



Bloom
in the
Desert
Ministries



December 17, 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

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



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.



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

Third Sunday of Advent

~Joy~

December 17, 2023

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

Advent begins the new church year in the Western tradition, running four Sundays prior to Christmas Eve. The traditional color of Advent is purple, the color of royalty, to welcome the Advent of the promised Sovereign, Jesus, as the “Word made flesh,” building a home among us.

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

9:50am Pre-Service Music

Mike Welden, piano

“In the Bleak Midwinter” “O Little Town of Bethlehem” “Lo, How a Rose E’re Blooming”

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

Lynda Toland, Worship Leader

Lighting the Advent Candle

Joy

Sheila Dell and Julie Blank

When I look around, I see shadows of sadness, families in homeless shelters, people in prison, people who have become invisible and forgotten...

When I look around, I see shadows of grief and loss, people dreading the holidays because they've lost a loved one, because they're recently divorced, because they don't want to spend another Christmas alone...

(The third candle is lighted)

In the face of sadness, we light a candle of joy...

In the face of grief, in the face of loss, we light a candle of joy...

May the light from this candle overwhelm the world.

May the light from this candle say to all that God's joy is coming on earth as it already is in heaven.

Brothers and sisters, and non-binary friends, be not afraid, God's joy is at hand!

Music for Centering

"Away in a Manger

Mike Welden, piano

*** Call to Worship**

Paul Gibb

Sing aloud, sons and daughters! Shout with joyful praise!

Rejoice in our God always. Again we will say, "Rejoice!"

The God of justice and salvation is near at hand. Our redeemer is in our midst.

With shouts of hope, we sing to God. Again we sing, "Rejoice!"

Make known God's deeds. Proclaim God's love for all to hear.

With hearts of laughter, we love. Again we say, "Rejoice!"

Together we make this a holy place, a place of compassion.

Aloha, Shalom, Salaam, Vrede, Myr, Ping-an, Paz, Peace. Amen.

* Opening Hymn

101

Comfort, Comfort O My People

Isa. 40:1-8

Johannes Olearius, 1671

Transl. Catherine Winkworth, 1863; alt.

1 "Com - fort, com-fort O my peo - ple, tell of peace," thus says our God;
 2 For the her - ald's voice is call - ing in the des - ert far and near,
 3 Straight shall be what long was crook-ed, and the rough - er pla - ces* plain!

Com-fort those whose hearts are shroud-ed, mourn-ing un - der sor-row's load.
 Bid-ding us to make re - pen - tance since the realm of God is here.
 Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, for Mes-si - ah's ho - ly reign.

Speak un - to Je - ru - sa - lem of the peace that waits for them;
 Oh, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre-pare for God a way;
 For God's glo - ry ev - er-more shall be known o'er all the world;

Tell them that their sins I cov - er, and their war-fare now is o - ver.
 Let the val - leys rise in meet-ing and the hills bow down in greet-ing.
 And all flesh shall see the to - ken that God's word is nev - er bro - ken.

Written for John the Baptist's Day, June 24, this hymn clearly reflects the Isaiah text. Johannes Olearius, a Lutheran pastor, held a faculty appointment at Wittenberg University as well as church administration positions in his region.

Tune: PSALM 42 8.7.8.7.7.8.8.
 (FREU DICH SEHR)
 Trente quatre Pseaumes, Geneva, 1551

In Faith We Open Our Hearts to Ministry

Prayer for Good and Growth

Let us pray this intimate prayer, speaking from our hearts:

At times it seems more difficult, God, to keep our hopes high for peace, joy, and love. Our lives get distracted by planning and parties, shopping and gift-giving. Yes, we know these are meant to be fun. But we get exhausted, and rest is fleeting. The cries of those in need are heard, and we feel overwhelmed by the pressure to give. It seems like too much to do, so why get involved? We are thankful for the people who are able to get out there and do something. Fill our hearts and spirits with your joy, God. Help us understand that you do not ask us to fix everything for everyone. Rather, you hope we find a few ways to lighten someone's burden. You inspire our hopes and offer peace to all. Help us rejoice in the wondrous creation you energize. Teach us to use our gifts from you for the common good, so that, in our helping, we offer compassion, give love, stand for justice, and inspire joy. In your name, we pray.

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.)

With tender care, dear God, receive now our silent prayers.

