



THE SKYLINE

An e-news blast of Desert Skies United Methodist Church

August 11, 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 until further notice

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

Our worship service goes live at our normal worship hours, 8:30 am, 10:00 am, and 11:15 am, with opportunities to chat with one another before, during, and after the service.

Once premiered, the service is available at any time for you to view through the Thursday of that week, which lets you watch it during your normal worship time if that works for you.

After that, the sermon is available through the link on our website or on our YouTube channel.

The link for our worship services is <https://desertskiesumc.online.church>

Bible Readings This Week

Aug. 11-Jer. 7-9; Jn. 13

Aug. 12-Jer. 10-12; Jn. 14

Aug. 13-Jer. 13-15; Jn. 15

Aug. 14-Jer. 16, 17; Ps. 96; Jn. 16

Aug. 15-Jer. 18-20; Ps. 93; Jn. 17

Aug. 16-II Ki. 24; Jer. 22; Ps. 112; Jn. 18

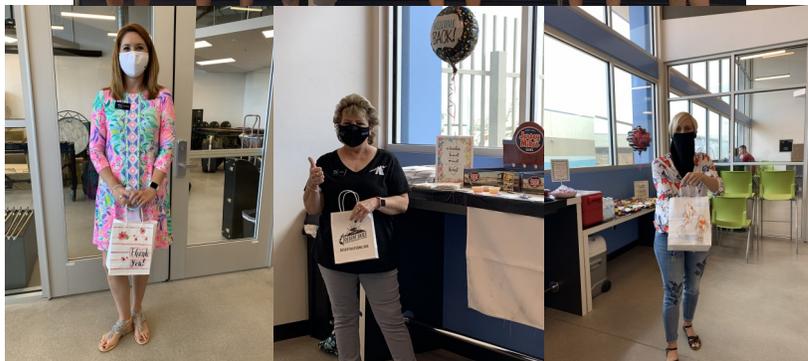
Aug. 17-Jer. 23, 25; Jn. 19

Desert Skies and Mica Mountain High School

Some of our Desert Skies folks who worship in Vail had the opportunity to meet and serve the staff of Mica Mountain High School during a day of in-service last Monday. We wanted to introduce ourselves, because Mica Mountain is the site where we will be worshipping once we are able to meet in one place again.

Volunteers, Wendy McInnis, Marty Bond, Nancy Goforth, Heather Abaldo, Joe Holden, and Pastor Susan, were there to decorate and set up the lunch. One of our youth, Amanda Owen, beautifully decorated Desert Skies bags especially for teachers. The staff seemed thrilled, and the volunteers felt blessed.

Many thanks to those who also donated food items and provided financial support. At Desert Skies, we truly are a joyful community, drawing people to Christ, in the ways that we reach out in collaboration with our community.



DESERT SKIES IN ACTION: ELF Ministry Pantry

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! We ask and you always respond with such generosity and compassion.



The blue ELF bin is outside the church office door to accept Food donations every Monday from 9:00 am-12:00 pm.

As you can see from these photos before donations are sorted and shelved, our ELF MINISTRY PANTRY is full to overflowing and this is only the last few weeks of donations. We have enough to generously provide for families as well as individual needs. We also have nutritional snack foods for those who may not have access to kitchen facilities. PLEASE CONTACT THE CHURCH OR Mary Jo Floyd if you know of a need! "Requested emergency food boxes may be picked up at a scheduled time in front of the Fellowship Hall, or delivery can be arranged for anyone without transportation.

DSUMC continues to support our CASA MARIA partner in abundance also. Last Friday it took TWO carloads to make our August delivery. Joanie Shawn and Rev. Susan took the monthly supplies of coffee, sugar, hand soap, paper towels, spoons and mayo as well as 250 peanut butter and jelly sandwiches. Rev. Susan also took 4 dozen apples, 2 large boxes of chips and 2 cases of water left over from the Mica Mountain teachers appreciation lunch. We had the opportunity to speak with Brian Flagg and some of their faithful workers. They all expressed their thanks for our continuing support.

