



# THE SKYLINE

An e-news blast of Desert Skies United Methodist Church

August 8, 2017

## 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](mailto: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](http://dscumc.org/praying-way-forward)

August 13-19, 2017 is the week that churches in the Desert Southwest Conference will be engaged in a week of prayer for the future of The United Methodist Church and the work of the Commission on a Way Forward. What are your week-long prayer plans? Remember the week of prayer should focus on the following:

1. Praying daily for our mission, "to make disciples for the transformation of the world."
2. Praying regularly for the work of the Commission on a Way Forward.
3. Fasting and praying for our future as The United Methodist Church.

More information, resources, and ideas are to come.



## BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

We will have a **Blessing of the Backpacks** on **Sunday, August 20th at the 10:00 am service and the 4:00 pm Vail Gathering** 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.

## ANNUAL CONFERENCE REPORT

It was an honor and privilege to once again represent Desert Skies at our Annual conference. This years theme was, "The Initiative for Growth and Vitality". The vision statement, A Courageous Church: Loving like Jesus, Acting for justice, United in Hope. Our Values are that God is calling us towards: Trust, Compassion, Relationship, Authenticity, Boldness and Collaboration.

Last year we all were asked to throw seeds to the wind, take ourselves out of our comfort zone and proselytize how important God is in our lives. Do different things to bring people back to Church, get them to realize that WE are still here. This year we are asked to sow those seeds and help them to grow in their faith. It's okay to prune the leaves (ideas) that are not working. But don't cut the branch, focus on what's working and watch it grow.

The district superintendents are Missional Strategist who are tasked with helping local churches fulfill their missions in bringing people to Church for the transformation of the World.

There were two guest speakers this year, Demi Prentiss spoke on her book "Radical Sending - Go to Love and Serve" and Bishop Robert Schnase on his book. "Just Say Yes". Rev. Candace brought this book to the Ad-Council asking that it become a focus study, it was agreed. Bishop Schnase's book is about saying "Yes" to new things that help a church become sustainable in today's World. A few thoughts from his presentation:

Growing churches say "Yes" to new ideas, declining churches say, "No". Everyone has gifts for ministry, Joy of Ministry is serving on Committees.

Here are a few activities that standout.

Fred attended the Church and Society luncheon. He came away with renewed enthusiasm as this year more the 60 attended, a significant increase from previous years. There are a great many good works that are occurring. Please ask Fred is you are interested in serving. It comes as no surprise that Fred was asked to serve, in anyway he wants!

Saturday morning was spent in mission work. Fred help set up two apartments for two young African refugees. Jennifer, Paige and Shawne unloaded the Annual Conference donations sent from our congregation; Desert Skies was well represented.

Every year, Holy Huddles have served as an opportunity to share prayers and discuss posed questions amongst those from your own church and hear input from fellow churches in the conference. Paige found it refreshing to be able to open up in the small group setting and receive feed back on how both personally and church-wide we are headed through faith.

Jennifer attended Theo Pub, a small gathering that met at the Yardhouse Restaurant for an evening. Great food, drink, and conversation were enjoyed. It provided a comfortable atmosphere as different views and opinions on current topics were shared. She was impacted by the fact the despite individual differences, by the end of the evening, friendliness and respect still prevailed.

Santa Clara has become New Hope UMC. In the fall it will become a United Methodist Immigration Ministry. (National Justice for our Neighbors) It will be a center for immigrants, helping them become assimilated into our culture through, faith, housing, and education.

If you would like to read the report from the conference, it can be found at: [umc.org](http://umc.org) click on the 2017 Annual Conference and look for Desert Southwest. But remember anyone can attend! We all encourage each and everyone of you to do so. Surrounded by hundreds doing God's work is INSPIRING.

In closing we are going to leave you with, "Homework" that was presented in our first Holy Huddle: "What does it feel like when your church is outrageously loving like Jesus and acting for Justice? What will it feel like to you, and your church, as this is happening? How do we act in the present? How can you and your church live into the hope together so it can happen, so your church can move in this direction? As you connect with this feeling, let it feed and shape your hope. Let it unite you." We will be asking you these questions throughout the year.

May God Bless each and everyone one of you, as we go forward making, " Disciples for Christ for the Transformation of the World".

Blessings,  
Shawne Sidles

**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.

**The Wired Word**-will NOT meet on Sunday, August 13th. See you the following week at 10:00 am in Room # 2.

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



**Our Worship Series "Bless to Me" concludes on Sunday, August 13th-"God Is In: Celebrating Presence"**

**We will start our new Worship Series on Sunday, August 20th-"Backpacks and Prayer/Outside My Own Little World: Creating Joy"**

**Look for more information in the next eblast.**

**This Week At Desert Skies**

**Tuesday, August 8**

7:00 am Prayer Walking Starbucks @  
Broadway/Houghton  
9:00 am Helping Hands Kitchen  
6:00 pm Missions/Social Concerns Room # 5

**Wednesday, August 9**

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

**Thursday, August 10**

8:20 am Casa Maria  
6:00 pm Vitality Team-Call w/ Fellowship Hall  
Steve James

**This Week's Bible Reading**

August 8-Jer. 1, 2; Jn. 10

August 9-Jer. 3,4; Jn. 11

August 10-Jer. 5, 6; Jn. 12

August 11-Jer. 7-9; Jn. 13

August 12-Jer. 10-12; Jn. 14

August 13-Jer. 13-15; Jn. 15

August 14-Jer. 16, 17; Ps. 96; Jn. 16

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](http://www.desertskiesumc.org)