~ Silence ~

To all our silent prayers let the people say amen. **Amen.**

Words of Encouragement

Theologian Karl Barth reminds us: "Joy is the simplest form of gratitude."

Amen. Let us now receive the Word.



when
you
CHOOSE
joy
You feel good
& when you feel
good, YOU do good
& when YOU do good
it Reminds others
of what joy feels like
& it just♥
might inspire
them to do
the same.

www.homegrownhospitality.typepad.com

Sung Response

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah!



Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah.
Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le, lu - jah.
lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah.

The Word Informs Our Living with Grace and Power

Hebrew Scripture Reading

Psalm 126

Larry Metcalf

When YHWH brought us captives back to Zion,
we thought we were dreaming!

Our mouths were filled with laughter then,
our tongues with songs of joy.
And from the nations we heard,
“Their God has done great things for them.”

Yes—YHWH has done great things for us,
and we are filled with joy.

Now set our captives free, YHWH!
Make them like streams in the driest desert!

Then those who now sow in tears
will reap with shouts of joy;
those who go out weeping as they
carry their seed for sowing
will come back with shouts of joy
as they carry their harvest home.

~Inclusive Bible Version

Anthems

The Peppermint Ridge Choir
Rev. Erin Beardemphl, Director

“Silent Night” and “Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer”

*** Gospel Canticle**

Luke 1:46b-55

Carol Moore

And Mary sings for us still:
May your soul
be a luminous
God home
so each of us
has a seed of rejoicing hope
that grows
somewhere
somehow
in stubborn salvation.
God locks her eyes upon
each humble one
who wants to be of service
who carries the blessings of the saints past
to those who will be born.
A mighty Grace
has already touched our lives
and so great things
have already been done for us
and more
are still to come.
We are in awe
of this faith

and the way God
blankets us
when we least expect or anticipate or
forget
how much we need it
how much we are all loved.
This is a strong God
a power greater than us
collecting us when we are lost or straying
that has a place for every person
wants to feed the hungry
make sure everyone
has what they need
help us share good things
especially justice
and mercy
and joy
that are the true riches
our lives together.
Even when we forget about God
God doesn't not forget about us
Forever
and
evermore.

~Living Psalm for Advent 3 and 4 Year B--Gospel Canticle
~Luke 1:46b-55 was written by Sonny Graves

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

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Commentary

Rev'd. Tim Rogers

The Rev'd Tim Rogers is a transplant to the desert from Boston, MA. He has a love of music and is a member of The Palm Springs Gay Men's Chorus. Tim has worked for over 20 years as an ordained Episcopal priest in parish, hospital, and hospice settings. Tim is a former staff member of Easton Mountain Gay Men's Retreat Center in upstate New York. He is currently a Clinical Trainee as a Marriage and Family Therapist at The Center, here in Palm Springs. Tim has worked for the empowerment and integration of body, mind, and spirit of the LGBTQ+ communities for most of his adult life. Tim is very excited to be working at The Center especially at this critical time in the world.

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: _____

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

Lynda Toland, Moderator

“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. Erin Beardemphl

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

Lynda Toland, Moderator

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. Erin Beardemphl

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, _____

_____,
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. Erin Beardemphl and Lynda Toland

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.

The 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:

Lynda Toland, 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.

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

Mike Welden, piano

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

Presentation of Offerings and Prayer of Dedication

Carol Moore

God of peace, in Christ you bring light to illumine the nations. He makes your will known to all who believe. We come in response to his call to us, seeking to follow and fulfill his commands. Accept the gifts we offer as symbols of our commitment; sanctify them wholly, that they may be used as you desire. Mold us and use us as instruments of your will. May all that we do be in accord with the gospel of the One you have sent. Amen.

~James G Kirk, “When We Gather – A Book of Prayers for Worship” (adapted)

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

*** Doxology**

Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow

The image shows a musical score for a doxology. It consists of four staves of music in a 3/8 time signature, with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The lyrics are written below the notes. 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)

Rev'd Tim Rogers

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

144

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Luke 2:10-11, 25-32; 24:46-51;
1 Thess. 4:13-18; Isa. 60:19-20

Charles Wesley, 1739; alt.

1 Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the Christ-child bring;
2 Christ, by high - est heaven a - dored, Christ the ev - er - last - ing Lord!
3 Hail the Bear - er of God's peace! Hail the Sun of righ - teous-ness,

Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ner rec - on - ciled!"
Late in time the Sav - ior comes, off - spring of the Vir - gin's womb.
Light and life our Sav - ior brings, risen with ra - diant, heal - ing wings.

