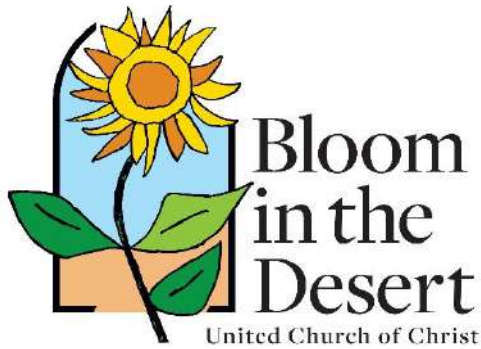




Stewardship Dedication Sunday Sunday before Transgender Day of Remembrance 11/20/24 November 17, 2024

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

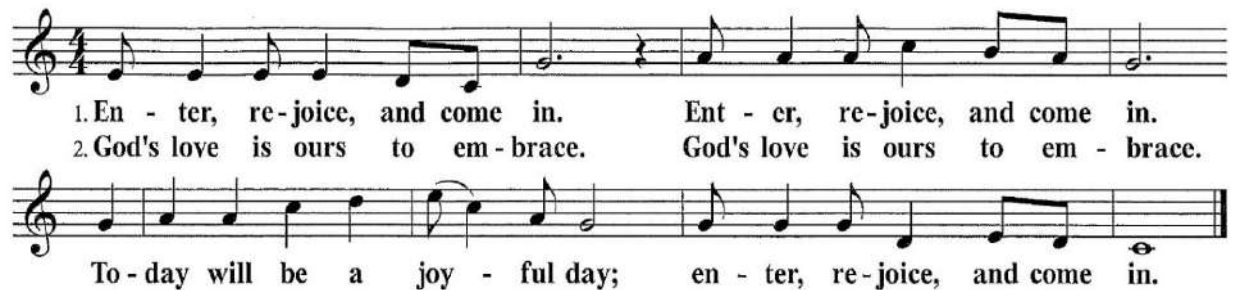
* Please rise as you are able in body and spirit.

9:50am Pre-Service Music

Doug Holder, piano

“In Christ Alone” “Jesus Loves Me” “We Gather Together” “Change My Heart, O God”

10:00am Gathering Song



Welcome and News of the Congregation

Rev. Jeff Munnis

Music for Centering

Doug Holder, piano

“You’ll Never Walk Alone”

*** Call to Worship**

Linda Lang

We are here to renew our souls with the benefits of faith, hope, and love. We gather in appreciation for what we’ve experienced and our ministries ahead.

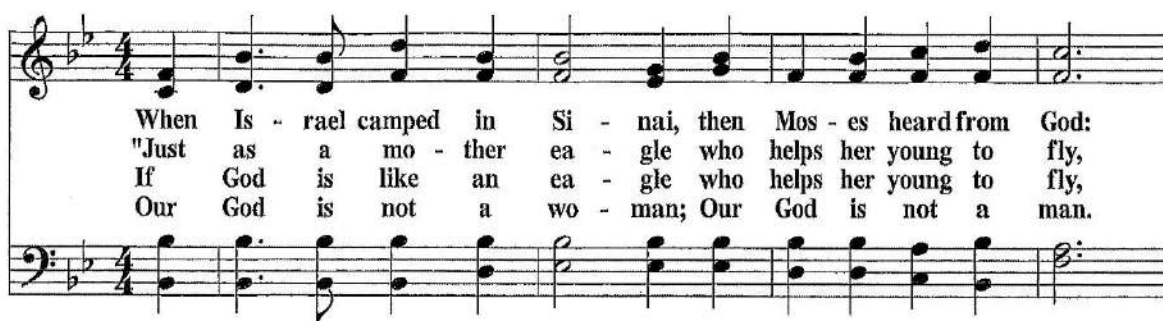
We are ready to build skills for harvesting the healthy resources that build strength for our journeys. And we are thankful.

