



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



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

Fifth Sunday of Easter  
Honoring Pacific Islander & Asian American Ministries  
April 28, 2024

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

“Fairest Lord Jesus,” “Gabriel’s Oboe”  
“Be Thou My Vision,” Etude #26 in Ab Major,”

**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**

Rev. Jeff Munnis

**Music for Centering**

“Bamboo”

Mike Welden, piano

**\* Call to Worship**

Linda Lang

Come all you people, enter the gate of God's sheepfold.

**We hear God calling us by name.**

Jesus will bring all people to be one flock, one shepherd.

**From every nation, every people, tribe and language.**

That they may be one, we envision:

**A just world for all!**

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

**\* Opening Hymn**

GATHERING

**Here in This Place**

718

*Gather Us In*

1 Here in this place . . . new light is stream-ing, now is the dark - ness  
2 We are the young, our lives are a mys - t'ry, we are the old who  
3 Here we will take the wine and the wa - ter, here we will take the  
4 Not in the dark of build-ings con - fin - ing, not in some heav - en,

D A C G Gm Dm

van - ished a - way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings  
yearn for your face; we have been sung through-out all of his - t'ry,  
bread of new birth, here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ters,  
light years a - way— here in this place the new light is shin - ing,

C G D A C G

brought here to you in the light of this day.  
 called to be light to the whole hu-man race.  
 call us a-new to be salt for the earth,  
 now is the king-dom, and now is the day.

Gm Dm C D C/D Gm<sup>6</sup>/D D

Gath-er us in, the lost and for-sak-en, gath-er us in, the  
 Gath-er us in, the rich and the haugh-ty, gath-er us in, the  
 Give us to drink the wine of com-pas-sion, give us to eat the  
 Gath-er us in and hold us for-ev-er, gath-er us in and

A C D G A C

blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a-wak-en,  
 proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low-ly,  
 bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash-ion  
 make us your own; gath-er us in, all peop-les to-geth-er,

D G A D A C G

we shall a-rise at the sound of our name.  
 give us the cour-age to en-ter the song.  
 lives that are ho-ly and hearts that are true.  
 fire . . . of love in our flesh and our bone.

Gm Dm C D C/D Gm<sup>6</sup>/D D

## In Faith We Open Our Hearts to Ministry

### **Prayer for Good and Growth**

**On this PAAM Sunday, we give you thanks and pray for the “Pacific Islander & Asian American Ministries” of our United Church of Christ: for 49 years strengthening the voices of the Pacific Islander and Asian American churches, taking seriously God’s call to bind in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues and races.**

**For such a time as this global pandemic, we give thanks for people who have ceased referring to it as “Chinese Virus”. We give you praise for voices that actively work against racism and violence. We pray also for your guidance and compassion for those who hold on to misinformation against and point fingers at their neighbors. Give us all courage in the struggle for justice and peace as we welcome the stranger into conversation along our mutual journey.**

**God of resurrection hope, as the world begins to emerge from the tomb of fear and isolation, we look to you. We pray for the millions of people who have lost their lives in the global pandemic; we embrace their families as well. We pray for all who suffer in body and spirit. Walk with them through each dark valley. Feed them with mercy; anoint them with healing. We trust that you are greater than any virus, continuing to bring lives together, even when we are apart from one another.**

**We offer all our prayers to you in the name of Jesus Christ, our Good Shepherd. 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.)

Creator, redeemer, and sustainer of all, receive now our silent prayers.

~ Silence ~

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

### **Words of Encouragement**

Creator and Savior, worthy of all praise: you gather your church as one body in the resurrection of your Only Begotten. Increase our faith, strengthen our hope, and unite us in the gentle bonds of love.

**Blessing and praise to God forever. Let us now receive the Word.**

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

## The Word Informs Our Living with Grace and Power

### Hebrew Scripture Reading

Psalm 22:25-31

Jim Nixon

You are the theme of my praise in the Great Assembly,  
and I will fulfill my vows in the presence of your worshipers.

Those who are poor will eat and be satisfied,  
those who seek you will give you praise—  
long life to their hearts!

The whole earth, from one end to the other,  
will remember and come back to you;  
all the families of the nations will bow down to you.

For yours is the kingdom  
you Ruler of nations!

