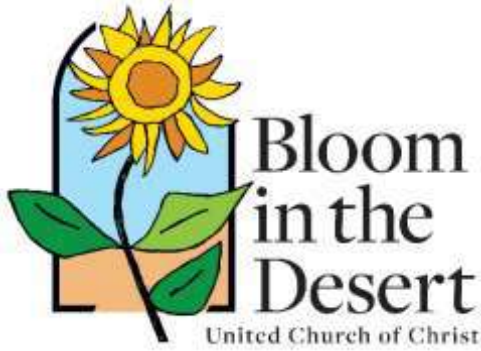




Celebrating Black History Month

Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

February 9, 2025

For Facebook check-ins, etc., the Demuth Community Center
Wi-Fi is: DCC_guest_WIFI, password is: LikeNoPlaceElse!!

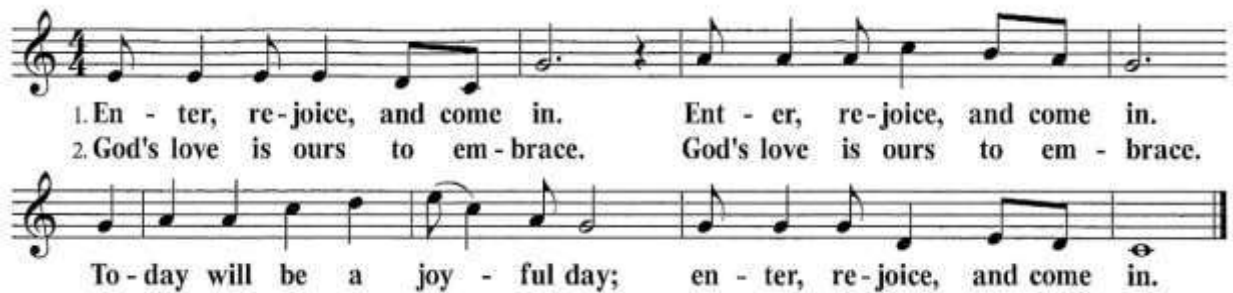
* Please rise as you are able in body and spirit.

During today's service, in recognition of Black History Month, Dr. Moreen will play keyboard works written by African American composers.

9:50am Pre-Service Music

Dr. Denis Moreen, piano

"From the Southland" by H.T. Burleigh (1914)
(First black composer developing characteristically American music.)



Welcome and News of the Congregation

Rev. Jeff Munnis

Music for Centering

Dr. Denis Moreen, piano

"Come Sunday" by Duke Ellington (1943)
(Major black jazz pianist, composer and conductor)

Call to Worship

Linda Lang

How are you doing this morning?

It's easy for us to say, "fine, thank you," but the truth is that there are lots of things going on in our lives: crunches and pressures.

Well, you've come to the right place. Rest for a moment. Take a deep breath and let it out slowly. Just relax and let your heart open to God's word for you.

That sounds good to us.

Feel the healing, soothing power of God's love for you.

We rest our minds, spirits, and hearts in compassionate love.

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

* Opening Hymn

678

Rise to Greet the Sun

1. Rise to greet the sun, red-dening in the sky,
 2. Fa-ther, I im-plore, safe-ly keep this child;
 3. May this day be blest; trust-ing Je-sus' love,

war-rior-like and strong, come-ly as a groom;
 make my con-duct good, ac-tions calm and mild;
 my heart's freed from ill; fair blue sky's a - bove.

birds pass high in flight, fra-grant flowers now bloom;
 ven-er-at-ing age, hum-bly teach-ing youth,
 Glad for cot-ton coat, plain food sat-is-fies;

WORDS: Tzu-ch'en, Chao, 1931; trans. by Mildred A. Wiant and Bliss Wiant, 1946
 MUSIC: Hu Te-ai; arr. by Bliss Wiant, 1936

LE P'ING
 55.55D

Trans. 1963 © Bliss Wiant

with the gra-cious light I my toil re - sume.
 al - ways serv - ing thee, shar - ing thy rich truth.
 all my count-less needs thy kind hand sup - plies.