Loving God, we come here for the living water and spiritual food that provide nourishment and security in faith. Fill us with your blessings, so we create:

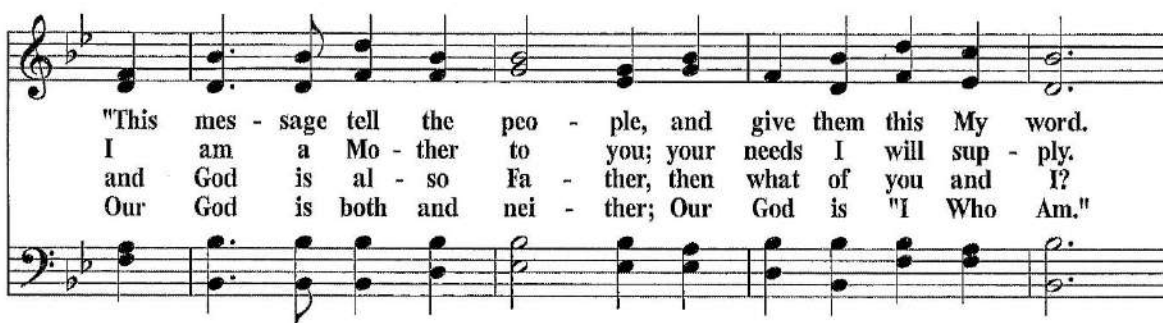
Aloha, Shalom, Salaam, Vrede, Myr, Ping-an, Paz, Peace, co-creating a just world for all. Amen.

* Opening Hymn

Our God is Like an Eagle



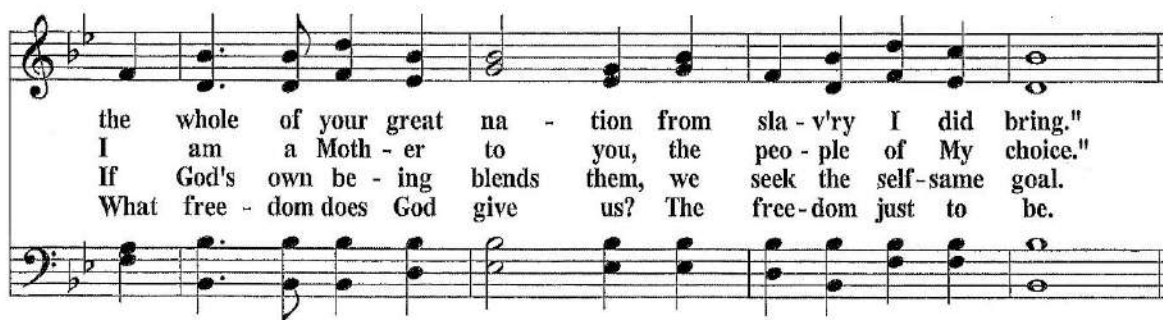
When Is - rael camped in Si - nai, then Mos - es heard from God:
 "Just as a mo - ther ea - gle who helps her young to fly,
 If God is like an ea - gle who helps her young to fly,
 Our God is not a wo - man; Our God is not a man.



"This mes - sage tell the peo - ple, and give them this My word.
 I am a Mo - ther to you; your needs I will sup - ply.
 and God is al - so Fa - ther, then what of you and I?
 Our God is both and nei - ther; Our God is "I Who Am."



From E - gypt I was with you, and car - ried on My wing; —
 And you are as My child - ren, My own who hear My voice. —
 We have no fear of la - bels. We have no fear of roles. —
 From all the roles that bind us Our God has set us free. —



the whole of your great na - tion from sla - v'ry I did bring."
 I am a Moth - er to you, the peo - ple of My choice."
 If God's own be - ing blends them, we seek the self - same goal.
 What free - dom does God give us? The free - dom just to be.

In Faith We Open Our Hearts to Ministry

Prayer for Good and Growth

On this Sunday before Transgender Day of Remembrance, we welcome God's spiritual embrace.
Together we say:

Eternal Creator of all varieties of humankind: Help us to move beyond the exclusiveness of an either/or mentality to the inclusiveness of an all-and-every way of thinking. Move us to think beyond binary definitions to welcome the mystery of your infinite creativity. As we pause to remember persons senselessly murdered because of their all-encompassing humanity, open all hearts that need to hear, all souls that need to know, all minds that need to think, and all eyes that need to see there are no limits to you nor your creation.

~Vicky Gibbs, adapted

Holy Spirit: Move us to let go of ways we confuse human gender rules with your creative intention. Help us move toward being ourselves and helping others be themselves. Move us to new life in community with all transgender and gender-nonconforming people across the world. Move us to new relationships with the people around us. Free us to cast aside the limits of stereotypes and hierarchies. Move us to create a world where Trans people are employed, valued, housed, loved, and honored.

