



# THE SKYLINE

An e-news blast of Desert Skies United Methodist Church

December 18, 2018

## A SPECIAL THANK YOU

Thank you Desert Skies for our staff Christmas gift. You are all so very generous and thoughtful. We are truly blessed to be part of such a wonderful church family. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Blessings,

Rev. Candace, Rev. Matt, Doc, Raymond, Scott, Barbara, Verna and Tammy

## AFRICA UNIVERSITY



Hector Tiago



Rex Vilanculo

Rex Vilanculo and Hector Tiago, the two young men pictured above, are recipients of scholarships that make it possible for them to attend Methodist-related Africa University in Zimbabwe. **Their scholarships are gifts from Desert Skies... gifts that will keep on giving as they graduate and return to their home country of Mozambique, one of the world's poorest nations.**

Hector is currently in his third year in the Faculty of Management and Administration and Rex is a second year student majoring in agriculture. Their attendance at AU is totally dependent on scholarship assistance. If we could meet Rex and Hector personally they would have huge smiles on their faces and many words of gratitude from themselves and their families. A scholarship to AU is a rare and beautiful thing.

Our **SPECIAL CHRISTMAS OFFERING** and a **donation from the Flea Market** make these scholarships possible. As we celebrate the birth of Christ we rededicate ourselves to serving others. **Thank you, Desert Skies, for answering His call.**



## Calling All Bakers

Cookies are needed for Christmas Eve services to be served along with warm cider. We will be serving cookies and cider after the 4:00 pm and 7:00 pm services. Cookies can be left in the Sanctuary kitchen.

Thank you,  
Meal Ministry

## **“The Glory of Christmas” Cantata at Desert Skies**

The Desert Skies Choir and orchestra performed their Christmas Cantata on December 16th and it was a Christmas moment to be remembered!

"The Glory of Christmas" had many of the most beloved and favorite songs of the Christmas season interwoven throughout the cantata. The sixteen piece orchestra featuring many of DSUMC's young musicians, added that extra touch of grandeur, which made the service extremely beautiful and most memorable!

In Rev. Candace's words, "That's why our choir has been invited to perform at Carnegie Hall in June 2019."



## **Intergenerational Advent Project Gathering**

**The Beverages hosted the gathering, with ten adults and 12 youth in attendance. Eight blankets and several pillows were made to benefit travelers with the Inn Project.**





## Vail Jingle Run

For the last 8 weeks, the Vail Campus has been participating in an intergenerational small group called, "Run for God." With timely messages about evangelism, running, being a witness for Christ and an ongoing training plan to run/walk a 5K, we could be seen each Sunday evening gathered for devotions, a video, and laps around the track at Empire High School.

This past Saturday, many of us lined up at the start line, ready to run the Vail Jingle Trail 5K, starting at the Cienega High School track. All of us finished...Dave Stivers led the men, and Rev. Candace led the women!!!! And our new shirts got in JUST in time for us to be run/waling advertisements! And a bonus? Janet Holland, a long-time member of the Houghton Campus, placed top in the Masters Women's Division...fun to see campuses participating together.



## UMM Breakfast Meeting

We met this past Saturday and shared in a meal and had questions answered about the new tax laws, by our guest speaker, a professional tax preparer, Jane Humphrey. Thanks to all in attendance! See you next year!



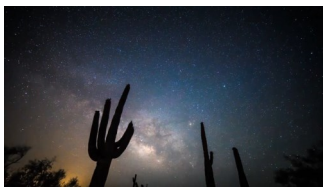


## B.A.N.G. Youth Group

Our youth group were very busy with being "the light" this weekend. They were involved with three different service opportunities: Friday night at the Beverage's making blankets for The Inn Project, Saturday helping out with a Candlelighters event (giving care to parents/families who have children with cancer), and Caroling on Sunday for our homebound and adoptive grandparents.



### Our Sermon Series "Calm and Bright" runs through December 30th .



This year is the 200th anniversary of the debut of "Silent Night, Holy Night." This hymn has become the best-loved worship moment of many Christians—even those who only come to church once a year.

Something mystical occurs as we light our candles and sing the hope of "all is calm, all is bright"—peace and light for the world.

This worship series will celebrate the carol's message over the entire season of Advent and highlight its call for our lives that can guide us all year long.

#### **December 23 (4th Sunday of Advent)**

**Sermon:** Let Us Sing-HOPE

#### **December 24 (Christmas Eve)**

**Sermon:** Calm and Bright

#### **December 30 (1st Sunday after Christmas)**

**Sermon:** ...Is Born

## 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 (adult, youth and baby)

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.)**

### DONATE TO THE INN PROJECT ONLINE

**ATTENTION:** If you would like to donate items to The Inn Project online, here is the link!

<http://www.amazon.com/registry/wishlist/JLTPUIXKDHNO>

This will take you to a wishlist that is labeled **UMCOR**. You are in the correct place. When you make your selections and proceed to **CHECKOUT**, One of the shipping address options is **UMCOR, Tucson, AZ**. Under this option, click on **DELIVER TO THIS ADDRESS**. The items you have purchased will be sent directly to The Inn Project with a note indicating who has sent them.

