



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



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

Labor Day Weekend  
Communion Sunday  
September 1, 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**

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**

Rev. Jeff Munnis

**Music for Centering**

Joel Brown, soloist, Malcolm Swan, piano  
"Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring"

**\* Call to Worship**

Lynda Toland

We gather from separate places,  
**to join together as one.**

We gather in all our diversity,  
**to unite as beloved creations of God.**

We gather with different needs,  
**to connect in a mutual calling to love God, neighbor and self.**  
**Aloha, Shalom, Salaam, Vrede, Myr, Ping-an, Paz, Peace. Amen.**

**\* Opening Hymn**

522

**I Love to Tell the Story**

*Katherine Hankey, 1866; alt.*

1 I love to tell the sto - ry of un - seen things a - bove.  
2 I love to tell the sto - ry; more won - der - ful it seems  
3 I love to tell the sto - ry; it's pleas - ant to re - peat  
4 I love to tell the sto - ry, for those who know it best

Of Je - sus' ra - diant glo - ry, of Je - sus' end - less love,  
than all the gold - en vi - sions of all our gold - en dreams,  
what seems, each time I tell it, more won - der - ful - ly sweet.  
seem hun - ger - ing and thirst - ing to hear it, like the rest.

I love to tell the sto - ry, be - cause I know it's true;  
I love to tell the sto - ry, I tell it now to you  
I love to tell the sto - ry, for some have nev - er heard  
And when I sing in glo - ry, I know the new, new song



it sat - is - fies my long - ings as noth - ing else can do.  
 be - cause I want to share it, be - cause I know it's true.  
 the mes - sage of sal - va - tion from God's own ho - ly Word.  
 will be the old, old sto - ry that I have loved so long.

*Refrain*

I love to tell the sto - ry; and when I am in glo - ry

I'll tell the old, old sto - ry of Je - sus' end - less love.

*Born in Clapham, England, Katherine Hankey belonged to the Clapham Sect of Evangelicals and established a Bible class for girls in London's West End. This hymn is drawn from her extended poem on the life of Jesus, which also contains "Tell me the old, old story."*

Tune: HANKEY 7.6.7.6.D. with refrain  
 William G. Fischer, 1869

## In Faith We Open Our Hearts to Ministry

### Prayer for Good and Growth

In call and response, let us pray:

For hands that care for us and hearts that love us,

**we are grateful.**

For gardeners and farmers who help the earth bring forth food,

**we are grateful.**

For cleaners who care for our homes and teachers who care for our children,

**we are grateful.**

For workers who provide for us and who toil to take care of our needs,

**we are grateful.**

For civil servants and leaders who serve our communities,

**we are grateful.**

For those who labor, for those who work, for those who toil,  
**we are grateful.**

In our gratitude, we pray for their strength, their health, their well-being.  
**Help our prayers become deeds, so our gratitude bears the fruit of action,  
generosity, and justice for all.** (Mary Scifres, adapted)

**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.)

Eternal source of life and love, receive now our silent meditation and prayers.

~ Silence ~

To all our silent prayers let the people say amen.

**Amen.**

### The Words of Encouragement

Rich or poor, old or young, we share one thing in common:  
God is Creator and Lover of us all.

**Amen! 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.

Joel Brown — Originally from the area formerly know as South Central Los Angeles, Joel shares inspirational music with a fusion of opera, jazz, and gospel. His repertoire ranges from the classical to jazz and gospel. Since 2003 Joel has anchored his career and talent in the rich repertoire of both the historic and contemporary music of the African and African American cultures. As a chorister, soloist, and administrator, Joel has performed and toured extensively with the Albert McNeil Jubilee Singers. He has also accompanied (vocally) such artists as Barry Manilow, Brian Stokes Mitchell, Audra McDonald, Wayne Brady, and the Los Angeles Philharmonic Director, Gustavo Dudamel (as a chorister). On no fewer than eight tours of European concert halls as well as throughout the USA Joel continues to share his gift with the world. In 2010, Joel served as the tenor soloist in Puccini's *Messa Di Gloria* with the orchestra under the direction of Joanna Medawar Nachef.

# The Word Informs Our Living with Grace and Power

## Hebrew Scripture Reading

Psalm 45:1-2, 6-9

Rich Fluechtling

My heart is stirred with this sweet melody;  
I serenade you with my verse, my leader;  
my tongue is like the pen of a skillful writer.

Over all the earth, you are the most stately in manner,  
and the most charming of speakers,  
because God has blessed you forever.

For God has enthroned you forever and ever,  
and your royal scepter is a rod of justice.

And because you love justice and hate corruption,  
God, your God, has set you above your companions  
and anointed you with the oil of gladness.

Your robes are all fragrant with myrrh, aloes and cassia.  
Stringed instruments entertain you in ivory palaces.

Daughters of dignitaries are in your retinue,  
and at your right hand stands the queen in gold from Ophir.