In Faith We Open Our Hearts to Ministry

Prayer for Good and Growth

Let us pray this heartfelt prayer, aware of its purpose for transformation:

Gracious God, Eternal source of Spirit and Creation, in Christ Jesus you call us to unity of mind and purpose. Even when our minds and hearts are drawn to separation and division, your call for mutual justice and compassion remains primary. To live faithfully, we pray for wisdom and strength to put aside harmful rivalries. To make steady progress, we reach into our hearts and minds for reminders to love and memories of benevolent community. For the sake of many who need our generosity, help us exemplify that we are one body as Christ in the world. For assurance of self-purpose, teach us to trust your promise in Christ. Embrace our spirits so we are united and strong enough to proclaim with one voice the benevolent and beautiful outcomes of doing ministry in your name.

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. Relax, and enjoy the embrace of a spiritual dimension.)

Eternal Source of creative life and love, receive now our silent prayers.

~ Silence ~

To all our silent prayers let the people say amen.

Amen.

Words of Encouragement

Faithful God of Justice, our rock and our fortress: in an age when slander is mistaken for wisdom, pride masquerades as strength, and perjury defies truth, show us the way of integrity and faith. Give us courage to oppose all oppression in our land, so that today and every day we may sing your praise with upright and loving hearts.

Amen! Blessing and praise to God forever.

Sung Response

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah!



The Word Informs Our Living with Grace and Power

Hebrew Scripture Reading

Isaiah 6:1-8

Charles Phelps-Ramos

In the year of the death of Uzziah, ruler of Judah, I saw YHWH seated on a high and lofty judgement seat, in a robe whose train filled the Temple. Seraphs were stationed above; each of them had six wings: with two they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew.

They would cry out to one another, “Holy! Holy! Holy! Is YHWH Omnipotent! All the earth is filled with God’s glory!” The doorposts and thresholds quaked at the sound of their shouting, and the Temple kept filling with smoke.

Then I said, “Woe is me; I am doomed! I have unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips! And my eyes have seen the Ruler, YHWH Omnipotent!”

Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding an ember which it had taken with tongs from the altar. The seraph touched my mouth with the ember. “See,” it said, “now that this has touched your lips, your corruption is removed, and your sin is pardoned.”

Then I heard the voice of the Holy One saying, “Whom shall I send? Who will go for us?”

“Here I am,” I said, “send me.

~Inclusive Bible Version

Here ends the Hebrew scripture reading.

“Here I am,” I said, “
send me!”

* Gospel

Luke 5:1-11

Bill Phelps-Ramos

One day, Jesus was standing by Lake Gennesaret, and the crowd pressed in on him to hear the word of God. He saw two boats moored by the side of the lake; the fishers had disembarked and were washing their nets. Jesus stepped into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to pull out a short distance from the shore; then, remaining seated, he continued to teach the crowds from the boat.



When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, “Pull out into deep water and lower your nets for a catch.”

Simon answered, “Rabbi, we’ve been working hard all night long and have caught nothing; but if you say so, I’ll lower the nets.”

Upon doing so, they caught such a great number of fish that their nets were at the breaking point. They signaled to their mates in the other boat to come and help them, and together they filled the two boats until they both nearly sank.

After Simon saw what happened, he was filled with awe and fell down before Jesus, saying, “Leave me, Rabbi, for I’m a sinner.” For Simon and his shipmates were astonished at the size of the catch they had made, as were James and John, Zebedee’s sons, who were Simon’s partners.

Jesus said to Simon, “Don’t be afraid; from now on you’ll fish among humankind.” And when they brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him. ~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

394

In Christ There Is No East or West

1 Cor. 12:13; Gal. 3:28; Eph. 2:14-22

John Oxenham, 1908; alt.
St. 3, Laurence Hull Stookey, 1987

1 In Christ there is no East or West, in Christ no South or North;
2 In Christ shall true hearts ev-ery-where their high com-mu-nion find;
3 In Christ is nei-ther Jew nor Greek, and nei-ther slave nor free;
4 In Christ now meet both East and West, in Christ meet South and North;
But one com-mu-ni-ty of love through-out the whole wide earth.
God's ser-vice is the gold-en cord close-bind-ing hu-man-kind.
For men and wom-en live in God, and all are kin to me.
One joy-ous, true com-mu-ni-ty through-out the whole wide earth.

Singer and composer Harry T. Burleigh studied at the National Conservatory of Music from 1892 to 1896. He is recognized as the first African-American composer to employ spirituals in concert arrangements. This tune is named after the rector of St. George's Episcopal Church in New York City, where Burleigh served as baritone soloist for more than fifty years.

Tune: McKEE C.M.
African-American melody
Arr. Harry T. Burleigh, 1939
Alternate setting: ST. PETER

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.

