

MAY 2026 NEWSLETTER

Mission Statement: At Hope Palm Desert our vision is to share the free and unmerited love of God in Christ Jesus.

COFFEE WITH PASTOR GERALD

If you've lived in the Valley for any length of time, you know this stretch of the year. It's that brief moment when the desert feels even more special. The mornings are still cool. The evenings are perfect. When you open the door to walk outside first thing in the morning, you pause for a second because it feels so good!

But, here's the thing, we know it won't last. That's why so many of our snowbird friends have or will soon fly north. In a few weeks the heat will settle in. Our daily patterns will shift. Mornings will start earlier. Afternoons will slow down. We'll adjust, because that's what we do living here.

But right now...THIS IS THE WINDOW.

Maybe that's why I've been thinking about how easy it is to miss moments like this. Not just in the weather, but in life. The in between seasons of life when things aren't extreme, nothing dramatic is happening, and yet something really good is right in front of us.

Maybe it's a conversation you didn't rush through. An evening that you let linger a little longer than you'd planned. A quiet moment where life settled and you were a bit caught off guard.

Sometimes though, these are the moments where life feels the most full...if we're paying attention. This month of May has a way of inviting us into that pace. Not hurrying past it, not waiting for something else, just noticing what's already here. Embracing it, even if it's brief.

Because not every meaningful moment comes with fireworks, celebrations, and songs. Some just show up quietly like a cool morning or a perfect evening. Or a day when you realize...it's been a good day.

So, before this window closes and the heat settles in, I'm encouraging you to slow down for a moment...step outside a little earlier or stay out a little later. Notice what's right in front of you. And maybe, even grab an extra cup of coffee.

This is the window.

Know you are loved,
Pastor Gerald

PRAYER REQUEST



If you have a loved one or friend in need of prayer, or need to make a change to a name on the prayer list, please send that information to michael@hopepd.org.

Remember in Prayer:

Anita Allingham, Marilyn Atchue-Zuill, Chanel Atchue, Carol Beers, Vida Besel, Carl Caddies, Marilyn Dichsen, Jerry Fragasso, Kylie Gahagan, Richard Gormley, Kit Hickerson, Lenor Jones, Larry May, Jimmie Sue May, Daniel Mongillo, William Savery, Stacy Sheller, Phil Sheller, Annie Whittlesey, Dana Zahler, Judy Caddies, Bob Whinery, Marilyn Lammers

Please resubmit names by email to michael@hopepd.org by the 1st of the month; otherwise Hope will assume the person is feeling better and the name will be removed from the list. Any questions please contact gabe@hopepd.org

HOPE LEGACY COMMITTEE

**"Even if I knew that tomorrow the world would go to pieces, I would still plant my apple tree today."
Martin Luther**



Have you updated your will?

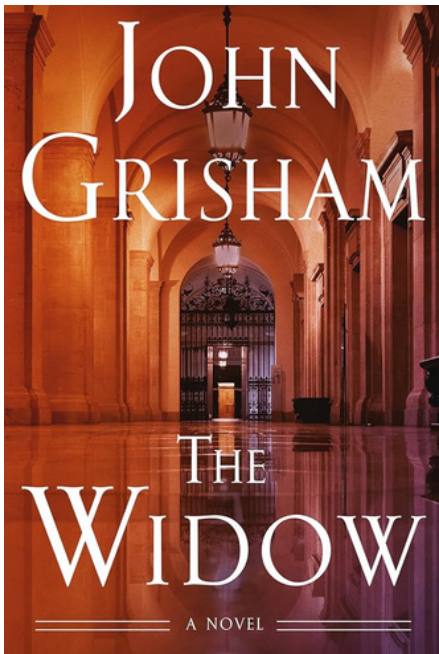
Don't forget to include Hope Lutheran Church Palm Desert!

For further information please contact the Hope office at gabe@hopepd.org.

I believe most of us would like to leave a legacy. Legacy giving necessarily involves leaving a charitable donation to a non-profit organization. Please consider Hope Lutheran as a means to establish your legacy. Please call Pastor Gerald or Gary Eilefson, Legacy committee chair at 651-238-2578. You may choose to have your conversations and charitable plan remain anonymous.



HOPE BOOK CLUB



Simon Latch is a lawyer in rural Virginia, making just enough to pay his bills while his marriage slowly falls apart. Then into his office walks Elenor Barnett, an elderly widow in need of a new will. Apparently, her husband left her a small fortune, and no one knows about it.

