



Bloom
in the
Desert
Ministries



November 6, 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 10 am

Demuth Community Center — 3601 E. Mesquite Avenue, Palm Springs, CA 92264

Lynda Toland, Moderator — 503-789-8743 — moderator@bloominthedesert.org

On-Call Pastoral Care — Rev. Ron Lang — 951—663-5237 — rflangX25@gmail.com

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 — info@bloominthedesert.org



Bloom
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 UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
a just world for all

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

Palm Springs Pride Sunday

Communion Sunday
23rd Sunday after Pentecost
November 5, 2023

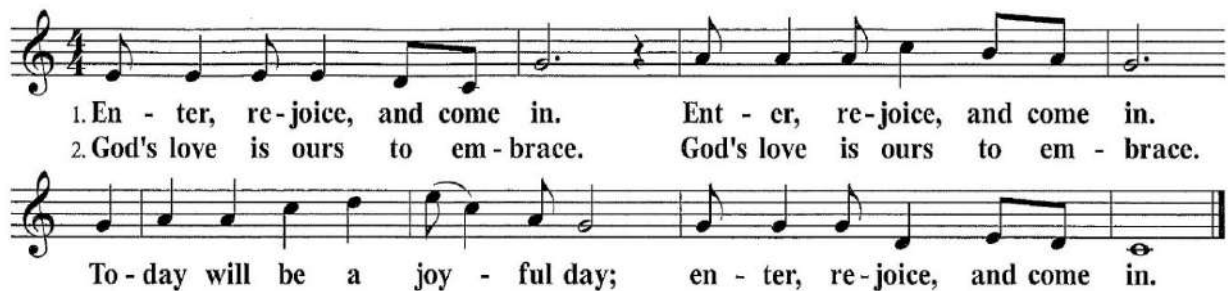
For Facebook check-ins, etc., the Demuth Community Center - Wi-Fi password is: D3muthP@rk

* Please rise as you are able in body and spirit.

9:50am Pre-Service Music

Malcolm Swan, piano

10:00am Gathering Song



1. En - ter, re-joice, and come in. Ent - er, re-joice, and come in.
2. God's love is ours to em - brace. God's love is ours to em - brace.

To - day will be a joy - ful day; en - ter, re-joice, and come in.

Welcome and News of the Congregation

Rich Fluechtling, Worship Leader

Music for Centering

“My Life’s Delight”

Malcolm Swan, piano

*** Call to Worship**

Wayne Sinclair

Creating God, on this Pride Sunday 2020, we gather to affirm each of our beloved LGBTQIA+, brown, and black siblings as beautifully and wonderfully made in your image.

Stir up in us the same energy of those who helped pave the way to embrace diversity and follow the Holy Spirit's lead working for justice and equity for all.

May we never stop expanding the borders of love and acceptance for queer, brown, and black bodies. In prayer we say Black Lives Matter and our LGBTQI siblings are wonderfully made.

Weaver of Justice, let us be your hands and feet! We are showing up to follow the Holy Spirit's lead by equipping ourselves to serve your realm building Aloha, Shalom, Salaam, Vrede, Myr, Ping-an, Paz, Peace. Amen.

~ELCA Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod, adapted

*** Opening Hymn**

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Softly and Tenderly

Will L. Thompson, 1880; alt.

1 Soft - ly and ten - der - ly Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing for
2 Why should we tar - ry when Je - sus is plead - ing, plead - ing for
3 Time is now fleet - ing, the mo - ments are pass - ing, pass - ing from
4 O for the won - der - ful love Je - sus prom - ised, prom - ised for

you and for me; See at the por - tals Christ wait - ing and
you and for me? Why should we lin - ger and heed not God's
you and from me; Shad - ows are gath - er - ing, death - beds are
you and for me; Though we have sinned Je - sus of - fers us

Refrain



watch-ing, watch-ing for you and for me.
 mer - cies, mer - cies for you and for me? Come home, come
 com - ing, com - ing for you and for me. Come home,
 par - don, par - don for you and for me.

home, come home, All who are wea-ry, come home;
 come home,

Ear-nest-ly, ten-der-ly Je-sus is call-ing— call-ing, "O sin-ner, come home!"

