



**Bloom**  
in the  
**Desert**  
Ministries



June 25, 2023

# Welcome

Bloom in the Desert Ministries (Bloom) is a United Church of Christ (UCC) that had Methodist beginnings. This liberal Protestant church was born in 2002, as an independent ministry in collaboration with Methodist organizations seeking to start and promote inclusive Christian ministries. Sunday worship began on March 9, 2003. The fledgling congregation decided in 2004 to pursue standing in the UCC, which was established by vote of the Eastern Association of the Southern California Nevada Conference of the UCC on October 29, 2005, welcoming Bloom as a dual covenant, peace, and justice congregation. Bloom is a member of the UCC Open and Affirming Coalition and the Reconciling Ministries Network (Methodist). Bloom is governed congregationally according to our unique bylaws. All Bloom members and friends are ministers in our faith. Our Open Leadership Team and congregation meetings provide leadership and decision making to empower our vision, mission, and core values.

## **Our Vision**

Bloom chooses to build a loving, safe, inclusive faith community that is intellectually challenging, emotionally supportive and filled with the strength, integrity, and social responsibility that spirituality inspires.

## **Our Mission**

Guided by teachings of Jesus Christ, Bloom is a community of believers who strive to uplift and heal one another. We gather to worship God, witness our faith in the living of our lives and uphold one another in Christian living. United in our diversity we are inclusive and embracing. We agitate for God's peace and justice in our community and around the world.

## **Our Core Values**

- We are a people of God's extravagant welcome.
- We are a people of covenant.
- We work toward a just and loving world through service and generosity.
- We listen for the still-speaking God.
- We encourage a life of inquisitive and thoughtful searching.
- We are grounded by Christian faithfulness.
- We celebrate the joy in life.

## **Sunday Worship 10am**

**Demuth Community Center — 3601 E. Mesquite Avenue, Palm Springs, CA 92264**  
**Lynda Toland, Moderator — 503-789-8743 — moderator@bloominthedesert.org**  
**Rev. Dr. Kevin A. Johnson, Minister — 760-992-4346 — minister@bloominthedesert.org**  
**Ken Forney, Music Director — 608-445-6767 — ken.forney@gmail.com**  
**Bill Wallace, Administrative Assistant — adminassitant@bloominthedesert.org**  
**Church Office is located at 400 South El Cielo, Suite G, Palm Springs, CA 92262**  
**760-327-3802 — [www.bloominthedesert.org](http://www.bloominthedesert.org) — [info@bloominthedesert.org](mailto:info@bloominthedesert.org)**

# 1969 to Present

Dear Bloomers and friends,

Intentional and aggravated efforts to erase homosexual and transgender personal self-confidence and empowerment are successfully expanding. We Bloomers and friends know people being affected terribly by this institutional, community, and personal aggression. Now it is even more important for us to honor Bloom's intentional "Open and Affirming" founding and official status. Please renew our covenant for welcome with all who welcome all. Our mission is to dispel the spirit of ignorant hatefulness with the enlightening Holy Spirit of faith, hope, and love. Remember and activate how – in our vision, mission, and core values – we choose love.

Rev. Dr. Kevin A. Johnson (1Corinthians 13:1-14:1)

## Memories of the earliest days....



**Photo of 1969 Stonewall Rioters**



**1970 Gay Lib Parade - NYC**



**Bloom**  
in the  
**Desert**  
Ministries



Bloom in the Desert  
Ministries  
United Church of Christ  
Palm Springs, CA

66<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the UCC  
54<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Stonewall Rebellion  
National LGBTQ+ Pride Weekend  
June 25, 2023

For Facebook check-ins, etc., the Demuth Community Center  
Wi-Fi password is: D3muthP@rk  
\* Please rise as you are able in body and spirit.

**9:50am Pre-Service Music**

Mike Welden, piano

“Amazing Grace”, “The Rainbow Connection”, “Over the Rainbow”

**10:00am Gathering Song**

Sum-moned by the God who made us rich in our div - er - si - ty,  
Ga-thered in the name of Je - sus, rich-er still in un - i - ty.  
Let us bring the gifts that dif - er and in splen - did, var-ied ways,  
Sing a new church in - to be - ing, one in faith and love and praise.

**Welcome and News of the Congregation**

Rev. Dr. Kevin A. Johnson

**Music for Centering**

“As Water for the Thirsty”

Mike Welden, piano, Mark Richards, baritone

## \* Call to Worship

Paul Gibb

Welcome to worship today! We celebrate the UCC's 66<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the 54<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Stonewall Rebellion in New York, and the 19<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our meeting here in the Demuth Community Center.

