



THE SKYLINE

An e-news blast of Desert Skies United Methodist Church

September 18, 2018

Sunday School Fall Round-up

Last Sunday was our Sunday School Fall Round-up. We began with lunch for the whole family and ended with a discussion about the themes for our kid's Christian education.

Thanks to all who came out in support for this event and for all the volunteers who helped put this together. A great time was had by all.



Churches Planting Churches: New Possibilities

This past weekend, Scott Jones (Vail Worship Leader) and I flew to Dallas for a 4 day seminar for churches planting churches. The annual conference is providing us with a coach for the next nine months as we move forward with our foray into church planting in Vail. I look forward to sharing our learnings with you over the next months as we prepare to move from our weekly afternoon services to a more formal launch with a campus leader and a morning worship service. Messy Church will remain a core program of our work there, and we need help from our Houghton Campus as we reach our neighbors for Christ with this innovative approach to worship.

Here are some ways you can help:

Pray for our Vail Campus, for leaders to be raised up, for people to be reached.

Volunteer to help with Messy Church on the 1st Sunday of the month...we need craft leaders, games leaders, storytellers, greeters, and food preparers and servers. It starts at 4:00 pm, so doesn't currently interfere with worship on the Houghton Campus.

Consider worshipping with us for awhile...either in addition to or in place of the service you currently attend. It's much easier for visitors to ease in to corporate worship when more people are attending!

Please pass on names and contact information of friends or relatives living in Vail who might be interested in a conversation with one of us.

If YOU live in Vail, please let me know if you would be willing to at least have a conversation with me as we determine what ministries, needs, etc. are needed as we reach out to the community.

It's an exciting time to be Desert Skies...and the possibilities are endless.

Shalom,
Rev. Candace



ELOY UMC'S "LORD'S PANTRY" NEEDS OUR HELP



Eloy First United Methodist Church, with a church membership of approximately 30, began The Lord's Pantry in 2010 by providing food boxes to 35 families. In 2017, this congregation of 30 members expanded this ministry to 384 food boxes to 203-214 households feeding 900-1000 people every month. They are able to continue this ministry to their small community northwest of Tucson with donations (monetary and food). They receive two food deliveries a month from the Mesa Food Bank for which they pay \$400 a month. In the Spring of 2017, Desert Southwest Conference sent out an urgent plea for immediate donations, and DSUMC responded quickly. When we delivered the food to them from our ELF Ministry cupboard at the end of their food distribution day, their shelves were bare.

The **DSUMC 6th Annual September Food Drive** to support The Lord's Pantry of Eloy UMC will take place from **September 9th – 30th**. They are requesting **cereal and peanut butter**. Please watch for sales of these items in the next few weeks so that we can "stuff the church van" on September 30th. **Look for the table at the back of the sanctuary September 9th – 30th. THANK YOU!**



DESERT SKIES CHOIR TO PERFORM AT CARNEGIE HALL

Our Desert Skies choir has been invited by **Manhattan Concert Productions** to join other qualified choral groups in performing the **Schumann Requiem at Carnegie Hall on June 17, 2019**. The invitation was received because a recording of our Easter Cantata was submitted to their audition committee without our knowledge. As a result, all members of our choir were invited, but not required to participate in order to accept the invitation. Twenty-two members of the choir and five non-singers are available to travel to **New York City June 14th to 18th**. The cost of accommodations, music and travel will be approximately \$2,100 per person.

Dr. Alex "Doc" Shawn has organized a Task Force of choir members and non-choir members to plan the logistics in preparing for the trip and to organize some fundraisers. Most of the choir members are paying their own way but there are a few who will need some financial assistance in order to go. The first fundraiser is listed below. Please mark your calendars and come out to support our choir! Thank you.



Representing Desert Skies United Methodist Church

**A FUNDRAISER for the Choir to perform
at Carnegie Hall in New York City**

SILENT AUCTION

**AND SPAGHETTI DINNER
(NO TICKETS NEEDED)**

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 10
5:30 pm**

**Auctioning Gift Baskets with lots of fun gifts!
(Starbucks, Sports and Entertainment Packages, U of A sports tickets, Gift
Cards, Chocolates, Tools, Kitchen items, Holiday Getaways and MUCH MORE)**

Desert Skies UMC @ 3255 N. Houghton Rd. Tucson, AZ. 85749



What is an Emmaus Group?

The Walk to **Emmaus** is a three-day experience, a highly structured weekend, which takes a New Testament look at Christianity as a life-style. The program is designed to strengthen and renew the faith of Christian people and through them their families, congregations, and the world. Once you have completed your Walk to Emmaus, you find a group at your church and you meet once a week. It is an accountability group which includes some fun and fellowship.



Meet Gretchen Lokey, this week's Ben's Bells Project [#Bellee](#)! Sharon Olbert nominated Gretchen for her work with asylum seekers.

