



THE SKYLINE

An e-news blast of Desert Skies United Methodist Church

March 24, 2020

This Week At Desert Skies

This is just a reminder that all in-person meetings, small groups, Sunday School, Youth Group, social events, and worship services will be suspended through March.

In April we will be meeting On-Line as we follow guidelines in order to be a contributing factor to safety in our local community.

We will be live streaming the worship service at 8:30 am, 10:00 am, & 11:15 am on March 29. The link to join us and the instructions for its use will be sent on Thursday.

Bible Readings This Week

Mar. 24-Josh.18-20; I Cor. 9

Mar. 25-Josh. 21, 22; Ps. 47; I Cor. 10

Mar. 26-Josh. 23, 24; Ps. 44; I Cor. 11

Mar. 27-Judg. 1-3; I Cor. 12

Mar. 28-Judg. 4, 5; Ps. 39, 41; I Cor. 13

Mar. 29-Judg. 6, 7; Ps. 52; I Cor. 14

Mar. 30-Judg. 8; Ps. 42; I Cor. 15

Bible Talk

Rev. Candace will resume Bible Talk at the Starbucks on Broadway and Houghton, Wednesday afternoons, between 3:00-4:00 pm, when the facility is open to the public.

Discuss what you are reading in the Bible or questions you have about God and life. All topics welcome!

Dear Members and Friends of the Desert Southwest Conference, The Arizona judicatory leaders of the Disciples of Christ, Evangelical Church in America, The United Methodist Church, the United Church of Christ, Presbyterian Church USA (PCUSA), and the Episcopal Church teleconferenced together and engaged in lively dialogue about the COVID-19 pandemic. We have jointly released the following statement that I would like to share with you. Here is our statement:

Church is not cancelled!!!

But in-person worship is. As leaders of our respective Christian denominations, we have all had to instruct our congregations to cease in person worship and meetings.

And yet, church is not cancelled. How is that so?

Church is not a building, and church is not just worship. Church is the gathering of faithful people through prayer, through love, and through caring for the vulnerable. Church is taking on new forms in light of COVID-19. Many congregations are worshipping via live-stream, or by other electronic means. They are using old fashioned phone calls to talk to members, meetings and Bible study are taking place over Zoom. Food pantries are distributing food as cars drive by, homeless dinner programs are offering meals to go, and the prayers of the faithful ascend to a loving God whose arms bind us together even when we cannot be face to face. Since we cannot be WITH one another, let us nonetheless be FOR each other.

These are faithful decisions, made out of our understanding of the great commandments to love God and love our neighbor. In this present moment, among other things, loving our neighbor means not being physically present with our neighbors, to protect them and us from potential infection.

It is more challenging to be church in a time such as this. Our pastors and leaders are having to develop new skills, and our members are having to extend more effort to stay connected. There are financial implications of not gathering in person, and as long as this continues it will grow ever harder to continue our basic outreach ministries caring to the poor, the sick, migrants, and the elderly.

The word "quarantine" comes from *quaresima*, the Italian word for Lent. Ships were "quarantined" for 40 days in port before they were able to dock and unload people and supplies. So of all seasons of the year to be experiencing quarantines, this present season of Lent is very appropriate. Just as Lent ends with Easter, so this season of quarantine will end with renewed faith in our Risen Lord—though it will likely not happen by April 12, 2020. Over the next few weeks, as the situation develops, we will discern what the right way to observe calendar Easter is; and what the right way to observe our eventual return to in-person congregational life, proclaiming "Alleluia" with shouts of joy. That day will be an Easter Day indeed, celebrating the restoration of new life, having passed through the valley of the shadow of death.

We, the leaders of our respective Christian denominations, hold you in prayer just as we ask you to hold us in prayer in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ!

Rev. Jay R. Hartley
Regional Minister and President
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Arizona

The Rev. Deborah K. Hutterer
Bishop, Grand Canyon Synod
Evangelical Church in America

The Rev. Dr. Robert T. Hoshibata
Resident Bishop
The Desert Southwest Conference
The United Methodist Church

Rev. Dr. William M. Lyons, Conference Minister
Southwest Conference of the United Church of Christ

Rev. Dr. Brad Munroe
Presbytery Pastor for the Presbyteries of Grand Canyon and de Cristo
Presbyterian Church USA (PCUSA)

The Right Rev. Jennifer A. Reddall
Sixth Bishop of Arizona
The Episcopal Church

Desert Skies Members Following Protocol With Online Worship

Like the Beverage Family, almost 300 people checked out our online worship this past Sunday, staying connected while staying safe! Thanks to the flexibility and hard work of our worship design team and lay leaders who made this service possible!



New Members From Our Houghton Campus

As promised...our new member photos from our Houghton Campus are here!!



George & George & Cynthia Naanes



Chuck & Becky Nelson



Diane Taylor



Ceanne Alvine

Prayers for Our Churches 2020

You are encouraged to be praying for the churches and pastors of the South District.

Several churches will be listed each month for your prayer covering. It is encouraging to know that other churches are praying with and for each other.

Please pray for the pastors, congregation, and community.