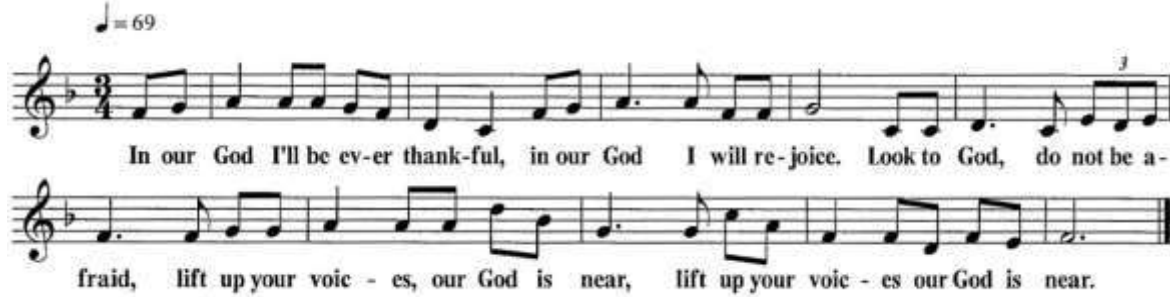
Joys and Thanksgivings:

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



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

Dr. Denis Moreen, piano

"Solace" by Scott Joplin (1909)
(Major black ragtime pianist and conductor.)

Presentation of Offerings, and Prayer of Dedication

Linda Lang

Holiest of all, you call us to witness your divine splendor; you touch our lips, and with our voices we praise you. You are uplifted, yet you stoop to hear us, cleansing our guilt and forgiving our sin. We are here in response to your calling; we offer our gifts of time, talents, and treasure. Send us forth as your witnesses; so that all may know you and give you glory.

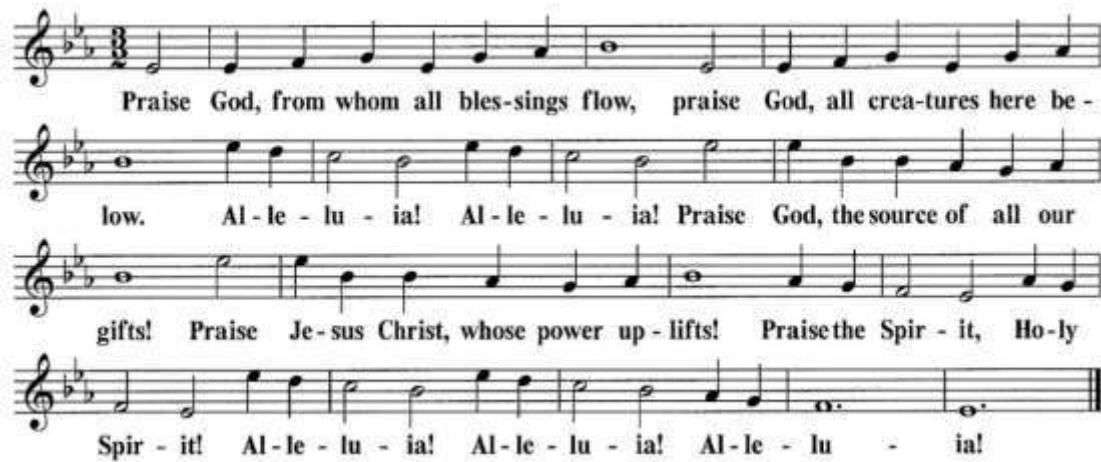
Amen.

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

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

*** Doxology**

Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow



The Prayer of Jesus

Rev. Jeff Munnis

Our Father, our Eternal Source, our Mother, our Creator, and our Parent in heaven, hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom, your Kin-dom, your realm, and your 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, the Kin-dom, the realm, the dream, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

~Matthew 6:9-13, RSV, adapted

* Sending Hymn

O for a World

575

Miriam Therese Winter, 1987

Acts 4:32-35; 1 Cor. 1:26-31; 1 Pet. 3:8-12

1 O for a world where ev - ery-one re - spects each oth - er's ways,
 2 O for a world where goods are shared and mis - er - y re - lieved,
 3 We wel - come one world fam - i - ly and strug - gle with each choice
 4 The poor are rich, the weak are strong, the fool - ish ones are wise.
 5 O for a world pre - par - ing for God's glo - rious reign of peace,
 Where love is lived and all is done with jus - tice and with praise.
 Where truth is spo - ken, chil - dren spared, e - qual - i - ty a - chieved.
 That o - pens us to u - ni - ty and gives our vi - sion voice.
 Tell all who mourn: out - casts be - long, who per - ish - es will rise.
 Where time and tears will be no more, and all but love will cease.