**Remembering is powerful. Even in times when progress is difficult or disappointing, it is good to know how far we've come as resurrection people gathered around a common table.**

Here we worship our God, who remembers with us, and knowingly welcomes us to love. **Here and everywhere, we open our minds and hearts to welcome friends and strangers in body and soul. For we were strangers once and now we make friends, with ourselves and others. Shalom. Salaam. Vrede. Myr. Ping-an. Paz. Peace. Amen.**

## \* Opening Hymn

475

### God's Eye Is on the Sparrow

*Matt. 10:26-30; Luke 12:4-7*

*Civilla D. Martin, c. 1905; alt.*

*Stanzas, in unison*

1 Why should I feel dis-cour-aged, why should the shad-ows come,  
2 "Let not your heart be trou-bled," Christ's ten-der word I hear,  
3 When-ev-er I am tempt-ed, when-ev-er clouds a-rise,

Why should my heart be lone-ly and long for heaven and  
And rest-ing on God's good-ness, I lose my doubts and  
When song gives place to sigh-ing, when hope with-in me

home, When God is ev-er my por-tion? My  
fears; Though by the path . . . God leads me but  
dies, I then draw close to my Sav-ior, from

con-stant friend will be: God's eye is on the spar-row, and I  
 one step I may see: God's eye is on the spar-row, and I  
 care I am set free: God's eye is on the spar-row, and I

know God watch-es me; God's eye is on the spar-row, and I  
 know God watch-es me; God's eye is on the spar-row, and I  
 know God watch-es me; God's eye is on the spar-row, and I

*Refrain, in harmony*

know God watch-es me. I sing be-cause I'm  
 know God watch-es me. I sing be-cause I'm  
 know God watch-es me. I sing be-cause I'm

hap-py, I'm hap-py, I sing be-cause I'm free, God's  
 I'm hap-py, I'm free,

eye is on the spar-row, and I know God watch-es me.

*Civilla Martin, a native of Nova Scotia, assisted her husband in his evangelistic campaigns. Charles Gabriel was editor for Rodeheaver Publishing Company, Chicago, and one of the most popular gospel songwriters of the early 1900s.*

Tune: SPARROW Irr.  
 Charles H. Gabriel, 1905

## In Faith We Open Our Hearts to Ministry

### Prayer for Good and Growth

On this national heritage LGBTQI World Pride Sunday, we recite this prayer based on Isaiah 5:20, where the prophet says:

**"What sorrow for those who say what is evil is good and what is good is evil." Praise be to the creator of queer and trans wonders. Of bodies made perfect through self-love. Of love that is expansive. Of the holiness of "strange." Of lines blurred and certainty troubled. Of the particular beauty birthed from determination to be. Of becoming. Of multifaceted. Of community in knowing the joy and the struggles. Of generations of proudly weird. Of solidarity. Of tenderness. Of together. Of ever unfolding ways of being. Of families made in endless variations. Of "will not hide." Of surviving in forced hiddenness. Of unafraid. Of trembling but persisting. Of sacred connection in flesh, in heart, in sharing resources, in being with and for one another. God is with us as we struggle for justice and building a home of true self and safety. We pray this prayer with the authority of Christ Jesus.**

**Amen.**

~by M Barclay, 05/14/2017

**Our Silent Prayers** (These intentional moments of silence are included in worship to enable minds to settle, then move past the distraction of internal chatter, to connect actively with God. A few deep breaths may help make the connection. Relax, and embrace a spiritual dimension.)

Loving creator of all, wonderful counselor for everyone, sovereign of peace in the world, receive now our silent prayers.

~ Silence ~

To all our silent prayers let the people say amen.

**Amen.**

### Words of Encouragement

Existing in God's open love, we are free to live freely, fully, and wildly. We are affirmed and accepted as beloved offspring of God's creative brilliance.

**Amen. Let us now receive the Word.**

## Sung Response

## Halle, Halle, Hallelujah!

Musical score for 'Halle, Halle, Hallelujah!' in G major, 4/4 time. The score consists of three staves of music. The first staff begins with a 4-measure rest, followed by the lyrics 'Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah.' The second staff continues with 'Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le, -' and the third staff concludes with 'lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah.'

## The Word Informs Our Living with Grace and Power

### Hebrew Scripture Reading

Psalm 86:1-10

Doug Holder

Open your ears, YHWH, and answer me,  
for I am weak and helpless.