Once he hooks the richest client of his career, Simon works quietly to keep her wealth under the radar. But soon her story begins to crack. When she is hospitalized after a car accident, Simon realizes that nothing is as it seems, and he finds himself on trial for a crime he swears he didn't commit murder.

Simon knows he's innocent. But he also knows the circumstantial evidence is against him, and he could spend the rest of his life behind bars. To save himself, he must find the real killer....

BOOK CLUB MEETS May 26th at 6PM
Please sign up at the Information Center
BOOK COPIES ARE \$15

hope OUTREACH

Giving Hope to the Unhoused

Free Services & Support for Our Community
May 4th, June 1st | 9am - 12pm

Showers 	Hygiene Kits 	Food 	Prayer 	Narcan
Medical 	Foot Massage 	Recovery Support 	Haircuts 	Mobile Phones

45900 Portola Ave, Palm Desert, CA 92260.
All are welcome. Come receive support, care, and hope.
More information contact carlos@hopepd.org.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

HELP SERVE IN OUR PANTRY

**Tuesdays & Thursdays
10AM – 2PM**

Sign up at the Info Center or online at hopepd.org
For more information contact gabe@hopepd.org



HOPE FOOD PANTRY

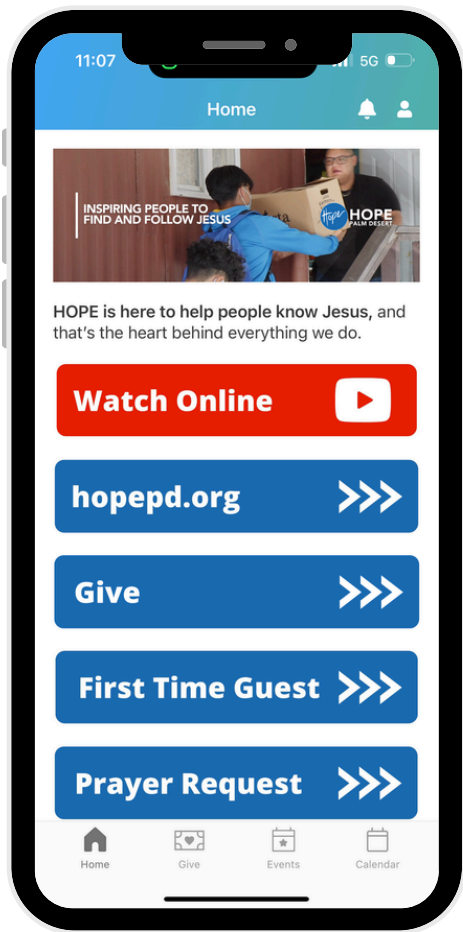
DONATIONS ACCEPTED



Help care for families in our community by donating non-perishable food items. Donations can be dropped off at the church office during business hours.

YOUR KINDNESS RESTORES HOPE.

For more info contact gabe@hopepd.org
or call the office at 760.346.1273.



CHURCH CENTER APP

Seeking clarity on in-person and online group meetings? Need Bible study start times or prayer lists? Interested in supporting the church financially? Our church app has you covered! Here's how to get started:

1. Visit your phone's App Store.
2. Search for 'Church Center App.'
3. Download it.
4. Set it up with 'Hope.'



With the app, you can submit prayer requests, catch service highlights, access our website, Kids Check-in, and connect with us on Facebook, Instagram, and TikTok. Stay engaged and informed! 📱🙌 #StayConnected"

FAMILY Ministry



Hope Children Center provides a faith-based environment for children to enjoy before and after school. Contact our Director, Virginia at virginia@hopepd.org for more info.

CHILDREN CENTER



CAMP HOPE KINGDOM QUEST

AN EPIC JOURNEY TO
DISCOVER GOD'S KINGDOM

PRE-K THRU 6TH GRADE
JUNE 15TH - 19TH
8:30AM - 12PM
REGISTER IN "EVENTS" AT HOPEPD.ORG

PARENTS NIGHT OUT

Games
Music
Food
Bounce
Houses

SCHOOL'S OUT CELEBRATION
COUNTDOWN TO SUMMER GAMES

Friday,
May 15th
6:00pm - 8:30pm

Register at
hopepd.org

DROP OFF
YOUR K- 6TH
GRADERS!

