



THE SKYLINE

An e-news blast of Desert Skies United Methodist Church

December 12, 2017

UMW Cookie Walk and Craft Sale

Once again, our Cookie Walk and Craft Sale was a huge success due to all our fabulous Desert Skies people! Our proceeds totaled \$891.00. A check for that amount will go to Sister Jose Women's Shelter this week, and I am sure it will be appreciated by them. Our thanks to everyone who participated in this event, whether it was making items, buying items, advertising, setting up, cleaning up and more. Merry Christmas!



Christmas Shoe Boxes

Thanks to the congregation for always providing Christmas Shoe Boxes for our children in our Snack Pack program! This may be the only gifts they receive at Christmas time.



Eagle Scout Project

A brick fire ring with a path leading to it is being built for our congregation to enjoy! Thanks to all who came out and helped Andrew Colby with his Eagle Scout project!



All Church Clean-Up

Thanks to all who came out to help the Trustees Committee get Desert Skies ready for our Christmas Season. Cleaning was done inside and out. JOB WELL DONE!!



Christmas Caroling

This past Sunday our Youth Group went caroling to show some Christmas cheer to our adopted grandparents and others who might need some TLC.



Tutoring Program

The tutoring program celebrated Christmas on the last day of tutoring before the winter break. Cake and ice cream set the tone as each child received a few gifts. The highlight of the afternoon was giving each student the opportunity to select a knit cap which was made and donated by Judy Fox.

This kind gesture by Judy is just one of the many generous contributions offered by members of our church family. The success of this program is truly a tribute to the openness and love that so many of you share with these children and their families. I personally want to thank each of you for this opportunity to serve God in such a joyous way. Merry Christmas from all of the volunteer tutors and the children we are privileged to serve.

Blessings, Fred and the tutoring team





Mauro Malambane



Hector Tiago

SCHOLARSHIP STUDENTS SEND GREETINGS AND THANKS TO DESERT SKIES

"Hi! I am **MAURO SILVA MALAMBANE** from Mozambique and a student at Africa University in the Faculty of Management and Administration, 4th year. I have completed an internship with an Italian company that offers infrastructure construction services. The company currently has a gas extraction project in Mozambique. I was in the Human Resources Department where I dealt with anything that had to do with company employment documents. This internship has helped me become more active, open minded, polite, knowledgeable, and creative. I have met many people and learnt how to deal with different personalities and government institutions as well as employment issues. I have gained experience in seeing how the real world works. "I live with my mother and two young sisters when I am at home in Maputo. For some time I thought I would have to leave school and work to sustain my family. The day I learned I was to receive a scholarship I shed tears of hope, tears of happiness, and tears of faith. Desert Skies has planted a seed of kindness in me. I want to thank the Lord almighty for everything he has done for me, thank my family for the love and support, and thank the Desert Skies congregation for the education you have given me. I SEND YOU MY THANKS, GREETINGS AND LOVE. GOD BLESS YOU ALL."

A message from **HECTOR TIAGO**, our second scholarship student, is summarized below. Hector is in his second year in the Faculty of Management and Administration. Economics is his favorite class. In addition to his friends from Mozambique he enjoys knowing students from Nigeria, Zimbabwe, South Africa, Angola and Congo. (The diversity of the student body at AU is something almost every student mentions.) **HECTOR AND HIS MOTHER AND FATHER SEND THEIR THANKS TO DESERT SKIES FOR THE HELP THAT IS MAKING IT POSSIBLE FOR HIM TO ATTEND AFRICA UNIVERSITY.** He says, "IN THE NAME OF THE LORD GOD, BLESS YOU."



Christmas Eve

The Connect Committee would like to suggest that folks take the opportunity to use the back drop of the sanctuary Christmas tree and poinsettias while they take their family photos for their Christmas cards.

