



THE SKYLINE

An e-news blast of Desert Skies United Methodist Church

April 14, 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 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 April 19th. The link to join us and the instructions for its use will be sent on Thursday.

Bible Readings This Week

Apr. 14-I Sam. 15, 16; I Chr. 5; Mt. 1

Apr. 15-I Sam. 17; Ps. 9; Mt. 2

Apr. 16-I Sam. 18; I Chr. 6; Ps. 11;
Mt. 3

Apr. 17-I Sam. 19; I Chr. 7; Ps. 59;
Mt. 4

Apr. 18-I Sam. 20, 21; Ps. 34; Mt. 5

Apr. 19-I Sam. 22; Ps. 17, 35; Mt. 6

Apr. 20-I Sam. 23; Ps. 31, 54; Mt. 7

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!

SERVICE IN MISSION DURING SHELTER-IN-PLACE

As we are all comfortably and safely sheltered in our own homes with plenty to eat, there are many in our community who do not have shelter and who depend on community non-profits including Casa Maria Soup Kitchen for their next meal. Those community non-profits in turn depend on donations of food from Grocery stores, bakeries, restaurants and CHURCHES to name a few. These food donations from businesses are not available as markets are not experiencing surpluses and restaurants are closed.

DSUMC has partnered with Casa Maria Soup kitchen for many years, supporting it not only with dollars but with supplies, food and VOLUNTEERS. This is the largest soup kitchen in Tucson and feeds up to 400 homeless and low income members of our community daily.

Your Missions/Social Concerns team purchased and delivered the April scheduled supplies this week. The sign on the gate said "Pick up your lunch and move on." The Casa Maria workers were so appreciative of our delivery as always, but we were saddened to realize that those on the margin of our community are missing more than possibly smaller lunches and soup. They are missing the opportunity to sit for a while, eat in peace together at tables under a cover, and the opportunity to see and talk with those who care.

We can't change their situation but we can help to feed them!

1. If you have fruit trees that you are harvesting and have more than you can possibly use, it can be picked up and delivered to Casa Maria. Please contact Mary Jo Floyd at 478-320-1780 or maryjofloyd39@gmail.com.
2. Make 20-40 peanut butter and jelly sandwiches and seal them in sandwich bags. Deliver them between 9-10 a.m. every Saturday to the red RAV4 in the parking lot of ST. FRANCIS IN THE FOOTHILLS UMC (corner of Swan and River Rd.). They will be delivered to Casa Maria that morning.
3. You can donate online at www.casamariatucson.org. Click on donate and volunteer link. You can also send a check, payable to Casa Maria Catholic Worker, 401 E. 26th St., Tucson, 85713.

Prayer Requests

Just a friendly reminder that if you have a prayer request, please email Pat Walker at msnodle@aol.com or click this link:

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

Holy Week comes to life!



My Maundy Thursday Story for 2020 Blessings, Pat Walker

I promised stories, so here is one of my own. It will make more sense if you have viewed the Desert Skies Maundy Thursday service on YouTube. Here's the link, you can still pull it up and watch: : <https://youtu.be/MWyc99-XJvM> . It's long but I hope you will appreciate the energy and work it takes to create and stitch together a meaningful Worship Service.

I've been singing, reading, dramatizing and attending Maundy Thursday services over many years. But none like this one, this year. This year everything is different.

We know the Rest of the Story, so we don't, perhaps, pay attention when the soloist sings, "Were you There?". For me this year is very different. I was blessed to be part of the Socially Distancing group that filmed the Maundy Thursday service.

We gathered for filming on Wednesday night, April 1, a week and a day before it was to be on YouTube. There were 9 of us: Rev. Drs. Mark and Candace Lansberry, Dr. Alex Shawn, Gail Remaly, Stephanie and Scott Hartung, Dr. Raymond Ryder, Paige McDowell and me.

The experience was a moment in time strangely out of sequence. Because there were so few of us, everybody did double duty. The Rev. Drs. Lansberry organized and conducted the service, Candace read the prayers and introduced the Story, drew our attention to the table of symbols, helping us to partake in the ritual as we were able. She sang with our little choir. Rev. Mark read the scriptures and later, when we had all gone home, edited the raw material (there was a lot of this) into the nearly seamless service offered on Thursday night.

Gail sang a duet with Alex while Raymond accompanied and then she read the part of Mary, friend of Jesus. Scott and Stephanie filmed the service from the Audio Visual booth - Stephanie checked the sound and gave us our cues, Scott panned the camera and then read the part of Simon Peter because Scott Jones, who was supposed to be Peter, was ill. Allergies, thankfully.

Paige was Salome; not the Salome who danced and asked for the head of John the Baptist. No, this is St. Mary Salome, who stood at the foot of the cross. In our reading she tends to Jesus' dead body as women did in Jewish culture. Paige sang too.