Donate Here

<https://www.hopepd.org>

Student Ministry

Middle & High School online at hopepd.org

Sunday SERVICES

Middle School Ministry service is from 10:30am - 11:30am. Students will meet in the Hope Center for worship, then move to Meeting Room 5.

High School Ministry Sunday service is from 10:30am - 11:30am. Students will meet in the Hope Center for worship, then go to Meeting Room 4.



This is an event where students are the hands and feet of Jesus in our very own community. Less than a mile up the road from the church on Portola, students go into a community that needs food.

Our high school students go door-to-door handing out food to the families. On top of that, they're reaching out and asking if the families have any concerns that they could pray about together. This is an amazing opportunity for students to impact the lives of others.

Third Saturday of every month we gather in the Hope Center @ 7:30am.

Every month third Saturday, May 16th, 2026
Every student High School
Adults can volunteer too, contact nick@hopepd.org

PM

IN HOPE CENTER SUNDAYS FROM 11:30AM-1:30PM
(HIGH SCHOOL ONLY)



@hopechurchmsm
@hopechurchhsm



@hopechurchmsm
@hopechurchhsm



@hopeyouthministry

WHERE MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS

HAVE FUN WITH FRIENDS AND DISCOVER THEIR FAITH.

Wednesday Nights
6:00pm to 8:00pm
Meeting Room 5



Stand Firm

is a Middle School Ministry and will meet every Wednesday from 6-8pm in Meeting Room 5.



Student Summer Camp

Join us for an unforgettable summer with 100 middle & high school students, growing in faith, building friendships, and making lasting memories!

\$ Cost: \$600 Per Student

✓ Scholarship opportunities available!

📅 Dates: July 6th - 10th

📍 Big Bear, CA

🌐 Register at hopepd.org

QUILTERS OF HOPE



NO FOOLS! Quilters of Hope will be meeting on:
Wednesday, **MAY 6th from 9:30 to 11:30 am.**

We will meet again **Wednesday, May 20th at the same time.**

Please join us and learn how quilts are made and why we love making them. We welcome all.

For more information, please call or text
Ruth Fikes at 714-642-3773 or
candrfikes@gmail.com



PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY



Thanks for all of your generous support. Our Prayer Shawl Closet has been well stocked and the beautiful shawls are just waiting to be shared. If you know of anyone who could use a comforting hug please contact one of the pastors, Gabe or myself. We continue to accept donations and look forward to sharing more love and hope.

For additional information please reach out to:
Mary Ellen Peterson at (801) 598-7733 or marymelon50@hotmail.com

GRIEFSHARE AT HOPE

Are you interested in helping walk with people through their grief? Do you have a heart of care for people experiencing loss? If so, would you consider leading a GriefShare group?

GriefShare is a program for people experiencing grief of any kind led by people who have also experienced grief themselves. All materials will be provided, you just need to bring a willing heart.

Please contact Deacon John (johnb@hopepd.org) if you are interested.



STEPHEN MINISTRY



Hope's Stephen Ministry team serves the community with:

***One on One confidential relationships** for people who need someone to “come along side” during a personal or family crisis

***Prayer** – offered after Hope's services

***Communion** for those who are home-bound. Stephen Ministers are trained to offer communion in your home if you cannot make it to church. Your team continues to learn and grow in their faith with the study/discussion of the book, Do Your Best and Trust God with the Rest.

If you or someone you know might benefit by having a care giver, please contact Pastor Gerald, Deacon John, or Laurie Cribari.

SATURDAY NIGHT LUTHERANS (SNL)

****Saturday Night Lutherans (SNL) is a social group and we invite everyone to attend.**

Our next event is May 16th at 5:00pm.
At the home of Lynda & Jim Matteson,
78409 Kennington, Sun City Palm Desert.
Please bring an appetizer to share and a drink of your choice.

Be sure to sign up at the Information Center.

LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD!!!

Hope Choir Recruiting



*If You Have A Spirit Of Praise, And A Song In Your Heart
The Hope Choir IS LOOKING FOR YOU!*

Rehearsals are at 6:30pm every Thursday
Contact Director Michael Cundari at michael@hopepd.org for more info.

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Celebrate Recovery

A CHRIST CENTERED Recovery Program

If you've been wondering what Celebrate Recovery is all about, just show up one Thursday night and see what God might do in your heart. Our slogan is "You're worth it!" because you are!

