



THE SKYLINE

An e-news blast of Desert Skies United Methodist Church

December 08, 2020

This Week At Desert Skies

This is just a reminder that during this season of COVID-19, we are following safety protocol and practicing physical distancing.

As the statistical data for COVID-19 in Pima County has shown a spike in numbers, we have suspended our In-Person Outdoor Worship Services at both campuses.

We are planning some less than 10 person worship opportunities, and we will have all our safety protocols in place so you can be assured that when you do step onto the campus, it is as safe as we can make it, so stay tuned!

For those who wish to join us on Sunday mornings from home, we continue to offer our On-Line services at 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 you tube channel.

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

Stay tuned for further updates.

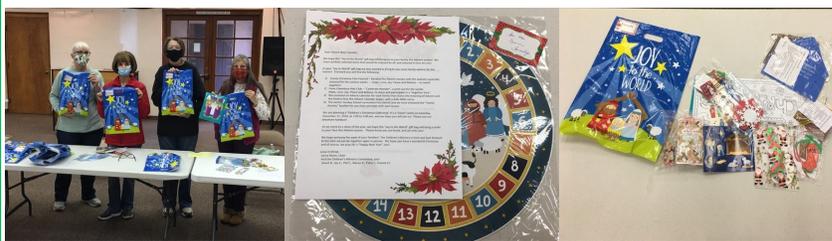


IN-PERSON OUTDOOR WORSHIP SERVICE

Due to the uptick in COVID 19 cases in our county, we are suspending our outdoor services until the trajectory begins going down again. We are planning some less than 10 person worship opportunities, so stay tuned!

Something Special – Advent Gift Bags From Children’s Ministry!

Our Children’s Ministry has been busy putting together Advent Packets for our Desert Skies kids. A huge thank you for keeping our kids connected and learning about God!



We are having a Children’s Christmas Gathering ~ Zoom Party!

You are invited to join us on Saturday, December 12th, from 1:00 pm-3:00 pm, for a “Zoom” Children’s Christmas Party!

Our time together will be filled with music, a special story, games, and sharing with each other and perhaps some surprises, too!

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://dscumc.zoom.us/j/96361421481?pwd=NnFsZTBlcDBGd0lob0pYdlRaQnh6dz09>

Meeting ID: 963 6142 1481

Passcode: 807576

One tap mobile

+12532158782,,96361421481#,,,,,0#,,807576# US (Tacoma)

Blue Christmas Worship Service



Join us on December 20th at 6 pm Online AND In-Person at the Houghton Campus.

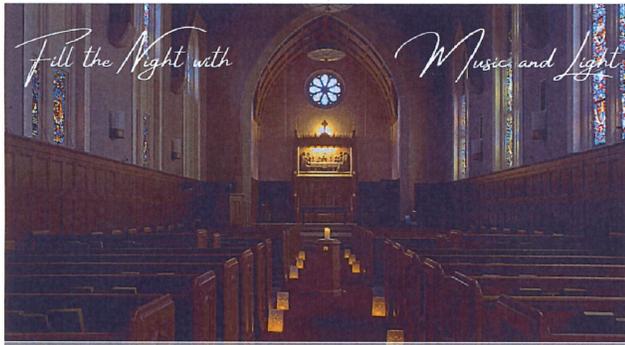
More info to follow!

Advent and Christmas at Desert Skies

3255 N. Houghton Rd.

www.desertskiesumc.org

520-749-0521



**“Fill the Night with Music and Light...”
an Advent/Christmas Worship Series beginning
November 29**

Online at 8:30, 10 and 11:15 am

Special Blue Christmas Service on December 20 at 6 pm

(All on Campus Services below subject to COVID-19 data, please check the website for updates)

The opening words of an anonymous Jewish poet, “I believe in the sun, even when the sun is not shining,” were scrawled on a wall during the Holocaust. This theme song for our season and the power of narrative and music will call us to a challenging response to the world around us— transformation and reconciliation through hope, love, joy, and peace. This Advent and Christmas, let us fill the night with music and light and affirm and act on the reasons why we can still believe, even when we are discouraged.

CHRISTMAS EVE ONLINE

7:30 pm Candlelight, Choirs and Carols

CHRISTMAS EVE AT THE HOUGHTON CAMPUS

3255 N. Houghton

6:00 pm Walk-through Nativity Pilgrimage

7:30 pm Candlelight and Carols

9:30 pm Candlelight, Carols, and Communion

CHRISTMAS EVE AT THE VAIL CAMPUS

10800 E. Valencia

6 pm Family Service with
Praise Band, Candlelight and
Impromptu Nativity



Christmas Offering supports scholarships for students at Africa University. Desert Skies is also supporting local families with Christmas Gifts and food as well as providing an alternate gift selection through our UMW.

