



THE SKYLINE

An e-news blast of Desert Skies United Methodist Church

January 24, 2017



WORSHIP SERIES-“Who Are You?”

The season of Epiphany is a wonderful time to explore the light of Christ and what it means for us as Christian followers! Light reveals things, and this series is designed to reveal just who we are...as individuals, as travelers on a faith journey, as beloved children of God. This delightful journey of discovery continues and will run through February...

January 29-“Embody Beatitude Living”

February 5-“Live With Integrity”

February 12-“Create Right Relationships”

February 19-“Go Beyond”

February 26-“Proclaim Transformation”

7th Annual Casa Maria Valentine’s Day Coffee and Sugar collection February 5th and 12th

The Missions/Social Concerns Committee is asking for donations of **coffee, sugar, liquid hand soap** and **paper towels** for Casa Maria Soup Kitchen.

Last year we collected **212 pounds of Coffee and 273 pounds of Sugar, 158 rolls of paper towels and 45 bottles of hand soap.** Can we top that this year?

Let’s do our best to provide these gifts of love to several hundred homeless brothers and sisters who seek assistance at Casa Maria each morning.

Your donations will be collected outside of the Sanctuary on February 5th and February 12th.

Thank you for being friends of those who are served by Casa Maria Soup Kitchen.

A DAY OF WORSHIP BY ENGAGING IN SERVICE TO OUR COMMUNITY

Forty-two Workshop Sunday participants took Desert Skies out into our community on Sunday, January 22nd and another twenty also shared by baking cornbread, pies and cookies to take along to several of our projects. Enjoy the pictures of those who participated, and ask yourself...**What is YOUR “next step” in being an active part of God’s Mission in today’s world?**



Fourteen, who were divided between First UMC and Christ Church UM, assisted with The Inn Project by doing everything from cooking and serving breakfast to organizing the clothing area and sheets/towels/blankets in bins, making PBJ sandwiches for travel days, cleaning and re-organizing the supply closet and labeling all bins and shelves in Spanish/English while sharing fellowship with the families that were there.



Eleven spent the morning at Casa Maria Soup kitchen serving soup to approximately 400 low income singles and families as well as making sandwiches, packaging sweets and salties for lunches, packing lunches and doing basic clean up.

Also, a group of six prepared the noon meal for those at the Primavera Men’s Shelter and shared the meal and fellowship with them. A special THANK YOU to Chris and Ken Weber for preparing the chili and coleslaw.



In the afternoon, Dr. Raymond Ryder and the Youth Hand Bells took worship through music to the residents of the Villas at Houghton Assisted Living and Memory Care Facility. Due to a scheduling error by the Sister Jose Women’s Center, Sunday, January 29th is the day that a group of three will prepare and share the evening meal with the thirteen women who seek safe night time shelter there.

It's Painting God's Beauty at Desert Skies!

Oil painting classes have started on Tuesday evenings at 6:00 pm and Thursday afternoons at 2:00 pm in room # 7. Classes will be thru the end of March and all are welcomed! For questions, please call Lorna Niven at # 722-2513. Thank you.



UMM Breakfast Meeting

We had a great turn out at our last meeting. All men of the church are welcome! Join us for breakfast, and fellowship.



Zippy 49er's Meeting



Tutoring at Desert Skies



Claim Your Vocation: Wonderful Opportunities to Serve at Desert Skies

Altar Flower Coordinator Needed

As Sylvia LaPorte has moved, she will no longer be taking care of coordinating our Altar Flowers for Sunday mornings. We need a coordinator to take her place. You would be the direct contact for the congregation in collecting their information for the Sunday of their choice. Availability to receive and send email is essential. If you are interested or need more/detailed information, please contact Tammy in the church office at # 749-0521. Thank you.

Christ Café on Sunday Mornings

The new year has begun and we need people to host our Christ Café on Sunday mornings. The sign-up board is at the Christ Café table each Sunday morning and the Connect Committee would appreciate it if you, your family members or a committee would pick a Sunday or two throughout the calendar year to provide treats for in between and after worship services. Questions??? Contact Jeann Fishback.

WANTED!

The sign out front of the church keeps our community apprised of our worship times and special events. But it doesn't just magically happen...and YOU just might be exactly what we need! If you would be willing to change the sign periodically as special events or seasons of the church change our regular worship hours, please contact Tammy at the Church Office and we will train you...and appreciate you mightily! Ken and Michelle Bever have been faithfully doing this task for awhile now, and are asking for a break! Please say yes to this opportunity to serve.

Communion Service

Desert Skies UMC Worship Committee wishes you a Happy New Year and many blessings in 2017.

The Worship Committee would like to increase our list of folks, including youth, willing to serve communion the first Sunday of each month at both services. We would like to eliminate the need for those who have been regularly serving for a number of years to serve only once or twice a year. This service does not entail being on a committee or attending any meetings just a worshipful heart and willingness to serve.