Those who had feasted and devoured the poor—  
now they'll bow down;  
the most affluent in the land  
will kneel before you.  
They all go down to the dust  
and none can keep themselves alive.

But my children will be faithful to you,  
and they will be told about YHWH  
for generations to come.

They will come and proclaim your justice  
to a people yet unborn:

“All this YHWH has done!”

(Inclusive Bible Version)

**\* Gospel Reading**

John 15:1-8

Rich Fluechtling

“I am the true vine, and my Abba is the vine grower who cuts off every branch in me that doesn’t bear fruit but prunes the fruitful ones to increase their yield. You’ve been pruned already, thanks to the word that I have spoken to you. Live on in me, as I do in you. Just as a branch cannot bear fruit of itself apart from the vine, neither can you bear fruit apart from me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who live in me and I in them will bear abundant fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. Those who don’t live in me are like withered, rejected branches, to be picked up and thrown on the fire and burned. If you live on in me, and my words live on in you, ask whatever you want, and it will be done for you. My Abba will be glorified if you bear much fruit and thus prove to be my disciples. (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. Jeff Munnis

**Hymn of Response**

**There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy**

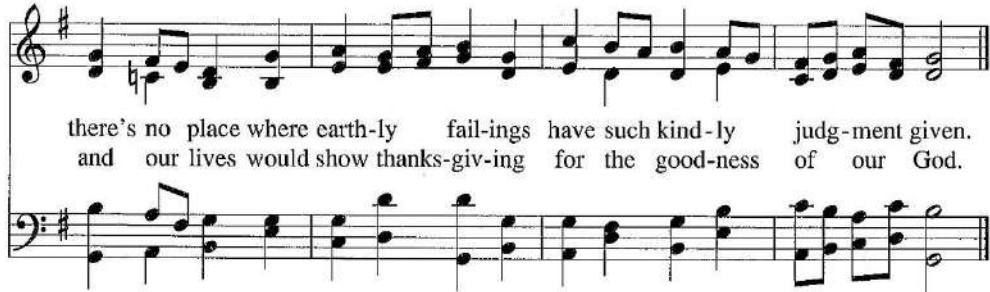
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*Frederick William Faber, 1854; alt.*

1 There’s a wide-ness in God’s mer-cy, like the wide-ness of the sea;  
2 For the love of God is broad-er than the mea-sures of our minds;

there’s a kind-ness in God’s jus-tice, which is more than lib - er - ty.  
and the heart of the E - ter-nal is most won-der - ful - ly kind.

There’s no place where earth-ly sor-rows are more felt than in God’s heaven;  
If our love were but more faith-ful, we would glad-ly trust God’s word;



*Of Huguenot Protestant ancestry, Frederick William Faber was influenced by the Oxford Movement and eventually became a Catholic priest. He wrote 150 hymns to correspond to the number of psalms.*

Tune: IN BABILONE 8.7.8.7.D.  
Dutch melody  
Arr. Julius Röntgen, 1906  
Alternate tune: HOLY MANNA

## Offering our Prayer Concerns, and Joys and Thanksgivings

Concerns:

Rev. Jeff Munnis

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



## 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

Mike Welden, piano

“For the Beauty of the Earth”

## Presentation of Offerings and Prayer of Dedication

Linda Lang

Your love, O God, is perfected in us through the gift of your chosen one, Christ Jesus. All that we have reflects a measure of his atoning sacrifice poured out on behalf of us all. Accept what we give to you as we respond to Christ’s loving-kindness, and enhance what we do, so that others may experience your tenderness. Cultivate us to bear more fruit to the glory of your name. Amen.

~When We Gather: A Book of Prayers for Worship, James G. Kirk

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

## \* Doxology

### Praise God the Source of Life and Birth



Praise God the source of life and birth. Praise God the Word, who came to earth.



Praise God, the Spi-rit, ho - ly flame. All glo-ry ho-nor to God's name!

Old Hundredth NCH #7

## The Prayer of Jesus

Rev. Jeff Munnis

**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

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For the Beauty of the Earth

St. 1-3, *Folliott S. Pierpoint, 1864; alt.*  
 St. 4, *Miriam Therese Winter, 1993*

1 For the beau-ty of the earth, for the splen-dor of the skies,  
 2 For the won-der of each hour of the day and of the night,  
 3 For the joy of hu-man love, broth-er, sis-ter, par-ent, child,  
 4 For the good that love in-spires, for a world where none ex-clude,

For the love which from our birth o-ver and a-round us lies,  
 Hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light,  
 Friends on earth, and friends a-bove, for all gen-tle thoughts and mild,  
 For a faith that nev-er tires, and for ev-ery heart re-newed,

*Refrain*

God of all, to you we raise this our hymn of grate-ful praise.

