

# The Messenger



February, 2018

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Since 1958

## Pastor's Column

*"The devil led him up to a high place and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world."*

Luke 4:5



The forty-day journey of Lent, (really forty days plus six Sundays), is meant to recall the forty-day fast of Christ in the Judean Wilderness. It was a time of preparation for his earthly ministry, a time when Jesus had to decide what he love most of all: his mission or the Father whom had sent him on that mission. This was his great temptation and the culmination of it occurred on a high mountain.

The traditional site for this is a mountain called Jebel Quruntul. But there are one or two other mountains in the Judean wilderness which could equally qualify. Standing on one of these, you can scan the horizon for what in Jesus' day were all the kingdoms of the world. Facing east, you see off to your left the fortress Alexandrium, build by Jewish kings long before Rome conquered the land. Beyond that lay the Decapolis, a league of Greek city-states. To your right you can see make out Massada and Machaerus. Both were palaces build by Herod - the king who tried to kill the Jesus in his infancy. At your feet are the date fields which Caesar had given to Cleopatra, queen of Egypt. To the right of that is Jericho, the oldest inhabited city on the face of the earth. Beyond them both is the vast deserts of Arabia, from which, even today, raiders appear and disappear into the sand. Over to your left shoulder lived the Samaritans; over your right shoulder, the Jews and their beloved Jerusalem. After pointing out all these kingdoms, the devil said, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." Jesus had come to win the world. He did not even dispute the devil's claim to possess this planet. Satan did. The devil was making Jesus a genuine offer of a short cut to building a kingdom. But it came with a high price tag. The price was his relationship with God the Father. The kingdom would not have been God's kingdom.

Lent begins this year on Valentine's Day, a good day to reflect on what you and I love most of all. The words of Christ on another occasion remain a sure guide for us today: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind" (Matthew 22:37).

In His service,

Pastor Bruce

The Season of Lent will soon begin and the tone of the music the choir is rehearsing is more somber and reflective. It is a beautiful time of the year here in Arizona and our hearts are filled with anticipation for Easter and what it means to each of us as believers in Christ. I pray your thoughts and meditations will draw you closer to the Lord.



I have recently completed the music selections for Lent, Palm Sunday and Easter. The process begins sometimes in the summer but intensifies a couple of weeks after Christmas. I love to listen to new music and pray for the Holy Spirit to lead every decision. This year it took a little more time than usual to select the Easter anthem. I was looking for music that was “exciting”, something that would capture the emotional joys of the resurrection. After I looked for a couple of weeks, I finally uncovered the anthem that I felt was suitable!

Again we will enjoy instrumental ensembles for Palm Sunday and Easter. Liz McKinnon is helpful to arrange for the players after I inform her what we will need. I can already feel some of the exciting anticipation the Lord will bring to us! Let us each pray for each other as we take this journey together!

God bless you!

*Carol Petersen, Director of Music*



## Prayer Requests

Our prayer chain consists of people who would be happy to pray for you, your loved ones, and for any other praises or concerns you may have. Please call the church office 480-946-4207 or email [info@scottsdalechurch.com](mailto:info@scottsdalechurch.com) to have your requests added to the prayer chain.

## Preaching Schedule



February 4	1 Thessalonians 3:6-13	Growing through Charity
February 11	1 Thessalonians 4:1-12	Growing through Confession
February 18	1 Thessalonians 4:13-18	Growing through Faith
February 25	1 Thessalonians 5:12-28	Growing through Community

### Collaboration Discussions between SPC and Redemption

The Coordinating Team of Scottsdale Presbyterian Church and Redemption Church, Scottsdale met in January to reflect on how the joint Christmas Eve service went. Encouraged by its success, they agreed to begin planning the next joint service to be held on Easter Sunday. Additionally, they continue focusing on Worship questions more broadly. What would Sunday morning look at Hayden and Osborn Roads like if our two congregations began to worship together on a regular basis? Topics we need to sort through include:

- Music
- Preaching
- Offering
- Communion
- Prayer
- Liturgy (Order of Worship)
- Hospitality (Coffee Hour)
- Bulletin



For instance, it was agreed that whatever style of music is sung or played in worship, it should be done with excellence to enhance, rather than distract from, our worship of God.