Save me from death, for I am loyal to you;  
protect your faithful one, for you are my God and I trust in you.

Have mercy on me, YHWH,  
for I pray to you all day long.

Make your faithful one glad,  
for I lift my soul to you, YHWH.

You are good and forgiving, YHWH,  
full of constant love for all who call on you.

Listen to my prayer, YHWH,  
hear my cries for help.

I call to you in times of trouble  
because you answer my prayer.

There is no other god like you, YHWH,  
not one who can do what you do.

When you act, all the nations will come and bow down before you, YHWH,  
and will pay honor to your Name.

How great you are, Worker of Marvels;  
you alone are God!



**\* Gospel Reading**

Matthew 12:24-31

Mindy Harrington

“A student is not superior to the teacher; the follower is not above the leader. The student should be glad simply to become like the teacher, the follower like the leader. If the head of the house has been called Beelzebub, how much more the member of the household! Don’t let people intimidate you. Nothing is concealed that will not be revealed, and nothing is hidden that will not be made known. What I tell you in darkness, speak in the light. What you hear in private, proclaim from the housetops. Don’t fear those who can deprive the body of life but can’t destroy the soul. Rather, fear the one who can destroy both body and soul in Gehenna. Are not the sparrows sold for pennies? Yet not a single sparrow falls to the ground without your Abba God’s knowledge. As for you, every hair of your head has been counted. So don’t be afraid of anything—you are worth more than an entire flock of sparrows.” ~Inclusive Bible Version

Here ends the reading of the Gospel. This is the Good News of Jesus Christ.

**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

**Commentary**

Rev. Dr. Kevin A. Johnson

**Hymn of Response**

**Singing for Our Lives**

Words and music by Holly Near

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Singing for Our Lives'. It consists of three systems of music. The first system is a piano introduction in 2/2 time, marked with a tempo of quarter note = 66. The second system is the vocal melody with four verses of lyrics. The third system is the piano accompaniment for the vocal line. The lyrics are: 1. We are a gen - tle, an - gry peo - ple, and we are; 2. We are a jus - tice-seek - ing peo - ple, and we are; 3. We are young and old to - geth - er, and we are; 4. We are a land of man - y col - ors, and we are.



sing - ing, sing - ing for our lives.  
 sing - ing, sing - ing for our lives.  
 sing - ing, sing - ing for our lives.  
 sing - ing, sing - ing for our lives.

We are a gen - tle, an - gry peo - ple, and we are  
 We are a jus - tice - seek - ing peo - ple, and we are  
 We are young and old to - geth - er, and we are  
 We are a land of man - y col - ors, and we are

sing - ing, sing - ing for our lives.  
 sing - ing, sing - ing for our lives.  
 sing - ing, sing - ing for our lives.  
 sing - ing, sing - ing for our lives.

5. We are gay and straight together,  
 And we are singing, singing for our lives.  
 We are gay and straight together,  
 And we are singing, singing for our lives.

6. We are a gentle, loving people,  
 And we are singing, singing for our lives.  
 We are a gentle, loving people,  
 And we are singing, singing for our lives.

## Reception of Members

### Presentation and Introduction of New Members

John DiNapoli

We invite to come forward those who are becoming members or associate members with us in Bloom in the Desert Ministries United Church of Christ: Carol Moore, Ed Burton and Roy Gibson.

Friends in Christ, these people have found nurture and support in the family of Christ. They are here to claim in our presence their covenantal relationship with Christ and the members of the church. They are here for service to Jesus Christ, the church, the community, and the world, using the gifts which God's Spirit bestows. *Brief words of introduction of each person*

### Welcome of New Members

Linda Lang, Moderator (2014-2016)

“You are no longer strangers or outsiders. You belong here. God is building a home, using us all—irrespective of how we got here! God used the apostles and prophets for the foundation. Now God is using you, fitting you in brick by brick, stone by stone, with Christ Jesus as the cornerstone that holds all the parts together. We see it taking shape day by day—a holy temple built by God, all of us built into it, a temple in which God is quite at home.

### Membership Covenant

Rev. Dr. Kevin A. Johnson

Do you promise by the grace of God to follow in the way of Jesus Christ, to resist oppression and evil, to show love and justice, and to share in the work and word of Jesus Christ as best as you are able?

*Candidates reply* **I promise, with the help of God,**

Do you promise, according the grace given you, to grow in the Christian faith and to be a faithful member of the church, celebrating Christ's presence and furthering Christ's mission in the world?

