



THE SKYLINE

An e-news blast of Desert Skies United Methodist Church

August 15, 2017



Our New Worship Series-"Backpacks and Prayer" starts Sunday, August 20th and runs thru August 27th.

Transitioning from a loose summer schedule to a more tight school schedule affects families in different ways. Many of us aren't aware of school schedules, though we are aware of summer plans coming to an end.

This series focuses on getting everyone to see a variety of perspectives and learning to pray and work together.

August 20th-"When School Is in Session, the People Pray"

August 27th-"When School Is in Session, We Work Together"

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

We will have a Blessing of the Backpacks on Sunday, August 20th at the 10:00 am service as part of our new worship series: Backpacks and Prayer.

College, High School, Middle School, elementary School, Preschool...we want to bless your backpacks as a church family. See you there.

DID YOU KNOW.....

Want to find out about upcoming events at our Church?

The what, when and where events are occurring can be found out at The Administrative Council meetings, held on the last Tuesday of each month, in the Fellowship Hall starting at 7:00 pm.

ALL are welcome, come and see us!!

Bible Study Class: "Jesus In The Gospels"

It's traditional for Desert Skies to hold a Bible Study class on **Tuesday mornings** and this year we will be focusing on the Disciples' Study, "Jesus in the Gospels". This is a very rich study and requires daily study time. **We meet in the Fellowship Hall from 9:30 am-11:30 am and our first day will be September 12th.** Rev. Candace and I will Team Teach and you don't need to be a Bible Scholar. We will meet Jesus in the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John and enjoy a lively discussion about Our Savior and who we are as His followers. If you are interested call Pat Walker, at #749-4483 or email her at msnodle@aol.com or sign-up on the Blue Connection card found in your bulletin on Sunday.



PRAYING OUR WAY FORWARD



We are One in Christ

DESERT SOUTHWEST CONFERENCE
August 13-19, 2017 • dscumc.org/praying-way-forward

Daily meditations, images, and a prayer schedule for the Conference-wide week of prayer for the work of the Commission on a Way Forward and the future of The United Methodist Church are available for download and repurposing at www.dscumc.org/praying-way-forward. Engage the online community by sharing the corresponding social media graphic, a prayer, including #prayingourwayforward or #umcprays, and challenging your online friends to post a photo of their reflection on the word of the day. Ask them to include a message or prayer on their own insights from the scripture. What else can you do to instigate prayer in your church community?

DAY 1 - OPENING • Scripture: Proverbs 2:1-5 • Questions: What is the benefit of being open to God and others in our spiritual journey? At what times of your life has God called you to be open? What does it mean for the United Methodist Church to have “open hearts, open minds, and open doors”? • Prayer: Loving God, in a world of change you placed eternity in our hearts and gave us the power to discern good from evil. Grant us sincerity, that we may persistently seek the things that endure and refuse those which perish. That, amid things vanishing and deceptive, we may be open to see the truth steadily, follow the light faithfully, and grow ever richer in that love which is the life of all people; through Jesus Christ, our savior. Amen. (Adapted from “For Discernment,” United Methodist Book of Worship, #510.)

DAY 2 - SEARCHING • Scripture: Psalm 139:1, 23, Acts 17:26-28 • Questions: Searching surrounds us: smart phones searching for signal, “search engines” guide our internet quests, we search for our keys and our life purpose, we pray for search parties out to rescue and recover. What are ways that you are searching? What searches are you sharing with others? What does it mean that all people are searching for God and living and being in God at the same time? What search is God calling you to and how might that search require trust, compassion, relationship, authenticity, boldness, and collaboration? • Prayer: God of quest and request, your Life-giving Word draws us into the mysteries of this world, the unknown journeys of open hearts, open minds, and open doors. Teach us to ask, to knock, and to search in a way that keeps us open to wonder so that we might find you in all that lives and moves and has being. Amen.

DAY 3 - LISTENING • Scripture: Ecclesiasticus (Sirach) 6:33, Ecclesiasticus (Sirach) 33:4 • Questions: Do you truly listen to others or are you preparing how you will answer them? Do you slow yourself down enough to hear God’s direction and guidance? What is stopping you from truly listening to each other and God? • Prayer: Teach me to listen, O God, to all as I engage in conversations with others and You. Help me to be aware of the message spoken whether the words are compassionate or hostile. May the Holy Spirit help me to accept each word as a truth that I must hear. Slow me from judgment, but move me to acceptance. Teach me, O God, to truly listen. Amen.

DAY 4 - UNDERSTANDING • Scripture: Matthew 13:23 • Questions: When we listen, do we seek to understand, especially those different than ourselves. Understanding is truly an expression of Love for the other person. When was the last time we talked with someone who’s life was different than ours and actually understood their situation or opinion? This week, look for opportunities to engage with someone different than yourself, and start up a discussion. Listen to their words, and understand where they are. Understanding others is a powerful way to plant God’s seeds of Love. • Prayer: Lord Jesus Christ, grant me the gift of understanding. Help me to understand the feelings of others, the desires of others, the goals of others. At the same time, help me to understand myself in my actions and reactions. Widen my vision beyond my small world to embrace with knowledge and love the worlds of others. Help me, Lord, to always see you at work in my own life and the lives of others. Bless me with insight, acceptance, and love tempered by you who are all things to all people. Help me to understand, Lord. Amen. (n.d. Retrieved from <https://praisehouston.com/4636194/minute-meditation-prayer-to-understand-others>)

DAY 5 - REACHING OUT • Scripture: Revelation 3:20 • Question: Are you reaching? Are you reaching for God in all that you do? Do you feel God reaching for you? • Prayer: Our heavenly Father, I am reaching out to you to guide me and show me the path. Take my hand Lord and lead me to the light of your love. Help me reach to you and others and share that meal with all who knock at my door. Amen!