~Inclusive Bible Version

## \* Gospel Reading

Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

Ray Stimson

The Pharisees and some of the religious scholars who had come from Jerusalem gathered around Jesus. They had noticed that some of the disciples were eating with unclean hands — that is, without ritually washing them. For the Pharisees, and Jewish people in general, follow the traditions of their ancestors, and never eat without washing their arms as far as the elbow. Moreover, they never eat anything from the market without first sprinkling it. There are many other traditions which have been handed down to them, such as the washing of cups and pots and dishes.

So, these Pharisees and religious scholars asked Jesus, “Why do your disciples not respect the tradition of our ancestors, but eat their food with unclean hands?”

Jesus answered, “How accurately Isaiah prophesied about you hypocrites when he wrote,

‘These people honor me with their lips,  
while their hearts are far from me.  
The worship they offer me is worthless;  
the doctrines they teach are only human precepts.’

You disregard God’s commandments and cling to human traditions.”

Jesus summoned the crowd again and said to them, “Listen to me, all of you, and try to understand. Nothing that enters us from the outside makes us impure; it is what comes out of us that makes us impure. For it is from within—from our hearts—that evil intentions emerge: promiscuity, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceit, obscenity, envy, slander, pride, foolishness. All these evils come from within and make us impure.” ~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

## 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** “If I Can Help Somebody”

Joel Brown, soloist  
Malcolm Swan, piano

**Presentation of Offerings and Prayer of Dedication**

Lynda Toland

O God, in Christ you call us to lead a life worthy of our calling. We come before you and implore you to accept our gifts. We offer our diversity, that it may be made one by your reconciling Spirit. We return to you the talents conferred by your creative goodness. We present to you our acts of obedience in response to your trust. May who we are and what we do be acceptable in your sight, through Christ our redeemer. Amen.

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 Great Thanksgiving**

God is with you.

Rev. Jeff Munnis

**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.**

**Lynda Toland:** 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*

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

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.

**Rich Fluechtling:** 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.”**

**Lynda Toland:** 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.”**

**Rich Fluechtling:** 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. Jeff Munnis

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**

“Ride on, King Jesus”

Malcolm Swan, piano  
Joel Brown, soloist

### **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, or are our debtors.**

**And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil:**

**For yours is the kingdom, Kin-dom, realm and dream, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

~Based on Matthew 6:9-13 NRSV

\* Sending Hymn

God of Grace and God of Glory

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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

**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**

Malcolm Swan, piano

“Partita No. 1”

<b>Bloom Happenings This Week</b>						
Monday Sept. 2	Tuesday Sept. 3	Wednesday Sept. 4	Thursday Sept. 5	Friday Sept. 6	Saturday Sept. 7	Sunday Sept. 8
<b>10:30am-1:00pm</b> Lunch for our unhoused neighbors, served at United Methodist  <b>Labor Day</b>	<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>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>4:00pm</b> Women of Bloom on Zoom		<b>10:am</b> Sunday Service at Demuth and on Facebook Live

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

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

# Congregational Life Announcements

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

--Thank you, **Lynda Toland**, **Rich Fluechtling**, and **Ray Stimson**, for serving 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, **Stephen Hodge** and **Ray Allen** 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 **Ray Stimson** and **Bob Patnode** in celebration of our 6<sup>th</sup> anniversary with Bloom.

--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: 0

--- Facebook Live Views: 14 -Facebook Total Views: 445 --YouTube Views: 11

## Sunday Offerings

Tithes, Offerings, and Participation:

Offering, online, by mail and text: \$1,119 Electronic Giving: \$152

Permanence Fund: \$50 Cumulative: \$338,309

--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.

**Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring**, by JS Bach, © 2022 Classicato

**If I Can Help Somebody**, by Alma Androzzo, arr. by Geo L. Zalva, © 1945 by Alam Androzzo

**Ride On, King Jesus**, African American Spiritual, arr. by Hall Johnson, © 2018 Musicnotes, Inc.

**Partita No. 1**, 1<sup>st</sup> movement, by JS Bach

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## 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:** September 10: We will meet and decide on our next book.

September 11-23 reading on your own.

September 24th Start discussing the book that we chose.

**Please feel free to invite any others inside or outside of Bloom to join us.**

**Personality Study Group Wednesdays 4:00-5:30 pm in Bloom office from September 18--October**

**16.** Introduction to the Enneagram: A Map for Spiritual Growth. Rev. Michael Schiefelbein, Instructor. The Enneagram is a psycho-spiritual system that describes the nine basic personality types and their inner connections. It traces the distinct path for each type to self-understanding, self-compassion, and the realization of its essential qualities. The course will begin with a diagnostic for participants to identify their types. We will use the book *The Wisdom of the Enneagram* by Don Riso and Russ Hudson. Participants can buy the book online or borrow a copy from Rev. Michael.

### 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 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.



**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. 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)**