*Candidates reply* **I promise, with the help of God,**

### Vision Statement

Linda Lang, Moderator (2014-2016)

Let us read together the Vision Statement adopted by the congregation.

**Bloom chooses to build a loving, safe, inclusive faith community that is intellectually challenging, emotionally supportive and filled with the strength, integrity, and social responsibility that spirituality inspires.**

*The Moderator addresses the new members*

You have had spiritual encounters and experiences throughout your life, perhaps with family, churches, or other spiritual communities. Today, we rejoice in your pilgrimage of faith which has brought you to this time and place. We give thanks for every community that has nurtured you and been nurtured by your presence along your spiritual journey. Today we celebrate your presence among us in this household of faith.

## **Covenant Promise of Participation**

Members of the congregation may also take this opportunity to reaffirm their covenant of membership.

Do you promise, as you are able, to participate in and support the life and mission of this family of God's people, sharing regularly in the worship of God and enlisting in the work of this local church as we serve this community and the world? If so, please respond: "I promise with the help of God."

*Candidates reply* **I promise, with the help of God,**

## **Covenant Promise of the Congregation**

As a gathered congregation, let us express to these persons our welcome and affirm our covenant of mutual ministry in Christ.

**All: We members and friends of Bloom in the Desert Ministries, joyfully welcome you into membership of this church. We promise to love you as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. We will walk with you amidst life's hopes and fears, in happiness and sadness. By the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow together in our faith, as we love God with all our hearts, souls, minds, and strength, and as we love one another and our neighbors as ourselves.**

## **Prayer**

Rev. Dr. Kevin A. Johnson

Eternal God, we praise you for calling us to be your people and for gathering us into the Body of Christ. We thank you for sending to us, Carol, Ed and Roy, that we may work together in serving the needs of others. Confirm in us the power of your eternal covenant with every living creature that we may live in our spirit, share regularly in worship, and so love each other that we may have among us the same mind which was in Christ Jesus, our savior, brother, sovereign, and friend. Let the congregation say "amen."

**Amen.**

## **Greetings of Christian Love**

Rev. Dr. Kevin A. Johnson and Linda Lang

In the name of Jesus Christ, and on behalf of Bloom in the Desert Ministries United Church of Christ, we extend to you our Christian love, welcoming you into the community of this local church.

*Congregation may affirm their welcome with applause. New members sign the Register and place a rock in the membership vase.*

## Offering our Prayer Concerns, and Joys and Thanksgivings

Concerns:

Keep watch, dear God, with all who work, or watch, or weep this day. Tend the sick, give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, shield the joyous; and all for your love's sake.

**God, receive our prayer.”**

Joys and Thanksgivings:

Your hand is open wide to satisfy the needs of all creation. Keep us always thankful for your loving providence and help us be faithful stewards of your good and abundant gifts.

**“God, receive our prayer.”**

### Sung Response            In Our God I'll Be Ever Thankful

♩ = 69

In our God I'll be ev-er thank-ful, in our God I will re-joice. Look to God, do not be a-  
fraid, lift up your voic - es, our God is near, lift up your voic - es our God is near.

Words by Community of Taizé, Music by Jacques Berthier, adapted

## Ministry of Generosity — Expressing God's Love and Empowering Good Works

**Our tithes and offerings are an expression of our hearts and our discipleship.**

--Checks should be made out to “Bloom in the Desert Ministries.” Checks and cash in envelopes with identification are recorded for your year-end convenience. **Online giving is available and easy!** Go to: [www.bloominthedesert.org](http://www.bloominthedesert.org) and click on the Donate tab. **Thank you.**



### Offertory-Meditation Music            “I Am What I Am””

Mike Welden, piano, Mark Richards, baritone

### Reception of Offerings and Prayer of Dedication

Mindy Harrington

We offer our gifts to the God of all. We joyfully give our treasure to bring hope, justice, love, and healing to all who are hurting. May these gifts be blessed, multiplied, and used to provide ministry for those who are too often pushed to the margins in society. Let the generosity represented here be magnified and amplified to stretch beyond our human expectations, thought, and imagination.

~UCC Open and Affirming Coalition worship resources, adapted

(Please rise, as you are able, in celebration as we sing the Doxology.)

**\* Doxology**

**Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow**

The musical score is written on four staves in a 3/2 time signature with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The lyrics are: "Praise God, from whom all blessings flow, praise God, all creatures here be - low. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Je - sus Christ, whose power up - lifts! Praise the Spir - it, Ho - ly Spir - it! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!"

