



# THE SKYLINE

An e-news blast of Desert Skies United Methodist Church: Your One Stop Weekly Communication

January 6, 2026

### Church Office Hours:

Monday-Thursday: 9:00 am ~ 3:00 pm

### Pastor Brooke's drop-in office hours:

**Pastor Brooke will be on Renewal Leave through February 16, 2026**

### Ryan Phillips ~ Choir Director drop-in office hours:

**Mondays: 9:30 am ~ 10:30 am or by appointment**

We are offering In-Person Worship Services at both Campuses:

**Traditional: 9:00 am**

Houghton Campus-Sanctuary

**Praise Band plays the 2nd & 4th Sunday at our Houghton Campus**

Look for the links page with our 9:00 am online worship service info

**Traditional w/Contemporary Music 11:00 am**

**Vail Campus-Arizona Senior Academy 13715 E. Langtry Lane**

*As one church, two campuses,* we will be doing a music swap quarterly, where the Houghton praise band will play at our Vail campus, and our Vail music folks will play at Houghton. More info to come in December.

### A Friendly Note

Welcome back!! Happy New Year...2026. Hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season.

**Just a reminder...Pastor Brooke is on Renewal Leave through February 16, 2026. If you are in need of Pastoral Care, please contact the church office at 520-749-0521.**

### A Warm Welcome

**to our New Staff Member Percie Le Cheminant**

Percie has been hired to be our Children's Ministry Coordinator. If you have any questions or would like to meet her, email her at: [percie@desertskiesumc.org](mailto:percie@desertskiesumc.org).

## Weekend Eats

A program in TVUSD providing students, teachers, staff and their families with enough food to last through the weekend.

Foods to bring in: mac and cheese (individual cups or boxes), cereal (individual cups or boxes), oatmeal packets, granola bars, ramen, rice-a-roni, fruit cups, and other easily made shelf stable items.

**A friendly reminder to mark your calendars!**

**Sunday March 1<sup>st</sup>  
Sunday April 26<sup>th</sup>**



Donate Here!



## This Week at Desert Skies

### Wednesday, January 7

8:00 am UMM Breakfast Happy Rooster Café  
(Sarnoff & 22nd)  
9:00 am MomCo Group Houghton-Rm. 2 (moms)  
Houghton-Nursery (kids)  
4:45 pm Staff Meeting via Zoom  
5:00 pm The Wired Word via Zoom  
6:00 pm Adult Bells Houghton-Sanctuary  
7:00 pm Adult Choir Houghton

### Thursday, January 8

9:30 am Vail Bible Study Starbucks on  
13460 Mary Ann Cleveland and Colossal Cave Rd.  
9:30 am Flow Like a Mother Yoga Class  
Houghton-Fellowship Hall  
10:00 am Coffee Chat via Zoom  
5:00 pm Communications Meeting via Zoom

### Saturday, January 10

8:00 am UMM Breakfast in Vail  
Jerry Bob's Family Restaurant on Houghton Rd.  
9:00 am Advent Clean Up Houghton Campus  
10:00 am Rotary Dictionaries  
Houghton-Fellowship Hall  
2:00 pm Houghton Praise Band Practice  
Houghton-Sanctuary



## MomCo Group

**A supportive group to connect  
parents of young children in  
community!**

We meet Wednesday mornings from 9:00 am-10:30 am at our Houghton Campus in the Nursery (kids) & Classroom # 2 (moms). Childcare and snacks provided.

**If you have any questions, contact:**

Danielle Potter ~ [danielledenise80@yahoo.com](mailto:danielledenise80@yahoo.com)

and/or Percie Le Cheminant (Children's Ministry Coordinator) - email: [percie@desertskiesumc.org](mailto:percie@desertskiesumc.org)

## United Women in Faith

### Zippy 49er's Meeting

On **Wednesday January 14th** we will hold our Zippy 49ers Meeting at 9:15 am in Fellowship Hall at Houghton Campus.