~The Rev. Jay Wilson, 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 and converse with God. A few deep breaths may help you to settle in. Relax, and enjoy the embrace of a spiritual dimension.)

Eternal Creator of grand diversity and limitless love, receive our silent prayers.

~ Silence ~

To all our silent prayers let the people say amen.

Amen.

The Words of Encouragement

Some days are better. Some days are worse. Look for the blessing instead of the curse.
Amen! Blessing and praise to God forever. Let us now receive the Word.

Sung Response

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah!



The Word Informs Our Living with Grace and Power

Hebrew Scripture Reading

Psalm 16

Cindy Schimpf

O God, keep me safe—
you are my refuge!

I said to YHWH, “You are my God;
there is nothing good for me apart from you.”

The holy people of my land are wonderful!
My greatest pleasure is to be with them.

But those who rush after other gods
will bring many troubles to themselves.
I will not take part in their sacrifices;
I won’t even speak the names of their gods.

You, YHWH, are all that I have,
you are my food and drink.
My life is safe in your hands.

Within the boundaries you set for me
there are nothing but pleasant places!
What a delightful inheritance I have!

I praise YHWH, who guides me;
even at night my heart teaches me.

I’m always aware of your presence;
you are right by my side,
and nothing can shake me.

My heart is happy and my tongue sings for joy;
I feel completely safe with you,
because you won't abandon me to the Grave;
you won't let your loved one see decay.
You show me the path to Life;
your presence fills me with joy,
and by your side I find enduring pleasure.

~Inclusive Bible Version

Here ends the Hebrew scripture reading.

*** Gospel Reading**

Mark 13:1-8

Brian Schimpf

As Jesus was leaving the Temple, one of the disciples commented in passing, "Look, Teacher! What huge stones these are! What wonderful buildings!" Jesus replied, "See these great buildings? Not a single stone will be left on another. Everything will be torn down." As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives facing the Temple, Peter, James, John and Andrew asked privately, "Tell us when all this will happen? What will be the sign that all this is about to take place?" Jesus began by saying, "Be on your guard that no one deceives you. Many will come in my name saying, 'I am the One,' and they will deceive many. When you hear of wars and rumors of war, do not be alarmed. Things like this must happen, but the end is still to come. Nation will rise against nation and empire against empire; there will be earthquakes throughout the world and famines – yet this is only the beginning of the labor pains.

~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

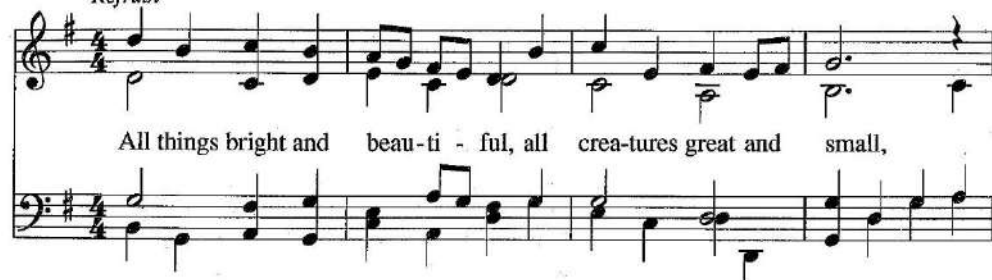
All Things Bright and Beautiful

GOD

31

Cecil F. Alexander, 1848; alt.

Unison Refrain



All things bright and beau-ti - ful, all crea-tures great and small,

Last time, end



All things wise and won - der - ful, our dear God made them all.



1 Each lit - tle flower that o - pens, each lit - tle bird that sings,
2 The pur - ple-head - ed moun-tain, the riv - er run - ning by,
3 The cold wind in the win - ter, the pleas-ant sum-mer sun,

to Refrain



God made their glow-ing col - ors, and made their ti - ny wings.
The sun - set, and the morn - ing that bright-ens up the sky.
The ripe fruits in the gar - den, God made them ev - ery one.