Also, Viva's Coffee shop at Valencia and Nexus is doing food collection for the Vail/Rita Ranch area. For all of you in Vail/Rita Ranch and further south, you may take food donations to Viva's Coffee Shop at Valencia and Nexus. For those in need, it makes no difference whether it comes from the ELF Ministry or not. GOD BLESS YOU ALL!

Announcements

It is with saddened hearts that we announce the passing of Eris Vidoni. She passed away on Monday, August 10th. Eris is the mother of Stephanie Hartung. Prayers and comfort for the family.

Flower Ministry-As your Flower Coordinator, I wanted to update you on what is happening with your flower orders. Basically nothing. As you know there are no church services at church; hence no need for fresh flowers. I know that you want to know what has happened to your payment/ money and your commitment to provide the flowers. The money has not moved from the flower account. It is on hold for when in church services start up. At that time I will personally contact you, and we will decide what you would like to do as far as what is needed. I hope that this is helpful. Thanking you in advance for your support. Mimi Salber

Book Study "The Walk" by Adam Hamilton-Both campuses will start the study in September. The book is available on kindle or hard back through your favorite online book store. Please let Rev. Susan know if you need help securing a book and email her at: revsusan@desertskiesumc.org.

UMW "Joyful Noise" Newsletter-LADIES.....the August issue of the UMW newsletter is now online. **Go to the Desert Skies UMC home page, click on Resources and then Newsletters.** You will find the new edition and, if you have missed them, you can also find the April and June editions.....all for your reading pleasure.



**The YouTube link
will be posted each Thursday
in the blast.**

The Wired Word

The Wired Word discussion group meets every Wednesday evening at 5:00 pm. Since the onset of Covid -19, we have adjusted to meeting via Zoom instead of in person at the church. Each week we send out two articles for discussion. We encourage people to read the articles before the meeting (although, that is not required) so that you can formulate your thoughts and questions and then, present them in an open, non-judgmental forum for further discussion within the group.

From The Editorial Board of Wired Word:

The mission of The Wired Word is to supply churches with solid scriptural material to help facilitate group discussions about important matters of faith raised by news of the week. Our intention with The Wired Word weekly lesson is always to respond to something that has happened in the news during the past week or so. In addition, the material is interdenominational and it stands in the mainstream of the Christian faith.

About the Lessons:

There is an editorial board that helps to choose the topic each week. They are careful to present the material without overlaying it with the position of any denomination.

If you are interested in finding out more about the Wired Word Group or joining the discussions, please contact “Doc” Alex Shawn at musicdoc@desertskiesumc.org. We look forward to welcoming new members and hearing your thoughts and opinions.

Alex Shawn is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3644843031>

Meeting ID: 364 484 3031 NO PASSCODE IS NEEDED



Stay-at-Home Stories

By Diane Taylor

Paige McDowell is headed off to a new adventure in Idaho, armed with 15 homemade masks lovingly made by her grandmother in Illinois. Paige is starting college in the middle of the Covid-19 pandemic. She'll be a freshman at Boise State in Idaho...home of the Broncos and their famous blue football field. Unfortunately, they won't be playing any games this season, a big disappointment for Paige who enjoys football, having been in high school marching band for 4 years.

Paige tells me the university is very intentional and deliberate about keeping students safe. Everyone must wear a mask and students will live in single dorm rooms. To limit exposure, some classes will be small while others will be online. Paige has already been tested for the virus. She's a little disappointed about some of the restrictions, but very excited to be introduced to a new adventure.

Paige plans to major in Business with a minor in Political Science. As for Theology, Paige says “there's a calling in my heart, but I don't know where it will take me.”

And even though Paige is going to miss the beauty of the Arizona desert, she's excited to live in a state with four seasons!

