

COMMUNITY CHURCH *of the Verdes*

July 26, 2026



ORDER OF WORSHIP

Time for Centering

In Acts 1:8, Jesus gave his disciples a vision for the church's mission: "You will be my witness in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth". Throughout our journey through Acts, we have seen the Holy Spirit bring that promise to life-empowering ordinary people to share the good news of Jesus in places they never expected to go.

In Acts 11, the gospel reaches a new crossroad in the city of Antioch. Scattered by persecution, believers carried the message of Christ beyond Jerusalem, and the Spirit used their witness to bring many Gentiles to faith. What began as a crisis became an opportunity for God's grace to expand the church.

When Barnabas arrives in Antioch, he does not see a problem-he sees the grace of God at work. His encouragement helps a diverse group of believers grow together as one new family in Christ. Here, for the first time, followers of Jesus are called "Christians".

This morning, we will reflect on a church that crossed boundaries, welcomed outsiders, and discovered a new identity centered on Jesus. Acts 11 reminds us that the church is most alive when it recognizes where God is already working, embraces those Christ is calling, and continues carrying the gospel "to the ends of the earth".

Order of Worship

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Introit

Spirit of Comfort

(Nolan)

Call to Worship

Pastor: Come, let us worship the Lord our God-

People: For it is God who made us, and we are His.

Pastor: We are His people, the sheep of His pasture.

People: We will enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise.

Pastor: Give thanks to Him and bless His name.

All: For the Lord is good; His steadfast love endures forever, and His faithfulness to all generations.

**Hymn of Praise*

Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun

#95

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession (spoken in unison)

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 and mind and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. In your mercy, forgive what we have been, help us amend what we are, and direct what we shall be, that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

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

Hallelujah! By and By

(arr. McDonald)

**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

Acts 11: 19-26

¹⁹ Now those who were scattered because of the persecution that took place over Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch, and they spoke the word to no one except Jews. ²⁰ But among them were some men of Cyprus and Cyrene who, on coming to Antioch, spoke to the Hellenists also, proclaiming the Lord Jesus. ²¹ The hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number became believers and turned to the Lord. ²² News of this came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch. ²³ When he came and saw the grace of God, he rejoiced, and he exhorted them all to remain faithful to the Lord with steadfast devotion, ²⁴ for he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And a great many people were brought to the Lord. ²⁵ Then Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul, ²⁶ and when he had found him he brought him to Antioch. So it was that for an entire year they met with the church and taught a great many people, and it was in Antioch that the disciples were first called "Christians."

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Sermon *"The Church God Was Creating"*

Time of Reflection

Charge and Benediction

*Postlude

Music for today's worship includes:

Prelude: Blessed Be Your Name *with* All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name (arr. Tornquist), Fairest Lord Jesus (arr. Wood), Sing unto the Lord *with* I Will Sing of the Mercies (Fender/Fillmore)

Time of Reflection: Isn't He? (Wimber)

Postlude: The Church's One Foundation (#272)

Trio: Debby Wojtas, Sara Bruton, and Jeffrey Stevens

Volunteers assisting with worship today:

Communion Table: Linda Paulos

Refreshment Stewards: Sandra Shanley and Linda Smiley

Flower Committee: Sharon Severson, Jennifer Ristau, Linda Paulos

Lector: Keith Betsch

Tellers: Ina Spaeth and Judy Sevier

Ushers: Deb Barth & Jennifer McRae

Road Signs: Bill Hickman, Ric Doerflinger, Tom Young

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. We want to stay connected and share your joy. Send us a picture on the lake, on the cruise, on the beach, relaxing at home or wherever your summer away takes you. Send pictures to Tami Burke at officemanager@verdefaith.org The pictures that have been sent in so far are wonderful! Hope that all of you are enjoying them as much as we are. Keep them coming!



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 **76**; **256** joined online.

Today's flowers were donated by Linda Shaw: In loving memory of her husband Gary Bryant.

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 in the Fall. Questions? Contact Greg & Weezy Smith at lift5800@gmail.com.



We are in need of volunteers for **Tellers and Fellowship this Summer**. It would be so much appreciated if you were able to help out on a Sunday in the next couple of weeks. Please sign up in Founders Hall on the clipboard, call the administrative office at 480-471-7239 or email Tami at officemanager@verdefaith.org if you are able to help out.



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.

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 be included, please contact Pastor Steve at sbeard@verdefaith.org for an email invite to join online. It's easy and you are able to participate anywhere you have internet access, phone or computer.