Janet Van Buren and Kay Wessel will hostess a light brunch at 9:30 am, followed by a devotional given by Kathy Merk. Then we will have our business meeting and the streaming of our bible study, Session 3 in the series "It's Not Supposed to be This Way" by Lysa Terkeurst.

We look forward to seeing you at our first meeting of the new year. All are welcome.

### UWF General Meeting



**Navigator's Presentation  
Saturday, January 17th**

**9:30 am**

**Houghton Campus ~ Fellowship Hall**

Hear how since their founding in 1933, the Navigators (a Christian mission's organization) remained committed to their calling: *"To know Christ, make Him known, and help others do the same"*. Mr. Howat will talk about making disciples as teachers and other education professionals.

All are welcome to come to this talk that is presented by **United Women in Faith**. We will start with a light breakfast and fellowship. We hope to see you there.

### UWF Esther Circle Meeting in Vail

**ALL WOMEN ARE INVITED!**

**We will meet January 25th, 12:45 pm**, at Baggins for lunch, fellowship and planning.

Baggins is located at 10235 Old Vail Rd. Houghton Town Center.



*Desert Skies  
United  
Methodist  
Church's*

*Western Sunday Brunch...*

3255 N. Houghton Rd.  
(NW Corner of Ft. Lowell/Houghton)  
Sunday, February 22, 2026  
Church Service @ 9am  
Brunch Served @ 10:30am  
Come for both or just the celebration  
of food, fun, fellowship & activities  
for kids of all ages!

Brunch Menu

*COMING  
SOON!*



Prices Coming  
Soon...

*Reserve Your Seats  
Today!*

*Call/Text*

*520-349-5654*

**Youth Ministry:**  
*Belong, Believe, Serve!*

## Shared Youth Ministry ~ Updates & Upcoming Events

**Special Invitation: Spanish Immersion (Adults & Teens):** Next week, we will begin a Spanish immersion group to support our teens preparing for the *International Service-Learning Trip to Honduras*. We will practice simple, practical Spanish conversation, and **adults are very welcome to join**. More information and registration form [here](#).

**January 4:** We did not meet

Shared Youth Ministry  
**New Year Priorities + Fun**  
Bonfire + Reflection + Pickleball  
Desert Skies UMC • 3255 N Houghton Rd • 4-6 PM



**January 11: (First Youth Group of the Year):** New Year priorities reflection and fun gathering (bonfire + pickleball).

***Where:*** Desert Skies UMC, 3255 N Houghton Rd.

***When:*** 4:00–6:00 PM.



**January 18:** Echo the Story curriculum - Sunday School gathering.

**January 25:** Picacho Peak State Park hike - more details to come.

**February 1:** South District Event "Wesley Cup" - more details to come.

*\*Some events may change or have updates.*

*Summer Trips 2026 – Fun & Service-Learning*

**Middle School (some HS may join as well if space is available in the Van):** a 4-day expedition to the Grand Canyon. Date: June 10-13 - Bonus: Participate in the [International Star Party](#).

**High schoolers:** An international Service-Learning Trip to Honduras. Date: June 28th - July 5th. Thank you for supporting our youth and upcoming fundraising events. *Do you know any students who may be interested? We will close the roster soon!*

**Community Events (optional) September 2025 to March 2026 - Let's join Tucson Clean & Beautiful on any Saturday, from 8:00 to 10:00 AM,** to plant trees in different locations. This is a practical step living out the UMC Social Principles: Stewardship of Creation. [All their events require an RSVP.](#)

*Do you have any suggestions or comments? Feel free to reach out!*

**Luis Ortíz ~ Shared Youth Ministry Director:** [St. Paul's UMC](#) | [Desert Skies UMC](#) | [Christ Church UMC](#)  
Office Phone: (520) 296-6149 | Ext. 7026 / Cell Phone: (815) 202-2000 / [youthdirector@tucsonumcyouth.com](mailto:youthdirector@tucsonumcyouth.com)

## Announcements

**Advent Clean-up**-We will meet at our Houghton campus on **Saturday, January 10th at 9 am** to clean-up our Advent decorations. All help is appreciated! Thank you! Questions? Contact Allison Roberts.