DAY 6 - EMBRACING • Scripture: Romans 12:15-16a; 1Corinthians 12: 25b-26 • Question: How can we possibly benefit from embracing, from putting our arms around another and feeling their arms around us? What can we lose when we enter into this act? Are there different ways to embrace? • Prayer: When we hesitate to get close; draw us nearer. Help us respect one another's vulnerabilities when we put up walls and keep others out. When understanding seems impossible; remind us all things are possible with you. When love feels too painful, remind us that we are better having loved than never at all. Above all, O God, strengthen us to embrace one another with dignity and appreciation. Amen.

DAY 7 - TRANSFORMING • Scripture: Matthew 7:12, John 13:30 • Question: When was a time someone showed you love in a way that impacted how you live? What does love look like as you pray for the work of the Commission on the Way Forward? How will you be an instrument of that type of love this week? • Prayer: God of grace and God of glory, let your love be so present in all that I do and say, in how I live each day, that people cannot help but see you. Let your love transform us into the church you desire. Then enable us to transform the world with the power of love. Make us one, Lord, united in mission, grace, and love. Amen.

E.L.F. MINISTRY

COMMUNITY FOOD BANK

ELF MINISTRY (DSUMC EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY) NEEDS OUR HELP: Our emergency food pantry is empty and we have had 4 requests for assistance in the last few weeks. We were able to provide for those requests but have nothing left. The same type of food donations that you bring on the first Sunday for the Community Food Bank can be dropped off at the church office in the blue ELF Ministry bin in the lobby. The requests we receive are for one time food bags to tide families over until their monthly check arrives. **It would be very helpful if committee chairpersons would take the rolling blue bin to their meetings and ask their members to bring food donations to the meeting each month.**

BRING YOUR COMMUNITY FOOD BANK DONATIONS ON COMMUNION SUNDAY (FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH): Bring your donations and put them in the bin on the patio. If you forget it on that Sunday, the bin is available every Sunday. If you forget your donation, a check to DSUMC with **community food bank** on the memo line is also a welcomed substitute.

THANK YOU FOR ALL THAT YOU DO IN CARING FOR OUR COMMUNITY!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY JEAN!!

Jean Popovich celebrated her 93rd birthday with her family on Sunday, August 6th.



A Special Thank You

Dear Desert Skies family,
Eileen and I would like the entire staff and church family to know how much we appreciate the prayers and support over the last several weeks. It means so much to us to feel so much love.

Thanks to everyone....Mike Starace

Sundaes on Sunday: Membership 101

For those who have been attending Desert Skies for a short time or a very long time and have not yet become a member, we have a fun afternoon planned for you! Come for a delicious ice cream sundae, followed by a time of conversation and questions as you learn about Desert Skies...where we started, what we believe, and how we see ourselves fitting into God's plan for this community. Join us on **Sunday, August 20th from 1-3 pm in Room # 2**. Please check the connection card in your bulletin or email us at the office to let us know you are coming!!!

NEW COMMUNITY AT DESERT SKIES

New Community is an opportunity for those who are new to Desert Skies (or just those who want to know more about how the church works!) to connect with others and find out more about the church they are attending. We gather monthly right after our 2nd worship service. We will meet for a light lunch in the kitchen in the Fellowship Hall, moving over to Room # 2 to eat and gather! Then there will be a time of fellowship and learning. This session will be hearing from representatives from our LEAD teams, sharing how their work helps us lead our neighbors to Christ. **Plan to join us on August 20th...** and begin building new community together! Future dates: September 17th, October 15th, November 19th and December 17th. Please check the connection card in your bulletin or email us at the office to let us know you are coming!!!

Announcements

Flea Market -needs LARGE boxes. If you have boxes you can donate, please drop off at the shed outside of the Flea Market Barn. Thank you.

Reminder-On Wednesday, August 30th Adult Bells starts back up at 6:45 pm and Adult Choir at 7:30 pm in the Sanctuary.

Bridge Group



This Week At Desert Skies

Tuesday, August 15

7:00 am Prayer Walking	Starbucks @
	Broadway/Houghton
6:30 pm Finance Meeting	Room # 2
7:30 pm SPRC Meeting	Room # 2

Wednesday, August 16

4:00 pm Loss Support Group	Room # 2
Worship Design	Sanctuary

This Week's Bible Reading

August 15-Jer. 18-20; Ps. 93; Jn. 17

August 16-II Ki. 24; Jer. 22; PS. 112; Jn. 18

August 17-Jer. 23, 24; Jn. 19

August 18-Jer. 26, 35, 36; Jn. 20

August 19-Jer. 45-47; Ps. 105; Jn. 21

August 20-Jer. 48, 49; Ps. 67; I Jn. 1

August 21-Jer. 21, 24, 27; Ps. 118; I Jn. 2

Interested in joining
Desert Skies UMC?

Join us on
Sunday, August 20th
at 1:00 pm in room # 2
for Membership 101:
Sundaes on Sunday

Contact Rev. Dr.
Candace J. Lansberry
at 749-0521
if you are interested!
We are on the web:
www.desertskiesumc.org