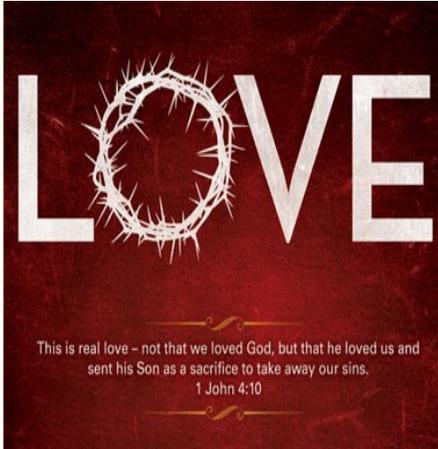




THE SKYLINE

An e-news blast of Desert Skies United Methodist Church

March 21, 2017



NEW WORSHIP SERIES-"Living the Five"

Lent is a season of the Christian Year where Christians focus on simple living, prayer, and fasting in order to grow closer to God, a great time to "repent", to return to God and re-focus our lives to be more in line with Jesus.

It's a 40 day trial run in changing your lifestyle and letting God change your heart. Too often we look for love in all the wrong places! So this Lent, we will Live the Five together as we seek to live the life of love to which we are called.

In worship, and in our small groups, we will live more fully into our mission to Love, Learn, Live and Lead as we discover that You Can't Do Life Alone, Growing People Change, Saved People Serve People, Found People Find People, and Worship Is a Lifestyle.

Don't look for Love in all the wrong places...discover it right here, this Lent, at Desert Skies.

March 26-"Found People Find People" (Lead)

April 02-"Worship is a Lifestyle" (Lead)



Lenten Study and Small Group, *Living the Five*

The study is reminiscent of John Wesley's class meetings. In *Living the Five*, authors Jim and Jennifer Cowart show you how successful community groups are called to live out five principles and share how they applied these principles when creating community groups in their own church. Each community group is oriented to live out five principles that put our faith in action and deepen our Christian love to God and each other. The five principles are: **1. You can't do life alone, 2. Growing people change, 3. Saved people serve people, 4. Found people find people and 5. Worship is a lifestyle.**

Classes run through April 2nd, *Living The Five*, will be offered in 4 different locations and times:

1. Mondays at 1:00 pm-Home of Cindy Hansen (Snyder & Kolb)
2. Wednesdays at 5:30 pm-Desert Skies Fellowship Hall
3. Wednesdays at 6:30 pm-Vail Innovation Center (Vail, AZ.) (6:00 pm-Potluck)
4. Fridays at 6:30 pm -Home of Jake & Stephanie Beverage (Catalina Highway & Houghton)

It is not too late to sign-up for one of these Lenten Study classes. If you are interested, contact Rev. Matt Colby at the church office # 749-0521.

WELCOME

We just wanted to welcome Nate Sidles and say THANK YOU for filling in as our Custodian while we are in the process of looking for someone to fill the permanent position. We are happy to have you here at Desert Skies.

Friendly Reminder

Tammy will be out of the office Monday, March 20th-Thursdays, March 23rd. She will return any phone calls or emails upon her return to the church office. Thank you.



Sorry, but if you're a Christian, you need to go to church. Regularly.

Lately, I've read a couple of insightful articles that address a recurring spiritual question: If you consider yourself a Christian, must you go to church? I've expressed my thoughts before about this issue. My answer, unfortunately, tends to make people mad. My answer is, yes, you have to go to church. That is, if you want to progress in your faith — if you hope to become a mature, actualized, fully functioning Christian. You must join a congregation, stay there for the long haul and become an active participant. You must not only attend but get involved. Church must become a central priority in your life.