Gretchen runs the Inn Project, a program for sheltering asylum seekers who are brought to the shelter by Border Patrol. They are fleeing violence and are in transit to relatives or sponsors in other states. They are temporarily housed and fed and transported to the bus depot by volunteers. Gretchen provides a respectful and safe environment for these often frightened refugees. Congratulations, Gretchen. Desert Skies is happy to be one of the partners with The Inn Project.

THE INN PROJECT ALWAYS NEEDS SUPPLIES!

The Inn Project is a ministry of the UMC Desert Southwest Conference that temporarily shelters and cares for children and their families seeking asylum in the U.S. as they transition to the next part of their journeys. These families have already gone through Immigration and Customs Enforcement as well as Border Enforcement and are released to continue the immigration process. New families are constantly arriving and leaving so **The Inn Project's** needs are great and help is appreciated from anyone with an open heart.

NEEDED ITEMS

Children's clothing (gently used)
shoes
bath towels
laundry supplies

Small to medium sized adult clothing (gently used)
backpacks
personal hygiene supplies

If you would like to donate items, there is a bin for them in the church office or give them to Barb Reuter, Julie Jenkins or Mary Jo Floyd. (**Do not** place them in a bin on the patio.)

THANK YOU, DESERT SKIES, FOR BEING A SMALL CHURCH WITH A BIG HEART!

HELPING



HANDS

Would You Like to Lend a Helping Hand?

The United Methodist Women have two groups who work on "Helping Hands". One group packs Hygiene Kits for five facilities here in town - Emerge, St. Luke's Home, TMM, Interfaith Community Services and Youth on Their Own. The other group packs 30 lunches on the second Tuesday of each month for homeless men at Primavera who will be going out to day jobs.

Volunteers from our church deliver the kits and lunches to the above locations the second Tuesday of each month. Barbara Drummond is in charge of the Hygiene Kits and Diana Barber the Primavera lunches. These two projects have been a part of the UMW Missions for almost twenty years.

Our UMW receives a generous donation from the Flea Market each year. A large portion of that is used to purchase the items for the Hygiene Kits. We encourage donations of food for the Primavera lunches and also use money from the Flea Market as needed. Items for the lunches that may be donated are: ham, turkey, cheese, bread, chips, fruit and cookies. Homemade cookies are a special treat for the men.

Some of the people who have helped with these projects are no longer able to do so. For this reason we are now looking for additional volunteers. We are especially in need of people who will be on a contact list to occasionally provide an item of food for the lunches or who would be willing to deliver the lunches and hygiene kits once or twice a year. The second Tuesday of each month at 9:00 a.m. is when the lunches are prepared and then delivered along with the hygiene kits. People willing to deliver would need to arrive at the church at about 9:30 a.m. Directions are available for our drivers.

WE WILL HAVE A TABLE ON THE PATIO SUNDAY MORNING, September 23rd, WHERE YOU CAN GET MORE INFORMATION AND YOU MAY PLACE YOUR NAME ON OUR CONTACT LIST OF VOLUNTEERS. YOU WILL BE CALLED AS HELP IS NEEDED. Thank you.



UMW-ASPIRE

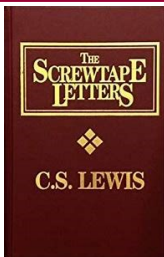
Saturday, November 10th

Christ Community Church-530 S. Pantano Road

Christ Community Church will be hosting the group "Aspire" which is a 1 night, 3 hour event just for women and will be full of laughter, learning, stories, and music.

It is like a weekend retreat packed into one evening with National Speakers, Authors, Comedians, and Worship. The show begins at 6:00 pm and the admission is \$20.00 each for a group of 10 ladies or \$25.00 each general admission. This group travels extensively around the U.S. but this is the first time in our area of Tucson. I plan to attend and hope we can get at least 9 more of our ladies to join me. Call me soon for more information or a reservation. Marilyn McKee at 749-5672.

BOOK CLUB-C.S. Lewis' Book, "The Screwtape Letters"



The group will meet in the Fellowship Hall on Tuesday mornings from 10:00 am-11:30 am, starting this morning thru December 4th. No video with this study. Please purchase your own copy of the book. Thank you and hope to see you there.

Support Tanque Verde Schools! Sunday, September 23rd 11:30 am in Room # 7

Our church is a proud partner with our local Tanque Verde District and the district needs our help.

Come join TV A-PLUS (Tanque Verde Association of Parents and Leaders United for Schools) and help sign, stuff, and/or stamp a local community mailing educating local voters on Propositions 466 and 467. For more information about the propositions, go to www.tvedalliance.org.

