

*As we continue our series, *The Church Alive*, we will discover that every Christian story begins not with our search for God, but with God's gracious initiative toward us. The same Lord who opened Saul's blind eyes continues to meet people today with grace, forgiveness, and new purpose. Today we explore one of the most powerful conversion stories in Scripture and celebrate the God who still interrupts lives, transforms hearts, and sends ordinary people into extraordinary service.*

Order of Worship

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Introit

Come Now to Worship the Lord

(Besig)

Call to Worship

Pastor: *Christ calls us out of darkness into His marvelous light.*

People: *We come to worship the risen Lord who makes all things new.*

Pastor: *God's grace reaches those who seem far away.*

People: *No one is beyond the mercy and love of Jesus Christ.*

Pastor: *Come, let us worship the Lord.*

People: *We will praise His holy name with joyful hearts. Amen.*

**Hymn of Praise*

I Have Decided, to Follow Jesus

#344

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession (spoken in unison)

Gracious God, like Saul, we confess that we often trust in our own understanding more than Your wisdom. We cling to our own righteousness, resist Your leading, and fail to love as Christ has loved us. We judge others, hold on to old prejudices, and forget that Your grace is for all people. Open our eyes to see ourselves as You see us. Turn our hearts toward You, forgive us through Jesus Christ, and make us faithful disciples who follow wherever You lead. In His holy name we pray. 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

**Please stand as you are able*

**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 Ain't Judgin' No Man (Gilpin)

**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 Acts 9: 1-9

⁹ Meanwhile Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest ² and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. ³ Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. ⁴ He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" ⁵ He asked, "Who are you, Lord?" The reply came, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. ⁶ But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do." ⁷ The men who were traveling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. ⁸ Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. ⁹ For three days he was without sight and neither ate nor drank.

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Anthem Just As I Am (arr. Hummel)

Sermon "When God Interrupts"

**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*

Open My Eyes, That I May See

#586

Charge and Benediction

**Closing Response*

Fourfold Amen

**Postlude*

Music for today's worship includes:

Prelude: When Morning Gilds the Skies (arr. Wood), Let the Whole Creation Cry (arr. Doran), All Hail, King Jesus *with* Majesty (Moody/Hayford)

Communion: My Shepherd Will Supply My Need (arr. Wood), It Is Well with My Soul (Bliss), Fill My Cup, Lord (Blanchard)

Postlude: He Leadeth Me: O Blessed Thought! (#545)

Trio: Debby Wojtas, Jeffrey Stevens and Sara Bruton

Volunteers assisting with worship today:

Communion Table: Linda Paulos

Communion Steward: Charla Smith, Tom Reinarts, Barb Davis & Pastor Steve

Refreshment Stewards: Terri Meyers, Connie Lewis and Sue Cole

Flower Committee: Sharon Severson, Jennifer Ristau, Linda Paulos

Lector: Barb Davis

Tellers: Jan Stegmann and John Cole

Ushers: Nancy Adair, and Tom & Lisa Young

Road Signs: Bill Hickman , Ric Doerflinger, and Tom Young

Community Prayer – Summer Schedule

During the summer months of July and August, our Community Prayer service will be held online via Microsoft TEAMS, Wednesdays at 9:00 a.m.

If you would like to join Pastor Steve for prayer, please Contact Pastor Steve at sbeard@verdefaith.org for an email invite.



Care Team Prayers

Our newly created Care Team has begun praying weekly for members of our congregation. We are praying through our membership rolls alphabetically and will pray specifically for a small group of names each week.

If you have a specific prayer request, please email Donna Angiolillo at: donna.angiolillo@gmail.com

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome members and guests! 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 **104: 162** joined online.

Today's flowers were donated by: Susan Pederson: In honor of her dad's birthday and celebrating America's 250th 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 will resume again in the Fall. Questions? Contact Greg & Weezy Smith at lift5800@gmail.com.

SPIRITUAL THEMES IN LITERATURE

The Book Club will resume on the second Thursday in December. (December 10th) We will review Mark Twain by Ron Chernow. We will meet on subsequent months on the second Thursday of the month until May 2027.

MISSIONS

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

 **Pad Project Ministry:** Will start again in the Fall.

 **Prayer Shawl Ministry:** Will start again in the Fall.

Where in the World are Community Church Members?