There, I said it. Fire up the emails. Before I explain why attendance is required, there are caveats here. First, I'm not saying non-believers should go to church. They're under no obligation. Second, I'm not addressing the worship habits of those who belong to non-Christian faiths — Jews, Hindus or Muslims. I'm not familiar enough with their rules about attendance to offer an opinion. Third, I'm not saying that if you're a Christian and rarely attend church, you're a "fake" Christian, whatever that means, or that you're a bad person. Fourth, I'm not implying that non-attenders are bound for hell. Deciding who goes to heaven or hell is way above my pay grade. Fifth, I'm not saying you should stick around some toxic congregation led by a manipulative cult-leader just to punch your ticket as a churchgoer. Exercise common sense. If you're being abused (as opposed to merely being irritated), leave. But here are the reasons why, all things being equal, Christians must go to church:

Christianity is a team sport. Permit me a humble analogy. You might see yourself as a terrific baseball pitcher. But if you only throw baseballs in your backyard at a plywood cutout, you won't progress. You're not even really playing baseball. To discover the full extent of your abilities, to understand the true game, you need a catcher, a coach, infielders and outfielders — and even someone standing in the batter's box ready to swat your best fastball right back at you. Same with being a Christian. You can't do it well by yourself. Communion is among our faith's central sacraments, a ritual that celebrates Christians as members of a spiritual, God-ordained community. We're many individuals who, joined together with Jesus and each other, form one great cosmic body. It's in our spiritual DNA that we rely on one another; no one stands alone.

Attendance is commanded. The writer of Hebrews, for instance, warns us never to forsake assembling together with our brothers and sisters.

It's not all about you. We're sent to church to serve others as much as we're sent there to be served. Believe it or not, you possess gifts and talents your brothers and sisters need. If you're not present, you're denying them benefits God intended them to enjoy.

Your fellow parishioners, including your pastor, will make you mad, hurt your feelings and get on your last nerve. This is exactly what's supposed to happen. Finding ourselves offended and disappointed lets us see just how shallow and petty we are. It sands down our rough edges. We discover that, by gosh, we're no better than all those other hymn-warbling yahoos! Also, watching God work miracles through the smelly, imperfect, hypocritical men and women who make up a congregation reveals to us the unfathomable depths of God's grace and love. It renews our faith. We realize he can use anybody — even us.

Your fellow Christians will reveal aspects of the Lord you've never seen. As we get to know our fellow pilgrims, as we hear them tell and retell their sordid stories while they're bumbling along, we find they've experienced God in ways we haven't. They've seen revelations we've never imagined. Over time, all these very different visions merge into a greater portrait of him than we'd ever otherwise behold.

Your fellow churchgoers will inspire and comfort you. Sure, some Christians will let you down, because they're human and that's what humans do. But you'll also find disciples who'll sit beside you in court when your kid's up on drug charges, and who'll hold your hand when your spouse is lying in a coffin, and who'll bring you soup when you're sick with the flu. When everything's going wrong, they'll assure you it's going to be OK in the end, because they — and God — have your back.

To the extent you honor your church, you honor Christ. "In as much as you've done it to the least of these my brothers and sisters," Jesus said, "you've done it unto me." When you dishonor or ignore his church, you're dishonoring or ignoring him.

You'll get plenty of laughs. You'll sing and pray, sure. You'll snore. You'll grow fidgety. But as much as anything, you'll experience joy — and mirth. Each church is a microcosm of the human comedy. When you're not cussing about it, the sheer surreal madness of it just leaves you clutching your rib cage, shaking with laughter, tears of gratitude streaming down your cheeks.

Paul Prather is pastor of Bethesda Church near Mount Sterling. You may email him at pratpd@yahoo.com.



William Nelson “Bill” Wildish, 67, Tucson, Ariz.

William Nelson “Bill” Wildish, 67, of Tucson, Ariz., formerly of Herculaneum, died March 1, 2017, at Long Beach VA Medical Center in Long Beach, Calif. Mr. Wildish, a Vietnam-era veteran of the U.S. Air Force, was a public school teacher. He was the former mayor of Herculaneum, a member of the United Methodist Church and a former Republican Party Chairman for the greater Tucson area. Born Aug. 3, 1949, in Detroit, Mich., he was the son of the late Mary Jane (Sommers) and Robert S. Wildish.

