



THE SKYLINE

An e-news blast of Desert Skies United Methodist Church

February 6, 2018

Valentine's Day Collection for Casa Maria

Thank you for participating in our Valentine's Day Collection. We traditionally do a count before delivering to them, and here are the exciting results of our Valentine's Day Collection for Casa Maria!!! This year, through your kindness and generosity, we have collected 204 lbs. of coffee, 217 lbs. of sugar, 132 rolls of paper towels, and 27 small containers and 8 one gallon containers of liquid hand soap. Based on 3 lbs. making 380 cups, your donations are providing 25,840 cups of coffee. This will provide 400 cups of coffee a day for 65 days. A special thank you goes to Julie Jenkins for counting your donations, our congregation for loading it and Mary Lou Metzgar and Finn Sinclair for delivering the donations. THANK YOU, CARTER ALLEN FOR RECORDING THE LIFE OF OUR CHURCH IN PICTURES! THANK YOU, DESERT SKIES!!!!





Youth Handbells

Our Youth Handbells played during worship this past Sunday morning.

LENTEN STUDIES

Lent is a great time to go deeper in discipleship and connection to Christ. This Lent, Adult Spiritual Formation, is offering a few ways to make that connection: Gifts of the Dark Woods, The Last Days of Jesus and Centering Prayer.

Gifts of the Dark Woods will supplement the worship series presented during Lent. A guidebook for spirituality in an uncertain world. Though commonly understood as a place to be feared and avoided, the Dark Wood is the surest place to meet God. It is a place where you may feel uncertain, empty, lost, tempted, and alone. Yet these feelings - these gifts of the Dark Wood - can be your greatest assets on your journey.

The Last Days of Jesus takes you from Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem to His glorious resurrection. This series provides an overview of 6 major events surrounding Jesus' Death and Resurrection! Dig deeper into the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus by beginning each session in Israel showing key places, such as the Garden of Gethsemane, a rolling stone tomb, Mount of Olives, and more. Featuring beautiful retellings, solid overviews, and incredible cultural insights from top Bible scholars followed with discussion and personal insights.

You are invited on a journey this Lent to go deeper and find joy in a closer connection to Jesus. Check the connection card on Sundays to sign up.

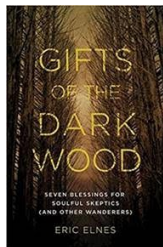
Sundays-8:30 am in Room # 5-The Last Days Of Jesus

Mondays-10:30 am at Connie Kraska's Home (S. Melpomene & 22nd St.)-Gifts of the Dark Wood

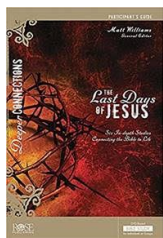
Wednesdays-5:30 pm at the Baggins in Vail-Gifts of the Dark Wood

Wednesdays-5:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall (with a simple supper)-The Last Days of Jesus

If you would also like to follow along with a copy of the book or participant's guide, you can order your own copy at:



https://www.amazon.com/Gifts-Dark-Wood-Blessings-Wanderers/dp/1426794134/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1517843619&sr=8-1&keywords=gift+of+the+dark+wood



https://www.amazon.com/Jesus-Participant-Guide-DVD-based-Bible/dp/1628624337/ref=sr_1_2?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1517843765&sr=1-2&keywords=the+last+days+of+jesus

Why Do We have a Prayer of Confession during Worship?

Have you ever wondered about the time of confession in our worship service? Basically, we are good people who love God and reach out in many, many ways to make the world a better place for many. Some days, it's hard to say the words printed in our bulletins or up on the screen, because it doesn't seem to apply much to us personally. Maybe it even makes us feel like we just aren't doing enough...even when our whole lives are dedicated to serving God and others. What's the point?

Corporate worship, as our local church understands it, is a time of joyful covenantal renewal which includes confession of sin, assurance of pardon, responsive prayers, corporate song, the preaching of the gospel and often the celebration of communion in the Lord's Supper. Many churches have put aside the corporate confession in favor of only music but the church has historically made the corporate confession central to worship.

God calls us to worship; we respond with praise. Faced with God's holiness, we become aware of our own sinfulness and our need to confess—to which God responds with words of forgiveness. Then, desiring to live a life that more fully emulates the life of Christ, we turn to the Word to hear God's message to us. Week after week we respond to that message and are sent out with God's blessing to be a blessing to others. The practice of confessing our sin in worship is wise, first of all, because it is based in Scripture and is part of the rhythm of all relationships, especially our relationship with a holy God.