Barbara Drummond will provide a sub sandwich lunch, first come, first serve. Please contact Barbara with any questions at 520-336-7090 or bsdrum@gmail.com. We'd welcome any donation of postage stamps too.



Our Sermon Series “Simon Peter: The Making of a Disciple” runs through Sunday, September 23rd .

Simon Peter was an ordinary fisherman who transformed into a follower of Jesus. He was faithful, yet flawed. Peter was the first to profess Jesus as the Son of God, yet he later denied knowing. Peter went on to give his life for the sake of his call. In this series, we take an in-depth dive into the life, faith and character of Simon Peter.

September 23rd-Sermon: “The Rest of the Story”

**SAVE THE DATE!
SEPTEMBER 30TH**

**DO YOU WANT TO HEAR OUR
CANDIDATES FOR CONGRESS AND
STATE LEGISLATURE
ANSWER OUR QUESTIONS?**

Take advantage of this great opportunity to hear candidates for election or re-election in November **NOT GIVE CAMPAIGN SPEECHES!**

The purpose of this event is to inform and educate us about where those who wish to represent us stand on the issues that impact the future quality of life for the rest of us.

A moderator from **Pima County Interfaith Council** will ask each candidate a question from the list created by PCIC, and each candidate must answer only “yes” or “no” and is given no more than two minutes to explain his/her answer. Any other response, and the candidate will be asked to be seated. All questions will be asked to all candidates.

PCIC
Pima County Interfaith Council

ACCOUNTABILITY SESSION

*Candidates for Congress & State Legislature discussing
Education, Healthcare, Immigration,
Ballot Initiatives
and more.*

**SUNDAY, SEPT. 30
3:00PM**

**St Pius X Catholic Church
1800 Camino Pio Decimo**

**HELP US EDUCATE THE CANDIDATES
AND
HOLD THEM ACCOUNTABLE!**

Are You Interested in the Conversation around Sexuality Leading to our February General Conference of the United Methodist Church?

You are invited to a Holy Huddle on October 6th from 1:00 pm-4:30 pm at Christ Church UM.

See Bishop Bob's letter here:

Dear Members and Friends of the Desert Southwest Conference,

Peace to you in the name and spirit of Jesus who calls us to live in faith, hope, and love!

The final report of the Commission on a Way Forward has been officially released to the public. The report is 93 pages long and contains the important background information (how we got to where we are) as well as the text of the plan (One Church Plan) that was supported by a large majority of the members of the Council of Bishops and the other two plans (Connectional Conference Plan and Traditional Plan) that were considered by the Commission on a Way Forward and the Council of Bishops. The English version of the report can be found [here](#).

Reading through these plans is a time-consuming process, but by doing so, you will have a better sense of the nuances of the plans. I encourage you to read through them so that you will be informed about what the breadth of theological differences are in our United Methodist Church. However, let's also remember that numerous other proposals have been officially submitted for consideration by the Special Session of the General Conference in 2019. These, along with the plans included in the report of the Commission on a Way Forward, will be subject to debate and amending at General Conference 2019. Ultimately, what is adopted at General Conference may be dramatically different from any of these plans.

In order to better understand and prayerfully share our thoughts for our Church, I am inviting you to participate in a Holy Huddle on the Future of The United Methodist Church. The Holy Huddles will be helpful to us as we watch what happens in advance of and on the floor of General Conference. The Huddles being planned will consist of two parts. The first part, designed for clergy only, will focus on sharing ideas with the clergy of the Conference about how to lead our congregations with hope amid uncertainty with Christ-like respectful conversations and prayer.

The second part of the Holy Huddle will be for both laity and clergy together. The Holy Huddles are open to all persons who want to come and participate in Christian conversations about the future of our church. We will be hearing some background material to set the stage for our Huddles, but much of our time will be spent in conversation around tables, sharing our thoughts with one another. There will also be time for questions from individuals. All of this will be bathed in a prayerful, worshipful spirit and will include holy communion as the sacramental act which unifies us.

Some may ask why so much time is being devoted to these Holy Huddles. I believe we are in a very crucial moment in the history of our United Methodist Church and its predecessor bodies. Although we are not all able to vote on what plan is ultimately adopted by General Conference, we do have the responsibility to be aware of the implications of the plans. It is a privilege to pray and share around tables in Christ-like conversation. We join in expectation that our United Methodist Church will face the future united in hope for our future. I anticipate that we will be better prepared to continue our excellent ministries because we have these moments of Holy Huddle to inform and inspire us, centering us in the hope of Jesus Christ even as we undergo change. Our participation gives hope to our mission and ministry to all God's children in the name of Jesus.

I am looking forward to opportunities beginning this Fall to gather together as United Methodists in our Desert Southwest Conference as we discern God's wisdom for us. Our conversations at the Holy Huddles will be part of our step forward into the future for our United Methodist Church. You are an essential participant in that future so I hope you will be present with us!

