



# Bloom in the Desert Ministries

United Church of Christ  
Palm Springs, CA

12th Sunday after Pentecost  
August 11, 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

Dr. Denis Moreen, piano

“Hymns, Part 17” arr. by Wayne Yankie

## 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

Dr. Denis Moreen, piano

“Prelude in D-flat, Op 28, No. 15” by Frédéric Chopin

## \* Call to Worship

Carl Toland

The Holy Spirit weaves us together, even the broken threads of our lives can be trimmed and woven into one useful garment.

**Now we bring our gifts; we bring now ourselves, for compassion and justice are woven here.**

Let the Spirit blend our intents and purposes as servants of peace with humility...

**...As we worship our brilliant God with unity and love.**

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

\* Opening Hymn

407

How Firm a Foundation

Isa. 43:2-5; 2 Tim. 2:19; Heb. 13:5

"K" in John Rippon's Selection of Hymns, 1787; alt.

1 How firm a foun - da - tion for you has been laid,  
 2 "Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dis - mayed,  
 3 "When through the deep wa - ters I call you to go,  
 4 "When through fi - ery tri - als your path - way shall lie,  
 5 "The soul that on Je - sus has leaned for re - pose,

by God in the Word, in the sac - ri - fice paid!  
 for I am your God, I will still give you aid;  
 the riv - ers of woe shall not o - ver you flow;  
 my grace all - suf - fi - cient shall be your sup - ply;  
 I will not, I will not de - sert to its foes;

What more can God say than to you has been said,  
 I'll strength - en you, help you, and cause you to stand  
 For I will be with you, your trou - bles to bless,  
 the flame shall not hurt you; for I have de - signed  
 That soul, though all hell should en - deav - or to shake,

to you, who for ref - uge to Je - sus have fled?  
 up - held by my gra - cious, om - ni - po - tent hand."  
 de - liv - er - ing you from your deep - est dis - tress."  
 your soul to make pure just as gold is re - fined."  
 I'll nev - er, no nev - er, no nev - er for - sake!"

In 1787, John Rippon, English Baptist clergyman, identified the author of this hymn as "K"; no one has yet verified a complete name. The pentatonic melody has been known by several names since it first appeared in Funk's Genuine Church Music (1832).

Tune: FOUNDATION 11.11.11.11.  
 Early United States melody  
 from Funk's Genuine Church Music, 1832  
 Alternate tune: ADESTE FIDELES

## In Faith We Open Our Hearts to Ministry

### Prayer for Good and Growth

Let us pray this heartfelt prayer, aware of our history and the power of good:

**Creating God, you are the universal creator of the atoms and stars: You trust us to be your collaborators, though we sometimes pilfer the secrets of ordered existence and justify their terrible use. We claim justification in “security” and “peace.”**

It is clear then, we don't weigh fully the consequences. But we know.

**Loving God, forgive and heal us. Fear and presumption cause some to justify annihilating so many lives and making huge areas of earth uninhabitable.**

Spirit God, energize our mercy. Open our eyes to see how fragile our planet is. Remind us how the destruction of any human diminishes all humanity.

**Tend the wounds opened by intentional mayhem: Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Dresden and London, Ukraine and Russia, Israel and Palestine. Mend the fabric of our human race and global condition.**

God who created the Universe, grant us wisdom and mercy sufficient to share, and move us to do so.

**We pray as followers of Jesus. 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.)

Loving creator, wonderful counselor, sovereign of peace, receive now our silent prayers.

~ Silence ~

To all our silent prayers let the people say amen.

**Amen.**

### The Words of Encouragement

God's grace ensures for us that love is the energy for empowering our lives; beginning with loving ourselves and culminating in loving service to others.

**Amen! Blessing and praise to God forever. 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. 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 provides a bass line with lyrics: lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah.

## The Word Informs Our Living with Grace and Power

### Hebrew Scripture Reading

2 Samuel 18:5-9, 15, 31-33

Carol Moore

Meanwhile, David instructed Joab, Abishai, and Ittai, “Deal gently with young Absalom for my sake.” And all the troops heard David giving the commanders orders about Absalom.

The army marched out to take the field of battle against Israel; the battle was joined in the Forest of Ephraim. The Israelites were routed there with a great loss of life—20,000 died. The rout spread throughout the countryside, and the forest claimed more lives that day than the sword. Some of David’s troops spotted Absalom fleeing on his mule. As the mule ran under the thick branches of a large oak tree, Absalom’s head was caught in its branches, while the mule ran out from under him.

Then Joab’s ten armor-bearers cut him down and delivered the fatal blows.

Then the Cushite arrived, saying, “Sovereign ruler, I have good news. For YHWH delivered you today from all who rose up against you.” David asked the Cushite, “Is young Absalom safe?”

The Cushite replied, “May all the enemies of the ruler and all rebels intent on harming you have the same fate as that young man.”

David was deeply shaken and went up to the roof chamber over the gate and wept, crying out as he wept, “My child! Absalom, my son! If only I had died instead of you! Absalom, my son, my son!”

