



THE SKYLINE

An e-news blast of Desert Skies United Methodist Church

April 2, 2019

This Week At Desert Skies

Tuesday, April 2

8:30 am Worship Design	Room # 2
9:30 am Walk for Christ	Udall Park
10:30 am Walk for Christ	Fellowship Hall
3:00 pm Tutoring	Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, April 3

1:00 pm Oil Painting Class	Room # 7
4:00 pm Grief Support Group	Room # 2
5:30 pm Lenten Study/Supper	Fellowship Hall
and Conversation about Human Sexuality and the recent General Conference	
The Wired Word	Room # 2
6:00 pm Adult Bells	Sanctuary
6:30 pm Oil Painting Class	Room # 7
7:00 pm Adult Choir	Sanctuary

Saturday, April 6

9:00 am Vail Band Practice	Sanctuary
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ARTICLE OF THE WEEK

Youth Mystery Dinner

The Mystery Dinner was a great success with a talented cast, delicious dinner and energetic wait staff. Our fundraiser goal was more than met to help our youth from both campuses attend “Youth 2019” in Kansas City this summer. Thanks to all for your generous support!



This Week's Bible Reading

Apr. 02 Judg. 13-16; II Cor. 2

Apr. 03 Judg. 17, 18; Ps. 89; II Cor. 3

Apr. 04 Judg. 19-21; II Cor. 4

Apr. 05 Ruth 1, 2; Ps. 53, 61; II Cor. 5

Apr. 06 Ruth 3, 4; Ps. 64, 65; II Cor. 6

Apr. 07 I Sam. 1, 2; Ps. 66; II Cor. 7

Apr. 08 I Sam. 3-5; Ps. 77; II Cor. 8

A GOLDEN OLDIE-LECTIO DIVINA

by Pat Walker

During the Lenten Worship series we have experienced a form of scripture reading known as “Lectio Divina”. It has an ancient tradition, observed by many individuals who find it quieting and insightful.

Some practitioners do as we are doing each Sunday through Lent: Read the scripture, put it aside for a moment, then read it again. The goal is reading, resting and listening, a conversation with God. As Rev. Candace has said, we must spend time, reflect, taste the flavor of the words, chew upon them, take them within ourselves.

Some people practice Lectio in five steps: Read aloud a favorite short passage from Psalms, Proverbs, or the New Testament. Wait. Then read it again, slowly. Think upon it and read it again. At first, the scripture seems familiar, explored to its limits, then the words begin to contain a shadow of possibility. By the fourth reading the verse begins to open itself, showing new meaning, a way not seen before, and by the fifth reading comes a promise of transformation.

Most of all, Lectio Divina is an honest conversation with the Living God, silent listening with a friend who speaks our language. But we must pay attention, open the Book and read with carefully. Only then will the verse open itself to us.

Africa University Update/UMCOR

After learning about **CYCLONE IDAI** in central Mozambique, eastern Zimbabwe and southern Malawi, many of us waited for news from Africa University. **We have received word that AU was not affected by the cyclone.** Because communications were down it took more than a week to hear from any of our students. **Atal Vilanculo**, one of our current scholarship students, is fine and has learned that his sister and her family, who live in the cyclone devastated city of Beira, are safe. We have also heard from **Rabeca Maoza** (Class of 2015), who lives in central Mozambique, near the border with Zimbabwe. She and her family are also safe. She reports terrible devastation, not only in the city of Beira, but also in many other areas where lives were lost and homes and crops destroyed. Rabeca, who works in hospital administration, is also concerned about the threat from cholera. We have not heard from our recent visitor to Desert Skies, **Jose Gume**.

We know that **UMCOR has given grants** to the United Methodist conferences in each country to help them provide assistance to the victims, and local church members who live in unaffected areas are sending supplies and doing everything they can to help alleviate the suffering. In Mozambique’s capital city of Maputo, citizens are gathering supplies that will be taken by ship to the port city of Beira, the hardest hit area. There are many relief agencies providing life-saving help, and we will soon learn more about further assistance from UMCOR.

Please continue to pray for the people of Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Malawi. Cyclone Idai was the worst cyclone ever recorded in this part of the world.

Atal Rex Filimao Vilanculo

Desert Skies Scholarship Recipient at Africa University

Atal, named after his grandfather, is a second year student in the College of Health, Agriculture, and Natural Sciences at Africa University (AU), Mutare, Zimbabwe majoring in agriculture sciences. He is one of the over 1,200 students from 22 African countries in attendance this academic year. When I met him on October 30, 2018 he told me his father is a United Methodist pastor in Maputo, the capital of Mozambique. Atal described Maputo as an Indian Ocean port city with beautifully preserved Portuguese colonial architecture. His mother is a teacher and he has three older sisters, one of whom lives in Beira, another port city and the site of much devastation from recent Cyclone Idai. Thankfully they are okay but Atal asked that we continue to pray for his family and country.

Atal learned about AU from his father and wrote me the following on November 29th. “When my father told me about the opportunity to study at AU, I did not really like the idea because of the English language, at the time I did not know any English words, but thank God I learned the English language at this university.” His first language is Portuguese. All those accepted at AU must pass an English proficiency exam before they are admitted as full-time, degree seeking students.

He continued, “At the beginning of the first year I had challenges with food because the scholarship I had was partial and after the second semester my father no longer had the conditions to continue to pay for my studies, but thank God I got a full scholarship that is helping me and my family a lot.”

