

COMMUNITY CHURCH *of the Verdes*

October 4, 2026



ORDER OF WORSHIP

Time for Centering

*Today we begin a new sermon series in Paul's letter to the Ephesians. Over the coming weeks, we will explore Paul's vision of what it means to live as people who belong to Christ. Ephesians reminds us that our Christian faith is not simply about what we believe or what we do; it begins with understanding **who we are in Christ**. Paul speaks of God's grace, our identity as God's people, the unity of the church, the transformation of our lives, and the calling to live out our faith in the world.*

*Paul opens this letter with a remarkable description of the Christians in Ephesus: "**To the saints who are in Ephesus and are faithful in Christ Jesus.**" These were ordinary people with ordinary struggles, yet Paul calls them saints—not because they were perfect, but because they belonged to Christ. Their identity was rooted not in their accomplishments or failures, but in God's grace.*

*In these opening verses, Paul reminds us that in Christ we are **chosen, adopted, redeemed, forgiven, and sealed with the Holy Spirit**. Before we consider what God wants us to do, we must first remember what God has already done for us.*

*This message is especially fitting for **World Communion Sunday**, when Christians around the world gather at the Lord's Table. Though we come from different nations, cultures, languages, and traditions, we share one Lord and one faith. Ephesians will continually remind us that God's work in Christ is bringing people together into one body,*

Order of Worship

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Introit Spirit of Comfort (Nolan)

Call to Worship

Pastor: We gather today with Christians around the world to worship our one Lord.

People: We are many peoples, many languages, and many traditions, yet we are one in Christ.

Pastor: At this table, Christ welcomes us and makes us one.

People: Let us worship the God who unites us in love and grace.

**Hymn of Praise* There's a Wideness in God's Mercy #73

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession (spoken in unison)

Gracious God, you have called us to be one body in Christ, yet we confess that we allow differences to divide us and keep us apart. Forgive us for the walls we build and the ways we fail to love our neighbors. Open our hearts to your worldwide church. Make us humble, generous, and welcoming, that we may live as one people at your table of grace. Through 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.

Assurance of Pardon

**Congregational Response* Gloria Patri #35

*Please stand as you are able

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

The Lord Is My Light

(Courtney)

****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

Ephesians 1:1-14

¹ Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, To the saints who are in Ephesus and are faithful in Christ Jesus: ² Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴ just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. ⁵ He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. ⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace ⁸ that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight ⁹ he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, ¹⁰ as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. ¹¹ In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, ¹² so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. ¹³ In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; ¹⁴ this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Anthem

The One

(Courtney)

Sermon

"Made for Blessing"

**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*

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

#16

Charge and Benediction

**Closing Response*

Fourfold Amen

**Postlude*

Music for today's worship includes:

Prelude: Praise Him! Praise Him! (Allen), Great Is Thy Faithfulness (Runyan), The Time for Turning (Courtney)

Communion: Come with Us, O Blessed Jesus (arr. Wood), I Am the Bread of Life (Talbot), Fill My Cup, Lord (Blanchard)

Postlude: Count Your Blessings (Excell)

Trio: Debby Wojtas, Jeffrey Stevens and Sara Bruton

Volunteers assisting with worship today:

Communion Table: Pat Strachan

Communion Steward: Nancy Sheppard, Deb Barth, Rod Gray and Pastor Steve

Refreshment Stewards: Sue Pederson and Glenda Hage

Flower Committee: Sharon Severson, Jennifer Ristau, Linda Paulos, Lily Ann Bence

Lector: Rod Gray

Tellers: Judy Dorwart and Terri Meyers

Ushers: Sharon & Rog Severson

Road Signs: Bill Hickman and Tom Young

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 **133:** and **222** joined online.

Today's flowers were donated Anonymously to thank all the Summer volunteers.

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.



October is Pastor Appreciation Month and this Sunday, October 4, is Pastor Appreciation Day. Please join us for cake after service in Founders Hall as we thank Pastor Steve for his Spirit-filled leadership.



