



# THE SKYLINE

An e-news blast of Desert Skies United Methodist Church

January 05, 2021

## HAPPY NEW YEAR DESERT SKIES!! Youth Group Helps With Eagle Scout Project



Thank you to everyone who contributed their time and effort to my Eagle Scout watershed management project over the holidays. I'll be putting together a video soon to show all the work for those who are not able to see the project in person on our church's campus. It was a great success and I'm very thankful for my church family. Sincerely, Eric Drummond



## 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.

## Announcements

**Walking Group: Thursdays ~ 7:30 a.m. starting at the entrance to Saguaro National Park, 3693 S. Old Spanish**

**Trail.** This joyful group is on the move for the new year, and we invite everyone who wants to get outside for some fresh air, a little exercise and physically distanced conversation. Or use the time for some quiet meditation. We do a little of both! *For January, those who wish can add a little intrigue, with a guided meditation on Eve's spiritual transformation in the Garden of Eden.* But the conversation is always optional, as is the distance and terrain you choose to walk. Please wear a mask and practice safe physical distancing as we walk. **For more information, text/call Rev. Susan at 702.354.9317 or e-mail Rev. Susan at [revsusan@desertskiesumc.org](mailto:revsusan@desertskiesumc.org).**

**A BIG Thank You to DSUMC** and our congregation for making Christmas a little better for over 20 families. With the generosity of so many of you, along with the partnership with Rincon Rotary, Safeway and our own Mission team and flea market we were able to provide Christmas for 21 families of over 40 children and 30 adults. We were able to provide trees and decorations, gifts, Christmas dinner, grocery food cards and furniture from the flea market. It was truly a mission of love with God fully in our hearts. I was initially concerned that the covid pandemic would limit our ability to provide the level of sharing and giving that we have provided in the past, but as usual, the congregation and community really stepped it up. There should never be a question about who we are and our desire and ability to serve in God's name. Thank you and God Bless you all!

**Alternative Gifts** ~ The Alternative Gifts Program for 2020 brought in \$2510 to distribute to our 2 local and 2 international agencies. UMW will be sending checks to the Community Food Bank (\$200), Habitat for Humanity, Tucson (\$410), Heifer International (\$1195), and UMCOR (\$705). Thank you for your participation in this program which does so much good for so many.

**YOGA Time**~ Our favorite yoga teacher, Jennifer Sulger is 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 is 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. If you are interested in joining Jennifer's classes, please email her at: [drishtiyogatucson@yahoo.com](mailto:drishtiyogatucson@yahoo.com) to get signed up 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.**

## Online Coffee Hours, Book Studies and Groups via Zoom to Help us Connect!!

**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=Ym10NWZ5K0FINjhLSGx3a1VrcWp6UT09>

Meeting ID: 940 0060 1494 **Passcode: 756768**

**Epiphany Study:** “Learning to See Through the Sermon on the Mount.”

**The Sunday morning 9:30 am Zoom group** invites you for an “eye-opening experience” called, “Learning to See Through the Sermon on the Mount.” Jewish New Testament scholar Amy Jill-Levine will help us to look through the eyes of the Jesus of Jewish faith, teaching others of Jewish faith, as we rediscover the essence of the gospel message found in Matthew 5-7. In the process, we’ll explore any explicit and implicit biases that might shape our understandings of what these teachings mean for us. It’s a six-week study, and we always welcome anyone to join the conversation at any time, although it promises to be rewarding to commit to the entire study. We look forward to “seeing” you there! **Questions: Contact Rev. Susan at 702.354.9317.**

**Primary Study material:** The gospel of “*Matthew*,” chapters 5-7. Bring your favorite translation and one you are unfamiliar with.

**Recommended:** “*Sermon on the Mount: A Beginner’s Guide to the Kingdom of Heaven*,” by Amy Jill-Levine, found at your favorite brick and mortar or on-line bookstore.

**For discussion on Implicit Bias:** Listen to Brian McLaren’s “Learning to See” Podcast: <https://cac.org/podcast/learning-how-to-see/> Start with #1

To join on Sunday at 9:30 a.m. use this Zoom link:

<https://dscumc.zoom.us/j/98182429071?pwd=NTRiZiN1bXhOdC9BS296WUJTRXFHQ09>

Meeting ID: 981 8242 9071 ~ **Passcode: 317664** Or Dial In: +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

**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**

**Mondays at 10:00 am: Coffee Chat**

Good morning to all who enjoy a good Coffee Chat! We want to encourage you to **Zoom in** on **Monday January 11th at 10:00 am** for a fascinating study on race, with the hope of seeking better understanding of our neighbors. It is co-facilitated by the knowledgeable mother/daughter team of Mary Ellen Stephens-Dawson & Barbara Drummond.