Raymond accompanied our little choir in the hymns and prayer songs while we sat 6 feet apart in the Choir Loft. He played the Music for Gathering and the Offertory as well as reading the part of Judas. I remembered the painting by Rubens called "The Last Supper". You can look it up online by searching for the artist. Note whom Judas is looking at.

Alex not only dueted with Gail, he directed our little Distancing choir, sang "Basin and Towel" to remind us of Jesus' Mandate: "Love one another as I have loved you." He read the part of the Roman centurion who presided over Jesus' crucifixion. Strong, moving, and not often in complete sentences.

I read the part of Mary, the Mother. She speaks of mothers who have lost their children, to "plague and pestilence". We wanted our actors to be dressed in street clothes because, like those we became, we are just regular folks at a very special moment in history.

So, this is the long way around to tell you about how a Film gets put together, how much work and thought goes into a Worship Service and how the "players" gain insight and spiritual strength from the process itself.

Actions of Goodwill During the Easter Season: Things to Do While Sheltering in Place

The theme scripture says that the community keeps the “goodwill of all the people” at heart. So the concluding time raises a question for further reflection after the benediction such as “What message does the world need? What can we do for the goodwill of all the people?” Here are some ideas for practicing goodwill with all generations each week that allow you to use materials you probably have at home.

Second Sunday of Easter- Heartfelt Goodwill through “Hugs”. Send a virtual hug through email or text message to someone who may be in need of one. Contact your pastor or congregational care team for contact info if you would like to send it to someone in your church who is homebound. Using a long piece of paper (or a few pieces glued together), trace your hands and arms. Cut out a heart and write a message of hope, joy, peace, or love, then glue the arms and hands to it to create a “hug.” Sending physical mail is a little risky right now because surfaces can carry germs, so take picture of your “hugs” and send the photos digitally to anyone who may need a hug.

Prayers, Stories and Pics From Our Congregation

A Story written by Yvonne Castell

We are not hoarders. But when we started to run low on toilet paper, Lee decided it was time to make a Costco Run. They are now open between 8-9 am on Tuesday & Thursday for “Seniors” before opening the doors at 9 am for everyone else. Knowing there might be long lines, Lee took up the challenge and on Thursday, 26 March, he went to Costco, arriving at 7 am to find about 400 old people, “Seniors”, ahead of him. Obviously he failed in his mission to get TP.

As many of you know, we get up early (3:30-4:00am) for our early morning walk, year round. Last Tuesday, 31 March, he woke up at 3:00, got dressed and headed for Costco. He took my cell phone (he refuses to have one of his own) so he could do crossword puzzles while he waited. Also a folding chair and water. And he was the first one in line at 3:30! He asked a worker near the front door if they had any TP and he said, “No”. Lee: “Are you going to get any this morning?” “Let me check.”

The worker said they were expecting 3 deliveries and that one of the trucks was a “paper” delivery truck and had TP on it. So Lee decided to stay in line. A few more people showed up around 5-5:30am, and more trickled in as the minutes click by. Again the line stretched on and on.

The Outside Manager came around before the doors opened and said the workers would have the TP lined up and ready to hand them out. They open the doors at 7:30 and Lee quickly picked up his TP, and a couple of other items and got out of there as fast as he could. We should be good to “go” for a couple of months!

Here are some photos from Donna Sisley



“Hang in There”



“Easter Blessings”



“Isn’t it a Hoot?”

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@desertsksiesumc.org) or the church office (office@desertsksiesumc.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!



Our Easter to Pentecost Series: The Heart of the Matter has begun and runs through Pentecost Sunday, May 31st.

After the events of Holy week, the disciples are devastated. They are in the midst of full-blown grief and disbelief. Into the heart of that grief came a stunning revelation-life had overcome death. Love had won out over violence. God's faithfulness would build them up once again-will bind them together. In this possible in our lives? Today's worship will say, "Yes, it can! Come and see! Live and love! This is the heart of the matter!"

April 19-2nd Sunday of Easter

Sermon: With Glad Hearts

Scripture: Acts 2:25-26; Psalm 16:7-9; John 20:19

April 26-3rd Sunday of Easter

Sermon: Straight from the Heart

Scripture: I Peter 1:22; Luke 24:30-32

May 03-4th Sunday of Easter

Sermon: Hearts Overflowing

Scripture: Acts 2:46; John 10:1-10

May 10-5th Sunday of Easter (Mother's Day)

Sermon: No Trouble in My Heart

Scripture: Psalm 31:5, 15-16; John 14:1-2

May 17-6th Sunday of Easter (Graduation Sunday)

Sermon: Kept in our Hearts

Scripture: I Peter 3:13-22; John 14:15-21

May 24-7th Sunday of Easter/Ascension Day

Sermon: Open the Eyes of My Heart

Scripture: Ephesians 1:17; Luke 24:48-49

May 31-Pentecost Sunday

Sermon: The Heart of the Matter

Scripture: John 7:37-38; Acts 2:4, 17-18

SPRC COMMITTEE

SPRC is searching for a part-time Custodian, 20 hours per week @ \$12.00 hour. Job Description and Employment Application may be found on the DSUMC website or Indeed.com

Applications must be received no later than **April 24** and may be emailed to the address on the websites, mailed to the church office or deposited in the drop box outside the church office door.