While we can certainly confess and experience forgiveness on our own, covenant renewal occurs within community. God is never in relationship with us only as individuals but also within a community of believers. In our baptism we are united with Christ and with one another. When one person rejoices, we all rejoice; when one mourns, we all mourn. And when one sins, it becomes our sin. And so we come as God's united people confessing our sin together: individual and corporate sin, actions we have done and things we have failed to do. It is a wise practice because it places us in a community of believers honestly struggling in Christ to overcome temptation, to challenge unjust systems of which we are a part, to declare that Jesus is victor over our idols, and to be assured of our pardon.

We need regular reminders of God's abundant grace. While we don't want to focus on our depravity, without the act of confession and forgiveness we won't fully understand or experience God's grace. In worship we are reoriented; we are reminded that we have been set apart for holy living. Confession is a wise practice because it forms our faith and identity.

Far from being an empty ritual, or a downer, or a call to feel guilty or insufficient, the regular confession of sin and the assurance of pardon are packed with meaning. We are a people who fall short of the glory of God, and we need the weekly reminder of our dependence on God's grace.

Have a great week...and keep on being the wonderful, caring, giving Christian community you are.

Shalom,

Rev. Candace

Rev. Matt



Our Sermon Series—"Bread, Bath and Beyond finishes up on Sunday, Feb. 11th.

Let's remember to make this year one of amazing transformations—for our lives, for our community, for our world!

Next week find out more about our New Sermon Series: "Gifts of the Dark Wood," beginning on February 14th –Ash Wednesday and running through April 1st-Easter Sunday.

WESTERN SUNDAY-FEBRUARY 11th

ONE WORSHIP SERVICE at 9:30 am

Sermon Title: "Beyond the Fear"

MESSY CHURCH (A Cowboy Lent) at 4:00 pm in Vail





YEEHAW!! IT'S WESTERN SUNDAY

Join us on February 11th for our One Worship Service at 9:30 am in the Sanctuary. Following our worship service we will have a mouth waterin', good ol' Western BBQ with veggie/hamburgers and pulled pork sandwiches and we'll have some fun-filled activities for the whole family. And...while you are enjoying yourself with some food and activities, the Old Pueblo Band will be playing.

Please remember to bring your ticket with you and NO tickets will be sold on Western Sunday!



Extraordinary Love
Winter Camp 2018

Winter Camp

Saturday 17th – Sunday 18th

For those currently in grades 6th- 12th at Mingus Mountain Conference Camp. Meet at 6:00 am Saturday, Desert Skies, Houghton Campus Be back on Sunday 6 pm.

You must register online. Partial and full scholarships available. Information and Registration: <https://www.minguswintercamp.org/>



New Community

Our last New Community discussion was around Spiritual Disciplines...and then our district superintendent, Rev. Mark Conrad, but this in our monthly newsletter. I hope you will read it and think how you might connect with God in new ways in 2018...and you might just start with one of our Lenten Studies!

For four and a half years we only received one television channel and I was OK with it. We mostly watched shows on Amazon Prime, but it was nice being able to occasionally watch what was happening on live TV using our antenna. It was a disappointment after moving into our new house to find out that we couldn't pick up any channels using our TV antenna. This confused me, because I expected more channels being so close to Tucson. Why don't they broadcast more channels?

I was reluctantly thinking about paying for a cable package when my wife discovered that the issue was with our reception, and not with the broadcasting. The back of our house, where we have our den, has a double porch that appears to have been affecting our reception. She tried our indoor antenna on a small TV in her hobby room, and it picked up multiple channels. Everything changed once we knew that it was possible to pick up more channels!

My wife was the one to tackle this project. She did the research, purchasing, and installation of an outdoor antenna. I was surprised that it looks nothing like what we had when I was growing up! I wasn't home when she put it up. The first report I received said that we were now picking up three clear channels. My wife was not satisfied with this, but I counted it as a win! She then found that she had done a cable search and not an antennae search. All of a sudden, we are now receiving thirty-one channels! After a post on Facebook, I already saw one inquiry asking where she bought the antenna. The timing is good. I understand that there is a big football game on Sunday. Anyone know who is playing?

It is common for me to hear people say that God is not speaking to them. That they are praying, but God is just not saying anything. I'm often aware that the issue is one of reception verses broadcasting. In my experience, God is very persistent, sharing the message that we need to receive in many different ways. I believe that practicing spiritual disciplines makes us much more sensitive to hearing what God is saying to us. Do we practice spiritual disciplines in our lives? If not, how come? If we do, are we sharing with others the difference spiritual disciplines are making in our lives?