**Twenty-five Years.
Four Incredible Shows.
One Community.**

For 25 years, music at Community Church of the Verdes has brought our community together. This season we're celebrating with a special **25th Anniversary Concert Series**, featuring world-class performers and unforgettable evenings of music.

Mark your calendar now:

December 4th - PHOENIX BOYS CHOIR HOLIDAY CONCERT

January 15th - LIVE FROM LAUREL CANYON: SONGS AND STORIES OF AMERICAN FOLK ROCK

February 5th - LIVE FROM LAUREL CANYON: NILSSON/LENNON SONGS FROM THE LOST WEEKEND

April 16th - CRYSTAL STARK: A WHITNEY HOUSTON TRIBUTE

*Laurel Canyon often sells out at the MIM, so we are making tickets first available to you. Ordering information will be announced in October through our website.

Join us as we celebrate 25 years of music, talent, and community.



BIBLE STUDY STARTS THIS WEEK!!!

Jeremiah - Tuesdays, 4:00–5:00 PM • Founder's Hall Starting Oct 6 • Led by **Michael Northrup**-Jeremiah spoke God's truth in a time of national crisis and spiritual drift. No homework. Recaps and recordings available by request for those who can't attend in person.

Revelation - Thursdays, 4:00-5:00 PM • Founder's Hall Starting Oct 8-• Led by **Pastor Steve**-a 10-week Bible study on the book of Revelation. Together, we will explore this rich and often misunderstood book of Scripture, discovering its message of hope, perseverance, faithfulness, and the ultimate victory of Jesus Christ.



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 Friday, November 13th @9:00am.

October Mission Drive Extended Hands Food Bank

This month we are collecting items for **Extended Hands Food Bank**. We will support their Food Pantry Program, serving kids in the Fountain Hills School District.

Please help by donating **individual-sized**:

- ♥ **Fruit cups**
- ♥ **Fruit bars**
- ♥ **Goldfish or similar crackers**
- ♥ **Cookies**



Place items in the collection bin in the Narthex or in Founders' Hall.

For easy Amazon ordering, use the link in the Announcement section of the website. Questions: Nancy Lowe [203-395-9872](tel:203-395-9872).

Thank you!



Step into a Transformational Journey: Join Our Mission Trip to NPH in Mexico!

You are invited to join Pastor Steve to visit our charity partner, [NPH USA](https://nphusa.org/), in Cuernavaca, Mexico. Join us for an information session led by NPH staff on **Wednesday, November 4th at 3 pm in Founders' Hall**.

NPH USA—<https://nphusa.org/>

Questions: Contact Nancy Lowe 203-395-9872 or ntart94@gmail.com.

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. You can expect a high-level snapshot of Receipts, Disbursements, Capital Spending and Fund Balances on a quarterly basis. The first report was included in the July bulletin. If you missed it, and would like a copy please contact the office.

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 interment of the ashes of loved ones.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Monday, October 5

8:00am AA Meeting (Library)

8:00am St. Dominic Weekly Mass (Chapel)

Tuesday, October 6

4:00pm Bible Study w/ Michael Northrup

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

Wednesday, October 7

8:00am St. Dominic Weekly Mass (Chapel)

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

Thursday, October 8

8:00am St. Dominic Weekly Mass (Chapel)

4:00pm Bible Study w/ Pastor Steve

Friday, October 9

No activities scheduled

Saturday, October 10

No activities scheduled

Sunday, October 11

8:30am Worship Service (Sanctuary)

9:30am Fellowship (Founders Hall)

10:00am St. Dominic (Sanctuary)

MEMBERSHIP 101 CLASS

Date: Monday, November 2nd

Time: 9:30 to 11:00am

Location: Founders' Hall

Who: All prospective members are welcome

Learn about the life of the church during an informational session led by Pastor Steve. Continental Breakfast will be available.

****Sign up in the church office.**



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.