Christmas Eve at the Vail Campus

4:00 pm-Family Service with Candlelight and Communion and the Tom Patrick Trio

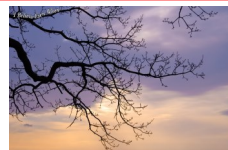
Christmas Eve at the Houghton Campus

4:00 pm-Family Service with Praise Band

7:00 pm-Candlelight and Choir

11:00 pm-Candlelight and Communion with the Tom Patrick Trio

Cookies are needed for our Christmas Eve Services-Please drop off your cookies the week before Christmas Eve, Monday-Thursday-8:00 am-4:00 pm, Fridays-9:00 am-12:00 pm or you can drop the cookies off on Christmas Eve by 3:00 pm to the kitchen in the sanctuary. Thank you.



Our Sermon Series-"I Believe" runs through Sunday, December 31st.

The story of the birth of Jesus is filled with common themes of human drama: unknowing, doubt, disgrace, fear, oppression, journey, hardship. The words of an anonymous poet begin, "I believe in the sun, even when its not shining..." In this we hear affirmation of belief in spite of what seems like an absence of light, of love, and sometimes, even what feels like the absence of God. By exploring the first chapter of each of the Gospels in this Advent/Christmas series we will acknowledge the presence of hope through Christ "even when..."

December 17- "I Believe in God"

December 24-One Worship Service at 9:30 am-"I Believe Even When"

December 31-"I Believe in New Beginnings"

December 24 -Christmas Eve Services

Sermon Title: "I Believe"

4 pm-Vail 4 pm, 7 pm, & 11 pm-Houghton

Announcements

DSUMC-is working with several families to make their Christmas a little extra joyful. We could still use a few more Christmas trees and decorations. If you have any items that you might like to donate, please contact Fred Killion at fredkillion@gmail.com.

Directory Pictures-Photo Directory-It is time for a new Desert Skies Photo Directory! Lifetouch Photography will be taking our pictures at the church over a 5 day period from January 16th-January 20th. To help us determine if we need to request more dates, please book your appointment as quickly as possible. To sign-up for a date and time to have your family picture taken, please go to: <https://booknow-lifetouch.appointment-plus.com/y7pv930q/>

Christmas Cards-If you haven't finished your Christmas cards yet, and need a family picture, we encourage you to take your picture in our sanctuary and use the Christmas tree and poinsettias as your background!

Alternative Gifts-Time's awastin'! Just 13 days to finish Christmas shopping! You can do it all this afternoon with Alternative Gifts. Alternative Gifts are the perfect Christmas shopping solution; non-fattening, non-allergenic, never the wrong size or color, doesn't add to the clutter. Alternative Gifts come in sizes to fit every budget. You can purchase a gift for the Community Food Bank, Habitat for Humanity, Heifer International, or UMCOR and give it in honor of someone. Your loved one will get a card telling them a gift has been given in their honor. Alternative Gift "shopping lists" for these agencies are available on the welcome kiosk (look down on the front) on the Sanctuary patio. You can return the forms with your check, made out to UMW, to the decorated boxes on top of the kiosk or in the church office. Your shopping is done. That was easy!

This Week At Desert Skies

Tuesday, December 12

6:30 am Prayer Walking	TBA
9:00 am Helping Hands	Kitchen
9:30 am Bible Study	Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, December 13

1:00 pm Worship Design	Room # 2
4:00 pm Loss Support Group	Room # 2
5:30 pm Advent Study	Room # 2
6:45 pm Adult Bells	Sanctuary
7:30 pm Adult Choir	Sanctuary

Thursday, December 14

5:30 pm Advent Study	Baggins in Vail
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Saturday, December 16

8:00 am UMM Breakfast	Fellowship Hall
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This Week's Bible Reading

December 12-Heb. 5-8

December 13-Heb. 9-11

December 14-Heb. 12, 13; Jude

December 15-Jas. 1-5

December 16-I Pet. 1-5

December 17-II Pet. 1-3; Jn. 1

December 18-Jn. 2-4

Interested in joining
Desert Skies UMC?

Contact Rev. Dr.
Candace J. Lansberry
at 749-0521
if you are interested!

We are on the web:
www.desertskiesumc.org