Blessings,
Gail Remaly
SPRC Chair

Annual Conference 2020 From The Office of Bishop Bob

April 14, 2020

Dear Members and Friends of the Desert Southwest Conference,

Grace and peace in the name of our risen Savior, Jesus Christ!

Here is an important announcement regarding our Annual Conference Session in June!

The COVID-19 virus continues to impact our life and ministry in the Conference. We have recently learned that the City of Mesa has extended the closure of various areas until further notice. This includes the Mesa Convention Center, the facility where Annual Conference 2020 was to be held.

We were advised that because of this closure, we are not permitted to hold our Annual Conference as planned. For those of you who are members of the Conference, and had made a reservation at the Delta Hotel, you may have already received notice that your hotel room has been cancelled. You need not do anything further related to this cancellation.

I am also informing you that because of the continuing concern about the spread of the COVID-19 virus, **we will not be holding Annual Conference in-person this year**. In order to complete the essential matters of the Annual Conference, alternative plans are being developed which we will be sharing with you as soon as possible. For the moment, I ask you to hold the dates of our Annual Conference (June 11-14, 2020) until we have decided on the alternate plans. Please watch for important updates and visit our [website](#) for more information.

In the meantime, I hold you in prayer, asking God to strengthen you and give you a profound faith that reminds us that God is with us even as we move in this uncertain time. Sing the old, familiar children's song with me: "The church is not a building, the church is a people." Keep strong in the faith of our Lord, Jesus Christ, you who are the people of God!

Blessings,
Bishop Bob

Missions/Social Concerns Committee

Native American Ministries Sunday, April 26

As you know, The United Methodist Church is a connection of many congregations worldwide that share a tradition of serving Jesus Christ. As churches set up new platforms to worship, we become more aware of our connections through Jesus Christ. We are stronger together and a source of hope for a world that is living in fear.

On April 26, 2020, United Methodist churches will gather to celebrate Native American Ministries Sunday. Your gifts to this church-wide Special Sunday help create strong Native American ministries and highlight the gifts and contributions to The United Methodist Church.

Your gifts to the Native American Ministries Sunday offering create stronger ministries with existing Native American congregations and outreach efforts and provide scholarships for Native American seminarians. Fifty percent of the offering remains in the annual conference to develop relationships and strengthen local Native American ministries.

Thank you for your generosity!

Blessings,
The Rev. Glen Chebon Kernell
Executive Secretary of Native American and Indigenous Ministries
General Board of Global Ministries

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!

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).

For On-Line worship, please visit our web page at:
www.desertskiesumc.org.

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.

APRIL

Patagonia Community UMC, Patagonia
Menlo Park UMC,
Tucson Campus Ministry, U of A, Tucson

Disaster Distress Helpline

PHONE: 1-800-985-5990
TEXT: "TalkWithUs" to 66746

 **Call us:**
1-800-985-5990

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Disaster Distress Helpline

PHONE: 1-800-985-5990 TEXT: "TalkWithUs" to 66746

**Call 1-800-985-5990
or text 'TalkWithUs' to 66746**
to get help and support
for any distress that you or someone
you care about may be feeling
related to any disaster.

The *Helpline* and *Text Service* are:

- Available 24 hours a day,
7 days a week, year-round
- Free (standard data/text messaging
rates may apply for the texting service)
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TTY for Deaf / Hearing Impaired:
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Spanish-speakers:
Text "Hablamos" to 66746

Disaster Distress Helpline

PHONE: 1-800-985-5990
TEXT: "TalkWithUs" to 66746

**If you or someone you
know is struggling
after a disaster,
you are not alone.**



*"Ever since the tornado,
I haven't been able to get a full
night's sleep ..."*

*"I can't get the sounds of
the gunshots out of my mind..."*

*"Things haven't been the same
since my shop was flooded ..."*



Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
SAMHSA
www.samhsa.gov • 1-877-SAMHSA-7 (1-877-726-4727)

Administered by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health
Services Administration (SAMHSA) of the U.S. Dept. of Health
and Human Services (HHS).

Talk With Us!