This hymn for children is based on the first article of the Apostles' Creed: "Maker of heaven and earth." The English hymnwriter Cecil Frances Alexander was married to William

Tune: ROYAL OAK 7.6.7.6. with refrain
English melody
Adapt. Martin Shaw 1915

Offering our Prayer Concerns, and Joys and Thanksgivings

Rev. Jeff Munnis

Concerns:

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 voice - es, our God is near, lift up your voice - 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 and click on the Donate tab. **Thank you.**



Offertory-Meditation Music "God Will Take Care Of You"

Doug Holder, piano

Presentation of Offerings, Stewardship Pledges, and Prayer of Dedication

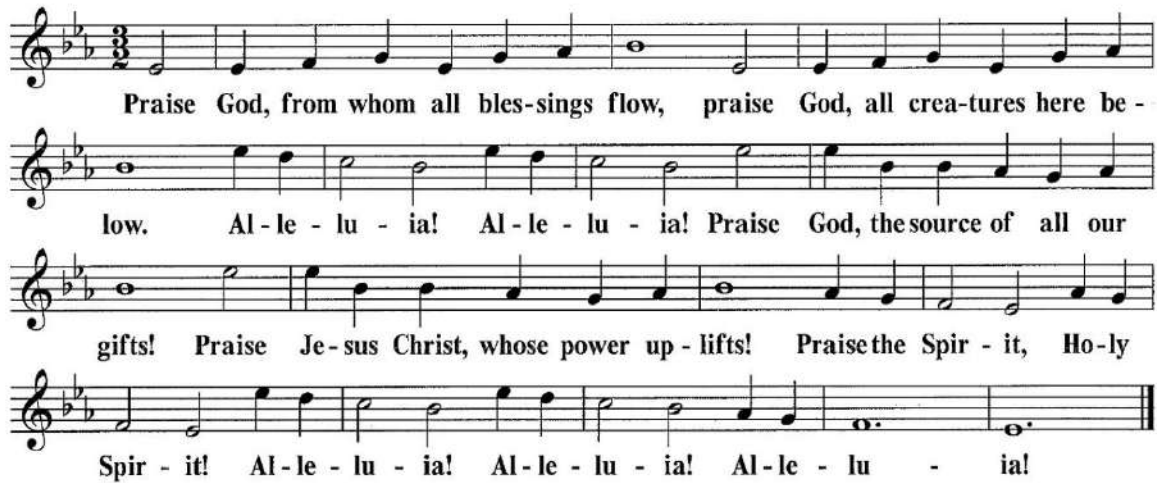
Cindy Schimpf

Ancient of Days, who sits enthroned in glory, to you all knees are bent, all voices pray; Your love has blessed the wide world's wondrous story with light and life since Eden's dawning. We come before you, O God, beholding your glory, and offer you gifts in praise to your name. May your light so shine that all creation discerns your dominion and may whatever we do bring you honor and praise. **Amen.**

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

*** Doxology**

Praise Good, From Whom All Blessings Flow



The Prayer of Jesus

Rev. Jeff Munnis

**Dear One, closer to us than our own hearts,
farther from us than the most distant star,
you are beyond naming.**

**May your powerful presence become obvious
not only in the undeniable glory of the sky,
but also in the seemingly base and common processes of the earth.**

**Give us what we need, day by day, to keep body and soul together,
because clever as you have made us,
we still owe our existence to you.**

**We recognize that to be reconciled with you,
we must live peaceably and your goodness
and our awareness of the evil in your creation,
so deliver us from the temptation to despair.**

Yours alone is the universe and all its majesty and beauty.

Amen.

~Progressive Christianity

* Sending Hymn

419

Nun danket alle Gott
(Now Thank We All Our God)

Sir. 50:20-24; 39:35; Ps. 67

Martin Rinkart, 1647; transl. Catherine Winkworth, 1858; alt.

1 Nun dank - et al - le Gott, mit Herz - en, Mund und Händ - en,
1 Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voic - es,
2 O may this boun-teous God through all our life be near us,
3 All praise and thanks to God our Mak - er now be giv - en,

der gro - sse Ding - e tut an uns und al - len End - en;
Who won - drous things has done, in whom this world re - joic - es,
With ev - er joy - ful hearts and bless - ed peace to cheer us,
To Christ, and Spir - it, too, our help in high - est heav - en,

der uns von Mut - ter - leib und Kind - es - bein - en an
Who, from our par - ents' arms, has blessed us on our way
And keep us still in grace, and guide us when per - plexed,
The one e - ter - nal God, whom earth and heaven a - dore,

un - zäh - lig viel zu gut bis hier-her hat ge - tan.
With count-less gifts of love, and still is ours to - day.
And free us from all ills in this world and the next.
For thus it was, is now, and shall be ev - er - more.