**\*Prayer of Jesus** (Please join hands)

**Our Father (Eternal Source/Mother/Creator/Parent) in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom (\/realm/dream), come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses (sins/debts), as we forgive those who trespass against us (sin against us/our debtors). And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For yours is the kingdom (kin-dom/realm/dream), and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

\* Sending Hymn

Ours the Journey



In the midst of new di men sions, in the face of chang ing ways,  
 Through the flood of starv ing peo ple, war ring fac tions and de spair,  
 Through the years of hu man strug gle, walk a peo ple long de spised:  
 We are black and we are yel low, we are brown and red and white,  
 We shine forth be yond all gen der, all per sua sions, old and young,  
 Should the threats of dire pre dic tions cause us to with draw in pain,



who will lead the pil grim peo ples wan der ing their sep' arate ways?  
 Who will lift the ol ive bran ches who will light the flame of care?  
 Neigh bors of all or ien ta tions, striv ing to be eq ual ized.  
 We a rain bow co al i tion, all of va lue in thy sight.  
 Each a gift in your cre a tion, each a love song to be sung.  
 May your blaz ing phoe nix spir it, res ur rect our hearts a gain.



God of rain bow, fie ry pil lar, lead ing where the ea gles soar, we, thy peo ple,



ours the jour ney now and ev er, now and ev er, now and ev er more

1994 Julian B. Rush

Words: Julian B. Rush, adapted by Annie Britton and Tallessyn Grenfell-Lee.

Music: Julian B. Rush. Used by permission.

**Benediction and Blessing**

Our worship is ended. Our service begins. What does God need from us?

**“Simply do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with your God.”**

Go, now, knowing that death, injustice, and oppression will never have the last word. This is promised to us because the empty tomb was victorious!

Go forth hearing the words Jesus spoke to his disciples after his resurrection: “I will leave none of you as orphans. I will be with you to the end of all days.”

**Amen.**

My dear friends in faith, will you go into your worlds to be people of God in Christ’s name?

**We will. Amen!**

**Passing of the Peace**

Let us safely offer one another signs of grace and peace and go in peace. Amen.

**Postlude**

“How Sweet It Is”

<b>Bloom Happenings this Week</b>						
<b>Monday</b> June 26	<b>Tuesday</b> June 27	<b>Wednesday</b> June 28	<b>Thursday</b> June 29	<b>Friday</b> June 30	<b>Saturday</b> August 1	<b>Sunday</b> August 2
<b>10:30am-1:00pm</b> Lunch for our unhoused neighbors served at United Methodist	<b>10:30am-1:00pm</b> Lunch for our unhoused neighbors served at United Methodist	<b>10:45am – 1:00pm</b> Lunch served at St. Paul’s Episcopal  <b>6pm</b> BibleBites Bible Study on Zoom		<b>4:00pm</b> Women of Bloom Zoom Happy Hour		<b>10:00 am</b> Sunday Service at Demuth and on Facebook Live



# Congregational Life Announcements

--A warm welcome and thank you to **Mike Welden**, piano, and **Mark Richards**, baritone, for sharing their musical talents with us today.

--Thank you to **Paul Gibb**, **Doug Holder**, and **Mindy Harrington** for serving as readers for today's service.

--Thank you to **Nick Wass** for handling the technical aspects for today's service. Thank you also to **Alan Weaver** and **Jim Nixon** for serving as our ushers this morning.

--Flowers on the Worship Center, symbolic of the living Christ are offered to the glory of God by **Mindy Harrington** for all our friends at Bloom.

--Those wishing to donate flowers may contact **Ray Allen** at 405-833-1817 for assistance.

## Last Week's Participation

Sunday Service: --Souls Present at Demuth: 54 --Children: 0 --First Timers: 4  
Facebook Live Views: 16 --Facebook Total Views: 68--YouTube Views: 12

## Sunday Offering

--Previous Week's Support: Tithes, Offerings, and Participation:  
Offering, online, by mail and text: \$2,867 Electronic Giving: \$2,848  
Permanence Fund: \$575 Cumulative: \$316,470  
Strengthen the Church: \$2 Cumulative: \$122

--Please sign up for **Ralph's Community Rewards**. Choose Bloom in the Desert Ministries (Ralphs #PG245.) as your designated charity to benefit from a small percentage of your purchase totals. Every little bit helps!

