



# THE SKYLINE

An e-news blast of Desert Skies United Methodist Church

December 25, 2018

## MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR DESERT SKIES

We want to wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! May you feel the love and joy that this day brings and may God continue to bless you through the upcoming year! Once again, Thank you to the congregation 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.

Blessings,

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

## Annual All Church Conference

Thursday, December 6th was our Annual All Church Conference. We shared in a delicious dessert potluck and then met with our District Superintendent, Mark Conrad to discuss past years events, approve the slate of officers and looking forward to the upcoming year events.



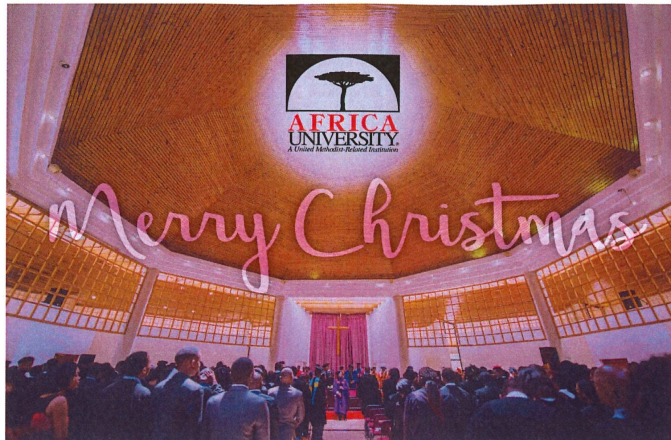
## A GREAT BIG THANK YOU

Thanks to all who baked or donated cookies for our Christmas Eve services. We appreciate your continued support every year!

Thank you,  
The Meal Ministry Team



# AFRICA UNIVERSITY



Africa University wishes you and your family a grace-filled holiday season and peace, joy and abundance throughout the New Year. Thank you for your love, commitment and generosity.

As the year draws to its end, we take this opportunity to look back in awe at the blessings and mercies that the Lord has bestowed on us. For the fellowship and joy we have experienced, and the fortitude and conviction to continue walking this journey together, we give thanks to God.

We now look forward to another year of partnership and the faithful pursuit of our shared mission. **Joyeux Noel. Feliz Natal. Nakutakia Krismasi Njema!**

**Professor Munashe Furusa**  
Vice Chancellor/President and CEO

**Mr. James H. Salley**  
Associate Vice Chancellor, Institutional Advancement

Students, Faculty, Staff and Alumni of Africa University



"By the tender mercy of our God,  
the dawn from on high will  
break upon us,  
to give light to those who sit in  
darkness and in the shadow of  
death,  
to guide our feet into the way  
of peace." (Luke 1:78-79)

 **Desert Southwest Conference**  
The United Methodist Church

Thank you for all you do!  
merry Christmas,  
Beth Rambauer

Thank you for the joy  
and hope you bring to the  
community!  
Dana McPherson

Let's fiercely  
celebrate the joy of  
our connection in  
the coming year!  
Billie & Bradlin

Christmas blessings!  
In Christ,  
Dina Reid  
Cora Whitmore  
LUCIE LINGBERY

Let's get in touch  
soon to talk about  
your ministries!  
Joyfully  
Celebrating  
with you  
Della Kemp

merry Christmas Patsy S  
Merry Christmas Rick

Thanks for all you do!  
Randy Assum

Lara Davis  
Cynthia Haley  
Nancy Cushman  
Amy Carl  
Peace & Joy  
Bob & Barbara

**Dear Candace and Matt and  
the people of Desert Skies UMC,  
MERRY CHRISTMAS**

Your ministry has been a beacon of God's light to  
all the world. Thank you from all of us at the  
Desert Southwest Conference.



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

**Sermon: ...Is Born**

## Our New Sermon Series “What is the Bible” (A Guide for the Perplexed) begins on Sunday, January 6th and runs through Sunday, March 3rd.