~The Inclusive Bible Translation

## ✳️ Gospel Reading

John 6:35, 41-51

Steven Moore

Jesus explained to them, “I am the bread of life. No one who comes to me will ever be hungry; no one who believes in me will be thirsty.

The Temple authorities started to grumble in protest because Jesus claimed, “I am the bread that came down from heaven.” They kept saying, “Isn’t this Jesus, son of Mary and Joseph? Don’t we know his mother and father? How can he claim to have come down from heaven?”

“Stop your grumbling,” Jesus told them. “No one can come to me unless drawn by Abba God, who sent me— and those I will raise up on the last day. It is written in the prophets: ‘They will all be taught by God.’ Everyone who has heard God’s word and has learned from it comes to me. Not that anyone has seen Abba God—only the one who is from God has seen Abba God. The truth of the matter is those who believe have eternal life. I am the bread of life. Your ancestors ate manna in the desert, but they died. This is the bread that comes down from heaven, and if you eat it you’ll never die. I myself am the living bread come down from heaven. If any eat this bread, they will live forever; the bread I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.”

~The Inclusive Bible Translation

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

**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

**Commentary**

Rev. Jeff Munnis



# Hymn of Response

## God of Grace and God of Glory

436

Harry Emerson Fosdick, 1930; alt.

1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on your peo - ple  
2 From the e - vils that sur - round us and as - sail the  
3 Cure your chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride to  
4 Set our feet on loft - y plac - es; gird our lives that  
5 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils

pour your power; crown your an - cient church - 's sto - ry;  
Sav - ior's ways, from the fears that long have bound us—  
your con - trol. Shame our reck - less, self - ish glad - ness,  
they may be ar - mored with all Christ - like grac - es,  
we de - plore; let the search for your sal - va - tion

bring its bud to glo - rious flower. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,  
free our hearts for faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,  
rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,  
in the fight to set us free. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,  
be our glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,

for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.  
for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.  
make our bro - ken spir - its whole, make our bro - ken spir - its whole.  
in the quest for lib - er - ty, in the quest for lib - er - ty.  
serv - ing you whom we a - dore, serv - ing you whom we a - dore.

Harry Emerson Fosdick, a prophetic preacher and writer, taught at Union Theological Seminary from 1915 to 1946. This hymn was written for the opening service and dedication of Riverside Church, New York City, which he served for twenty years.

Tune: CWM RHONDDA 8.7.8.7.8.7.7.  
John Hughes, c. 1907

## 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

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.

### 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

Dr. Denis Moreen, piano

"Prelude in E minor, Op28, No.4" by Frédéric Chopin

## Presentation of Offerings and Prayer of Dedication

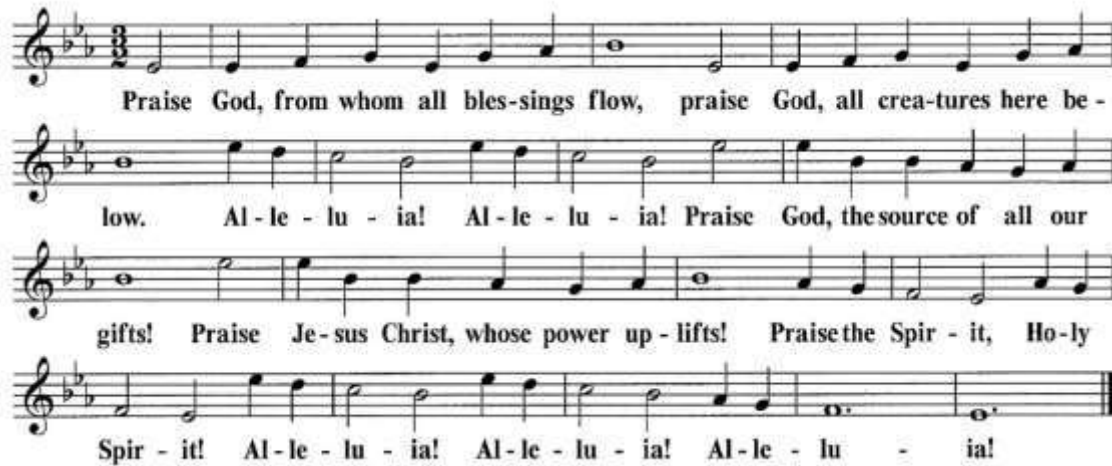
Phyllis Ramsey

Eternal God who gave us Jesus Christ, the Bread of Life, we respond to your goodness by offering ourselves as dough to be made alive by the leaven of the gospel. Knead us and mold us to fit your will for us. Flavor us with the richness of Christ's teaching. Shape us by his sacrificial love on our behalf. Infuse us with your Spirit, and send us forth to be bread for the world. Amen.

(from "When We Gather: A Book of Prayers for Worship" by James G. Kirk)

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

### \* Doxology



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!