The first part is for us to help share with others how life can be experienced differently as a practicing Christian. I can honestly say that I love being a Christian! Part of my experience is having a deep, life-giving peace in my life. By nature, I'm a worrier. Christianity has taught me how to not worry (this is something that I have not perfected, but I'm not going to worry about it!). This alone is enough to get the interest of some people. There are many other aspects of Christianity that have impacted my life. I'm always concerned when I hear Christians say, "My faith is private, it's just between God and me". If we don't share our experiences, how will people know what is possible?

I don't think that a strong Christian faith just happens. We need to practice our faith. This is where spiritual disciplines help. Just today I had someone ask if I have ever fasted. They are interested in fasting once a week, and had questions. We need to be ready to help teach others how to practice spiritual disciplines. It seems obvious that the church would be the place where spiritual disciplines are taught, yet I don't see this happening very often. Even a spiritual discipline as basic to our faith as prayer seems to not be taught on a regular basis. It is not our goal to have as many Sunday Christians as possible. Instead we are looking to help create disciples of Jesus Christ. This is where real transformation happens, both personally and in the world. If we find ourselves lamenting about the lack of commitment in our church membership, we need to take an honest look at how our church is intentionally discipling people. The answer needs to go deeper than our Sunday worship services.

Your brother on the spiritual journey, Mark

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Worship Photo Directory-Don't Miss out! Lifetouch Photography will be taking our pictures at the church. **Additional dates have been added-February 20th, 21st and 22nd.** Stop by the sign-up table on the patio before or after church, OR better yet, GO ONLINE and pick a date/time. Only 12 dates left! Thank you.
<https://booknow-lifetouch.appointment-plus.com/y7pv930q/>

Worship Committee-The Worship Logistics Meeting scheduled for Thursday, February 8th has been cancelled. See you next month.

CONFIRMATION ORIENTATION-Right after Western Sunday activities this week (usually about 1:00 pm) we will have the orientation for our upcoming Confirmation Class in Room # 1. Confirmation is for 6th-12th grades to explore and experience key beliefs and values of our faith. Participants and a parent/guardian are invited to attend.

Zippy 49er's Circle Meeting-Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, February 21st in the Fellowship Hall. We will gather at 9:15 am, with a light breakfast at 9:30 am. We will continue to view the DVD series "That the World May Know" with Ray Vander Laan, and collect new clothing for Southern Arizona Child Advocacy Center. We welcome anyone who would like to attend. Call Glenda Burdick, # 760-5520 if you have questions.

UMW General Meeting-"Impressions of the Philippines" is the title of the program for our next meeting on **Saturday, February 24th**, in the Fellowship Hall. Glenda Burdick will be talking about and showing pictures of her trip to the Philippines in December. Find out about this interesting country-a land of contrasts. We will gather at 9:15 am, share a light brunch at 9:30 am, and learn about the Philippines. This meeting is open to anyone who is interested. **MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!**

Seeking God's Will and Presence in Modern Times-With such ugly headlines as the sentencing of Larry Nassar, the former USA Gymnastics national team doctor, who abused so many women where can we find any sense of hope, grace and even the gospel? Find out this week on Wednesday, Feb. 7 at 5:30 pm in Rm. 2 (Houghton Campus) or same time at the Vail Baggins. You can also read the story and relevant scriptures ahead of time by contacting Rev. Matt (revmatt@desertskiesumc.org) to send you "The Wired Word." We hope you will join us for the discussion and prayer.

UMM Breakfast Meeting-Fred Zobel will be our guest speaker on Saturday, February 17th at 8:00 am in the Fellowship Hall. His topic will be "Ethics and The Process of Decision Making."

This Week At Desert Skies

Tuesday, February 6

6:30 am Prayer Walking	TBA
9:30 am Covenant Bible Study	Fellowship Hall
3:00 pm Tutoring	Fellowship Hall
6:00 pm Youth in Vail	Goforth's Home

Wednesday, February 7

11:00 am Memorial Service for Eppie Naanes	Sanctuary/Fellowship Hall
2:30 pm Worship Design	Room # 2
4:00 pm Loss Support Group	Room # 2
5:30 pm The Wired Word	Room # 2
	& Baggins in Vail
6:00 pm Adult Bells	Sanctuary
7:00 pm Adult Choir	Sanctuary

Thursday, February 8

8:20 am Casa Maria	Off Campus
10:30 am Oil Painting Class	Room # 7

This Week's Bible Reading

February 06-Lev. 1-3; Acts 13

February 07-Lev. 4-6; Acts 14

February 08-Lev. 7-9-; Acts 15

February 09-Lev. 10-12; Acts 16

February 10-Lev. 13, 14; Acts 17

February 11-Lev. 15-17; Acts 18

February 12-Lev. 18, 19; Ps. 13;
Acts 19

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