Some people see the Bible as an outdated, irrelevant book of primitive, barbaric fairy tales that has no place in conversation today. And so they ignore it, missing all of the progressive and enlightened ideas that first entered human history through the writers of the Bible—ideas and ideals we still fall far short of, ideas and ideals that are still way ahead of our present consciousness and practice.

And then there are the folks who talk about how important and central and inspired the Bible is but then butcher it with their stilted literalism and stifling interpretations, assuming that it says one thing and if you just get that one thing, then you’ve read it well.

But you, I want you to read the Bible in a whole new way. The Bible is a book about a library of books dealing with loss, anger, transcendence, worry, empire and money, fear, stress, joy, doubt, grace and healing...topics we ALL need to discuss.

### **January 6 (Epiphany Sunday, Communion)**

**Text:** Ephesians 3:1-12

**Sermon:** The B-I-B-L-E, Is That the Book for Me?

### **January 13 (1st Sunday after the Epiphany)**

**Text:** Psalm 119: 2-8

**Sermon:** Torah: From Beginnings to the Promised Land

### **January 20 (2nd Sunday after the Epiphany)**

**Text:** Exodus 31:24-29

**Sermon:** The Riches to Rags Story of Israel

### **January 27 (3rd Sunday after Epiphany)**

**Text:** Psalm 19

**Sermon:** Old Testament Lit. 101



## “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 Completer 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 holding this class on Mondays at 11:00 am or Thursdays at 6:00 pm beginning the week of January 7th. If you would like to participate in this 8 week study, please mark on your Connection Card in the bulletin which you would attend. Mark and I are looking forward to being astonished together this Epiphany Season.**

Shalom,  
Rev. Candace

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Just a Friendly Reminder-**Tammy is out of the office and will return on Monday, January 7th. Emails and calls will be answered upon her return. Thank you.

**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 # 520-722-2513. 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.

**Nothing Could Be Sweeter Than to Be a Worship Greeter-**Thanks to all of you who volunteered to be a greeter during this past year. It is time to sign up to be a greeter for the new year. **We will be signing up on the patio on Sunday, January 6th and 13th.** See you there. Thanks, Wanda Chittenden.

**Just a Friendly Reminder-**This will be the last e-blast until the New Year! Remember, that the due date for the e-blast is Monday mornings by 8:00 am. Thank you so very much for your cooperation.

**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

Tuesday, December 25-Office Closed!

Wednesday, December 26-Office Closed

Thursday, December 27-Office Closed

Friday, December 28-Office Closed

Saturday, December-29

9:00 am-Vail Band Practice

Tuesday, January 1-Office Closed

Monday, December 31-Office Closed!

Wednesday, January 2

4:00 pm Grief Group	Room # 2
6:30 pm Adult Bells	Sanctuary
7:30 pm Adult Choir	Sanctuary

Friday, January 4

1:00 pm Living Your Best Life Fellowship Hall

Saturday, January 5

9:00 am Vail Band Practice Sanctuary  
Removing Decorations from Sanctuary

### This Week's Bible Reading

Dec. 25-Jn. 1-5

Dec. 26-Ps. 117, 119; 81-176; II Jn. ;  
III Jn.

Dec. 27-Rev. 1-4

Dec. 28-Rev. 5-9

Dec. 29-Rev. 10-14

Dec. 30-Rev. 15-18

Dec. 31-Rev. 19-22

Jan. 01 Gen. 1, 2; Luke 1

Jan.02 Gen. 3-5; Luke 2

Jan. 03 Gen. 6-8; Luke 3

Jan. 04 Gen. 9-11; Luke 4

Jan. 05 Gen. 12-14; Luke 5

Jan. 06 Gen. 15-17; Luke 6

Jan. 07 Gen. 18, 19; Ps. 3; Luke 7

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)

## Readiness 360 Report

Thank you, Desert Skies, for taking the time to fill out the survey. We had a 40% participation rate, which is better than excellent. Your interest in the future of our church is a blessing in so many ways. On Monday, December 10, we met via an internet video call with the administrator of the survey, and he went over the results with us. We are poised to do great things, and your leaders are excited about our future. Here is an overview of the findings.