Prayerfully in Christ's love,

Bob



St. Francis in the Foothills
Lecture Series

A Conspiracy of Hope: Reclaiming Our Public Square

"Polarization: What it Is and How We Got Here"
Saturday, October 6th,
4:30 pm. in the Celebration Center

Prof. Barbara Norrander, University of Arizona,
School of Government and Public Policy

Title TBA
Saturday, October 13th,
4:30 pm. in the Celebration Center

Lisa Sanchez, PhD, University of Arizona,
School of Government and Public Policy

"The Convergence of Politics and Spirituality"
Saturday, October 20th,
4:30 pm. in the Celebration Center

David Wilkinson, retired Pastor, St. Francis in the
Foothills United Methodist Church

"There's Something Happening Here!"
A Celebration of Democracy concert and dance!
Saturday, November 3rd,
7:00 pm. in the Celebration Center
Doors open at 6:30 pm.

**This is a free lecture series.
Donations are always welcome!**

Missions/Social Concerns

The Missions/Social Concerns Committee thought this may be a Lecture Series that some of you may be interested in.

Location: St. Francis in the Foothills UMC
4625 E River Rd, Tucson, AZ 85718

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Zippy 49'ers United Methodist Women's Circle -will resume meeting on **Wednesday, September 19th**. We will gather in **Fellowship Hall at 9:15 am and have a breakfast at 9:30 am**. Our study this year will be the Adam Hamilton DVD series called "Unafraid." We will also continue our ministries of collecting new clothing for Southern Arizona Child Advocacy Center, as well as visiting church members who are unable to get out much. Members who have collected clothing during the summer are encouraged to bring it to our September meeting. If you have been thinking about joining a small women's group, we would be delighted to have you visit us, or call Glenda Burdick, 760-5520, for more information.

DRIVER NEEDED FOR CASA MARIA DELIVERY: Missions/Social Concerns is looking for a driver or drivers who are willing and able to pick up our Flea Market donations of clothing for Casa Maria at DSUMC on Mondays after 12 noon and deliver them to the Casa Maria Clothing House at the northeast corner of S. 3rd Ave. and E. 26th St, south of Santa Rita Park. Please contact Mary Jo Floyd at 478-320-1780, marvjofloyd39@gmail.com or catch me at church. THANK YOU!

The Flea Market needs grocery bags for their Annual Flea Market Sale. Please place the bags in the plastic bin on the Sanctuary patio on Sunday mornings. Thank you.

The Flea Market needs medium and large boxes. Please place the boxes in the metal shed outside of the Flea market barn. Thank you.



Christmas is Coming!

Just a gentle reminder that Sunday, December the 9th, will be our annual DSUMW Cookie Walk and Craft Sale. I know it is a bit early to make the baked goods, but crafts are much easier and better if started way in advance. We would love to have any of you ladies involved in making crafts, make items to donate to our Sale. If you will remember last year we made approximately one thousand dollars, all of which was donated to Sister Jose's Women's Center. Let's hope we can do as well this year with our donations for this extremely worthy facility. Thank you. Marilyn McKee



This Week At Desert Skies

Tuesday, September 18

10:00 am Screwtape Letters Book Club Fellowship Hall
3:00 pm Tutoring Fellowship Hall
6:30 pm Finance Meeting Room # 2
7:30 pm SPRC Meeting Room # 2

Wednesday, September 19

9:15 am Zippy 49er's Meeting Fellowship Hall
2:30 pm Worship Design Room # 2
4:00 pm Grief Support Group Room # 2
5:30 pm Wired Word Room # 2
6:00 pm Oil Painting Class Room # 7
6:30 pm Adult Bells Sanctuary
7:30 pm Adult Choir Sanctuary

Thursday, September 20

7:00 pm Executive Team Meeting Room # 2

Friday, September 21

1:00 pm Living Your Best Life Fellowship Hall

Saturday, September 22

10:00 am Vail Band Practice Sanctuary

This Week's Bible Reading

Sept. 18-Ezek 45, 46; Lk. 1

Sept. 19-Ezek. 47, 48; Lk. 2

Sept. 20-Dan. 5, 6; Ps. 130; Lk. 3

Sept. 21-Dan. 7, 8; Ps. 137; Lk. 4

Sept. 22-Dan. 9, 10; Ps. 123; Lk. 5

Sept. 23-Dan. 11, 12; Lk. 6

Sept. 24-Ezra. 1; Ps. 84, 85; Lk. 7

Interested in joining
Desert Skies UMC?

Join us on
Sunday, September 23rd
at 1:00 pm in room # 2.

Contact Rev. Dr.
Candace J. Lansberry
at 749-0521

if you would like to
attend.

We are on the web:
www.desertskiesumc.org