Celebrate Recovery meets every Thursday night from 7:00pm - 9:00pm in the Hope Center. If you have any questions, would like more information, or just talk or email with someone, contact Gesa Sharon at gesa@hopepd.org or (949)689-9681.

theLanding
CelebrateRecovery® for Students

A SAFE PLACE FOR STUDENTS TO PROCESS LIFE AND THE STRUGGLES THAT ACCOMPANY IT.

THE LANDING FOR MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL

EVERY THURSDAY 7PM
Hope Center
hopepd.org

The Landing: will go on Summer break Thursday June 11th and resume July 16th.

Women of HOPE

THE BRIDGES 2 HOPE
CONNECTING PEOPLE TO COMMUNITY AND RESOURCES

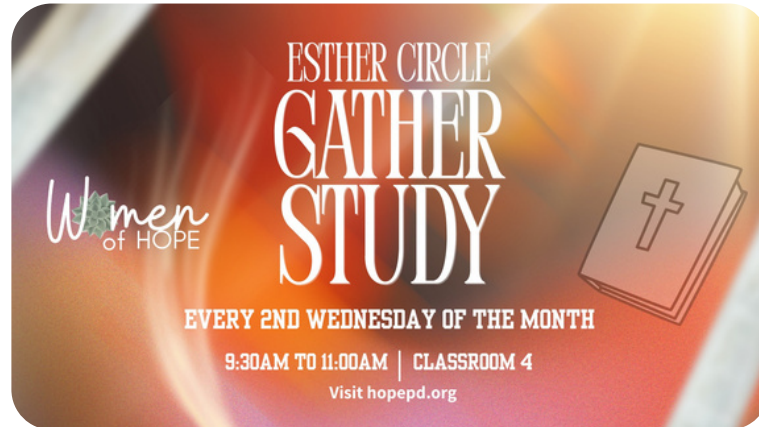
BAGS OF HOPE

In support of "The Bridges 2 Hope"
Homeless Outreach
Hygiene Item Collection

TRAVEL SIZE

SHAMPOO	LOTION
CONDITIONER	SUNSCREEN
BAR SOAP	TOOTHPASTE
BODY WASH	TOOTHBRUSHES
BODY WIPES	

CONTACT GESA@HOPEPD.ORG



"I AM: God's holy name and promise," a Bible study by the Rev. Hannah Hawkinson

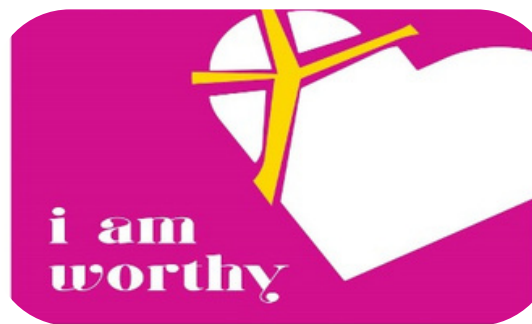
**Esther Circle meets every 2nd Wednesday of the month from 9:30am to 11:00am
in Room 4 in the Hope Center.**

(May) Session three: Resurrection and life: Leading us into abundant life (John 11 and 14)

This final session revolves around the third dimension of I AM: God's promise to lead God's people into abundant life. From before creation to the time of Moses to today, this is God's enduring promise to God's people. In declaring that he is "the resurrection and the life," and "the way, the truth, and the life," Jesus is stepping into this grand tradition, reminding God's people to cling to God's promise, God's very holy name: I AM. God has promised to be with God's people—to abide with us, to guide us, to protect us, and to lead us into abundant life, now and forever.



**The Women of Hope ministry
leaders enjoyed their annual
lunch together, sharing
laughter, fellowship, and
gratitude for the privilege of
serving side by side.**



Women of Hope Summer Studies
"I am worthy," by the Rev. Sara Olson Smith
Saturday, June 13th, July 11th, August 8th
10:00am to 11:30am | Hope Center Room 4

This summer, Women of the ELCA participants will gather in Des Moines, Iowa, under the theme "I am worthy." When Nobel Peace Prize winner Leymah Gbowee spoke in 2017, she invited WELCA participants to reclaim space for women and girls to lead and love in bold ways. This three-part Bible study will help us to define who we are, what we can be, and what we do in the world, in light of our God-given giftedness, identities and relationships.

June: "I am created in God's image. No matter what anyone else says."