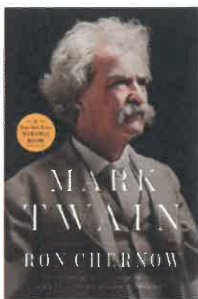
Pastoral Care Team

The Pastoral Care Team for The Community Church of the Verdes has been formed to assist Pastor Steve Beard in his mission for our church. The team will walk alongside individuals by providing visitation, communion, listening, and prayer to those facing crisis, illness, or life transitions.

Your Pastoral Care Team members are: Donna Angiolillo, Diane Bronson, Julie Dadlani, Debbie Etcheson, Gary Etcheson, Lois Halberg, and Gary Henderson

Community Prayer

Community Prayer with Pastor Steve is back in person and held in the Chapel on Wednesdays at 9:00 a.m.

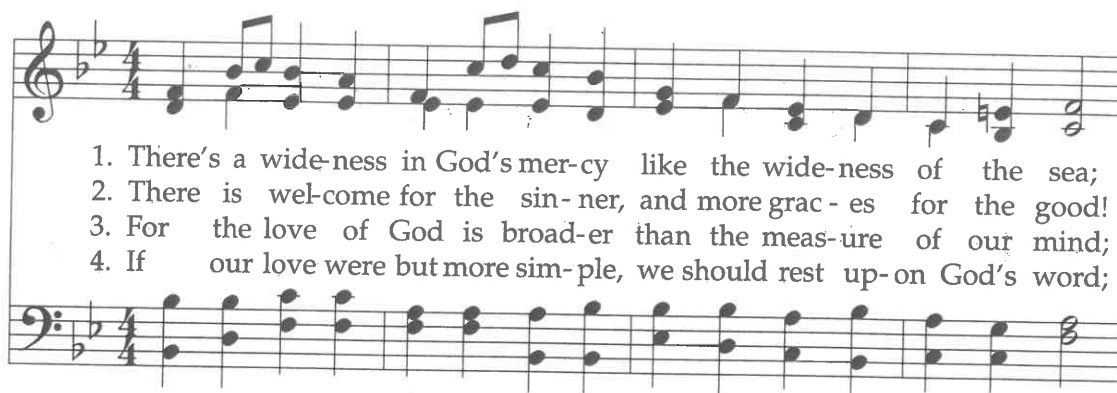


SPIRITUAL THEMES IN LITERATURE

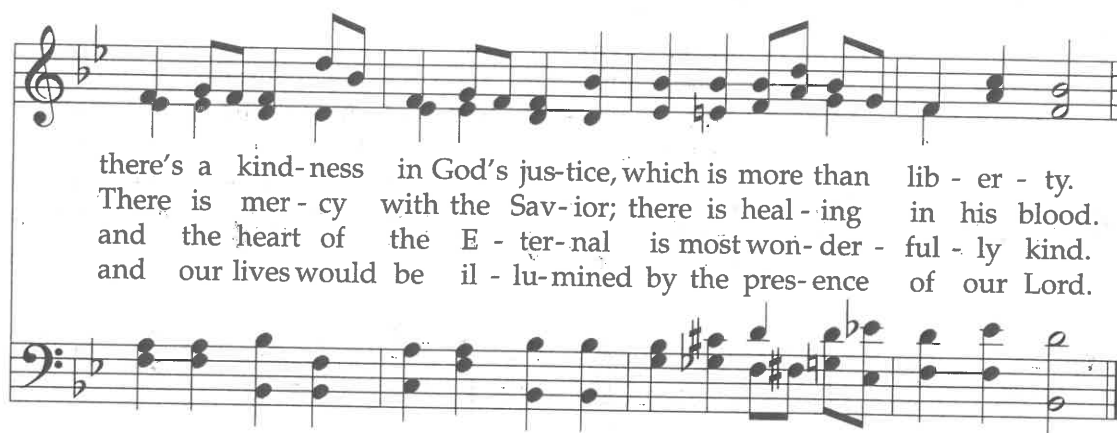
The Book Club will resume on the second Thursday in December. (December 10th) We will review Mark Twain by Ron Chernow. We will meet on subsequent months on the second Thursday of the month until May 2027. The upcoming book schedule is: January—The Frozen River by Ariel Lawhon, February-The Correspondent by Virginia Evans, March-A Fever in the Heartland by Timothy Egan, April-Horse by Geraldine Brooks, May-Prayers for Sale by Sandra Dallas. All are welcome.