He is survived by his wife: Rebecca (Simpson) Wildish of Festus; two daughters: Kristy (Ira) Dove of Pevely and Abby (Jeffrey) Wynn of Festus; two brothers: Daniel (Deb) Wildish of Sagle, Idaho, and Steve (the late Brenda) Wildish of Newport Beach, Calif.; and seven grandchildren: Cruz Dove, Sloan Dove, Molly Dove, Taye Dove, Nathan Dove, Pierce Wynn and Sommer Wynn.

We received the Obituary for Bill Wildish and wanted to share it with you. His Memorial service was held on Monday, March 13th in Festus, Missouri.

OUR LENTEN OFFERING WILL HELP TO STOP HUNGER-Please remember to set aside a few coins each day during Lent to help fill the empty bowls of the 795 million people around the world who are chronically malnourished. Your donations will fund the 20,000 meals we will package on Sunday, April 23, for Rise Against Hunger. Sign-ups will be on Palm Sunday, April 9, and Easter Sunday, April 16, on the Patio. Watch for more info on our event to follow and help us to raise the \$5800 needed to pay for these meals. Thank you!!

This Week At Desert Skies

Tuesday, March 21

9:30 am Covenant Bible Study Fellowship Hall
1:00 pm Long Range Planning Room # 2
6:00 pm Painting God’s Beauty Room # 7
6:30 pm Finance Meeting Room # 2
7:30 pm SPRC Meeting Room # 2

Wednesday, March 22

4:00 pm Loss Support Group Room # 2
4:30 pm Worship Design Sanctuary
5:30 pm Lenten Study Fellowship Hall
6:00 pm Pot Luck Vail Innovation Center
6:30 pm Lenten Study Vail Innovation Center
6:45 pm Adult Bells Sanctuary
7:30 pm Adult Choir Sanctuary

Thursday, March 23

9:00 am Prayer Group Room # 5
2:00 pm Painting God’s Beauty Room # 7

Friday, March 24

6:30 pm Lenten Study Home of Jake & Stephanie Beverage

This Week’s Bible Reading

March 21– Josh. 9-11; I Cor. 6

March 22-Josh. 12-14; I Cor. 7

March 23-Josh. 15-17; I Cor. 8

March 24-Josh 18-20; I Cor. 9

March 25-Josh. 21, 22; Ps. 47;
I Cor. 10

March 26-Josh. 23, 24; Ps. 44;
I Cor. 11

March 27-Judg. 1-3; I Cor. 12

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.

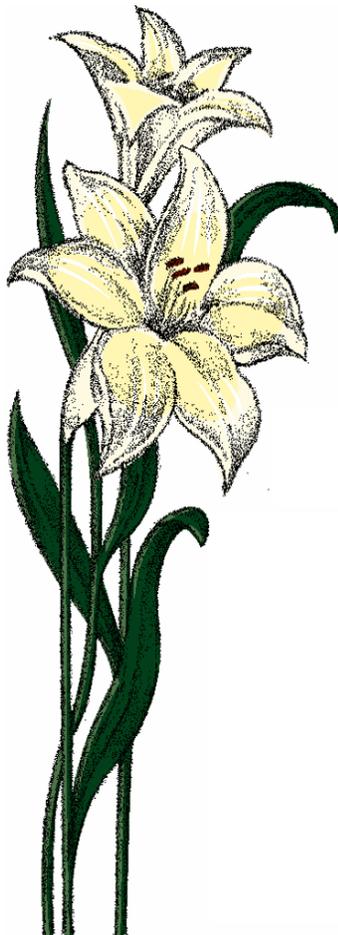
Easter Flowers for our Sanctuary

The Worship Committee has ordered a variety of potted flowering plants for our Easter Services. Donations toward offsetting the purchase of the plants are now being accepted. If you would like to have a loved one remembered, please fill in the information below.

To the Glory of God

In memory of _____

In honor of _____



Donation made by

Must be submitted by 4/05/17

· Attach order form to your check (made out to DSUMC) (memo: Easter flowers fund) and return to the church office or put in the offering plate. Suggested Donation- \$10.00-\$15.00

- I would like to take my plant home.
- Please take my plant to a Shut-in.
- Yes, I can deliver a flower to a Shut-in.