**Electronic giving is easy! Scan this QR code for Bloom's mobile-friendly online giving page or visit [www.bloominthedesert.org/donateparticipate](http://www.bloominthedesert.org/donateparticipate).**



--**The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation** by Priests for Equality and the **Revised Common Lectionary** are the usual references for Sunday morning scripture readings.

--Liturgy and prayers are original, sourced, and often adapted.

--All music contained in this worship service is Reprinted / Podcast / Streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-700000. All rights reserved.

**Amazing Grace**, arr. Jerry Ray, ©1992, Alfred Publishing Co., Inc.

**The Rainbow Connection**, by Paul Williams and Kenneth L. Ascher, ©1979 by Jim Henson Production, Inc., this arrangement ©2000, by Jim Henson Productions, Inc.

**Over the Rainbow**, by Harold Alen, arr. Jim Brickman, ©1938 by MGM Inc., ©1939 by EMI Feist Catalogue, inc., this arrangement ©2009 by EMI Feist Catalogue, Inc.

**As Water to the Thirsty**, music by David Haas, words by Timothy Dudley-Smith Music ©1987 by G.L.A. Publications, Inc., this arrangement ©1979 by Hope Publishing Co.

**I Am What I Am**, by Jerry Herman, ©1983 by Jerryco Music Co.

**How Sweet It Is**, by Edward Holland, Lamont Dozier and Brian Holland, arr by Phillip Keveren, ©1992 by Jobiete Music Co., Inc., this arrangement ©2006 by Jobiete Music Co., Inc.

## Ministries of Leadership and Support

--**Open Leadership Meetings** are typically the second Wednesday, 6:30-8:00pm PDT. The next hybrid meeting will be June 14 at 6:30pm PDT in the church office. All are welcome with voice. Bloom members have vote. Contact **Lynda Toland** to receive the Zoom Invitation.

--**Congregation meetings** are in February, May, and October, and special meetings as called. The next congregation meeting is October 15 after church.

### Church Growth and New Member Involvement Ministry

--**If you are interested in making covenant as a member or associate member** with Bloom in the Desert Ministries UCC, please contact **John DiNapoli**, [dinoins@gmail.com](mailto:dinoins@gmail.com) or **Bill Wallace** at [adminassistant@bloominthedesert.org](mailto:adminassistant@bloominthedesert.org).

--**For more information on the United Church of Christ**, visit [www.ucc.org](http://www.ucc.org).

--**Persons seeking Christian Baptism** please call **760-327-3802** for pastoral response.

### Nurture and Community Life Ministry

--We Care: If you know of someone in the hospital, or who might enjoy a pastoral call, including yourself, please call the **church office** at **760 327-3802** and leave a message.

### Education Ministry

--**Bloom BibleBites** meets every first, third, and fourth Wednesdays (and when no Open Leadership meeting is held) at 6 pm PDT via Zoom. All are welcome. The group is currently reading I Timothy. If you wish to join the BibleBites discussion and reading notify Bill Wallace at [adminassistant@bloominthedesert.org](mailto:adminassistant@bloominthedesert.org). You will be sent a link to this meeting prior to the date.

--**Bloom Book Club**-. The group will be taking a summer break and resume on October 2.

### Social Action and Missions Ministry

--**Lunch Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays**: Come serve lunch at the United Methodist Church of Palm Springs on Mondays and Tuesdays, located at 1555 E. Alejo Rd, Palm Springs 10:30 am–1:00 pm PDT. On Wednesdays, lunch is served at St Paul’s Episcopal Church at 125 W El Alameda, Palm Springs 10:45 am-1 pm. Contact **Jon Miller** at [jmiller.ps@icloud.com](mailto:jmiller.ps@icloud.com).

### Our focused ministries include:

- School children’s benevolence – backpacks, church camp, and Christmas gift cards.
- Relieving food insecurity – Lunch Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays, food bank support.
- National church’s wider mission – “5 for 5” UCC mission offerings, disaster relief.
- Spiritual and personal development – worship, music, bible study, book clubs, lending library.
- Loving presence – birthday/anniversary cards, eyeglasses, recycling, Us Plus local outreach.
- For peace action and social justice email alerts, sign up with **Jon Miller** at [jmiller.ps@icloud.com](mailto:jmiller.ps@icloud.com).

**A wheelchair and large-print bulletins** are available for your convenience.

**You are welcome to take this bulletin with you for reflection.**

or leave it with the ushers for recycling.

**God wants you to think for yourself and live for others.**

Bathrooms are located through the double glass doors and to the left.