### REPORT

Congratulations for being willing to engage in a serious conversation about your readiness to reach new people in new ways! The Christian movement in North America was strong for so many generations because churches planted new churches that planted new churches. Untold thousands of churches, decade after decade, state after state! Only a small percentage of today's churches still have multiplication of ministry on their radar. Your church does - and that sets you apart!

Desert Skies United Methodist Church asked several of its leaders and participants to participate in the Readiness 360 process. The survey many of you took assesses your church's spiritual and practical readiness for faithful and effective ministry in the 21st century. 105 persons took the Readiness 360, a mix of staff, key leaders and active ministry participants.

Readiness 360 assesses four critical capacities for multiplying thriving ministries. The more multiplication energy your church has, the more ready you will be to start something new. DSUMC is strongest in terms of Spiritual Intensity and is most challenged in terms of Cultural Openness.

### Spiritual Intensity

There is some fire in people's hearts at DSUMC, but it isn't burning as brightly as it should. DSUMC has some work to do in strengthening the personal connection between its people and God and God's mission for you, the church, in the world. It would be wise to spend some time reconnecting with God through renewing spiritual practices both personally and as a church body.

*Recommendation: Have more intention about doing life together as a faith community.*

### Dynamic Relationships

In some respects, your church has seen some amazing relationships and friendships across the years. However, the DNA of these relationships is not currently indicative of the church as a whole. You have some work to do in terms of cultivating trust within the church and relating effectively to folks who are different from the majority of the members.

*Recommendation: Discuss together the things we can be doing to develop relationships in the community.*

### Missional Alignment

Many folks at your church have a good sense of where God is calling you to go, but others are not aligned with this point of view. There is seldom enough personnel or financial resources to run in many directions at once. Now is a time for serious conversation about DSUMC's priorities.

*Recommendations: Continue to bring clarity about the core principles of the purpose of the church and the direction in which it is going.*

### Cultural Openness

On one hand, many in the church want to reach diverse people, but many in the church still have great apprehension about what this might mean in terms of changing the face of DSUMC. There may be some limitations in terms of how far the church is able to reach toward different kinds of people in the next few years. Open communication will be critical.

*Recommendation: Look for people who have been in a diverse/multi-cultural/other generational situation to bring on to the leadership teams of the church.*

In addition, we have been given 10 computer-generated tips for doing ministry in new and effective ways. We will look at those as a Church Council as we determine action steps for the future. Look for ongoing conversations in the blast and at Council meetings. We are in a place now where we are ready to make an impact...we hope you will continue to be in prayer as the church moves into its mandate to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.





## JANUARY

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>01 Lowell Fathera, Mystique'a Miller-Naatz</b>                | <b>28 Peter Bookman, Dr. Karen Davis</b>        |
| <b>02 Sue Patrick, Gina Jackson</b>                              | <b>29 Elaine Agte, Ray Drury, Ron Eisenhuth</b> |
| <b>03 Mary Terpening, Ken Winkelmann</b>                         | <b>31 Linda Dorsey, Ron Leitch</b>              |
| <b>06 Ralph Anderson, Tyler Drummond</b>                         |   |
| <b>08 Betty Denny</b>  |   |
| <b>09 Diana Barber</b>   |   |
| <b>12 Rev. Dr. Roy W. Ludlow, Linda Morton,<br/>Edith Jordan</b> |   |
| <b>14 Deborah Gillies-Walling, Loren Carruth</b>                 |   |
| <b>16 Bev Bly, Wayne Peate, Mary Ellen Dawson</b>                |   |
| <b>17 Ken Conklin</b>  |   |
| <b>18 Bob Sisley</b>   |   |
| <b>19 Janet Baker</b>  |   |
| <b>20 Julie Jenkins, Corky Simpson</b>                           |   |
| <b>24 Duane Garcia, Edna Underwood</b>                           |   |
| <b>26 AJ Jackson, Maddox Mallory-Allen</b>                       |   |
| <b>27 Paul Bohardt</b>   |   |