Will Thompson established publishing firms in Chicago and East Liverpool, Ohio, the community to which he left a legacy of song. Dwight L. Moody once remarked that he would rather have written "Softly and Tenderly" than anything he had ever done.

Tune: SOFTLY AND TENDERLY
 11.7.11.7, with refrain
 Will L. Thompson, 1880

In Faith We Open Our Hearts to Ministry

Prayer for Good and Growth

On the Sunday before Veterans Day, we welcome God’s spiritual embrace. Together we pray this “Prayer for Protection of Those in Military Service.”

Universal God of Love and Compassion: We seek your protection for those who are sent to faraway places to prepare for and ensure our national defense.

Before seasons of unrest, we grow comfortable thinking of military members only as they relate to us — as our parents and spouses, our sons and daughters, our neighbors and friends.

We look forward to a day when no community will ever be asked to release loved ones into the clutches of war.

We pray for safe returns; and not only for ours, but for others who are sent from their communities, many like ours, in other parts of the world.

As they face the myriad challenges and decisions each day will bring, help them be anchored by faith, confident in your presence, and comforted by knowledge they are loved by you and our communities. We bless them in your name.

Amen.

~Safiyah Fosua, January 31, 2003, adapted

Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you. Amen.

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.)

Eternal Seeker of peace and justice, receive now our silent prayers.

~ Silence ~

To all our silent prayers let the people say amen.

Amen.

Words of Encouragement

When we let go of the past and parts of the present that hold us back, we improve our opportunities to engage God's promised new beginnings.

Amen. Let us now receive the Word.

Sung Response

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah!

Musical notation for the song "Halle, Halle, Hallelujah!". The music is written on three staves in treble clef, key of D major (one sharp), and 4/4 time. The first staff begins with a 4-measure rest, followed by the melody. The lyrics are: Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. The second staff continues the melody with lyrics: Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le, - The third staff concludes the melody with lyrics: lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah.

The Word Informs Our Living with Grace and Power

First Hebrew Scripture Reading

Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37

Larry Houts

“Give thanks for YHWH’s goodness,
God’s love endures forever!”

Let these be the words of YHWH’s redeemed,
those redeemed from the oppressor’s clutches,
those brought home from foreign lands,
from east and west, from northern lands and southern seas.

Some lost their way in the wilderness, in the wasteland,
not knowing how to reach an inhabited town;

they were hungry and thirsty,
and their courage was running low.

They called to YHWH in their trouble,
and God rescued them from their sufferings,

guiding them by a direct route
to an inhabited town.

Sometimes God turned rivers into desert,
springs of water into arid ground,

or a fertile country into salt flats,
because people living there were corrupt.

So God would turn desert into pools of water,
or an arid country into flowing springs

to give the hungry a home,
a place to build and call their own.

There they sow fields and plant vineyards
that yield a plentiful harvest.

~Inclusive Bible Version

*** Gospel Reading**

Matthew 23:1-12

Mindy Harrington

Jesus told the crowds and the disciples, “The religious scholars and the Pharisees have succeeded Moses as teachers; therefore, perform every observance they tell you to. But don’t follow their example; even they don’t do what they say. They tie up heavy loads and lay them on others’ shoulders, while they themselves will not lift a finger to help alleviate the burden.

All their works are performed to be seen. They widen their phylacteries and wear huge tassels. They are fond of places of honor at banquets and the front seats in synagogues. They love respectful greetings in public and being called ‘Rabbi.’

“But as for you, avoid the title ‘Rabbi.’ For you have only one Teacher, and you are all sisters and brothers. And don’t call anyone on earth your ‘Mother’ or ‘Father.’ You have only one Parent—our loving God in heaven. Avoid being called leaders. You have only one leader—the Messiah.

The greatest among you will be the one who serves the rest. Those who exalt themselves will be humbled, but those who humble themselves will be exalted.