We'll begin with the story of God's creation and the "very goodness" that is spoken over every human being. The study will then turn to various scripture texts that have been used to undermine, silence and degrade women for centuries. Unpacking the ways these verses have been read against women shines a light on the realities of sexism and the ways that, for too long, the Bible has been used to prop up the oppression of women. But we will also hear how those same scriptures can be read as invitations to new freedom, community and vocation for people, regardless of gender, for all people were made in God's image.

July: "I am more than one thing: Honoring our many identities."

In her TED talk, "The Danger of a Single Story," Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie names this truth: We are much more than one thing. All of us have intersecting identities, roles and responsibilities. Beyond our ethnicity, the color of our skin or our birthplace, we may also be a sister, a mother, a daughter, a friend. We have various vocations, hobbies and joys.

In this session, we'll explore how the multiple identities of several women in Scripture shape their faithful living. Esther is not just a queen, but a niece, as well as part of an oppressed community of faith. Ruth is so much more than just a widow. Mary Magdalene has more identities than can fit within the allowed word count of this paragraph. So do you!

August: "I am because you are: We need one another."

Our individual identities are always bound up in community. Jesus describes this vision using a vine and branches. Paul talks about a body with many parts. The prophets describe communities of liberative interdependence.

Archbishop Desmond Tutu describes this way of mutual interconnectedness as "Ubuntu," where "my humanity is caught up and bound up inextricably with yours. I can only be fully me if you are fully you."

In delving into Scripture, we learn how no one can flourish unless everyone does, and how our lives are bound up with one another and the planet.

MAY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Dakota Parlett Joe Lilly	2 Eric Swanson Jim Liddell Kay Peterson Sebastian Conti Michael Scarcella Odalys Oliden Camila Romero
3 Carolyn Griffin Karen Smith Kevin Weber	4 Elizabeth Schorr Linda Combs Lola Reed Rome Nelson Leila Jaime Avila Luisa Jimenez	5 Karen Anshell Leo Muzzonigro Phoenix Orson Rose Kramer Mason Swartz TAMMY and JERRY BUCKLIN	6 Clint Newell Jackson Winch Kayla Claborn Franklin Austin Genny Little	7 Alejandro Cervantes Greg Griffiths	8 Connor O'Brien Daniel Long Lucas Budd Everett Kaplan	9 Kelsey Nelson Lennon Mendoza Isreal Galletes
10 Cecilia Flores Shawna Ellis Sierra Ellis Dodie Frost Mary Karr Garrett Stevko	11 Janice Gilmore Savannah Ellis Sophie Hughes John Fox Amelia Moody Vivienne Moody	12 Fabi Cook Fabiola Divine Melanie Hart Andy Teasley Elias Estrada	13 Viviana Carrera Ella Clay Sarah Steepleton Barbara Vincent STEPHANIE and SHANNON STREIFF- PROCESS	14 Finley Brinkman Mackenzie McIntosh Mason Himler Johnathon Yancy	15 Jana Lew Melissa Huettel Quinn Leach Rachael Orson Sandy Hammett	16 Justin Haines Mike Robledo Peter Smith Martha Osborne Micah Hartung EILEEN and JOHN DONNELLY
17 Julie Smith Kenley Middleton Carlos Diaz Benjamin Raymond Sarah Jimian Hope Klaustermeyer	18 Jacquelin Watson Jeff Coe Roman Camacho Tyler Clausen	19 Andria Lamb Grace Peterson Ryan McJilton Vicki Graves Steele Hedberg CAROL and KIM BUCHANAN	20 Ava Jones Ian Robinson Jason Jones Roland Domer Tina Bailey Jo Engel Steven Herzog Kim Jewett	21 Elliet Nelson Grace Taylor Segal Jackson Davidson Bill Savery Layla Castro DICK and CAROL CARLSON	22 Evan Doty Zachary Vance STEPHANIE and CHUCK CARTER	23 Beth Fauth Evelyn Martinez Michael McClausland Santiago Reyes
24 Nancie Free James Kuroki John Stevko	25 Craig Graham Gracie Palmer Daniel Mendoza	26 Adam Lee Gidget Swadish Judy Carlson Zak Bryant	27 Kathy Helgeson Camden Schimmer	28 Jeanne Germond Richard Witt Christopher Moreno Jamie Watson	29 Evalynn Gundlach ROSALIE and MILT UNRUH	30 Aria Warren Kayla Chicoine Susan Dellinger Ronald Kirchoff Bonnita Knutson Charlotte Royce
31						