Just a reminder...if you have a story to tell, send an email to diane.b.thompson@icloud.com



July/August Issue of The Upper Room

We realize many readers are currently reticent or unable to pick up their copy of the devotional guide because of the virus or closed church office. If you would like a copy mailed to you, please email Tammy at office@desertskiesumc.org with your request or you can use the link below for a digital copy.

The Upper Room and *El Aposento Alto* at <https://www.upperroom.org/standingorderchurches>.

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.

AUGUST

New Hope UMC, Tucson

St. James UMC, Tucson

Sierra Vista UMC, Sierra Vista

Obituary for Pauline A. Briggs



Pauline Anne Briggs, age 81, made her glorious entrance into heaven on August 5, 2020. Pauline was preceded in death by her husband of 60 years, Gordon Briggs; son, Jeffrey Matthew Briggs; her parents, Clare and Genevra Schantz. Pauline is survived by sons, David (Vicki) Briggs of Sierra Vista, Arizona and William (Ann) Briggs of Walker, MI; grandchildren, Troy (Lea) Briggs, Nic Briggs (Menazuri), Megan (Chet) Tompkins, Ben Briggs (fiancé Emilie Pretzer) and Ian Briggs; great-grandchildren, Syllas Briggs, Leonidas Briggs and a great-granddaughter on the way; her siblings Kathleen Darman, Bonnie Schantz, Charles Schantz and Donna (Larry) Lanning; brothers and sisters-in-law Laurel Schantz, Dolores (Richard) Chapin, Shirley Briggs; numerous nieces, nephews and friends. Gordon and Pauline hosted several exchange students over the years and maintained a close relationship with their Filipino student, Benedict (Joanne) Acosta and their children, Benjamin and Alex. They counted Benedict as another son.

Pauline had many incredible talents. She was a beautiful seamstress and she had a passion for knitting. Pauline was a member of the Grand Rapids Sweet Adelines and a long-time member of Sparta United Methodist Church where she served as church secretary. Pauline also worked for years as a medical assistant. She and Gordon moved to Tucson, AZ in 1991 and became active members of Desert Skies United Methodist Church. They returned to Michigan in 2017 as their health deteriorated. Pauline found the greatest joy with her children and grandchildren. She was an incredible grandma and never hesitated to get down on the floor and play with them for hours. Other favorite things included crossword puzzles, Nora Robert's novels, camping and baking. She will be dearly missed by many. Because of the current Covid-19 restrictions, we will not have a service at this time. A joint memorial service for Pauline and Gordon will be celebrated at a later date. Pauline's family offers a sincere thank you to the staff at Edison Christian Health Center and Emmanuel Hospice for providing Pauline with exceptional care. Arrangements are being handled by Hessel-Cheslek Funeral Home in Sparta. For those wishing to make a memorial contribution, please consider the Alzheimer's Association.



Our worship series “Connecting the Dots” runs through Sunday, August 30th.

Connecting the dots...a sort of shorthand phrase for making sense out of things that don't seem to make sense on the surface or at first glance. Jesus was a master at connecting the dots and he did his best as he taught with “parables.”

The word for parable in Greek and Hebrew meant a variety of ways of speaking that used images to get hearers thinking. Scholar N. T. Wright said, “Jesus didn't tell parables to provide friendly little illustrations of abstract theology. He told parables because what he was doing was so different, so explosive, and so dangerous, that the only way he could talk about it was to use stories.” Join us for our new series: Connecting the Dots, as we explore the radical nature of Jesus' stories and how they morphed from stories Jesus told to stories Jesus experienced, taking disciples of all generations on the journey with him.

August 16th–11th Sunday after Pentecost

Sermon: When Rules Don't Help

Scripture: Matthew 15: 10-20

August 23rd–12th Sunday after Pentecost

Sermon: Just Who is this Jesus?

Scripture: Matthew 16: 13-20

August 30th–13th Sunday after Pentecost

Sermon: The With-God Life of the Kingdom of Heaven

Scripture: Matthew 16: 21-28

Online Coffee Hours to Help us Connect!!