~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. Ron Geikow

*For those who exalt themselves
will be humbled,
and those who humble themselves
will be exalted*

Matthew 23:12

Rev. Ron Geikow is from Chicago, went to college in Santa Barbara and seminary at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago. He was a missionary in Liberia, West Africa, and a house parent at a Catholic orphanage in Cuernavaca, Mexico.

In his years of ministry, he served bilingual churches. He also served churches in Chicago, Los Angeles, and San Francisco. Ron did interim ministry in Joshua Tree, Millbrae, Salinas, and Santa Maria. He is now retired and teaches water aerobics, plays tennis and pickle ball and loves swimming laps. He has filled in for many Sundays at the Episcopal/Lutheran church in Big Bear. He now “rests from his labors.”

* Hymn of Response

177

God of Change and Glory

1 Cor. 12:4-27

Al Carmines, 1973

1 God of change and glo - ry, God of time and space,
 2 God of man - y col - ors, God of man - y signs,
 3 Fresh-ness of the morn - ing, new - ness of each night,

when we fear the fu - ture, give to us your grace.
 you have made us dif - ferent, bless - ing man - y kinds.
 you are still cre - at - ing end - less love and light.

In the midst of chang - ing ways give us still the grace to praise.
 As the old ways dis - ap - pear, let your love cast out our fear.
 This we see, as shad - ows part, man - y gifts from one great heart.

Refrain

Man - y gifts, one Spir - it, one love known in man - y ways.

C F C F G

In our dif-fer-ence is bless-ing, from di-ver-si-ty we praise

C F G

one Giv-er, one Word, one Spir-it, one God known in man-y ways,

F C G7 C

hal-low-ing our days. For the Giv-er, for the gifts, praise, praise, praise!

Al Carmines, composer, playwright, performer, and teacher, has served as minister for two United Church of Christ congregations in New York City. This hymn, commissioned in 1973, was one of the first modern texts to claim diversity as a gift from God.

Tune: KATHERINE 6.5.6.5.7.7.
Al Carmines, 1973

Offering our Prayer Concerns, and Joys and Thanksgivings

Concerns:

Rich Fluechtling, Worship Leader

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.

The musical notation consists of two staves in 3/4 time. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat (B-flat), and a 3/4 time signature. The tempo is marked as ♩ = 69. The melody is written on a single line. The lyrics are placed below the notes. The second staff continues the melody and lyrics. There is a triplet of eighth notes in the final measure of the second staff.

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 and click on the Donate tab. **Thank you.**



Offertory-Meditation Music "The Sun, Whose Rays Are Ablaze" Malcolm Swan, piano

Presentation of Offerings and Prayer of Dedication

Mindy Harrington

You are witness, O God, to the work we do for the sake of Christ Jesus. To your name all honor is due. Help us to raise the needs of others above those of our own and thereby, be more faithful in our commitment and faith. Take the gifts that we bring and enhance our endeavors. Make us ever bolder in our love for neighbors and use us to lead others to the truth of your gospel.

~James G Kirk, "When We Gather – A Book of Prayers for Worship"

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

* Doxology

Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow

Praise God, from whom all bles-sings flow, praise God, all crea-tures 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!

The musical notation is for a four-part setting of the Doxology. It consists of four staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of three flats (E-flat major). The time signature is 3/4. The lyrics are placed below the notes. The first staff begins with a whole note, followed by quarter notes. The second staff begins with a whole note, followed by quarter notes. The third staff begins with a whole note, followed by quarter notes. The fourth staff begins with a whole note, followed by quarter notes. The piece ends with a double bar line.

The Great Thanksgiving

God is with you.

And also with you.

Let us lift our hearts.

We lift them to our God.

Let us give thanks and praise.

This is a good and joyful thing to do.

Mindy Harrington: It is a right and good and joyful thing, always and everywhere, to give you praise, all-loving God, creator of energy and matter, heaven and earth. Long ago, you renewed your rainbow covenant with every living creature by entering our realm in the person of Jesus. He gave us your unconditional love and this mandate:

I give you a new commandment: Love one another. And you're to love one another the way I have loved you. This is how all will know that you're my disciples: that you truly love one another."