**Primavera/Helping Hands**-If you are willing to donate food items for the Primavera Sandwich Program (Helping Hands) please contact Bev Bly for food items needed. **Helping Hands packs once a month on the second Tuesday (January 13th) of each month at 9:00 am in the Kitchen at our Houghton Campus.** ALL are welcome to come out and help. Thank you!

**PEANUT BUTTER & JELLY SANDWICHES**-Thanks to everyone who provides supplies and/or makes PB&J sandwiches for Casa Maria. The soup kitchen at Casa Maria provides about 400 sack lunches a day, each including one PBJ and one meat sandwich. Peanut butter and jelly sandwiches freeze well and can be made ahead of time. There is a freezer in the Fellowship Hall kitchen with designated space for these sandwiches and also hot dogs for the soup kitchen. PB&J sandwiches can be made and placed in the freezer in Fellowship Hall at any time during the church office work week (Monday ~ Thursday: 9 am ~ 3 pm).

**Vail Bible Study**-meets on **Thursday mornings from 9:30-10:30 am at Starbucks on 13460 Mary Ann Cleveland and Colossal Cave Rd.** Cathy Croft is our facilitator. We will be starting Esther. All are welcome!

**DSUMM**-You are all invited to join the Desert Skies United Methodist Men for breakfast. **The DSUMM meet every Wednesday morning at the Happy Rooster Café, at Sarnoff and 22<sup>nd</sup> St.. We start arriving around 7:30 am and usually order about 8:00 am.** No agenda, no dues, just a chance to get together and socialize.

**DSUMM VAIL**-You are all invited to join the Desert Skies United Methodist Men Vail for breakfast. **The DSUMM Vail meet the second Saturday of every month at 8:00 am at Jerry Bob's Family Restaurant on Houghton Rd. (7545 Houghton Greenway).** No agenda, no dues, just a chance to get together & socialize.



**God's Beauty Oil Painting Classes ~ Facilitator: Lorna Niven-**\*\*Supplies are included!\*\*****  
Please take note....Houghton Campus will begin in January with dates TBA.

**The Vail Campus**-will begin in January 2026 for the following dates...Monday, January 12, 2026 & Monday, January 26, 2026. The Vail oil painting classes will be at the Esmond Station Library from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm. We hope you will plan to attend our classes filled with lots of fellowship and creativity, too! Any questions please contact Lorna Niven (520) 360-1084. No experience necessary, just lots of fun/fellowship!



**January ~ February 2026 Issue of The Upper Room:** You can pick one up in the Church Office, Sanctuary, or 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>.*

## News from Children's Ministry

We are so excited ...we are celebrating our Curriculum...**“Big Faith”, A Faith in God**, by Cokesbury! Our Sunday School classes are at the **Houghton Campus at 9:00 am and for Vail Campus at 11:00 am, located at Arizona Senior Academy.**

We hope you will join us this Sunday for **Fun, Adventure, Imagination, Trusted Theology, and Home & Heart Connection** which spells...**FAITH.**

All Children are invited to join us Sunday morning as we are “Under Construction” and will be focusing on the history of the temple. **Faith Focus**...“God’s Community grows and changes. ” **Please note:** Each Sunday is a new adventure!!

**What’s Happening this Sunday, January 11, 2026** –Join us Sunday as we are beginning 2026 “under construction” in Sunday School! Together, we are re- building God’s temple just as the Israelites returned to their homeland. Hopefully, come and join us as we rebuild our Sunday School for a community built on God’s love!

**MORE NEWS for Children at Desert Skies: An opportunity for children approximately ages 8-12**-We are so pleased to announce the Acolyte lighting of the candles at Desert Skies prior to the church service at both Houghton and Vail Campuses! If you are interested to participate in the lighting of the candles on Sunday mornings, please contact Lorna Niven at 520-360-1084 or Pastor Brooke at 520-749-0521. Thank you!