*Folliott S. Pierpoint, author of numerous hymns, penned these verses near his native city of Bath, England, on a late spring day when flowers were in full bloom and all the earth seemed to rejoice.*

Tune: DIX 7.7.7.7, with refrain  
*Conrad Kocher, 1838*  
 Adapt. *William H. Monk, 1861*

**Benediction**

Rev. Jeff Munnis

**Mutual Blessing**

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

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

Continue to serve with faith and love,  
depart from this time today committed to sharing the best of yourself,  
through extravagant generosity of time and resources,  
meeting the needs of others, both spoken and unspoken, seen and unseen, heard and unheard.

**We will go now seeking justice, sharing compassion, and promoting hope in the world.**

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**

“The Long Goodbye”

Mike Welden, piano

<b>Bloom Happenings This Week</b>						
<b>Monday</b> April 29	<b>Tuesday</b> April 30	<b>Wednesday</b> May 1	<b>Thursday</b> May 2	<b>Friday</b> May 3	<b>Saturday</b> May 4	<b>Sunday</b> May 5
<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>3:00pm</b> “Divine Love and Wisdom” in the office and on Zoom	<b>10:45am – 1:00pm</b> Lunch served at St. Paul’s Episcopal	<b>10:45am – 1:00pm</b> Lunch served at Our Lady of Solitude	<b>10:45am – 1:00pm</b> Lunch served at St. Our Lady of Guadalupe  <b>3:00pm</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, for sharing his musical talents with us today.

--Thank you to **Linda Lang, Jim Nixon, and Rich Fluechtling** as readers for today's service.

--Thank you to **JacksonENZler** for handling the A/V technical aspects for today's service.

--Thank you also to our ushers, **Carol Moore and Mike Kreiser** for welcoming us this morning.

--**Flowers on the Worship Center**, symbolic of the living Christ, are offered to the glory of God by **Loretta Martin** in honor of **Donna Lavick-Wesenberg**.

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

## Last Week's Participation

--Souls Present at Demuth: 56--Children: 0 --First Timers: 1

--- Facebook Live Views: 17 -Facebook Total Views: 65 --YouTube Views: 12

## Sunday Offerings

Tithes, Offerings, and Participation:

Offering, online, by mail and text: \$5,090 Electronic Giving: \$2,514

Permanence Fund: \$144 Cumulative: \$325,313

Eastertide Offerings: \$2,103 Cumulative: \$2,857

--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.

**Fairest Lord Jesus**, arr. by Jerry Ray, ©1992 by Alfred Publishing Co., Inc.

**Gabriel's Oboe**, by Ennio Morricone, arr. by Phillip Keveren, ©1986 by EMI Virgin Music Ltd., this arrangement ©2009 by EMI Virgin Music Ltd.

**Be Thou My Vision**, arr. by Phillip Keveren, ©2000 by Hal Leonard Corp.

**Etude #26 in Ab Major**, by Fredric Chopin, public domain

**Bamboo**, arr. by George Winston, ©2004 by Dancing Cat Music

**For the Beauty of the Earth** by Conrad Kocher, arr. by Tom Howard, ©1985 by Tom Howard Music/Marantha! Music

**The Long Goodbye**, by David Lanz, ©1996 by Nara Music, Inc.

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## Ministries of Leadership and Support

--**Open Leadership Meetings** -- At the January Open Leadership meeting, it was approved to change the time of the meetings from 6:30 pm to 2:00 pm going forward. The next hybrid meeting will be June 12 at 2:00 pm 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 May 12 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**, [dinojnps@gmail.com](mailto:dinojnps@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 Book Club**-. Will resume on Tuesday, May 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm with a new book" "**Learning to Disagree**" by John Izazu. For information or to receive the Zoom link, contact Gary Lange at 760 773-1014 or [GaryLange13@gmail.com](mailto:GaryLange13@gmail.com).