Here is the link to the actual Desert SW Conference study on race that we will be focused on for the next 3 weeks: (January 11th, 18th and 25th): <https://dscumc.org/religion-and-race/dsc-race/>

On the last Monday, Feb. 1st, we will apply our study to the body of the church and its role in bringing about change. Please use the following link to the short article we will be discussing: <https://sojo.net/articles/bad-theology-not-sociology>

And, if you do not have the link to the Monday morning Coffee Chat, here it is for your convenience (just remember you coffee or tea at 10: 00 am every Monday morning ~10:00-11:00 am in January 2021)!

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://dscumc.zoom.us/j/95036789720?pwd=bHVwem90Mi9oYjNoK3ZWbDFBZktkOT09>

Meeting ID: 950 3678 9720 **Passcode: 118760**

**Tuesdays at 10:00 am-Incarnation Study by Adam Hamilton**

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

Meeting ID: 946 8429 4715 **Passcode: 098165**

**Wednesdays at 5:00 pm-The Wired Word**

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

Meeting ID: 364 484 3031 (NO PASSCODE NEEDED)

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.

**Thursdays at 10:00 am-Coffee Chat**

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

Meeting ID: 986 5381 1783 **Passcode: 333879**



**Our New Epiphany Worship Series: Hindsight 2020:** *“Looking Back So We Can Move Forward”* runs through Sunday, February 14th.

How do we transform and transcend our biases? From judgments made unconsciously to complacency in systemic evil, we must learn how to see if we are to learn how to transform. After a tumultuous year, can the church have the conversations it needs to have to address these biases, so that we might once again be a relevant voice in the world? Based on a podcast series “Learning How to See” with Richard Rohr, Brian McLaren and Jacqui Lewis, we will learn to discover how seeing is social, political, and contemplative and examine 13 biases to help us understand why we see the way we do.

**January 10-1st Sunday after the Epiphany/Baptism of the Lord Sunday**

**Sermon:** We Didn’t Know

**Scripture:** Acts 19:1-7

**February 7-5th Sunday after the Epiphany**

**Sermon:** What You Focus on Determines What you Miss

**Scripture:** Isaiah 40:21-31

**January 17-2nd Sunday after the Epiphany/Human Relations Day**

**Sermon:** Seeing is a Social Act

**Scripture:** John 1:43-51

**February 14-6th Sunday after the Epiphany/Transfiguration Sunday**

**Sermon:** A New Way of Seeing Jesus

**Scripture:** 2 Corinthians 4:3-6; Mark 9:2-9

**January 24-3rd Sunday after the Epiphany**

**Sermon:** Seeing is Political

**Scripture:** Jonah 3: 1-5, 10: Psalm 62:5-12

**January 31-4th Sunday after the Epiphany**

**Sermon:** Hero or Victim, But Never the Villain

**Scripture:** I Corinthians 8:1-13

**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

peanut butter

pasta (tomato) sauce

pasta

macaroni & cheese

soup with vegetables and meat

canned meat (chicken, tuna, spam)

cereal

canned heat and eat meals (eg: raviolis, spaghettios, beefaroni)

jello (ready to eat in cups)

pudding (ready to eat in cups)

canned fruit

red, black, pinto and kidney beans (canned or dried)

**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!**

**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.) 1 camera at \$1,800
- 2.) Sanctuary Computer to run new systems \$2,000-3,000
- 3.) Cable to wire Sanctuary to internet \$1,000
- 4.) 13 Air Conditioning Units at \$6, 500 each

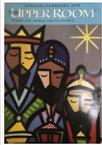


**For those who would like to contribute to the purchase of these items but cannot manage the whole purchase, wish list sharing is an option. Just put wish list on the memo line of your check, and we will use it along with other gifts. Thank you.**

## Bible Readings

Jan. 5-Gen. 12-14; Luke 5  
Jan. 6-Gen. 15-17; Luke 6  
Jan. 7-Gen. 18, 19; Ps. 3; Luke 7  
Jan. 8-Gen. 20-22; Luke 8  
Jan. 9-Gen. 23, 24; Luke 9  
Jan. 10-Gen. 25, 26; Ps. 6; Luke 10  
Jan. 11-Gen. 27, 28; Ps. 4; Luke 11

If you would like a bookmark mailed to you for the months of January, February and March, please email Tammy at [office@desertskiesumc.org](mailto:office@desertskiesumc.org) with your request and one will be mailed to you.



## January/February 2021 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](mailto: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 2021

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.

### JANUARY

St. Paul's UMC, Tucson  
San Pedro Valley UMC, Benson  
Trinity UMC, Bisbee

You shop. Amazon gives.



## Finance Team

**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](https://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 [mtnodlepray@gmail.com](mailto:mtnodlepray@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](mailto: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](mailto:revcandace@desertskiesumc.org))

Rev. Susan: ([revsusan@desertskiesumc.org](mailto:revsusan@desertskiesumc.org))

Doc: ([musicdoc@desertskiesumc.org](mailto: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](http://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>

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**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](http://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](https://www.pimacountyinterfaith.org/covid19_resources)