

***Welcome to the worship of God with the community of faith at Gilbert Presbyterian Church... ALL ARE WELCOME!***

We are glad you have joined us. I am new here too – I only began serving this congregation as pastor on May 1, 2022, and I can tell you first-hand that this is an extraordinarily welcoming and caring church. I hope and trust that you have already felt the warmth of fellowship here.

We are part of the Presbyterian Church (USA), one of the most well-known of the “mainline” protestant denominations in the United States. Our heritage in America dates from the beginning: a Presbyterian pastor was the only member of the clergy to sign the Declaration of Independence.

Here at GPC, we are all about mission: service to our neighbors and the surrounding area. If working toward a better, kinder, and more equitable community is something you seek to do, then we have a place for you and will welcome your involvement.

If you are searching for a church home and would like more information, then please speak with me directly, send me an email ([azgpcpastor@gmail.com](mailto:azgpcpastor@gmail.com)) or call the church office (480-892-6753). And if you just want to enjoy worshipping with us, that’s fine too. Either way, welcome to the adventure and we look forward to getting to know you better along the way.

Peace,  
*George Prohaska, Pastor*

**Gilbert Presbyterian Church  
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# GILBERT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## ***WHERE DID WE COME FROM??***

In 1982, the Presbytery of Grand Canyon committed to the development of a new Presbyterian church in Gilbert, AZ. The current five-acre property of Gilbert Presbyterian Church (GPC) was purchased in 1982, and ground was broken in 1987, after several years of planning and fund-raising. The first worship service in the current building was held in April 1988. In 2000, a second building was erected to provide a venue for education, nursery care, and fellowship activities; the building was officially dedicated as The Palmer Center, in honor of Pastor Terry Palmer when he retired in 2019, after a long term of service.

## ***WHO ARE WE??***

The original church commissioned 112 charter members in 1984. Our membership numbers have risen and fallen since that time, and we currently have 196 members. Our members span all ages, and we pride ourselves on our inclusiveness.

Our church has now had 4 permanent pastors over the years, and we are ecstatic to have our new pastor, George Prohaska, who joined us in May of 2022. Preceding George was Dr. Terry Palmer, who served our church for 17 years.

In the Presbyterian tradition, GPC has two boards of elected officials. The board of deacons is composed of 12 members. Deacons are responsible for the care and nurture function of our church, and each is assigned responsibility for a "flock" of 8-10 families. The board of elders is also composed of 12 members. Elders are responsible for overall management of various church functions, including worship, Christian education, finance, personnel, buildings and grounds, evangelism, mission, and stewardship; committees have been established to accomplish each of these tasks, and additional task forces are created on an ad-hoc basis such as technology team, property management, resources, etc. We are a small, but mighty, church!!

## ***WHAT DO WE DO??***

Gilbert Presbyterian has weekly worship services on Sunday mornings at 9:30 AM. Worship services are also livestreamed on YouTube, Facebook, and GPC's website. Music is a meaningful part of worship, and our music ministry team oversees all aspects of music in worship, including the chancel choir, children's choir, and handbell choir.





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## ***ALL ARE WELCOME!!***

New member's classes are held when individuals who have visited the church are interested in learning more about GPC, about the Presbyterian faith, and are considering joining. If you are interested in attending a class, please contact the church at 480-892-6753. Classes are held as needed in a small group with Pastor George on an on-going basis.

Christian Education classes for all ages are held at 11:00 AM. There are two different classes for adults (one a more traditional Bible study format, and the second a video-based class). Christian Education classes for younger children are held immediately following the children's message portion of the worship service. Newly renovated nursery and Pre-K rooms are available for our smallest of members through age 5.

## ***HELPING OTHERS!!***

Mission activities are important to GPC. We prepare lunches for East Valley Mens' Center, assemble nutrition packs for Feed My Starving Children, prepare and serve dinner at the UMOM homeless shelter, contribute to the needs of the Guadalupe Presbyterian Church, launder used clothing for the Heavenly Threads program, and provide gifts for needy children with the "Christmas Angel" tree.

Gilbert Presbyterian reaches out to our larger community by providing meeting space for support groups for those overcoming addictions, serving as a polling place for local elections, hosting blood drives several times a year, and making space available for homeowner association meetings.

We are part of a larger Presbyterian community, as part of the Presbytery of Grand Canyon, which includes 55 churches throughout Arizona. We also work with nearby Presbyterian churches to host a summer day camp program for children.

## ***WHERE ARE WE GOING??***

With our recent successful search for a new pastor, we have had the opportunity to reflect on our focus as a faith community. Thanks to Pastor George, we are in the process of identifying our priorities for a bright and fruitful future. GPC is constantly evolving with new forward-thinking ideas, and we would love to welcome you to join us on our journey!!



# KIDS ARE WELCOME

God put the wiggle in children, so do not feel the need to suppress it in God's house.

Look for our activity bags or children's bulletins near the entrance.

You might want to sit towards the front, where your children can see and hear better.

Feel free to quietly explain what is happening. Sing, pray, and participate - your child will follow.

If you need to leave the service, that's okay! Do come back, though. We don't mind.

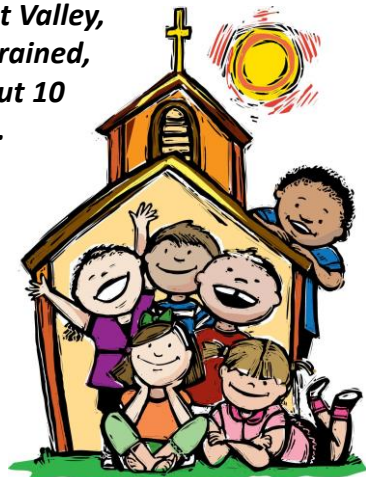
We believe that the way we welcome children directly affects the way they respond to the church, to God, and to one another. Let them know that they are at home in God's house.

To our members: The presence of children is a gift to the church and a reminder that we are growing! Please welcome the children as Jesus did. Find ways and words to encourage their parents.



Nursery Care is available in the Palmer Center, Rooms 9 & 10, for infants through age 5 with our Nursery Attendant, Britney Blackburn.

*If you would like to take advantage of our nursery and toddler rooms, our nursery caregiver, Britney Blackburn would be ecstatic! Britney has grown up in GPC and lives for kids. She is also a paraprofessional specialist in the Gilbert Public School District, a respite provider in the East Valley, CPR and First Aid trained, & babysits for about 10 different families... Your child is in great hands!*



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Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

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