**Volunteers Needed-** for Anyone who loves children! “Thank you” to those who have signed up to volunteer for the Sunday School program. We have a few spots available for a one-time helping hand for our children. If you are interested to volunteer or have questions, please contact Lorna Niven at (520) 360-1084, or Percie Le Cheminant (Children’s Ministry Coordinator) at: [percie@desertskiesumc.org](mailto:percie@desertskiesumc.org)

### Exciting News for Sunday School!

**January 11, 2026** ~ Join us as we begin a new series of Bible teachings how God’s community grows and the Israelites builds a temple.

**January 18, 2026** ~ Join us as the temple is built and Jesus comes to visit the temple at 13 years old while visiting for Passover with his parents, Joseph & Mary.

**January 25, 2026** ~ Join us as Jesus visits the temple as an adult and is unhappy with what he sees. We will see how Jesus renews the temple.

**Helpful Reminder for Parents-**We want to ensure the safety for our children in Sunday School. Here are the revised sign in and sign out guidelines:

1. **Houghton Nursery** –we are requesting to sign in when bringing your child prior to church service and requesting signing out when taking your child home
2. **Houghton Classroom # 1 and Classroom # 3**–we are requesting to sign out your children when picking them up from Sunday School.

**The sign in and sign out sheets will be placed in notebooks located as you enter the classroom areas.** Any questions please contact Lorna Niven at (520) 360-1084. Thank you.

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

Houghton Worship, Traditional Service Online at 9:00 am: <https://desertskiesumc.online.church>  
(also available live on YouTube and Facebook)

**Video Disclaimer:** This service is being live streamed. Your image may appear in certain parts of the video. If you prefer to be mostly off camera for our live stream, please sit in the pews farthest to the left. The video will be available for replay on YouTube channel: [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) ~ Desert Skies UMC.

Vail Worship, Traditional with Praise Band Service Online-via Zoom at 11:00 am-All our welcome!

Zoom Link: <https://dscumc.zoom.us/j/83330071030?pwd=dMHpJRvJbuUypbjmmvvmP6sGvQ1t5q.1>  
Meeting ID: 833 3007 1030 Passcode: 319209

Tuesday Morning Bible/Book Study Group-Meets at 10:00 am until approximately 11:30 am. In-person classes will be held in Classroom # 2 on the Houghton campus and we will again host a Hybrid class, with Zoom connections for those who are unable to attend in person. All are welcome! **\*\* We are on hiatus until further notice. \*\***

Zoom Link: <https://dscumc.zoom.us/j/88441428274?pwd=eIVkSzFzVUJ5aDIheHVsYnZYRlVXQT09>  
Meeting ID: 884 4142 8274 Passcode: 125748

The Wired Word-Wednesdays from 5:00 pm-6:00 pm-The Wired Word applies the news stories, asks the BIG questions, connects scripturally and confronts the news with hope. Join us for another lively discussion!

Zoom Link: <https://dscumc.zoom.us/j/83469754585?pwd=Vwyt032QaX13MpynDEdaf2BKUHcXQc.1>  
Meeting ID: 834 6975 4585 Passcode: 707466

Thursdays at 10:00 am-Coffee Chat-

Zoom Link: <https://dscumc.zoom.us/j/98653811783?pwd=YVFVbFJCbHhzRVZuM2hJVkhOTmliQT09>  
Meeting ID: 986 5381 1783 Passcode: 333879

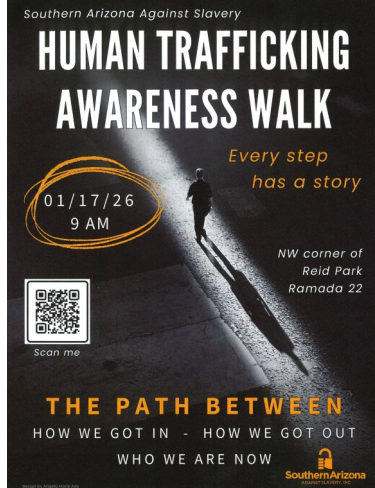


## A Friendly Note

Desert Skies, in partnership with Arizona Senior Academy, will be showing the full-length documentary *Samaritans* about humanitarian work along the Arizona border with Mexico.