## What is a Union Church?

When a local church unites members of diverse denominational backgrounds in an interdenominational congregation, that is known as a Union Church. Most Union Churches have been created by Lutheran and Reformed Christians agreeing to use the same facilities. ECO's polity document contains specific language regarding Union Churches:



Congregations, historically members of the PC(USA) or other Reformed denominations, who wish to maintain that membership while joining with ECO and who recognize and teach the Essential Tenets may request to join a presbytery of ECO after a period and process of discernment, and a two-thirds vote of the congregation at a duly called meeting. This joint witness shall be formed in communication with the presbytery or comparable governing body of each denomination. Wherever the constitutions of the denominations differ, any mandatory provisions of one shall apply in all cases where the other is permissive. (Polity 5.0201)

The Union Church model is one of several models which our Coordinating Team will be discussing in the coming months.

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### Bring An Extra Dollar on February 4th



Souper Bowl of Caring is a nationwide effort which encourages people to give one dollar while leaving worship services on SuperBowl Sunday. Using the energy of the Super Bowl it mobilizes care for other in their local communities transforming the time around the Super Bowl into the nation's largest celebration of giving and serving. Money collected through our effort at SPC will be3 donated to Vista del Camino.

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### New Members Class is Forming



The class is designed to provide you with an overview of what it means to be a follower of Christ and a member of Scottsdale Presbyterian Church Presbyterian. If you would like to attend or find out more, please talk with Pastor Bruce or indicate your interest using the Prayer Request card found in the back of the pews.



...and Give a Prayer and Praise

**Please keep the following people in your prayers this month:**

President Donald Trump, Governor Doug Ducey and Mayor Jim Lane.

Prayers that our Youth will be filled with the Holy Spirit and God will do mighty things in their lives.

For our church: That we will love God, one another and our neighborhood. Pastor, Staff, Elders, **Family Focus Team** & Vision Team.

**For Our Family Focus Team:** Nellie Schwartz, Gail Widner, Pat Reynolds, Heather George, Sherry Blanchard, Pat Cook, Natallie Day and Jackie Parks (Redemption).

**For Our Elders:** Jeffrey Barton, Bob Howard, Tina Sedlock, Terry Linnig, Eric Palumbo, Brett Recen and Hal Koontz.

**For our Vision Team:** Pastor Bruce Johnson, Carol Petersen, Bob Howard, Rick Widner and Jeff Barton

**For our Coordinating Team:** Jeffrey Barton, Liz McKinnon, Ginny Mountain, Nellie Schwartz, Jackie Parks, Pastor Sean Mortenson and Pastor Bruce Johnson.

Be in prayer for our troops, as well as their families, who are serving abroad for our freedom. Please be in additional prayer for Missionaries Carolyn Kurtz, Dorothy Hanson, and Pastor Tazera Belachew.

### **And last but not least:**

- 1. Thursday Night Women's Bible Study is taking a Break and will Return in February for a short, but informative, session. Contact Teresa Wilbur for more information.**
- 2. Thursday Prayer gathering is at 3 pm in the Church office. See Craig Reynolds for more information.**
- 3. Vista del Camino needs our help. Donation items for February are: *Soup and Canned Fruit*. These may be dropped off in the Narthex on Sunday morning or in the office during the week.**



# February



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Prayer 3 pm	2	3
4 Praise Band 8am Worship 9:30 am 	5	6	7 Family Focus Team 10:30 am  Handbells 6pm Choir 7pm	8 Prayer 3 pm	9	10
11 Praise Band 8am Worship 9:30 am Adult Sunday School 10:45 am	12	13 Session 7PM	14  Family Focus Team 10:30 am  Worship 6:30 pm	15 Prayer 3 pm	16	17 Men's Breakfast 7:30–8:30 am Randy's Café Chaparral & Hayden
18 PraiseBand 8am Worship 9:30 am Adult Sunday School 10:45 am	19 	20 Newsletter articles due	21 Handbells 6pm Choir 7pm	22 Prayer 3 pm	23	24
25 PraiseBand 8am Worship 9:30 am Adult Sunday School 10:45 am	26	27	28 Handbells 6pm Choir 7pm			

Our Mission Statement  
Scottsdale Presbyterian Church joyfully follows the Lord Jesus Christ. Moved by His power, Motivated by His love, Equipped for His ministry, So that our community and our world, Will know His grace.

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