Kathy Merk will be in the entryway between services and after the 10:00 am service with a signup sheet for communion service for 2017 and a sheet to be called to serve. If you would like to contact Kathy personally, email: mkmcam81@gmail.com, phone: 208-409-0937, texts are okay. You can also sign-up on the back of your Blue Connection card found in your Sunday morning bulletin.

THE INN PROJECT CARING FOR CENTRAL AMERICAN IMMIGRANTS NEED VOLUNTEERS

Want to make our world a better place?

Volunteers are needed at the Inn Project at First United Methodist or Christ Church United Methodist. Each facility is temporarily housing documented immigrants from Central and Latin America. ICE brings the immigrants to the churches where they are fed, get clean clothes, take showers, and rest. Volunteers at the church call the immigrants' families who then buy bus/plane tickets so the immigrants can join them wherever they live. We get the confirmation numbers and take the immigrants to catch their buses/planes. Many volunteers are needed to help make the process go smoothly and safely. Sometimes that means just socializing with the immigrants, but it can also mean sorting clothes, helping to cook, washing dishes, or packing lunch bags for the families to take on their bus rides!! There is always something to do!!

They need volunteers 24/7, and, if you speak Spanish, you are especially needed to help with the intake process and to make the phone calls. Both churches have set up 4 hour shifts for volunteers, but if you can only give an hour or two, that's wonderful also! If you can help, **please** come into the church office or call and give your name, phone number, and email address or sign-up on the Blue Connection Card found in the bulletin on Sunday mornings. Someone will call you to give you details about volunteering. This is a marvelous way to make a difference in our world! **Don't be shy, any volunteer is welcome!!**

This Week At Desert Skies

Tuesday, January 24

9:30 am Covenant Bible Study Fellowship Hall
3:30 pm Tutoring Fellowship Hall
6:00 pm Painting God's Beauty Room # 7
Worship Meeting Sanctuary

Wednesday, January 25

4:00 pm Loss Support Group Room # 2
4:30 pm Worship Design Sanctuary
5:30 pm The Wired Word Fellowship Hall
6:45 pm Adult Bells Sanctuary
7:30 pm Adult Choir Sanctuary

Thursday, January 26

Biblical Counseling-Rev. Dr. Roy W. Ludlow
520-449-0410 or rwludlow@cox.net
9:00 am Prayer Group Room # 7
2:00 pm Painting God's Beauty Room # 7

Saturday, January 28

9:15 am UMW General Meeting Fellowship Hall

This Week's Bible Reading

January 24 Ex. 9-11; Luke 24
January 25 Ex. 12, 13; Ps. 21;
Acts 1
January 26 Ex. 14-16; Acts 2
January 27 Ex. 17-20; Acts 3
January 28 Ex. 21, 22; Ps. 12;
Acts 4
January 29 Ex. 23, 24; Ps. 14;
Acts 5
January 30 Ex. 25-27; Acts 6

Interested in joining
Desert Skies UMC?

Contact Rev. Dr.
Candace J. Lansberry
at 749-0521.

We are on the web:
www.desertskiesumc.org

Please like the Desert Skies Facebook page!
We update the page with information about upcoming events and also
advertise through Facebook.

The more likes, comments and shares we have on our page as well as
specific posts and events the bigger the audience we reach with any
advertising.

Reminder!

We will be convening a Charge Conference during our next
Church Council meeting on January 31st for the purpose of re-
voting on Rev. Matt's salary package due to a calculation error in
his compensation package.

Announcements

Western Sunday-is February 19th. We will have One Worship Service at 9:30 a.m. in the sanctuary. Join us for a BBQ after the service along with pony rides, games, fellowship and a whole lot of fun! Tickets will be on sale, Sunday January 29th, February 5th and 12th outside of the Sanctuary before and after services. You can also purchase your tickets in the church office-Monday-Thursday, 8:00 am—4:00 pm. No tickets will be sold on Western Sunday.

UMW General Meeting-The United Methodist Women's General Meeting will be Saturday, January 28th in the Fellowship Hall. We will gather at 9:15 a.m. for coffee followed by our fabulous brunch at 9:30 a.m. There will be a short business meeting and devotion time with our annual pledge service. Then our speaker will be Jan Cleere, showing her PowerPoint presentation regarding the lives of five Arizona women who endured the troubles and hardships of surviving during the territory's early days. All ladies of DSUMC (and friends) are welcome to come to our meetings and enjoy food, friendship and fellowship.

Thank You--"We would like to thank our church family for the cards, phone calls, and kind words during this time of loss of Miriam's Mom, Bonney Lebling. Special thanks to Candace Lansberry, Doc Shawn and the Adult Choir, Ken Winkleman, Janet Johns, Tammy Concienne, and the Meal Ministry. Your help and kindness was appreciated by both of us more than we can express."

Blessings, Miriam and Frank Parsons

Memorial Garden Spring Sale-A Spring Sale on Niches in Memorial Garden is on sale now through February 17th. Double Niches are \$1500, and Single Niches are \$750. Contact the Memorial Garden coordinator, Janet Johns at # 907-3351 if you are interested or need more information. Thank You.

