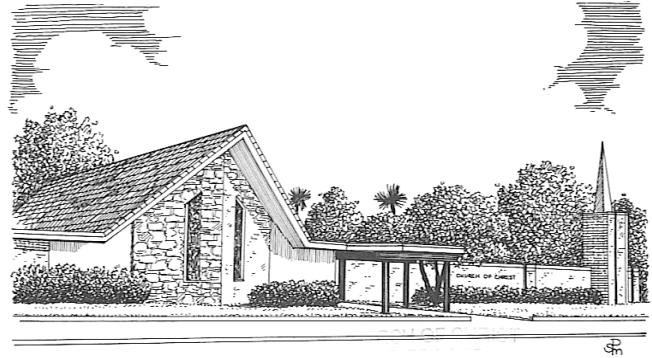


Palm Springs Church of Christ
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Office hours:
Monday - Thursday
9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
July 19, 2020



Palm Springs Church of Christ

Palm Springs, CA

Contacts		Church Secretary	
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John Leonard: 1-760-323-2682	David Winings: 1-760-409-0490		
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Is Church Essential?

Much debate has poured out over this question as the pandemic continues to hold many of our communities within its grasp. “Are public church services considered essential?” “When will we open our churches again?” Such questions, sadly, cover a deeper set of questions the pandemic has exposed.

More significantly, church leaders are asking, “What is essential about being the church?” This question is a whole lot more complex than the real and often complicated dilemma of relaunching face-to-face Sunday morning services! Certainly, worshipping in the same space, being bodily together in community, is valuable and needful to our Christian identity. Public worship feeds us, nurtures us and bears witness to the gospel.

The awkward reality, however, is that so much of our Christian identity has been tied to participating in a Sunday worship service. Without that single weekly event, many Christians have been left wondering whether they actually need church at all.

This is the rub. Christian faith has never been a spectator sport. Showing up on Sunday does not a Christian make! Worship services, Bible class, small groups, ministry commitments, and all the rest are supposed to lead us into a deep, full, rich life with God and with other humans. It is the deep relationship with God and others that composes Christian witness and life. *That* is what’s essential!

Regardless of whether you can gather soon with members of your local flock, the nagging question remains: “What is essential about being the church?”

Responding to this question may require significant rethinking about the values and practices of many of our congregations. For example, some good places to start are paying attention to local neighborhoods, renewing your focus on welcoming and restoring relationships with sisters and brothers who have a different color of skin, praying more, and partnering more with other Christians in our cities and towns. Consider also how we could intentionally invite people into practices of discipleship. How might we call people to a place of sacrifice and witness to the truth of Jesus in our world?

Though less exciting and less vocal than questions about when we will “reopen,” these questions about identity and discipleship are actually the more important questions. They were important long before the pandemic. And they are even more important in light of the renewed attention that the deaths of Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, George Floyd, and others bring to the ways people of color experience life each day. Ministers and elders have our work cut out for us.

As hard as it is to find a way to get everyone back to the church building on Sunday mornings, the greater and more essential challenge is figuring out how to invite people into a life shaped by Jesus. When God’s people seriously pursue discipleship that shapes us to love and cherish others well, the church’s witness in the world will alter our communities and cities. And that witness will declare the praise and wonder of God’s work in ways far beyond simply seeing cars parked around a church building on a Sunday morning!

-Dr. Carson Reed, from *Mosaic* blog, June 24, 2020

We have a commitment, empowered by the Holy Spirit,
To give glory to God
To be unified in reaching others
To be living witnesses for Christ

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.
Philippians 4:6,7

Prayer Needs:

Church family:

Please keep Leo Goodenough and family in your prayers as they mourn the death of grandson John Bowline, as well as Jerry Munn and family in your prayers as they mourn the loss of Jerry's cousin Thomas Doyle who passed away of Covid-19 and for Camelia Munn who is recovering from a recent surgery. Continue to pray for the improved health of: Ray & Sue Collins, Phyllis Francis, Leo & Wanda Goodenough, Delores Jensen, Betty Johnson, Brenda Jones, John Leonard, Roy & Lucy McDonald, Jeff & Michelle Mercer, Jerry & Camelia Munn, Dail Paramore, Francis Pati, Jim Scott, Lorenzo Serrano, and Joyce Winings.

Family & Friends:

Pray for Stuart's cousin Joanna who is recovering from injuries she suffered in a recent car accident. Continue to pray for the improved health of Mary Fields, Keith & Lisa Britton, Delores' brother Len, Marjorie Counts, Kathy's husband Kevin Ferrell and cousin Bob, Brianna Schaldweiler, Robert Gray, Derek Fields, Dail's friend Marie, Brenda's son Uriah, Rossie Stansbury, and Wanda's daughter Lynette.

First responders: Please remember to pray for those who are serving their communities during this difficult time. Phyllis Francis' granddaughter, Shyanna Francis (EMT) and extended family member Alisha K. (EMT). Dail Paramore and Stuart Huggins family members: Joanna Carter (Nurse), Luther Carter (Naval Officer), Jody Huggins and Jory Huggins (both are MI Patrol Officers). Jerry Munn's sister, Dr. Janice Massey of N.C. If you have family members or friends you would like to add to this prayer list, please let Kathy know.

Military:

Jeff & Michelle Mercer's son-in-law Brandon Deussenberry, Jodi Keeth's brother-in-law Tony Cairo, Glenn Fields and T. Burgess.

Prayer Warriors Corner

Dear Lord, we ask that You help us remain faithful during times of illness and despair. We pray that the day will come soon when every knee will bow and every tongue confess that Jesus is Lord. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Our Daily Bread: Larenda Lyles Robert; 4/7/2020

Read: Genesis 45:1-8

News:

*We have individually wrapped **communion supplies** available. If you would like to pick some up, please contact Kathy and they will be bagged and ready for you when you arrive (Monday - Thursday 9:30 - 12:00).*

Community Food Bank needs our support. They are averaging 200 people per week during this time. They are especially in need of canned meats/protein. Thank you for your generosity, it is very much appreciated.

Scripture reading: Romans 1:8-10 & 18-20

First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is being reported all over the world. God, whom I serve with my whole heart in preaching the gospel of his Son, is my witness how constantly I remember you in my prayers at all times; and I pray that now at last by God's will the way may be opened for me to come to you.

The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness, since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities - his eternal power and divine nature - have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.

Sermon topic:

"God has made it plain"



Birthdays:

Beverly Whatley:	7/1
Blake Axsom:	7/15
Yanira Fuentes:	7/18
Betty Johnson:	7/19



Anniversaries:

B & A Axsom:	7/19
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I know Love abounds among us but unfortunately we will not have worship at the building during this challenging time.

In the meantime, the expenses of maintaining the building, yard care, property insurance, utilities, etc. continue.

If you can continue your financial support, please mail it to:

Palm Springs Church of Christ

P.O. Box 2267

Palm Springs, CA 92263

(Checks or money orders - do not send cash)

God bless us all during this time and bless our families too.

Sermons on YouTube: For the most recent locally recorded sermon, simply go to the Palm Springs Church of Christ webpage and click on the "sermons" category at the top of the page.

<http://www.crenshawchurchofchrist.com>

Tri Lakes Church of Christ in Monument, Colorado