For much of his life, German Lutheran pastor and musician Martin Rinkart ministered to the walled city of Eisleben amidst the horrors of the Thirty Years' War. This hymn has become one of the most widely used hymns of the church.

Tune: NUN DANKET 6.7.6.7.6.6.6.6.
Johann Crüger, 1647
Harm. Felix Mendelssohn, 1840

Benediction

Rev. Jeff Munnis

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

“Voluntary”

Doug Holder, piano

Bloom Happenings This Week						
Monday Nov. 18	Tuesday Nov. 19	Wednesday Nov. 20	Thursday Nov. 21	Friday Nov. 22	Saturday Nov. 23	Sunday Nov. 24
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 6:00pm Book Discussion Group on Zoom	10:45am – 1:00pm Lunch for our unhoused neighbors served at St. Paul's Episcopal 4:00pm BibleBites on Zoom	10:45am – 1:00pm Lunch served at Our Lady of Solitude	10:45am – 1:00pm Lunch served at Our Lady of Guadalupe 4:00pm Women of Bloom on Zoom		10:am Sunday Service at Demuth and on Facebook Live Veterans Sunday Communion Sunday

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 **Doug Holder** piano, for sharing their musical talents with us today.

--Thank you, **Linda Lang, Cindy Schimpf** and **Brian Schimpf**, 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, **Jim Nixon** and **Pamela Robinson** for welcoming us this morning.

--Thank you to **Logan** 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 **Ron Lang**.

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

Last Week's Participation

--Souls Present at Demuth: 57 --Children: 0 --First Timers: 1

--- Facebook Live Views: 16 --Facebook Total Views: 180 --YouTube Views: N/A

Sunday Offerings

Tithes, Offerings, and Participation:

Offering, online, by mail and text: \$3,575 Electronic Giving: \$756

Permanence Fund: \$340 Cumulative: \$341,116

Yard Sale: \$443 Election Night Party: \$510

--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.



--**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 Christ Alone, Townend and Getty

Jesus Loves Me, Bradbury

We Gather Together, Netherlands Folk Song

Change My Heart, O God, Espinosa

You'll Never Walk Alone, Rogers and Hammerstein

God Will Take Care of You, Martin

Voluntary, Stanley

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Ministries of Leadership and Support

--**Open Council Meetings** -- The next hybrid meeting will be December 11 at 2:00 pm PDT in the church office and on Zoom. All are welcome with a voice. Only 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**, dinoinps@gmail.com or **Bill Wallace** at adminassistant@bloominthedesert.org.

--For more information on the United Church of Christ, visit www.ucc.org.

--Persons seeking Christian Baptism please call 760-327-3802 for pastoral response.

Nurture and Community Life Ministry

--We Care: If you know of someone in the hospital, or who might enjoy a pastoral call, including yourself, please call the church office at 760 327-3802 and leave a message.

Education Ministry

Book Discussion Group: The group is now reading and discussing *Abundant Lives, A Progressive Christian Ethic for Flourishing*, 2024 by Amanda Udis-Kessler.

Tuesdays at 6:00 pm, please read through Chapter 7 and the Chapter 7 review.

Feel free to invite others to the Book Club.



Rev. Jeff Munnis invites Bloomers and friends to a new BibleBites study **Wednesdays** at 4:00 pm on Zoom. Rev. Jeff asks you to bring one or more Bible passages that give you the most problems.

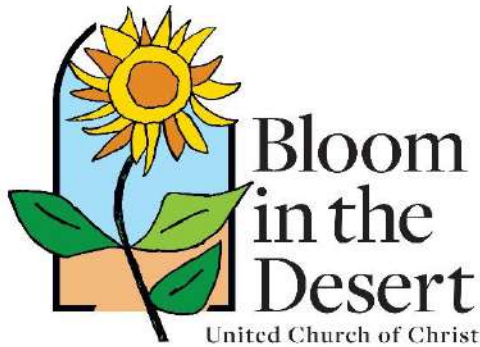
Social Action and Missions Ministry

--**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.

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.

You are welcome to take this bulletin with you for reflection,
or leave it with the ushers for recycling.



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

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

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