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

73



1. There's a wide-ness in God's mer-cy like the wide-ness of the sea;
 2. There is wel-come for the sin-ner, and more grac-es for the good!
 3. For the love of God is broad-er than the meas-ure of our mind;
 4. If our love were but more sim-ple, we should rest up-on God's word;



there's a kind-ness in God's jus-tice, which is more than lib-er-ty.
 There is mer-cy with the Sav-ior; there is heal-ing in his blood.
 and the heart of the E-ter-nal is most won-der-ful-ly kind.
 and our lives would be il-lu-mined by the pres-ence of our Lord.

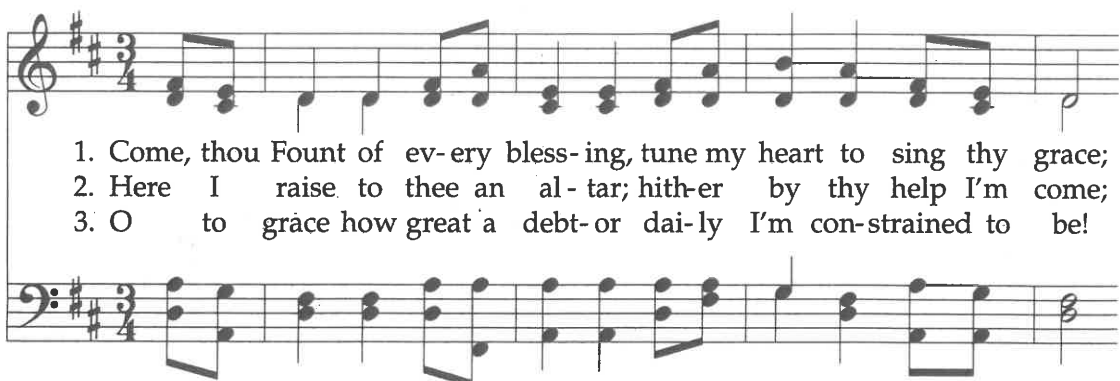
WORDS: Frederick W. Faber, 1854

MUSIC: Lizzie S. Tourjee, 1877; harm. Charles H. Webb, 1988

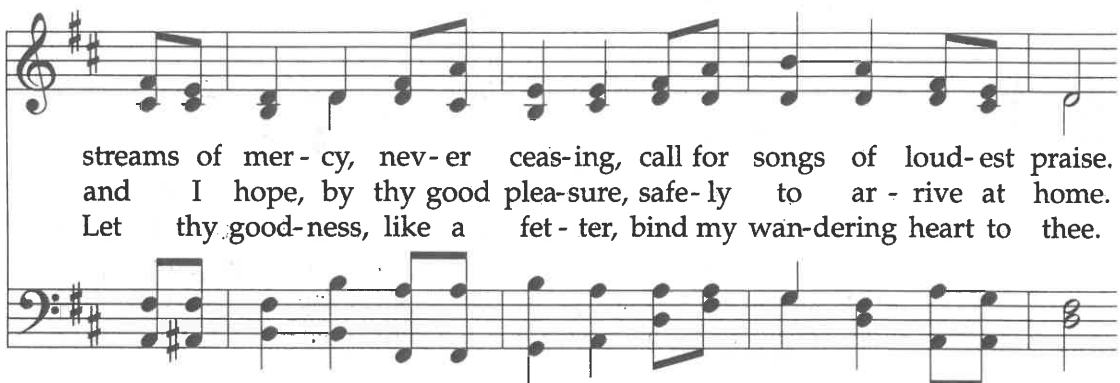
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Harm. © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House