Join us for an hour of conversation and whatever drink you prefer and connect with the Desert Skies Church Family face-to-face via Zoom Conference Calls....**And now every meeting has a password.** Click on the links below.

Vail Campus Sunday Coffee Group at 9:45 am (for fellowship) and study starts at 10:00 am

If you are someone who has a heart for the Vail Community, we invite you to connect via Zoom:

<https://dscumc.zoom.us/j/95960360399?pwd=Wm10YTAxcU1KcVliU04weEUzeUFodz09>

Meeting ID: 959 6036 0399

Passcode: 220187

Vail Sunday morning Coffee group will start "The Walk" in September. Until then, we will be discussing the lectionary texts from the sermon when we meet.

Mondays at 10:00 am

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://dscumc.zoom.us/j/95036789720?pwd=bHVwem9OMi9oYjNoK3ZWbDFBZkttOT09>

Meeting ID: 950 3678 9720

Passcode: 118760

Thursdays at 10:00 am

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://dscumc.zoom.us/j/98653811783?pwd=YVFVbFJCbHhzRVZuM2hJVkhOTmliOT09>

Meeting ID: 986 5381 1783

Passcode: 333879

Prayer Requests

Just a friendly reminder that if you have a prayer request, please email Pat Walker at msnode@aol.com and/or click this link: <https://desertskiesumc.org/contact/>



1619

Monday 10:00 am Coffee Chat's New Podcast Study starts 8-17!

The back story: In August of 1619, a ship carrying more than 20 enslaved Africans arrived in the English colony of Virginia. America was not yet America, but this was the moment it began. No aspect of the country that would be formed here has been untouched by the 250 years of slavery that followed. On the 400th anniversary of this fateful moment, it is time to talk about the history.

The skinny: "1619" is a New York Times audio series hosted by Nikole Hannah-Jones. The link for the 5 podcasts (the last is in 2 parts, covered over 2 Mondays) is here:

[nytimes.com/1619podcast](https://www.nytimes.com/1619podcast).

The podcasts are each between 20 - 60 minutes long; you can even listen while you are doing chores. Come prepared on Monday 8/17 by listening to the first in the series and join us at 10:00 am for an hour of stimulating historic conversation!

Zoom link: <https://dscumc.zoom.us/j/95036789720?pwd=bHVwem9OMi9oYjNoK3ZWbDFBZkttQT09>

THANK YOU DESERT SKIES

Desert Skies United Methodist
Church,

On behalf of the Vail Family
University committee, we would
like to thank you for contributing
to our school supply fundraiser
through ReSources. This year we
will be able to provide 400
backpacks with school supplies
plus additional supplies for
teachers. Your donation helped
make that possible and we
greatly appreciate your support!
Thank you!

Mark Tate

Update for Church Office

During this season of COVID-19, we are following safety protocol and practicing physical distancing. We have temporarily transitioned to Online access and our **CHURCH CAMPUS IS CLOSED** until further notice!

Tammy checks all phone messages/emails (office@desertskiesumc.org) daily, during office hours: Monday-Thursday: 8:00 am-4:00 pm.

If you have an emergency, please email~

Rev. Candace: (revcandace@desertskiesumc.org)

Rev. Susan: (revsusan@desertskiesumc.org)

Doc: (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.

Disaster Distress Helpline

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

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

 **Text:**
'TalkWithUs' to 66746

 **Visit:**
<http://disasterdistress.samhsa.gov>

 **Like us on Facebook:**
<http://facebook.com/distresshelpline>

 **Follow us on Twitter (@distressline):**
<http://twitter.com/distressline>

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)
- Answered by trained crisis counselors.

TTY for Deaf / Hearing Impaired:
1-800-846-8517

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 ..."*

Talk With Us!



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).

COVID-19 Resources - Pima County Interfaith

https://www.pimacountyinterfaith.org/covid19_resources