HISTORY OF MEMORIAL GARDEN DESERT SKIES UMC

JERRY ELROD WAS PASTOR AT DESERT SKIES UMC WHEN A COMMITTEE WAS FORMED TO CONSIDER BUILDING A MEMORIAL GARDEN AT THE CHURCH. MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE TRAVELED ALL OVER ARIZONA LOOKING AT MEMORIAL GARDENS TO DECIDE WHAT THEY WOULD BUILD. JERRY ELROD WANTED THE GARDEN TO LOOK LIKE AN OLD TIME MEXICAN BURIAL GROUND. IT WAS DECIDED TO USE STRAW BALES CONSTRUCTION, BECAUSE BUILDING MATERIALS AT THAT TIME WERE SO EXPENSIVE. ALL OF THE BOULDERS AND ROCK WERE GATHERED BY THE MEN OF THE CHURCH FROM SURROUNDING WASHES. EMMITT WARNER WENT TO PIMA COLLEGE AND TOOK A 3 DAY COURSE ON STRAW BALE CONSTRUCTION.

GEORGE HOLGRIN DESIGNED THE EXTERIOR OF THE GARDEN AND DAN ELDER THE INTERIOR. AT THAT TIME NO FUNDS WERE AVAILABLE SO GEORGE HOLGRIN AND DAN ELDER DONATED THEIR SERVICES. TWO NICHEs WERE SOLD IN 1994 AND THE FUNDS WERE USED TO START BUILDING THE GARDEN. IT WAS NECESSARY TO GO TO THE BISHOP FOR APPROVAL TO BUILD THE GARDEN AND IT WAS AGREED THAT IF ANYTHING HAPPENED TO THE CHURCH THE CONFERENCE WOULD TAKE OVER AND MAKE SURE THAT THE CREMAINS WERE HANDLED IN A CHRISTIAN MANNER.

DAN ELDER AND HIS SONS BUILT THE FOUNTAIN. MANY OF THE MEN IN THE CHURCH AT THAT TIME WERE INVOLVED IN THE CONSTRUCTION. THE PLASTERING OF THE WALLS WAS DONE COMMERCIALY. THE MEN ALSO LAID BRICK PADS AND WALK WAYS. THEY THOUGHT ABOUT USING BRASS FOR THE PLAQUES, BUT DECIDED TO USE GRANITE, THEY WERE CONCERNED THE BRASS WOULD BE STOLEN. BECAUSE OF THE CONCERNS OF THIEVERY NO URNS OR JEWELRY ARE ALLOWED IN THE GARDEN. CREMAINS ARE PLACED IN PLASTIC CONTAINERS. THE GARDEN WAS COMPLETED IN 1996.

REGULATIONS FOR THE GARDEN WERE FORMULATED. EMMITT WARNER FORMED A COMMITTEE TO CARE FOR THE GARDEN AND TO SELL THE NICHEs AND PLAQUES. MORE PROPERTY WAS SOLD TO COMPLETE THE GARDEN. BOB WOOD SOLD NICHEs AND CARED FOR THE GARDEN. WHEN BOB LEFT THE CHURCH, MEARL FRAME BECAME THE CARETAKER. THERE HAVE BEEN MANY WONDERFUL PEOPLE INVOLVED IN CARING FOR THE GARDEN OVER THE YEARS, IT WOULD BE UNFAIR TO NAME JUST A FEW, SO HOPEFULLY YOU REMEMBER WHAT YOU HELPED WITH.

THE GARDEN HAS DOUBLE AND SINGLE NICHEs, MEMORIAL PLAQUES FOR REMEMBRANCE AND SCATTERING OF CREMAINS IS ALSO POSSIBLE IN THE GARDEN. THE GARDEN IS VERY BEAUTIFUL AND PEACEFUL. IT IS USED FREQUENTLY FOR WEDDINGS AND BAPTISMS. MANY WEDDING PHOTOS HAVE BEEN TAKEN BY THE FOUNTAIN.

A DONATION OF \$10,000 WAS GIVEN TO THE GARDEN BY A MEMBER DOROTHY WHITEHEAD. THIS MONEY WAS USED TO START THE ENDOWMENT FUND OF THE CHURCH. THE LAST SEVERAL YEARS CAROL PEABODY, DOROTHY WHITEHEADS' DAUGHTER, HAS BEEN CARING FOR THE GARDEN. THE GARDEN IS COMPLETELY SELF SUPPORTED AND SEPARATE FROM THE BUDGET OF THE CHURCH.

THERE ARE THREE WALLS WITH NICHEs IN THE GARDEN AND A WALL FOR MEMORIAL REMEMBRANCES. THE THIRD WALL OF NICHEs WAS BUILT BY LARRY FELDMAN AND BILL FRAME JR. IN 2016. THERE ARE A TOTAL OF 125 NICHEs IN THE GARDEN. JUST A FEW REMAIN UNSOLD IN THE ORIGINAL WALLS.

EMMITT WARNER AND MEARL FRAME