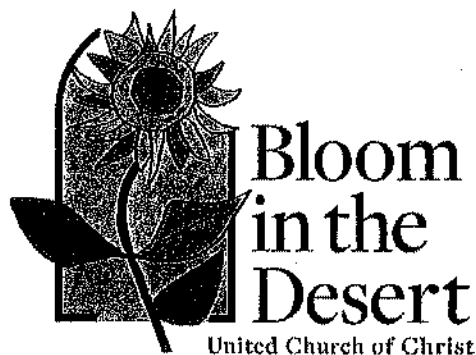




Celebrating Black History Month

Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany

February 23, 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.

9:50am Pre-Service Music

Mike Welden, piano

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

Victoria Jiminez, soloist, Mike Welden, piano

"Rises the Moon"

Call to Worship

Megan Cassette

Sisters and brothers; we are gathered here to celebrate the presence of the Divine Wisdom and Love among us;

We rise in body and mind to lift our hearts; lift our eyes, and lift our voices.

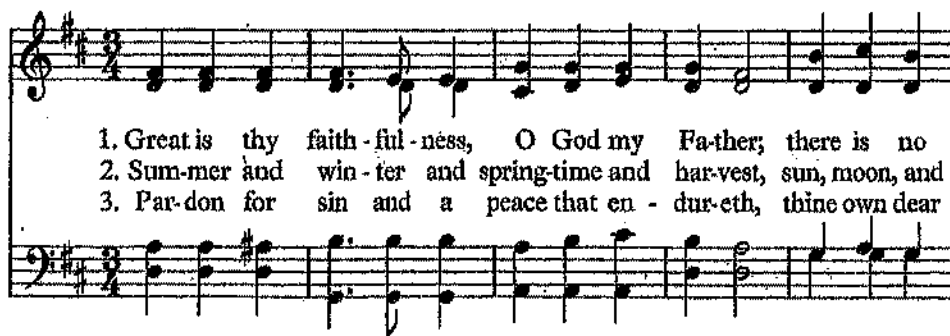
The living and moving Spirit of God calls us together to witness, to struggle, and to celebrate. We are encouraged to open our hearts and minds, to reach into ourselves and out to each other. This is how God reaches us.

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

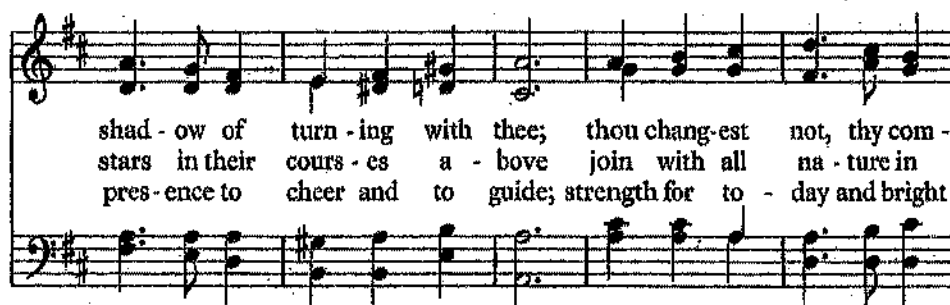
* Opening Hymn

140

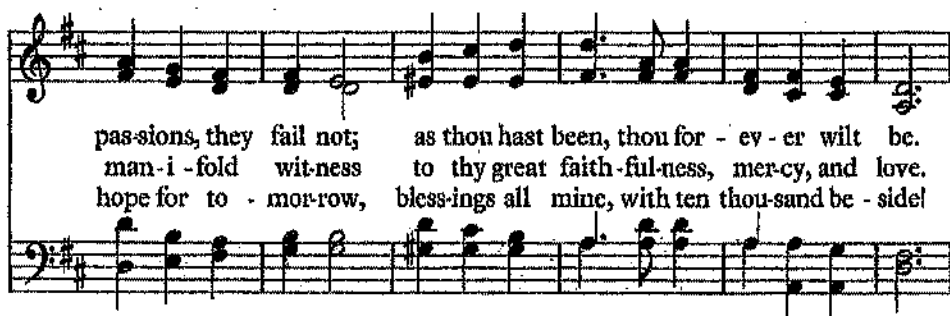
Great Is Thy Faithfulness



1. Great is thy faith-ful-ness, O God my Fa-ther; there is no
 2. Sum-mer and win-ter and spring-time and har-vest, sun, moon, and
 3. Par-don for sin and a peace that en - dur-eth, thine own dear