### Social Action and Missions Ministry

--**Lunch served weekdays**: 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. On Thursdays, lunch is served at Our Lady of Solitude, 474 N Belardo, Palm Springs and on Fridays at Our Lady of Guadalupe, 204 S. El Segundo, in Palm Springs. Volunteers needed each day. Contact **Jim Nixon** at [nixonsf@aol.com](mailto:nixonsf@aol.com).

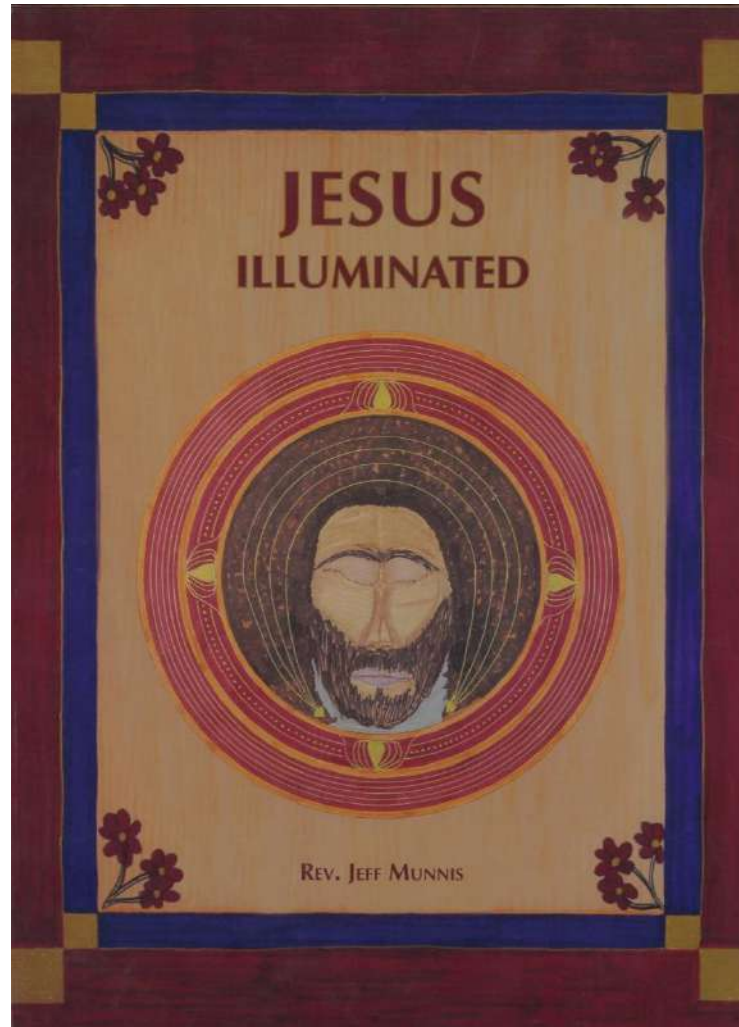
### Our focused ministries include:

- 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 **Jim Nixon** at [nixonsf@aol.com](mailto:nixonsf@aol.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.



## **“Divine Love and Wisdom”**

**Join Pastor Jeff Munnis and Dr. Stelli Munnis on Tuesdays from 3:00-4:30 pm for the 5 Tuesdays of April beginning April 2. You can attend as many sessions as you like, in person in the Bloom office, or on Zoom.**

**The gathering will be a contemplative journey of opening yourself to Divine Love and Wisdom. During the time together, attendees will sit in prayer and meditation, followed by contemplating passages from Pastor Jeff’s book, “Jesus Illuminated.”**

**Participants can purchase a hardback version of the book from Dr. Stelli at [stellimunnis@gmail.com](mailto:stellimunnis@gmail.com) or 415 747-1089. A PDF of the book is also available. Contact Gary Lange for more information at: [garylange13@gmail.com](mailto:garylange13@gmail.com)**



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# ***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**

**Rev. "Jeff" Munnis, Interim Minister — 760-483-1454 — [jeff@bloominthedesert.org](mailto:jeff@bloominthedesert.org)**

**Lynda Toland, Moderator — 503-789-8743 — [moderator@bloominthedesert.org](mailto:moderator@bloominthedesert.org)**

**Bill Wallace, Administrative Assistant — [adminassitant@bloominthedesert.org](mailto: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)**