Zoom Advent Studies

Beginning week of
November 29

The Power of Music

A look at the music of resistance through film. We will watch five movies showing how music has changed the world and discuss them.

Also available as a family or individual study.

Mondays at 10 am

Wednesdays at 5 pm

Incarnation

A study by Adam
Hamilton

Sundays at 2:30 pm

Tuesdays at 10 am

Zoom Children's Christmas Party

Saturday, December
12th at 1:00 pm
Singing, crafts, stories
and games!

See website for details and registration for all events, activities and Zoom links..



Our Advent/Christmas: “Fill the Night with Music and Light” Worship Series has begun and runs through Sunday, December 27th.

The history of humanity is fraught with pain—especially the pain that comes accompanied by fear and leads to oppression and violence of one people against another. This is the world into which Jesus was born and through which his teachings would challenge and call for transformation.

The opening words of an anonymous Jewish poet, “I believe in the sun, even when the sun is not shining,” were scrawled on a wall during the Holocaust. This theme song for our season calls us to examine our penchant for annihilating fear by annihilating each other. The power of narrative and music will call us to a different response—transformation and reconciliation through hope, love, joy, and peace. This Advent and Christmas, let us fill the night with music and light and affirm and act on the reasons why we can still believe, even when we are discouraged.

December 13th-3rd Sunday of Advent

Sermon: “I Believe in God: Ode to Joy”
Scripture: Luke 1:52 and Isaiah 57:15b

December 24th-Christmas Eve

Sermon: “We Believe, Even Now”
Scripture: Luke 2:13-14 and Isaiah 52:7

December 20th-4th Sunday of Advent

Sermon: “I Believe in the Light: Illuminating Peace”
Scripture: John 1:3-4 and Isaiah 9:6

December 27th-1st Sunday after Christmas Day

Sermon: “Believe This: The Time has Come”
Scripture: Luke 2:31-32 and Isaiah 62:1

ADVENT

Our image for Advent this year is luminaries. *En Erebus Phos*, as the saying goes — In darkness, there is light. Though most of us are not meeting in person right now, wouldn't it be fun to witness to our faith by placing one or more luminaries out in front of our houses? Here is a simple way to make a luminary, but pinterest also has some fun ideas as well. Be creative. Then, on Christmas Eve, whether it's walk through (details to follow) or in-person, we will encourage you to bring your luminaries to church to light the path for us all!! May you have a wonderful Advent!

<https://www.almanac.com/content/how-make-luminarias>

Advent Wreath Lighting at Home

We would like to encourage all of you to participate in the ritual of waiting for the light, and invite our whole community to set up their own Advent wreath at home.

In our worship, we include a line of instruction from the pastor to invite participants to light the candle of the week during the service. There are some cool DIY posts on Pinterest showing how to make a wreath at home. Search for “DIY Advent wreath” to find ideas to spark your crafting creativity or **we have made tabletop paper Advent Wreaths for your use with our online services. If you would like one, please contact Doc.** You might even consider making your living room one big Advent wreath with a candle in each corner so you feel surrounded by hope, love, joy, and peace.

ELF MINISTRY FOOD PANTRY

Your continuous donations have fed many families during this COVID crisis, and the requests for food boxes have increased in this last month. **The blue ELF Ministry bin is in front of the church office every Monday from 9 until noon.**

Here is a list of the items we need:

shelf (boxed) milk	cereal
peanut butter	canned heat and eat meals (eg: raviolis, spaghettios, beefaroni)
pasta (tomato) sauce	jello (ready to eat in cups)
pasta	pudding (ready to eat in cups)
macaroni & cheese	canned fruit
soup with vegetables and meat	red, black, pinto and kidney beans (canned or dried)
canned meat (chicken, tuna, spam)	

You are the reason that we are able to continue this important outreach to our community.

Thank you, DESERT SKIES, for all that you do!

Advent Studies:

Vail Campus ~ Sunday Study Group: Incarnation (Adam Hamilton)

*******Change of Time** ~ Join us on **Sunday mornings at 9:30 am.**

Please purchase Adam Hamilton's book, *Incarnation*, or just join us for discussion and learning.