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.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Monday, July 27

8:00am AA Meeting (Library)

Tuesday, July 28

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

Wednesday, July 29

9:00am Community Prayer w/ Pastor Steve (online)

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

Thursday, July 30

No activities scheduled

Friday, July 31

No activities scheduled

Saturday, August 1

No activities scheduled

Sunday, August 2

8:30am Worship (Sanctuary)

9:30am Fellowship (Founders Hall)

10:00 St. Dominic (Sanctuary)

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 is now available. See attached.

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.

COMMUNITY CHURCH OF THE VERDES

Treasurer's Mid-Year Financial Report

June 2026

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

We thank God for His continued faithfulness and for the generous support of our church family. Through June 2026, the church generated a net surplus of \$69,100, with total revenue of \$473,500, exceeding budget by \$93,400. Increased generosity from existing members and new donors, together with disciplined expense management, has positioned the church well to support both current ministry and future needs.

THANK YOU !!!

We are grateful for your faithful generosity and God's continued provision. Because of your support, Community Church of the Verdes continues to operate from a position of financial strength.

We are especially encouraged by the continued growth in worship attendance, which is beginning to translate into new memberships and increased financial support. After three years of relatively flat contributions, we are now seeing a meaningful and encouraging reversal of that trend.

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Category	Summary
Revenue	Total Revenue: \$473,500 (ahead of budget by \$93,400, primarily from contributions)
Giving	More than 60% of the increase came from higher giving by existing members and new donors. The remainder is primarily due to timing of receipts.
Expenses	Total Expenses: \$404,400. Overall spending remains in line with the approved budget.
Net Operating Results	Net Surplus: \$69,100
Balance Sheet	Healthy financial position with strong cash reserves.

CAPITAL PROJECTS - Funded from Capital Reserve Fund (approved by the Board)

We are grateful to the dedicated volunteers who are involved with these capital projects:

- **Parking Lot Improvements:** The Facilities team coordinated this project and approximately \$29,000 was invested to repair asphalt cracks, apply two seal coats, and refresh parking lot striping and curbs.
- **Audio/Visual Upgrade:** The Technology Team, with a budget of \$154,000, is leading a critically important project for a comprehensive audio/visual system overhaul. This project is planned to start in late July.
- **Facility Reserve Study:** The Finance Team has engaged an independent facility reserve specialist to evaluate long-term capital needs. The recommendations will be presented at the 2027 Annual Meeting.

LOOKING AHEAD

Overall, the financial health of Community Church of the Verdes remains strong. This enables our church to carry out its mission, care of facilities, support local and regional outreach, and invest in the future ministry opportunities. Together, we look forward with gratitude and anticipation to what God has in store for our church family.

For comments, suggestions or questions, please contact Kim Dadlani, Treasurer, at Kim.g.dadlani@gmail.com

SPIRITUAL THEMES IN LITERATURE

The Book Club will resume on the second Thursday in December (starting **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.

COMMUNITY CHURCH OF THE VERDES

Adult Education Series

Wednesday's @ 11:00 in Founders Hall

Tim Keller – What We Believe: Foundations

July 29 — God (Exodus 3:1–14)

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

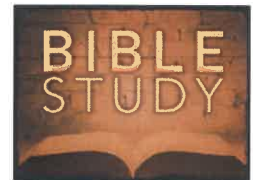
August 12 — Incarnation (Philippians 2:1–11) No In-Person Study

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)



95 Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun

Descant

5. Let ev - ery crea - ture rise with song;

1. Je - sus shall reign wher - e'er the sun
 2. To Christ shall end - less prayer be made,
 3. Peo - ple and realms of ev - ery tongue
 4. Bless - ings a - bound wher - e'er he reigns;
 5. Let ev - ery crea - ture rise with song;

hon - or and praise to Christ be - long

1. does its suc - ces - sive jour - neys run;
 2. and end - less prais - es crown his head;
 3. dwell on his love with sweet est song;
 4. all pris - oners leap to lose their chains,
 5. hon - or and praise to Christ be - long;

an - gels de - scend with songs a - gain, and

1. his love shall spread from shore to shore
 2. his name like sweet per - fume shall rise
 3. and in - fant voic - es shall pro - claim
 4. the wea - ry find e - ter - nal rest,
 5. an - gels de - scend with songs a - gain,

WORDS: Isaac Watts, 1719, alt.
 MUSIC: John Hatton, 1793; desc. Erik Routley, alt.