Therefore, we celebrate you, joining our voices with the wind and streams, the animals and flowers, the living and the dead, the stars, and the planets and all the company of creation, who forever sing of their devotion to your love and glory:

All sing.

Santo, Santo, Santo!

(Sing first in Spanish, then in English)

Text and music: Anon., Argentina

C G7 C F C

¡San - to, san - to, san - to, mi cor - a - zón te a - do - ra! Mi
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, my heart, my heart a - dores you! My

F C Am F G7 C

cor - a - zón te sa - be de - cir: san - to e - res Dios.
heart is glad to say the words: you are ho - ly, God.

John DiNapoli: We remember that on the night before Jesus was betrayed by one whom he loved, and killed by ones who feared him, he sat at table with his friends, women and men and children, sharing the feast of the Passover, which is the celebration of the liberation of God's people. Remembering God's power, Jesus took bread, and after he had given thanks and blessed it, he broke it saying,

“This is my work and my life, for you and with you. Take it all of you, and do this remembering me.”

Mindy Harrington: After the meal Jesus took the Elijah Cup, the cup traditionally reserved for the Holy One to come. But instead of waiting, Jesus passed it to them as it is now being passed on to us, and he said,

“This is the cup of the new covenant. It is the cup of justice and peace poured out for all. Drink of it all of you and do this remembering me.”

John DiNapoli: Each time that we break bread together we participate in the Body of the Risen Christ, for we are the Body of the Risen Christ. And each time we share this cup we participate in the New Community, for we are God's hope of the New Community. For this, we turn to you for blessing:

Pour out your Spirit on us and these gifts of grain and grape, so in this sharing we recognize Christ in our midst. This offering of praise and thanksgiving is an offering of us to you. Hasten the day when the prophets' dreams come to pass: when justice rolls down like waters and nations no longer threaten each other, neither shall they learn war any more. This we pray by the authority of Jesus and in your holy grace. Amen.

Communion Invitation

Rev. Ron Geikow

These are the gifts of God for the people of God. This is bread and beverage for the journey. In this church community, we share an inclusive communion, which means you need not be a member of this congregation or any community of faith to join us at the table. We believe Jesus welcomed everyone present. We do this in remembrance of him. We do this historically... globally... personally.... For we believe Christ is the host. Christ sets the table and Christ welcomes all. Likewise, no one is required by the host to come forward. If you wish to remain in your seat, you are welcome to relax and enjoy the music. If you wish to be served at your seat, please raise your hand as the line ends, so the servers will come to you. Now, let all who wish to come, come, for God's table is ready.

(After a moment, ushers will invite you to move forward for Communion.)

Communion Music

“One Bread, One Body”

Malcolm Swan, piano

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

Rev. Ron Geikow

Our Father (Eternal Source/Mother/Creator/Parent) in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom (Kin-dom/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.

(Based on Matthew 6:9-13 NRSV)

*** Sending Hymn**

O for a World

575

Miriam Therese Winter, 1987

Acts 4:32-35; 1 Cor. 1:26-31; 1 Pet. 3:8-12

1 O for a world where ev - ery - one re - spects each oth - er's ways,
2 O for a world where goods are shared and mis - er - y re - lieved,
3 We wel - come one world fam - i - ly and strug - gle with each choice
4 The poor are rich, the weak are strong, the fool - ish ones are wise.
5 O for a world pre - par - ing for God's glo - rious reign of peace,

Where love is lived and all is done with jus - tice and with praise.
Where truth is spo - ken, chil - dren spared, e - qual - i - ty a - chieved.
That o - pens us to u - ni - ty and gives our vi - sion voice.
Tell all who mourn: out - casts be - long, who per - ish - es will rise.
Where time and tears will be no more, and all but love will cease.

Inspired by Charles Wesley's phrase "O for a thousand tongues" and the familiar tune Azmon, Miriam Therese Winter wrote this hymn envisioning a new world order for the Presbyterian Women's Triennial Conference in 1982. It was later recrafted and recorded by the Medical Mission Sisters.

Tune: AZMON C.M.
Carl G. Gläser, 1828
Adapt. Lowell Mason in Modern Psalmody, 1839

Benediction and Blessing

Rev. Ron Geikow

As this worship gathering ends, our service begins. What does God need from us?