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|---|---|
| <b>01 Charles and Sandra McNary<br/>Steve and Pam Smith</b> | <b>24 Myron Amundson and Edna Underwood</b> |
| <b>03 Mitch &amp; Julie Moffet</b>                          | <b>28 Rev. Matt and Cathy Colby</b>         |
| <b>06 Bill and Mearl Frame</b>                              | <b>30 Ken and Chris Weber</b>               |
| <b>17 Ross &amp; Louise Neu</b>                             |   |

# January 2019

## This Month at Desert Skies

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 Office Closed	2 4:00 Loss Support Group 6:45 Bells 7:30 Choir	3	4 1:00 Living Your Best Life	5 9:00 Tear Down Decorations Vail Band
6 Communion 8:30/10:00 Worship Service 8:30 Adult S.S. 11:15 Ring and Sing Teacher's Meeting 12:00 Youth Group 1:00 Praise Band 4:00 Community at Worship in Vail 5:15 Youth in Vail	7 8:00 Flea Market Fun 9:00 Coyote Music 10:00 UMW Board Meeting 11:00 Bible Study 3:00 Tutoring 5:30 Emmaus	8 8:30 Worship Design 9:00 Helping Hands 3:00 Tutoring 6:00 Mission/Social Concerns	9 4:00 Loss Support Group 5:30 The Wired Word 6:45 Bells 7:30 Choir	10 8:20 Casa Maria 3:30 Endowment Fund Meeting 6:00 Bible Study 6:30 Worship Meeting	11 1:00 Living Your Best Life	12 9:00 Vail Band
13 8:30/10:00 Worship Service 8:30 Adult S.S. 10:00 Life Support 10:15 Children's S.S. 11:15 Ring and Sing Children's Ed. Meeting 12:00 Youth Group 1:00 Praise Band 4:00 Worship in Vail 5:15 Youth in Vail	14 8:00 Flea Market Fun 9:00 Coyote Music 11:00 Bible Study 3:00 Tutoring 5:15 Emmaus 7:00 Stephen Ministry	15 8:30 Worship Design 10:00 Simon Peter Study 3:00 Tutoring 6:30 Finance 7:30 SPRC	16 9:15 Zippy 49er's 1:00 Oil Painting 4:00 Loss Support Group 5:30 The Wired Word 6:00 Oil Painting 6:45 Bells 7:30 Choir	17 6:00 Bible Study	18 1:00 Living Your Best Life	19 8:00 UMM Breakfast Meeting 9:00 Vail Band
20 8:30/10:00 Worship Service 8:30 Adult S.S. 10:00 Life Support 10:15 Children's S.S. 11:15 Ring and Sing New Community 12:00 Youth Group 1:00 New Member Class 4:00 Worship in Vail 5:15 Youth in Vail	21 Office Closed! 8:00 Flea Market Fun 11:00 Bible Study 5:15 Emmaus 7:00 Trustees	22 8:30 Worship Design 10:00 Simon Peter Study 3:00 Tutoring	23 1:00 Oil Painting 4:00 Loss Support Group 5:30 The Wired Word 6:00 Oil Painting 6:45 Bells 7:30 Choir	24 6:00 Bible Study 7:30 Executive Team Meeting	25 1:00 Living Your Best Life	26 9:00 Vail Band 9:15 UMW General Meeting
27 8:30/10:00 Worship Service 8:30 Adult S.S. 10:00 Life Support 10:15 Children's S.S. 11:15 Ring and Sing 12:00 Youth Group 1:00 Praise Band 4:00 Worship in Vail 5:15 Youth in Vail	28 8:00 Flea Market Fun 9:00 Coyote Music 11:00 Bible Study 3:00 Tutoring 5:15 Emmaus	29 8:30 Worship Design 10:00 Simon Peter Study 3:00 Tutoring 7:00 Church Council	30 1:00 Oil Painting 4:00 Loss Support Group 5:30 The Wired Word 6:00 Oil Painting 6:45 Bells 7:30 Choir	31 6:00 Bible Study		