DUKE STREET
 LM

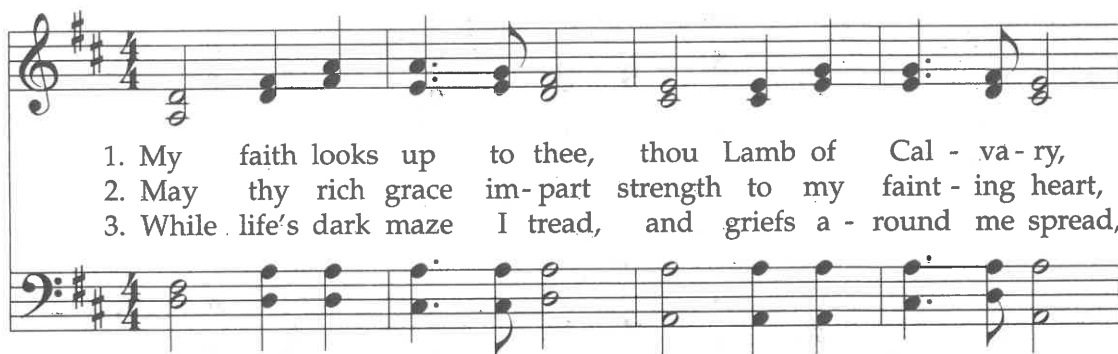
PRAISE TO CHRIST

earth re - peat the loud a - men!

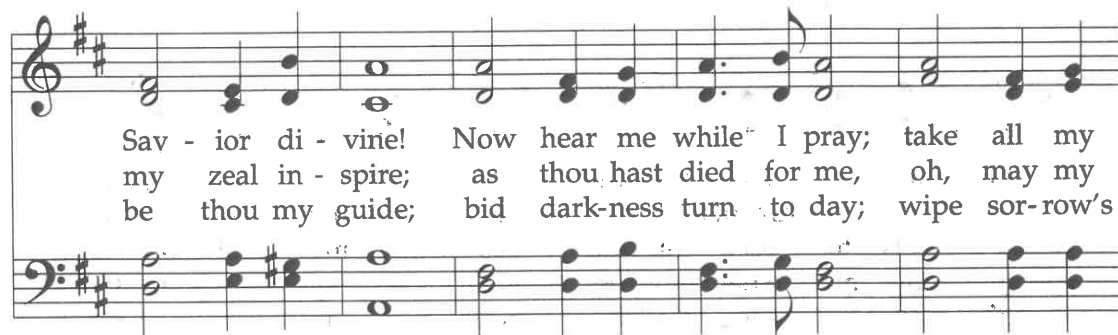
1. till moons shall wax and wane no more.
 2. with ev - ery morn - ing sac - ri - fice.
 3. their ear - ly bless - ings on his name.
 4. and all who suf - fer want are blest.
 5. and earth re - peat the loud a - men!

My Faith Looks Up to Thee

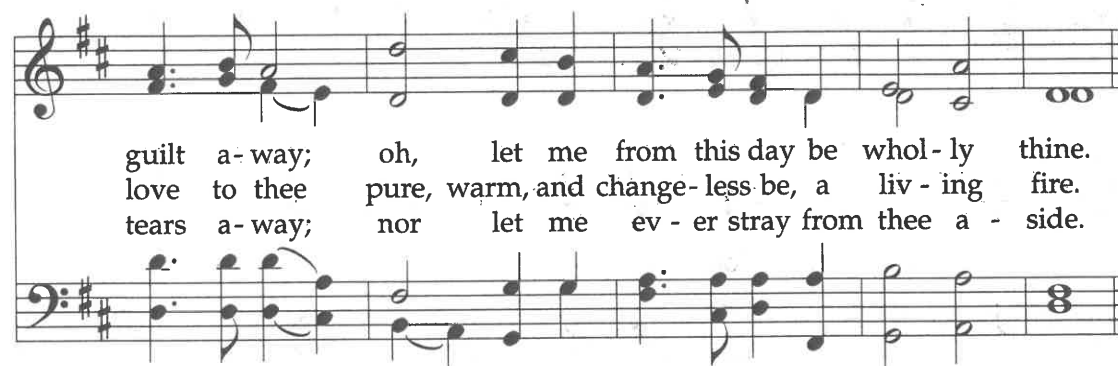
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1. My faith looks up to thee, thou Lamb of Cal - va - ry,
 2. May thy rich grace im - part strength to my faint - ing heart,
 3. While life's dark maze I tread, and griefs a - round me spread,



Sav - 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



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.

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Friday—Closed
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*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 2027*

*Pat Peterson (President)
Nancy Lowe (Mission)
Jared Reisinger (Technology)*

*Julie Peacock (Education)
Nancy Sheppard (Worship)
Kim Dadlani (Treasurer)*

*Rod Bulcher (Facilities)
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"