This is a great way to donate at your convenience and have a continually updated wish list from which to choose. If you have questions or problems with this link, please contact Mary Jo Floyd at [maryjofloyd39@gmail.com](mailto:maryjofloyd39@gmail.com) or 478-320-1780.

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

**SPANISH SPEAKERS are needed!** The Inn Project is experiencing an overflow situation that other churches have stepped up to help and several members from Desert Skies have been pitching in where they can. Having more folks that are able to speak Spanish would be very helpful. If you speak Spanish and can volunteer to help, please contact Julie Jenkins.

## **“What’s In the Bible...A Guide for the Perplexed”**

“Overexplanation separates us from astonishment.” —Eugene Ionesco

During the first two months of 2019, our worship will engage us with the Bible. As United Methodists, we are people of The Book and Scripture forms the foundation of what we believe and how we live. From the Creation Story through the Law and the Prophets to the story of Jesus, there is much to astonish us in these wonderful words...yet we have had it explained to us so often that perhaps we have forgotten the impact it can have on our lives.

Each Sunday we will explore a different part of the Bible, and then during the week, you will have the opportunity to study it further with Revs. Mark and Candace using three texts: The Idiot's Guide to the Bible, What's in the Bible by Rob Bell, and Things Hidden by Richard Rohr. By the end, we will have an awareness of God at work through its words, a basic understanding of its contents and contexts, and, hopefully, a renewed astonishment at the greatness of God.

We are deciding whether to hold this class during the day or during the evening (Mondays at 11 or Thursdays at 6) and need your help. If you would like to participate in this 8 week study, please mark on your Connection Card in the bulletin which you would attend (so you could mark both times) so that we might make the choice that will involve the most people. Mark and I are looking forward to being astonished together this Epiphany Season.

Shalom,  
Rev. Candace

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Just a Friendly Reminder**-Tammy will be out of the office from December 24th-January 6th. Emails and calls will be answered upon her return. Thank you.

**Christmas Family Photo**-The Connect Committee would like to remind you to take a family photo in front of the Christmas tree in the Sanctuary. If you haven't done so before Christmas Eve, members of the Connect Committee will be available to be your professional photographer between all of the Christmas Eve services. Just bring your own phone/camera and we guarantee you won't be disappointed! We are also able to offer a second option. If any of you really liked your 2018 Desert Skies Photo Directory picture and would like a JPG file of your picture to use in your Christmas card, please send your request to Sandy Kleen at: [sandykleen@gmail.com](mailto:sandykleen@gmail.com)

**Zippy 49'ers Circle** -will meet Wednesday, December 19th in Fellowship Hall. We will gather at 9:15 with breakfast at 9:30 am. We will share personal stories of our best Christmas and our worst Christmas. There will be a "white elephant" gift exchange. For anyone who doesn't know, a white elephant is an item you already own that you no longer want, or that is very silly, or very ugly and useless that you would like to get rid of. Do NOT go out and buy something!!! Item needs to be wrapped. It will be lots of fun, so plan to attend. Our meetings are open to all women. Call Glenda Burdick, 760-5520, for more information. We will resume our DVD series "Unafraid" in January.

**Painting God's Beauty Oil Painting Classes**-Come join us for fellowship and discovery to the world of oil painting. Classes will be starting on Wednesday, January 16th with 2 class times to choose from: afternoons at 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm or evenings from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm and will continue thru April 24th. For any questions, please contact Lorna Niven at # 520-422-2513. Please sign up on Sunday's Connection Card. Thank you.

**Simon Peter by Adam Hamilton**-Six week series beginning Tuesday, January 15 from 10:00 to 11:30 am in room 5. He was not rich or educated, but familiar with hard work. He left everything to follow his teacher, yet struggled with doubt and fear. Join Pastor and author Adam Hamilton in this six week Lenten journey, and take an in-depth dive into the life, faith, and character of Simon Peter. Sign up on the Connection Card if you are interested in joining.

**COMMUNITY FOOD BANK REMINDER - The first Sunday of every month** is Community Food Bank Sunday. Please remember to bring your food donations and drop them in the bin on the patio on your way in to the sanctuary. If you happen to forget your food donation, you may place a check in the offering with "Community Food Bank" on the memo line or place cash in a pew envelope and put "community food bank" and your name on the envelope.

**WITH EVERY DOLLAR DONATED THE CFB CAN PROVIDE 4 MEALS !**

**THANK YOU DSUMC!**

### This Week At Desert Skies

#### Wednesday, December 19

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

#### Friday, December 21

1:00 pm Living Your Best Life	Fellowship Hall
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#### Saturday, December 22

9:00 am Vail Band Practice	Sanctuary
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### This Week's Bible Reading

Dec. 18-Jn. 2-4

Dec. 19-Jn. 9-11

Dec. 20-Jn. 7, 8

Dec. 21-Jn. 9-11

Dec. 22-Jn. 12-14

Dec. 23-Jn. 15-18

Dec. 24-Jn. 19-21

Interested in joining  
Desert Skies UMC?

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

We are on the web:  
[www.desertskiesumc.org](http://www.desertskiesumc.org)