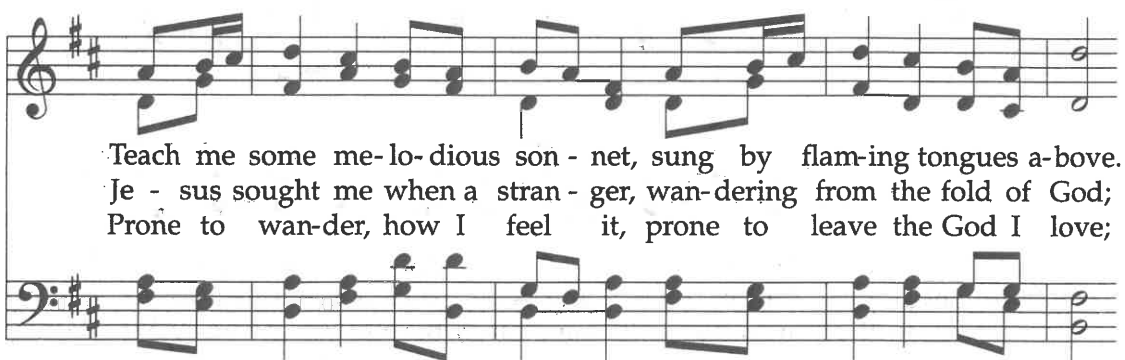
16 Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing



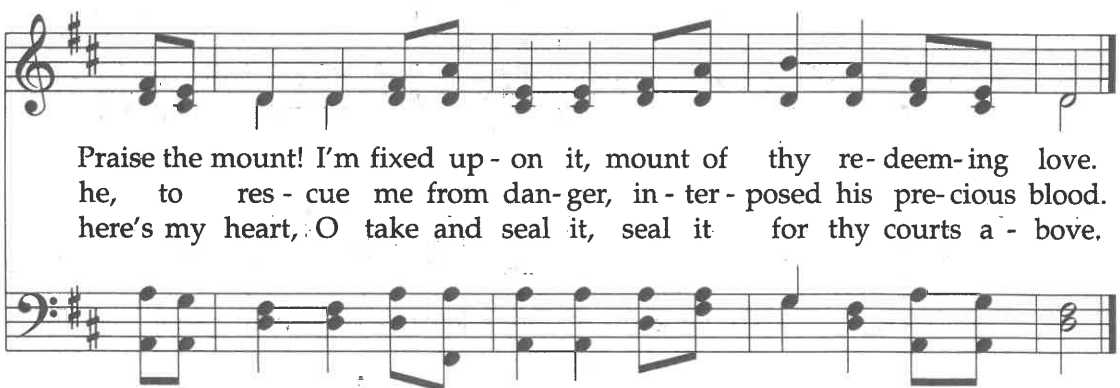
1. Come, thou Fount of ev-ery bless-ing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;
 2. Here I raise to thee an al-tar; hith-er by thy help I'm come;
 3. O to grace how great a debt-or dai-ly I'm con-strained to be!



streams of mer-cy, nev-er ceas-ing, call for songs of loud-est praise.
 and I hope, by thy good plea-sure, safe-ly to ar-rive at home.
 Let thy good-ness, like a fet-ter, bind my wan-dering heart to thee.



Teach me some me-lo-dious son-net, sung by flam-ing tongues a-bove.
 Je-sus sought me when a stran-ger, wan-dering from the fold of God;
 Prone to wan-der, how I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;



Praise the mount! I'm fixed up-on it, mount of thy re-deem-ing love.
 he, to res-cue me from dan-ger, in-ter-posed his pre-cious blood.
 here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for thy courts a-bove.

WORDS: Robert Robinson, 1758, alt.
 MUSIC: Wyeth's *Répository of Sacred Music, Part Second*, 1813

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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"