As he concluded his note he stated, “My plans after graduation are to continue my masters studies and do an agricultural project in which I will help my community through agricultural training. I hope to have a good job so that I can help my family. I thank God for putting in my life people like you and those at Desert Skies who can help me with my studies.”

From May – August 2018 he did his first attachment, what we call a practicum, at a United Methodist farm in Mozambique. The farm is 200 hectares which is equivalent to 494 acres. Atal learned planting, fertilizing, cultivating, and harvesting techniques. The farm provides produce to the local residents. Volunteers from the church and community help with the crops. Eggs from the farm's 200 laying hens are sold locally. This farming enterprise is an effort to decrease food insecurity among the area residents. Atal is learning techniques practiced at AU's Small Farms Research Project that he can apply after he graduates.

He was looking forward to going home for the holidays after he completed his exams at the end of November. To travel from the university south to Maputo, a distance of 483 miles, requires 48 hours of bus travel. When I heard from him on Christmas day he told me he had passed all of his first semester courses. He asked me to “thank the people used by God to help me academically.”

In early March he wrote and presented a paper describing cassava production in his home country. It is a staple food and they eat both the root and the leaves. His second paper was titled, “Effects of Cobalt on the Soil.” Shortly after General Conference he emailed that he heard it was very good, but did not specify in what ways.

The early part of the second semester he prepared two attachment applications, both locations are in Zimbabwe. He is still waiting to hear if he has an offer. Students are expected to work full-time during their attachments and most are not paid. To help them keep expenses low, the university farm director provides attachment experiences for some of the agriculture students so they can remain on campus.

I felt privileged to meet Atal and to be an unofficial connection with Desert Skies, my winter church home for the past ten years. This soft-spoken, caring young man is dedicated to doing God's work and helping his people through agriculture.

Written by Jan Van Buren, Ph.D. a member of the Indiana Conference with whom she travelled to Africa University during October - November 2018.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lenten Suppers-Wednesdays, 5:30-6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall—Each week enjoy fellowship around a simple supper followed by table worship of prayer and hymn singing. Finally, practice and experience a new spiritual discipline each time. Based on the book, “Because of This I Rejoice,” we will discover that far from an obligation or drudgery, adding any one of these disciplines in our lives can add a source for joy as we connect to and engage in “The Source of Joy”. In addition, after supper, there will be a group led by Jake Beverage and Rev. Candace on the topic of human sexuality and the recent General Conference. Bring your questions, your faith, and an openness to hear one another in respectful conversations around a polarizing topic. **Lenten Supper Topic: “Joyful Giving.” Wednesday, April 3rd, 5:30-6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall.**

Ice Cream Social in the Park -Both campuses are invited to McDonald Park on Sunday, April 7th, from 2:00 pm-4:00 pm to enjoy being together, out in the community and enjoying spring weather. Enjoy yourself under the Ramada or bring a chair. For those who want to be active, we are offering games like basketball, kickball, bean bag toss and a bounce house.

Relief Kits for UMCOR-This is a special project our church has taken on...to fill 5 gallon buckets with cleaning supplies for victims of flooding and other disasters. **Your change, cash and checks placed in your mini-buckets over the 40 days of Lent are due back on Palm Sunday, April 14.** The Lent offering, along with Missions Committee budgeted funds, will enable our church to fill 200 buckets! **On April 28, the Sunday after Easter, those who wish to assemble the buckets are invited after church to share lunch and work together for those in need.** The buckets full of cleaning supplies will be delivered by our SW Conference to the UMCOR Distribution Center.

“Walk with Jesus” Easter Event-Come and join us in the Fellowship Hall on Friday, April 12th from 5:30 pm-7:30 pm for the reenactment of Jesus’ last days on earth. There will be a meal served as a replica of the “Last Supper” of Jesus and the Disciples to experience. **Sign-up on the Connection Card, call the church office (# 749-0521) or sign-up on the patio between services to be a part of this special event.** All are welcomed and hope to see you there! Any questions please Call Lorna Niven at 520-744-2513.

Adult Bible Study-Come join us in an 8 week study beginning April 7th at 8:30 am in Room # 5. It’s a follow video study: no experience necessary. Lots of people think Christianity is all about doing what Jesus says. But what if doing what Jesus says isn’t what Jesus says to do at all? Jesus’ invitation is an invitation to relationship, and it begins with a simple request: follow me.

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Palm Sunday, April 14th-Services will be held at 8:30 am-Houghton Campus (Sanctuary)
10:00 am-Houghton Campus (Sanctuary)
11:15 am-Vail Campus (Vail Innovation Center)

Maundy Thursday, April 18th –A 7:00 pm Service will be held in the Sanctuary at our Houghton Campus.

Good Friday, April 19th –A Good Friday Sunset Hike will take place at Broadway Trail-“Cactus Forest Trail”.
The hike starts at 6:00 pm. Meet there and the trail is wheel chair accessible.

EASTER SUNDAY SERVICES

Sunday, April 21st—Services will be held at 6:30 am (Sunrise Service)-Houghton Campus
8:30 am-Houghton Campus (Sanctuary)
10:00 am-Houghton Campus (Sanctuary)
11:15 am-Vail Campus (Vail Innovation Center)

The church office will be closed on Monday, April 22nd in observance of the Easter holiday. Thank you.