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

May YHWH bless you and keep you!

May YHWH’s face shine upon you and be gracious to you!

May YHWH look kindly upon you and give you peace!

(The Priestly Blessing, Numbers 6:24-26)

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

“Let Us Wander”

Malcolm Swan, piano

--**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.
My Life’s Delight, by Roger Wuilter.
The Sun, Whose Rays are All Ablaze, by Sir Arthur Sullivan
One Bread, One Body, by John Foley, arr. by Mark Hayes
Let Us Wander, by Henry Purcell
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Bloom Happenings this Week

Bloom Happenings this Week						
Monday Oct. 30	Tuesday Oct. 31	Wednesday Nov. 1	Thursday Nov. 2	Friday Nov. 3	Saturday Nov. 4	Sunday Nov. 5
10:30am-1:00pm Lunch for our unhoused neighbors served at United Methodist	10:30am-1:00pm Lunch for our unhoused neighbors served at United Methodist 6pm Book Group on Zoom	10:45am – 1:00pm Lunch served at St. Paul’s Episcopal	Afternoon Volunteers Requested Assemble bulletins in the office 6pm BibleBites on Zoom	4:00pm Women of Bloom Zoom Happy Hour		10:00 am Sunday Service at Demuth and on Facebook Live 10:00 am Palm Springs Pride Parade

Congregational Life Announcements

--A warm welcome and thank you to **Malcolm Swan**, piano, for sharing his musical talents with us today.

--Thank you to **Wayne Sinclair, Larry Houts** and **Mindy Harrington** for serving as readers for today's service, and to **Rich Fluechtling** for serving as worship leader. Special thanks to **Rev. Ron Geikow** for presenting our commentary and leading the Great Thanksgiving along with **Mindy Harrington** and **John DiNapoli**.

--Thank you to **Nick Wass** and **Jackson Enzler** for handling the A/V technical aspects for today's service.

Thank you also to our usher, **Michael Kreiser**, for welcoming us this morning.

--**Flowers on the Worship Center**, symbolic of the living Christ, are offered to the glory of God by **Randy Zeese** and **Donald Fong** in celebration of diversity.

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

Last Week's Participation

--Souls Present at Demuth: 44 --Children: 0 --First Timers: 1

--- Facebook Live Views: 0 -Facebook Total Views: 93 --YouTube Views: 4

Sunday Offerings

Tithes, Offerings, and Participation:

Offering, online, by mail and text: \$1,551 Electronic Giving: \$741

Permanence Fund: \$0 Cumulative: \$321,084

--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.



Ministries of Leadership and Support

--**Open Leadership Meetings** are typically the second Wednesday, 6:30-8:00pm PDT. The next hybrid meeting will be November 8 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 February 16 after church.

Church Growth and New Member Involvement Ministry

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

--**For more information on the United Church of Christ**, visit 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

--**BibleBites**- Thursdays, at 6pm on Zoom. Rev. Shelly Alexa Somerville, a Bloom member, will be facilitating the study of the **Gospel of John**.

--**Bloom Book Club**-. The group ((meets Tuesdays)) at 6pm on Zoom. We are reading “How to Begin When Your World is Ending: A Spiritual Field Guide to Joy Despite Everything” by Rev Molly Baskett. For information or to receive the Zoom link, contact Gary Lange at GaryLange13@gmail.com.

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.

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.

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.



Spare Change Jar and Hospitality Basket

Perhaps you've wondered about these two items on the hospitality table nestled among the food items after morning worship. They have two purposes and are both opportunities for your support.

The Spare Change Jar helps fund two Social Action and Missions projects. First, the back-to-school backpacks with school supplies we deliver to area elementary schools in August. Second, the Christmastime \$100 gift cards we distribute to local schools' administrative staff to give to students' families who are struggling. Don't carry change or dollars? You can also give online to the spare change jar via the Bloom homepage Donate tab.

The Hospitality Basket helps pay for the sundry expenses of plates, cups, cutlery and coffee we use during hospitality hour. Your donations of physical goods are also welcome.