As you travel this summer, send us a picture that we can share during our pre roll announcements at Sundays service. We want to stay connected and share your joy! Send us a picture on the lake, on a cruise, on the beach, spending time with family, wherever your summer away takes you.

Send pictures to Tami Burke at officemanager@verdefaith.org



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!!!

Please consider these 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 internment of the ashes of loved ones.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Monday, July 6

8:00am AA Meeting (Library)

Tuesday, July 7

4:30pm Weekly Rosary St. Dominic (Chapel)

Wednesday, July 8

9:00am Community Prayer w/ Pastor Steve (via Teams Meeting)

11:00am Bible Study w/ Pastor Steve (Sanctuary)

Thursday, July 9

No activities scheduled

Friday, July 10

No activities scheduled

Saturday, July 11

No activities scheduled

Sunday, July 12

8:30am Worship Service (Sanctuary)

9:30am Fellowship (Founders Hall)

10:00am St. Dominic (Sanctuary)

SUMMER HOURS

MONDAY—THURSDAY: 9AM TO 2PM

FRIDAYS: CLOSED



COMMUNITY CHURCH OF THE VERDES

Adult Education Series

Wednesday's @ 11:00 in Founders Hall

Tim Keller – What We Believe: Foundations

July 8 – The Bible and Experience (2 Peter 1:12–21)

July 15 – The Bible and Finality (Hebrews 1:1–4) No In-Person Study

July 22 – I Believe (Acts 17:16–34)

July 29 – God (Exodus 3:1–14)

August 5 – Sin (Genesis 2:16–17; 3:1–9)

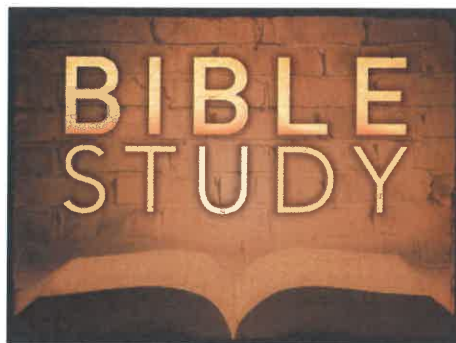
August 12 – Incarnation (Philippians 2:1–11) No In-Person Study

August 19 – Salvation (Ephesians 1:3–10)

August 26 – The Holy Spirit (John 14:15–26)

September 2 – The Church (Ephesians 2:11–22)

September 9 – The End of History (Revelation 21:1–6; 22:1–5)



I Have Decided to Follow Jesus

344

Unison

1. I have de - cid - ed to fol - low Je - sus, I have de -
 2. The world be - hind me, the cross be - fore me, the world be -
 3. Though none go with me, I still will fol - low, though none go
 4. Will you de - cid - e now to fol - low Je - sus? Will you de -

cid - ed to fol - low Je - sus, I have de - cid - ed to fol - low
 hind me, the cross be - fore me, the world be - hind me, the cross be -
 with me, I still will fol - low, though none go with me, I still will
 cide now to fol - low Je - sus? Will you de - cid - e now to fol - low

Je - sus— no turn - ing back, no turn - ing back.
 fore me— no turn - ing back, no turn - ing back.
 fol - low— no turn - ing back, no turn - ing back.
 Je - sus?— No turn - ing back, no turn - ing back.

WORDS and MUSIC: Anonymous

ASSAM
10 10 10.8

Open My Eyes, That I May See

586

1. O - pen my eyes, that I may see glimps - es of truth thou
 2. O - pen my ears, that I may hear voic - es of truth thou
 3. O - pen my mouth, and let me bear glad - ly the warm truth

hast for me; place in my hands, the won - der - ful key
 send - est clear, and while the wave - notes fall on my ear,
 ev - ery - where; o - pen my heart and let me pre - pare

Refrain
 that shall un - clasp and set me free.
 ev - ery - thing false will dis - ap - pear. Si - lent - ly now I
 love with thy chil - dren thus to share.

wait for thee, read - y, my God, thy will to see.

○ - pen my eyes,
 ○ - pen my ears, il - lu - mine me, Spir - it di - vine!
 ○ - pen my heart,



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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Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 9:00am-2:00pm
Friday – Closed
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 Trustees

Class of 2026

*Pat Peterson (President)
Rod Bulcher (Facilities)
Kim Dadlani (Finance)
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"