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://dscumc.zoom.us/j/98182429071?pwd=NTRiZiNlbnVhOEdC9BS296WUJTRXFHQ09>

Meeting ID: 981 8242 9071 Passcode: 317664

Mondays at 10:00 am: The Power of Music in the Midst of Difficult Times

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

Meeting ID: 950 3678 9720 Passcode: 118760

Tuesdays at 10:00 am-Incarnation (Adam Hamilton)

Please purchase Adam Hamilton's book, *Incarnation*, or just join us for discussion and learning.

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://dscumc.zoom.us/j/94684294715?pwd=K0xsSnVvTXJidXltSUozbGVBOVZ3dz09>

Meeting ID: 946 8429 4715 Passcode: 098165

Wednesdays at 5:00 pm-The Power of Music in the Midst of Difficult Times ~ Led by Doc

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3644843031>

Meeting ID: 364 484 3031 (NO PASSCODE NEEDED)

Wednesdays at 5:00 pm-The Wired Word ~ Led by Mary Ellen Dawson

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://dscumc.zoom.us/j/94211891035?pwd=TDZveWcrU2tZ01NR1ZDRmNGWDErdz09>

Meeting ID: 942 1189 1035 Passcode: 058486

(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.)

Documentary Links for discussion on:

11/30 and 12/2 - **Defiant Requiem**

https://www.amazon.com/Defiant-Requiem-Lindsay-Hopper/dp/B07BLRJKZ6/ref=sr_1_1?crid=DRTRGGB4TYRE&dchild=1&keywords=defiant+requiem&qid=1598832400&sprefix=defiant+req.aps.214&sr=8-1

12/7 and 12/9 - **Girls on the Wall**

https://www.amazon.com/Girls-Wall-Heather-Ross/dp/B00GWQXB5C/ref=tmm_aiv_swatch_0?encoding=UTF8&qid=&sr=

12/14 and 12/16 - **Following the Ninth**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EPWpV3BWLJs&t=5s>

12/21 and 12/23 - **Sweet Honey on the Rock: Raise Your Voice!**

<https://www.amazon.com/Sweet-Honey-Rock-Raise-Voice/dp/B004QFSKKC>

12/28 and 12/30 - **The Singing Revolution**

https://www.amazon.com/Singing-Revolution-Estonian-Chorus/dp/B003PH3RY6/ref=sr_1_1?crid=31SYP9ANXE2EQ&dchild=1&keywords=the+singing+revolution&qid=1598836937&sprefix=the+singing+revolution.aps.202&sr=8-1

Online Groups via Zoom to Help us Stay Connected!!

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.**

Christ Café-join your friends face-to-face via Zoom each Sunday from 9:15-9:30 and 10:45-11 (immediately following the services).

Zoom link: <https://dscumc.zoom.us/j/94000601494?pwd=YmI0NWZ5K0FhNjhlSGx3a1VrcWp6UT09>

Meeting ID: 940 0060 1494 Passcode: 756768

Youth Group: Sundays at 1:00 pm

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://dscumc.zoom.us/j/93454802299?pwd=a0sxRHM4WE9ldXJGTlhSbnJJYUhhIQ09>

Meeting ID: 934 5480 2299 Passcode: 164946

Thursdays at 10:00 am

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://dscumc.zoom.us/j/98653811783?pwd=YVFVbFJCbHhzRVZuM2hJVkhOTmliQT09>

Meeting ID: 986 5381 1783 Passcode: 333879

Announcements

A “Goodbye” Drive Through For Chuck and Sandra McNary—Come out and join us on **Sunday, December 13th from 4:00 pm-5:00 pm in the Desert Skies parking lot** as we say goodbye to Sandra and Chuck McNary. They are relocating to the Albuquerque area. Please enter from our Ft. Lowell entrance, drive through the Sanctuary parking lot and exit through the parking lot passing the Fellowship Hall to Houghton Rd. Hope to see you there.

Gathering a Team: We Need YOU—With the discovery that online worship is important to the life of Desert Skies moving forward, and moving into a new day for sound and media, we are looking for people to create a new team that will work the sound booth, help out with filming and/or live streaming, and figuring out how to put it all together. If you have the skills in any of these areas, or would like to learn, please let Rev. Candace know ASAP! You can email her at revcandace@desertskiesumc.org.