MARCH

Huachuca UMC, Huachuca City;
Community UMC, Bowie;
First UMC, Tucson

Prayer Requests

Kerri Castell	Ginger Crowder	Cesar
Mary Jenner	Jeann Fishback	Sylvia Mozur
Jim O'Connell	Edie Jordan	Our Nation
Phyllis & Brent Kyte	Judy Fish & Mike Nofziger	Linda Van Straaten
Sue Ellen Smith	Ginny Zidar	Leanne Whitney
Karen Davis	Frieda Tipton	Andrea Brown
Bob Tucker	Lil Cottrell	

Homebound / Assisted Living: Tom Benedict, Curt Brunner, Chris & Ginger Crowder, Karen Davis, Joan French, Laura Henderson, Thelma Forrester, Sherman & Patti Lee, Sylvia Mozur, Mary Jane & Clyde Van Arsdale

Please email Pat Walker at msnodle@aol.com, if you have an immediate, critical prayer request or click on this link:

<https://desertskiesumc.org/contact/>

Happy Birthday

Mar. 30 Noah Louzensky

31 Rev. Dr. Candace J. Lansberry,
Wendy McInnis

Apr. 01 Ralph Schild

03 Michelle Bever, Mike Leedy

Happy Anniversary

Mar. 31 Bill & Janet Baker
John & Rita Brimley

Apr. 04 Carolyn & Ron Eisenhuth
Rocky & Susan Haynes

“Remember the birthday fund as a way to honor your loved ones”



Sidewalk Connection

There have been neighborhoods all over the country who are using sidewalk chalk drawings as a way to connect people who are practicing social distancing while getting outside together for walks, bike rides, etc.

We thought we could do the same here at Desert Skies. We invite you and your families (whatever that looks like...maybe it's even just you!) to stop by the church and add to our drawings on the sidewalk in front of the Sanctuary. Then take a quick photo of your work (just in case it rains) and send it to Rev. Candace (revcandace@desertskiesumc.org) or the church office (office@desertskiesumc.org). By the time we can gather again, we should have some

wonderful reminders of how we are connected together even though we are apart for now. So come...stop by...draw, write, whatever...and let's do something beautiful for our faith community. Sidewalk chalk is provided in the white bucket near the drawings!

Update for Church Office

During this season of COVID-19, we are following safety protocol and practicing social distancing. We have temporarily transitioned to On-Line access and our church campus is closed. For On-Line worship, please visit our web page at www.desertskiesumc.org. All phone messages will be checked daily. If you have an emergency, please email Rev. Candace at (revcandace@desertskiesumc.org) or Doc at (musicdoc@desertskiesumc.org) or you can call them on their cell phone (numbers found in your directory).



REMEMBER YOUR PAILS, BUCKET BRIGADERS:

PROBLEM:

The highest concern for flooding this spring in the U.S. remains along the Mississippi River. The risk of major flooding is much above normal for the entire reach of the river from Iowa through Missouri. Potential for widespread flooding is near to above normal for 2020.

SOLUTION:

The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) is “at the ready” to assist people whose homes are damaged from flooding. They are relying on us to supply the donations needed to help these families help themselves.

Let’s all make the BIG effort to get our “pails” turned in with each family’s donations for our UMCOR Cleaning Kits’ supplies. The Lent offering is due at Desert Skies on or before Palm Sunday, April 5th. Our church-wide Bucket Assembly project is currently on hold but will be re-scheduled as soon as possible. Thank you all in advance for your thoughtful generosity during this difficult time!

Donna Sisley sent this photo, taken from her backyard...Enjoy!!



Our Lenten Sermon Series: Falling Upward: A Spirituality for the Two Halves of Life runs through Maundy Thursday, April 9th.

Richard Rohr speaks of the two halves of our spiritual life. The first half is when we are formed and forming; the second half begins after trials and tragedies, trauma and temptations push and pull us into reforming, renewing, restoring, rewriting our script and story.

The first half includes what God provides what we need to survive. The second half begins as God guides us forward to thrive. Christian Century writes, “The message of Falling Upward is straightforward and bracing: the spiritual life is not static. You will come to a crisis in your life, and after the crisis, if you are open to it, you will enter a space of spiritual refreshment, peace and compassion that you could not have imagined before.” This Lent, we will use the book “Falling Upward” as a framework for exploring our spirituality.

March 29-5th Sunday in Lent
Sermon: Falling Upward
Scripture: John 11:1-45

April 5-Palm Sunday/Passion Sunday
Sermon: Invitation to Journey with Jesus
Scripture: Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

April 9-Maundy Thursday Service

April 10-Good Friday Meditation Hike

We still need flowers for the Altar, so we are still collecting names for our Easter Flowers. If you want to participate please email Tammy (office@desertskiesumc.org) with your info. Thank you.

Easter Flowers for our Sanctuary

The Worship Committee has ordered a variety of potted flowering plants for our Easter Services. Donations toward offsetting the purchase of the plants are now being accepted. **If you would like to have a loved one remembered, please fill in the information below and turn it into the office by WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1st at 8:00 am.**

To the Glory of God

In memory of _____

In honor of

Donation made by

Attach order form to your check (made out to DSUMC) (It is for the Easter flowers fund) and return to the church office or put in the offering plate.

Suggested Donation: \$15.00-\$20.00

- I would like to take my plant home.
- Please take my plant to a Shut-in.
- Yes, I can deliver a flower to a Shut-in.