All are welcome to join us for this important viewing, followed by a Q & A with local director David Damian Figueroa.

**Join us on Sunday, January 11 at 12:30 pm in the Great Room at Arizona Senior Academy.**



## A Friendly Note

You may remember Norma Darnell from Southern Arizona Against Slavery from our Social Principles series last summer, when she joined us in our services at Houghton and in Vail.

Norma invites us to join the Human Trafficking Awareness Walk, and/or the after walk event where survivors will share their stories, and a kid-appropriate story time will teach about safe and unsafe touch.

## THANK YOU DESERT SKIES ~ From St. Luke's Home

December 26, 2025

Desert Skies United Methodist Church  
3255 N Houghton Rd  
Tucson, AZ 85749-9561

Dear Mary Jo,

Thank you for celebrating with St Luke's Home this holiday season! Your gift of \$250.00 received on 12/22/2025 ensures that our community's low-income Elders have access to enriching programming, healthy meals, and a safe place to call home.

From the entire team at St Luke's Home thank you for celebrating joy and family this year. We are full of gratitude for your kindness!

Warm regards,

Susie Huhn  
Interim Chief Executive Officer

December 26, 2025

Desert Skies United Methodist Church  
3255 N Houghton Rd  
Tucson, AZ 85749-9561

Dear Mary Jo,

Thank you so very much for donating fused glass cross pendants, trays, and handmade jewelry boxes in support of our Elders. We received notice of your in-kind donation, valued at \$90.00, on 12/10/2025.

We are deeply proud to be able to provide a community for our Elders that is safe, deeply caring, and a source of true comfort. Your support makes this all possible. Together we can continue to grow and expand the high-quality living experience of St Luke's Home.

Sincerely,

Susie Huhn  
Interim Chief Executive Officer

## Bible Readings

Jan. 06-Gen. 15-17; Luke 6

Jan. 07-Gen. 18, 19; Ps. 3; Luke 7

Jan. 08-Gen. 20-22; Luke 8

Jan. 09-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-March, please email Tammy with your request at [office@desertskiesumc.org](mailto:office@desertskiesumc.org)

## Prayers for Our Churches 2026

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/community.

### JANUARY

Tucson: Catalina UMC

Desert Skies UMC

Benson: San Pedro Valley UMC

## Prayer Requests

If you have a prayer request, please email Pat Walker at [msnodlepray@gmail.com](mailto:msnodlepray@gmail.com) and/or click this link: <https://desertskiesumc.org/contact/>

## **FROM THE STEPHEN MINISTRY TEAM**

The Stephen Ministry Team would like you to know that we are available to listen and pray with you.

Each week in this email blast we will provide the Stephen Minister who is Mike Nofziger. We ask that you contact the church office for his phone number, and email address if needed.

If you are in need of prayer, or just wanting someone to listen to you, The Stephen Ministry Team is available. Please do not hesitate to call Pastor Brooke Wilkerson at (520) 749-0521 or email her at [brooke@desertskiesumc.org](mailto:brooke@desertskiesumc.org). You are not alone, we are here to walk with you during a difficult time.

## VAIL CAMPUS

We have an Instagram account for our Vail campus.

← ← ← Here is the QR to connect with us!

Questions?

Contact Derek Davis, our Outreach Director for both Campuses



Worship services for our Vail campus are held at 11:00 am in the Great Room at Arizona Senior Academy (ASA) (13715 E. Langtry Lane).

We have a classroom for Sunday School, too!

We are hopeful and excited for Desert Skies UMC and our Vail Campus! Hope to see you there!