Joy - ful, all you saints a - rise, join the tri - umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh, the God - head see; hail the in - car - nate De - i - ty,
Mild - ly lay - ing glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,

With the an - gel host pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
Pleased on earth with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el.
Born to raise us all from earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

This hymn by Charles Wesley, one of the founders of Methodism, is firmly wedded to Felix Mendelssohn's music. Composed for the four hundredth anniversary of the invention of printing, the music was adapted to this hymn fifteen years later.

Tune: MENDELSSOHN 7.7.7.7.D. with refrain
From Felix Mendelssohn's "Festgesang," 1840
Arr. William H. Cummings, 1855

Benediction and Blessing

Rev'd Tim Rogers

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

Mike Welden, piano

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

Bloom Happenings This Week						
Monday Dec. 11	Tuesday Dec. 12	Wednesday Dec. 13	Thursday Dec. 14	Friday Dec. 15	Saturday Dec. 16	Sunday Dec. 17
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	10:45am – 1:00pm Lunch served at St. Paul’s Episcopal 3:00pm Bloom Open Leadership Meeting in the office and on Zoom		4:00pm Women of Bloom Zoom Happy Hour	12:30pm New Member Exploration in the office 2:00 to 4:00pm Open House in the office	10:00 am Sunday Service at Demuth and on Facebook Live

--**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.
In the Bleak Midwinter, by Gustav Holst, arr. John Leavitt, ©20001 by Hal Leonard Corporation
O Little Town of Bethlehem, Lewis Redner, arr. Shannon Grama, ©1994 by Hal Leonard Corporation
Lo, How a Rose E’re Blooming, arr. Phillip Keveren, ©2000 by Hal Leonard Corporation
Away in a Manger, by James R. Murray, arr. Jerry Ray, ©1986 by Alfred Music
O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, arr. by David Lanz, ©1994 by Nara Music, Inc.
Angels We Have Heard on High, arr. by Phillip Keveren, ©2000 by Hal Leonard Corporation
 --**All music** contained in this worship service is Reprinted / Podcast / Streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-700000. All rights reserved.

Congregational Life Announcements

--A warm welcome and thank you to **Mike Welden**, piano, for sharing his musical talents with us today. Special thanks to **Rev. Erin Beardemphl** and the **Peppermint Ridge Choir** for joining us today.

--Thank you to **Paul Gibb, Larry Metcalf** and **Carol Moore**, for serving as readers for today's service, and to **Lynda Toland** for serving as worship leader. Special thanks to **Rev'd Tim Rogers** for presenting our commentary.

--Thank you to **Jackson Enzler** for handling the A/V technical aspects for today's service. Thank you also to our ushers, **Randy Zeese** and **Linda Lang**, for welcoming us this morning.

--Flowers on the **Worship Center**, symbolic of the living Christ, are offered to the glory of God by **Jim Nixon** in memory of Marti Johnson.

--Those wishing to donate flowers may contact **Lynda Toland** at 503-789-8743 for assistance.

Last Week's Participation

--Souls Present at Demuth: 56 --Children: 0 --First Timers: 3
--- Facebook Live Views: 13 -Facebook Total Views: 101 --YouTube Views: 22

Sunday Offerings

Tithes, Offerings, and Participation:

Offering, online, by mail and text: \$3,338 Electronic Giving: \$653

Permanence Fund: \$125 Cumulative: \$322,184

Spare Change/Gift Cards \$388 Cumulative: \$1,738

UCC Christmas Fund \$100 Cumulative: \$280

Bloom's Christmas/ Year End Appeal: \$200 Cumulative: \$385 Goal: \$15,000

--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 December 13 at 3:00pm PDT in the church office and on Zoom. All are welcome with a voice. Bloom members have a 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 in the Hospitality Room and on Zoom.

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**, dinoins@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**- resumes Thursdays beginning January 4, at 6pm on Zoom. Rev. Shelly Alexa Somerville, a Bloom member, will be facilitating the study of the **Gospel of John**.

--**Bloom Book Club**-. We are on holiday break until January 9th at 6pm. We will be reading "When Bad Things Happen to Good People" by Harold S. Kushner. 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.

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.