Inspired by Charles Wesley's phrase "O for a thousand tongues" and the familiar tune Azmon, Miriam Therese Winter wrote this hymn envisioning a new world order for the Presbyterian Women's Triennial Conference in 1982. It was later recrafted and recorded by the Medical Mission Sisters.

Tune: AZMON C.M.
 Carl G. Glitsner, 1828

Adapt. Lowell Mason in Modern Psalmody, 1839

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 our God.

"Through our scientific and technological genius, we have made of this world a neighborhood and yet we have not had the ethical commitment to make of it a (sisterhood and) brotherhood. But somehow, and in some way, we have got to do this. We must all learn to live together as brothers, or we will all perish together as fools. We are tied together in the single garment of destiny, caught in an inescapable network of mutuality. And whatever affects one directly affects all indirectly."

~Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., penultimate sermon, March 31, 1968,
 at the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C., adapted

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

“Victoria Gallop” by Francis Johnson (1839)

(First published black composer and first conductor in racially integrated performances.)

Congregational Life Announcements

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

--Thank you, **Linda Lang**, **Charles Phelps-Ramos** and **Bill Phelps-Ramos** 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, **Bob Patnode** and **Charlotte Clement** 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**, are provided by grateful Bloomers in honor of Lynda Toland and with gratitude for her leadership.

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

Last Sunday's Participation

--Souls Present at Demuth: 64 --Children: 0 --First Timers: 0

--- Facebook Live Views: 11 --Facebook Total Views: 266 --YouTube Views: N/A

Sunday Offerings

Tithes, Offerings, and Participation:

Offering, online, by mail and text: \$8,722 Electronic Giving: \$3,875

Permanence Fund: \$959 Cumulative: \$344,680

Fire Disaster: \$0 Cumulative \$550

Spring Fling Reservations: 115 Goal: 180

--Please sign up for **Ralph's Community Rewards**. Choose Bloom in the Desert UCC (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.

From the Southland, by H.T. Burleigh © 1914 by Theo Presser Co.

Come Sunday, by Duke Ellington, © 1946 G. Schirmer, Inc.

Solace, by Scott Joplin, © 1909 by Seminary Music Co.

Victoria Gallop, Francis Johnson, public domain

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Ministries of Leadership and Support

--**Open Council Meetings** -- The next hybrid meeting will be March 12 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 May 11 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.

--For a prayer, please contact Brian Schimpf at prayer@bloominthedesert.org to be put on the prayer list"

Education Ministry

--The Bloom Book Club is discussing the book "Living Untethered, Beyond the Human Predicament" by Michael Singer and meets Tuesdays at 6:00 pm on Zoom:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85641302971?pwd=OKJBWngGovZg88uTgFDA88bAQQC7kU.1>

For more information: Gary Lange at GaryLange13@gmail.com

--BibleBites with Rev. Jeff resumes on Wednesday, January 15 at 4:00 pm on Zoom.

For more information, contact Gary Lange at 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.

Our focused ministries include:

--School children's benevolence -- "Shoes for Students", 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.**

Bloom Happenings This Week						
Monday Feb. 10	Tuesday Feb. 11	Wednesday Feb. 12	Thursday Feb. 13	Friday Feb. 14	Saturday Feb. 15	Sunday Feb. 16
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 Bloom Book Club 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

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

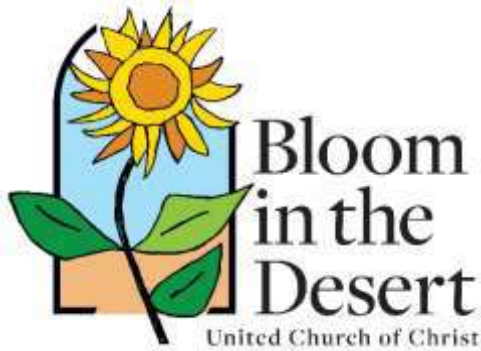
Bathrooms are located through the double glass doors and to the left.

The Bloom Book Club is discussing the book "Living Untethered, Beyond the Human Predicament" by Michael Singer. It meets on Tuesdays, at 6:00 pm on Zoom.

BibleBites with Rev. Jeff on Wednesdays, at 4:00 pm on Zoom.

Congregation Meeting

Today
following the service.



Welcome

Bloom in the Desert (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 Council 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