Weekly Walking Group—Everyone is welcome! Invite a friend to join, too! This joyful community is on the move, forming a much needed walking group in the Southeast part of town! Our purpose is to spend time enjoying some fun and conversation with others, to get some exercise and to appreciate God's beautiful, natural world. **We meet on Thursday mornings at 7:30 am at the entrance parking lot of Saguaro National Park, 3693 S. Old Spanish Trail.** Walkers set their own pace, or step up with a faster walker for more challenge. Whether you want to walk for 20 minutes or for 3 miles, there's a route for you! Pets are welcome but are only allowed on the paved road. “Bring your park pass if you have one. If not, you will be our guest for the first time.” **For more information, contact Rev. Susan at 702-354-9317**

It's YOGA Time Again!! —Our favorite yoga teacher, Jennifer Sulger is back in business helping Desert Skies stay in shape. If you haven't participated in her classes before, this is your chance to join in and “get in shape”. Jennifer will be offering two ways to join the Yoga class which takes place on Mondays at 12:00 pm via Zoom or in person in the Fellowship Hall beginning November 30th. If you are interested in joining Jennifer's classes, please email her at: drishtiyogacucson@yahoo.com to get signed up as soon as possible and join her on Zoom or in person! **In person classes are limited to 9 people only and you must have a signed waiver on file with the church.**



Angel Tree at DSUMC Vail Campus to Benefit Vail K-8 School—Desert Skies Vail Campus partnership with Vail School District continues into December with the Angel Tree Program. Some of our members are providing clothing and gifts for 3 children and youth at Esmond Station K-8 School whose families otherwise may not be able to afford them. Thanks to Cheryl Baumeister, Marty Bond, Lezlie Cooper, Velda Husz and Rev. Susan for their angelic generosity during this season of giving!

Help Create New Christmas Eve Memories

This year, we celebrate Christmas Eve in a big way at Desert Skies as an online community. We want everyone to be a part of creating new memories on this awe inspiring night. Help make this happen by sending a video of your family lighting candles by December 13th.

Here's how:

Set your smartphone up in a horizontal position (or other recording device). Turn out the lights. Record your family as you light at least one candle, allowing it to illuminate your faces. If possible, give each member of the family a candle, just like we do in the services, and video as you pass the light from one to another. Stay for a moment, with all of your candles lit and illuminating your Christmas Eve faces, full of wonder.

And/or, using lots of light, video your family signing “This Little Light of Mine,” any parts of it you'd like.

You can text your videos to Rev. Susan or Candace. Just e-mail one of us, and we will send you the number if you don't have it. Revsusan@desertskiesumc.org or Revcandace@desertskiesumc.org.

Or you can upload your videos to:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1rotnVwYVCfy2hygQsKRulLEwxUdi_IM?usp=sharing

And, we'd love to include your family doing some of the signs for “This Little Light of Mine.” Use the same process, but be sure to have lights on when you record.



WISH LIST

As we move into new stages of being church in a pandemic and beyond, there are things we need to do as a church to keep us all connected and safe. Therefore, we are creating this wish list, to which we will add as things come up...always a place for extra mile giving for those who feel called to do so. Thank you, Desert Skies, for your generosity.

Audio Visual Equipment to Live Stream and keep our Online Services going:

1 camera at \$1,800

Sanctuary Computer to run new systems \$2,000-3,000

Cable to wire Sanctuary to internet \$1,000

13 Air Conditioning Units at \$6, 500 each

For those who would like to contribute to the purchase of these items but cannot manage the whole purchase, wish list sharing is an option. Just put wish list on the memo line of your check, and we will use it along with other gifts. Thank you.



The UMW Alternative Gift Program

United Methodist Women are again offering the Alternative Gift Giving Program. You choose gifts from these four agencies (2 are local and 2 are international) to "give" to your loved ones, they will receive a card telling them of your gift. The agencies will then provide food, shelter, income-producing animals, or disaster relief to those who are seriously in need. This is the 20th year of offering this program. In the previous 19 years we have given over \$54,000 through Alternative Gifts.

This year is the perfect time to give Alternative Gifts. You can avoid crowds and stay safe at home. Until the church is open again, the "shopping lists" will be in the newsletter each Tuesday. You can print them out, 2 on a page. After you have filled out the information, send the forms and your check to Jeanne Myers, 2431 S. Placita Carrasco, 85748; or drop them off after you call (520-730-9755) to check that I am home. I will prepare the cards for your loved ones and deposit the check with our UMW treasurer. If you have business in the church office, I will have an Alternative Gift box there to drop off your forms and check.