MAY 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 8:00am/9:30am Traditional Worship 9:30/10:30am Hope Kids 10:30am Modern Worship	4 9:00am Hope Outreach	5 7:30am Men's Bible Study 9:00am BSF	6 9:30am Quilters 6pm Stand Firm	7 7:00pm Celebrate Recovery	8	9 10:00am VASA
10 8:00am/9:30am Traditional Worship 9:30/10:30am Hope Kids 10:30am Modern Worship	11	12	13 9:30am Esther Circle 6pm Stand Firm	14 6:30pm HOPE CHOIR 7:00pm Celebrate Recovery	15 6:00pm Parents Night Out	16 7:00am Student Impact
17 8:00am/9:30am Traditional Worship 9:30/10:30am Hope Kids 10:30am Modern Worship	18 6:30pm Monday Night Gather	19 7:30am Men's Bible Study	20 9:30am Quilters 6pm Stand Firm	21 7:00pm Celebrate Recovery	22	23 10:00am Sons of Norway
24 8:00am/9:30am Traditional Worship 9:30/10:30am Hope Kids 10:30am Modern Worship	25 Memorial Day Office Closed 5:00pm Monday Night Gather	26 6:00pm Hope Book Club	27 6pm Stand Firm	28 7:00pm Celebrate Recovery	29	30
31 8:00am/9:30am Traditional Worship 9:30/10:30am Hope Kids 10:30am Modern Worship						

ALTAR FLOWERS/NEEDY PERSONS FUND (\$60 DONATION)

Altar Flowers Given By		Needy Persons Fund Given By
Given by: Larry Scheibach & Laura Saunders In Memory of Penny Scheibach's Birthday	May 3	Given by: Jan & Brian Harnik To the Glory of God
Given by: The Shnyderman Family In Celebration of Our Children's Birthdays, Mikah & Niko	May 10	Given by: Reynold Worch To the Glory of God
Given by: Reynold Worch To the Glory of God & John & Eileen Donnelly In Celebration of their 62 nd Anniversary	May 17	Given by: Janice Barnes To the Glory of God
Given by: Barbara Norman In Memory of Father Ralph Norman	May 24	Given by: Reynold Worch To the Glory of God
Given by: Cathy & Rod Odegaard To the Glory of God	May 31	Given by: Jan & Brian Harnik To the Glory of God

Sign-up sheets available at the Information Center or call the office at 760.346.1273.

"Sharing the Gifts of God"	March 2026
Average Weekly Attendance (including online)	1014
Offering	\$150,485.00
Miscellaneous Income	\$0
Total	\$150,485.00
Average Weekly Income	\$30,097.00
Mortgage Balance	\$356,500.00
Monthly Mortgage Payment	\$3,147
Building Mortgage(funds received for mortgage)	\$3,848.91

ONLINE AND ONCAMPUS WEEKLY OPPORTUNITIES

WHAT	WHEN	WHERE
Traditional Services	Sundays 8:00am & 9:30am	On Campus
Modern Services	Sundays 10:30am	On Campus
Online Service	Available Saturday evenings	hopepd.org
Hope Kids	Sundays 9:30am & 10:30am	On Campus
Women's Gather Study	Monday, May 18, 6:30pm	On Campus
Men's Bible Study	1 st and 3 rd Tuesdays	Conference Room
Stand Firm	Wednesdays, 6:00pm - 8:00pm	On Campus
Hope Book Club	Tuesday, May 26 at 6:00pm	Conference Room
Esther Circle	Wednesday, May 13, 9:30am	On Campus
Quilters of Hope	1 st and 3 rd Wednesdays, 9:30am	Hope Center
Hope Choir	Thursdays 6:30pm	Choir Room
Celebrate Recovery	Thursdays 7:00pm	Hope Center
CR - Men's Open Share	Thursdays 8:00pm	On Campus
CR - Women's Open Share	Thursdays 8:00pm	On Campus



STAFF

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Bridge Pastor
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John Wilson
Multimedia Producer
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Council (Leadership Team)

Mary Fay Pinnow
President

Toni Hafey
Vice President/HR

Secretary

Marge Guentzler
Treasurer

Kim Buchanan
Stewardship

David Shelep
Property Management

John Stevko
Youth Ministry

John Donnelly
Human Resources



FOR MORE INFORMATION:

760.346.1273 | HOPE PALM DESERT 45900 PORTOLA AVENUE PALM DESERT, CA 92260

OFFICE HOURS:

9:00AM - 5:00PM MONDAY - THURSDAY

FRIDAYS CLOSED