### The Prayer of Jesus

Rev. Jeff Munnis

**Our Father, Eternal Source, Mother, Creator, and Parent, in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom, kin-dom, realm, and 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, our sins, and our 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, and dream, and power, and glory forever. Amen.**



\* Sending Hymn

# What a Friend We Have in Jesus

506

*Joseph Scriven, 1855; alt.*

*Phil. 4:6-7*

1 What a friend we have in Je - sus, all our sins and griefs to bear!  
 2 Have we tri - als and temp - ta - tions? Is there trou - ble an - y - where?  
 3 Are we weak and heav - y lad - en, bur - dened with a load of care?

What a priv - i - lege to car - ry ev - ery - thing to God in prayer!  
 We should nev - er be dis - cour - aged; take it to our God in prayer!  
 Pre - cious Sav - ior, still our ref - uge, take it to our God in prayer!

Oh, what peace we of - ten for - feit, oh, what need - less pain we bear,  
 Can we find a friend so faith - ful, who will all our sor - rows share?  
 Do your friends de - spise, for - sake you? Take it to our God in prayer!

All be - cause we do not car - ry ev - ery - thing to God in prayer.  
 Je - sus knows our ev - ery weak - ness; take it to our God in prayer!  
 Je - sus' arms will take and shield you; you will find a sol - ace there.

*No stranger to sorrow himself, Joseph Scriven wrote this hymn to comfort his mother in Ireland. Scriven, who moved to Canada as a young man, attempted to follow literally the teachings of the Sermon on the Mount.*

Tune: ERIE 8.7.8.7.D.  
 Charles C. Converse, 1868

## **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**

Dr. Denis Moreen, piano

“Prelude in A, Op.28, No.7” by Frédéric Chopin

--**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.

**The Piano Treasury of Hymns**, arr. by Wayne Yankie, ©2006 Shawnee Press

**Prelude in D-flat , Op. 28, No. 15**, by Frédéric Chopin

**Prelude in E minor, Op.28, No. 4**, by Frédéric Chopin

**Prelude in A, Op. 28, No. 7**, by Frédéric Chopin

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

## Bloom Happenings This Week

<b>Bloom Happenings This Week</b>						
Monday August 12	Tuesday August 13	Wednesday August 14	Thursday August 15	Friday August 16	Saturday August 17	Sunday August 18
<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 for our unhoused neighbors served at St. Paul’s Episcopal  <b>2:00pm</b> <b>Open Leadership Meeting</b> in the office and on Zoom  <b>7:00pm</b> <b>Hot August Night Bingo at Oscar’s</b> (opens at 5:30pm)	<b>10:45am – 1:00pm</b> Lunch served at Our Lady of Solitude	<b>10:45am – 1:00pm</b> Lunch served at Our Lady of Guadalupe		<b>10:am</b> <b>Sunday Service</b> at Demuth and on Facebook Live

## Congregational Life Announcements

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

--Thank you, **Carl Toland, Carol Moore** and **Steven Moore**, for serving as readers for today’s service.

--Thank you to **Jackson Enzler** for handling the A/V technical aspects for today’s service.

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

--Thank you to **Logan** and **Brooks** for setting up our worship space and hospitality hour.

--**Flowers on the Worship Center**, symbolic of the living Christ, are offered to the glory of God by **Mike Termini** in memory of Jack McClelland’s birthday.

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

### Last Week’s Participation

--Souls Present at Demuth: 43 --Children: 0 --First Timers: 0

--- Facebook Live Views: N/A -Facebook Total Views: 66 --YouTube Views: 27

### Sunday Offerings

Tithes, Offerings, and Participation:

Offering, online, by mail and text: \$5,223 Electronic Giving: \$4,680

Permanence Fund: \$724 Cumulative: \$337,412

Hot August Night Confirmed Reservations: 68 Goal: 75

--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).**



### **Ministries of Leadership and Support**

--**Open Leadership Meetings** -- The next hybrid meeting will be August 14 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 October 13 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**

--Book Discussion Group is on hiatus for the summer.

--Meditation Circle is on hiatus for the summer.

#### **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 – shoes, church camp, and Christmas gift cards.
- Relieving food insecurity – Lunch Mondays through Fridays, 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).

**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.

BLOOM IN THE DESERT'S  
**HOT AUGUST NIGHT**



**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 14**  
**7PM**



**\$30/PERSON**

**OSCAR'S PALM SPRINGS**  
125 E. TAHQUITZ CANYON WAY #108

**BINGO HOSTED BY DEVEN GREEN & NED DOUGLAS!**

RESERVATIONS AT [BLOOMINTHEDESERT.ORG](http://BLOOMINTHEDESERT.ORG)

- BINGO!
- RESTAURANT GIFT CARDS  
LIVE AUCTION!
- FOOD & BEVERAGE  
AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE!

**Oscar's**  
THE SCENE OF PALM SPRINGS



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



**Bloom**  
in the  
Desert  
Ministries



# 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 — 415-747-9114 — [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)