HEIFER PROJECT INTERNATIONAL ALTERNATIVE GIFT GIVING FORM

ITEM	COST	QTY	TOTAL
Starter flock of chicks, ducks, or geese	\$ 20		
Honeybees	\$30		
Trio of rabbits	\$60		
Share of a rabbit	\$10		
Tree seedlings	\$60		
Share of tree seedlings	\$10		
Pig	\$120		
Share of a pig	\$10		
Sheep	\$120		
Share of a sheep	\$10		
Goat	\$120		
Share of a goat	\$10		
Llama	\$150		
Share of a llama	\$20		
Water buffalo	\$250		
Share of a water buffalo	\$25		
Share of a heifer	\$50		
Total gift to Heifer Project			

Your name and phone number:

Name and address of person honored:

Mr. ____ Mrs. ____ Ms. ____ Dr. ____

Please make all checks payable to:

Desert Skies United Methodist Women.

Thanks!



TUCSON COMMUNITY FOOD BANK ALTERNATIVE GIFT GIVING FORM

ITEM	COST	QTY	TOTAL
Emergency food box for one person	\$6		
Emergency food box for family of four	\$10		
Snack Pack Program	\$15		
80 boxes mac & cheese	\$20		
120 meals	\$30		
3 canisters infant formula	\$25		
160 meals	\$40		
Fuel for CFB collection truck	\$45		
200 meals	\$50		
Total gift to Community Food Bank			

Your name and phone number.

Name and address of person honored

Mr. _____ Mrs. _____ Ms. _____ Dr. _____

Please make all checks payable to:
Desert Skies United Methodist Women
Thanks!



HABITAT FOR HUMANITY, TUCSON : ALTERNATIVE GIFT GIVING FORM

ITEM	COST	QT	TOTAL
timber framing 2X4s	\$5		
sturdy plywood sheathing	\$10		
interior drywall panel	\$15		
50 lb. (lots of) nails	\$20		
cozy blanket of insulation	\$25		
part of the water heater	\$30		
rainproof roofing materials	\$35		
let there be light fixtures	\$40		
a share of the windows	\$45		
open the kitchen door	\$50		
Welcome! Part of the front door	\$55		
keep clean with part of a sink	\$60		
TOTAL FOR HABITAT			

Your name and phone number.

Name and address of person honored

Mr. _____ Mrs. _____ Ms. _____ Dr. _____

Please make all checks payable to:
Desert Skies United Methodist Women
Thanks!

UMCOR ALTERNATIVE GIFT GIVING FORM

ITEM	COST	QTY	TOTAL
Serve a child one hot meal a day	\$ 1		
Plant ten seedlings for erosion control	\$1		
Immunize a child against TB, measles, polio, tetanus, etc.	\$5		
Provide blankets, food, water for US disaster victim	\$10		
Tents, pure water, blankets for international disaster victim	\$10		
Provide a camping experience for a mentally & physically challenged refugee child	\$15		
Teach a woman to read and write	\$15		
Help a refugee return home or find safety in a new one	\$20		
Support hunger projects in the US & throughout the world	\$25		
Help ship material resources where they are needed	\$30		
Join Bread for the World as a family and become advocates for policies that fight hunger and poverty	\$35		
TOTAL GIFT TO UMCOR			

Your name and phone number:

Name and address of person honored:

Mr. _____ Mrs. _____ Ms. _____ Dr. _____

Please make all checks payable to:
Desert Skies United Methodist Women.
Thanks!

Bible Readings This Week

Dec. 08-I Tim. 1-4

Dec. 09-I Tim. 5, 6; Titus 1-3

Dec. 10-II Tim. 1-4

Dec. 11-Philem.; Heb. 1-4

Dec. 12-Heb. 5-8

Dec. 13-Heb. 9-11

Dec. 14-Heb. 12, 13; Jude

If you would like a bookmark mailed to you for the months of October, November and December, please email Tammy at office@desertskiesumc.org with your request and one will be mailed to you.



November/December 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.

DECEMBER

Chaplains & Counselors in the South District

The Inn Project, Tucson

TMM Family Services - people served and staff, Tucson

Finance Team

You shop. Amazon gives.



**Do you make online purchases from Amazon?
Have you tried AmazonSmile?**

AmazonSmile is a simple way for you to support Desert Skies UMC every time you shop, at no cost to you. AmazonSmile is available at smile.amazon.com on your web browser and can be activated in the Amazon Shopping app for iOS and Android phones.

When you shop at AmazonSmile, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com. By naming "Desert Skies United Methodist Church" as the charity of your choice, AmazonSmile will donate 0.5% of your eligible purchases to the church.

Thanks to all who have named Desert Skies as the charity of their choice!

Prayer Requests

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

Update for Church Office

During this season of COVID-19, we are following safety protocol and practicing physical distancing. Currently, our office staff is still working from home on a day to day basis.

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](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 "Hablanos" 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