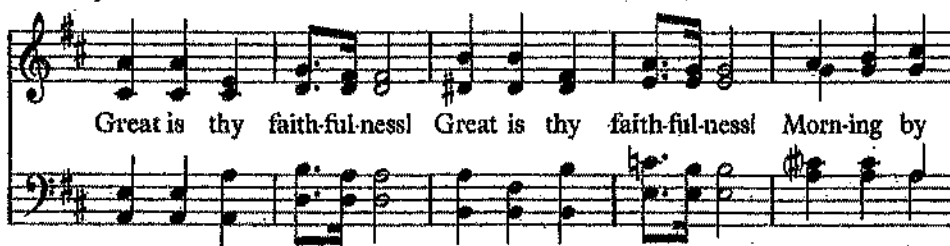


shad - ow of turn - ing with thee; thou chang-est not, thy com -
 stars in their cours - es a - bove join with all na - ture in
 pres-ence to cheer and to guide; strength for to - day and bright



pas-sions, they fail not; as thou hast been, thou for - ev - er wilt be.
 man-i - fold wit-ness to thy great faith-ful-ness, mer-cy, and love.
 hope for to - mor-row, bless-ings all mine, with ten thou-sand be - side!

Refrain



Great is thy faith-ful-ness! Great is thy faith-ful-ness! Morn-ing by

WORDS: Thomas O. Chisholm, 1923 (Lam. 3:22-23)

MUSIC: William M. Runyan, 1923

© 1923, renewed 1951 Hope Publishing Co.

FAITHFULNESS

11 10.11 10 with Refrain



In Faith We Open Our Hearts to Ministry

Prayer for Good and Growth

Now is a time to accept the embrace of God found in openness and reconciliation: **God of love and justice, we hope for peace within and peace without. We hope for harmony in our families, for serenity during struggle, and for commitment to each other's healing and growth. We hope for the day when all homes are dwelling places of your love. Still, we confess that we are sometimes anxious. Now and then, we fail to trust each other, and, for some reason, we choose violence. Help us be willing to take the risks and make the hard choices that love requires. Enable us to convey your kindness and grace. Guide our actions in our homes and in the world; show us how to walk your pathways, through the grace, mercy, and justice as Jesus taught and delivered. Amen.**

(Ruth Duck, 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. A few deep breaths may help make the connection. Relax, and embrace a spiritual dimension.)

Loving creator of all, wonderful counselor for everyone, sovereign of peace, receive now our sincere and silent prayers.

~ Silence ~

To all our silent prayers let the people say amen.

Amen.

Words of Encouragement

Dear Creator, You, the borderless sea of substance, we ask you to give to all the world that which we need most – Peace. (Maya Angelou)

Thanks be to God. Let us now receive the Word.

Sung Response

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah!



The Word Informs Our Living with Grace and Power

Hebrew Scripture Reading

Genesis 45:3-11, 15

Dewey Roach

Joseph said to his brothers, "It is I—Joseph! Is my father really still alive?" The brothers could not answer, so dumfounded were they.

Then Joseph said to the brothers, "Come closer to me." When they had come closer, he said to them, "I am your brother Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt! Please don't rebuke yourselves for having sold me here. God sent me here ahead of you so that I could save your lives. There has been famine in the land for two years, and for the next five years there will be no tilling and no harvesting. But God sent me ahead of you to guarantee that you will have descendants on earth and to keep you alive as a great body of survivors.

"So, it was not you who sent me here, but God! God has made me Pharaoh's chief counselor, the head of his household and governor of all Egypt. Hurry back to our father and give him this message from Joseph: 'God has made me governor of all of Egypt. Come to me here at once! Do not delay. You will live here near me in the territory of Goshen. You will live here near me in the territory of Goshen, you, your children, your grandchildren, your flocks and herds, and all your possessions. I will provide for you here—for the next five years will be years of famine—so that you and your children and all that you own will be spared from destitution.'

Then he kissed his other brothers, weeping over them as well, and then he and his brothers talked. (Inclusive Bible Version)

Here ends the Hebrew Scripture Reading.

Gospel Reading

Luke 6:27-38

Gerald Chester

"To you who hear me, I say; love your enemies. Do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, and pray for those who mistreat you. When they slap you on one cheek, turn and give them the other; when they take your coat, let them have your shirt as well. Give to all who beg from you. When someone takes what is yours, don't demand it back.

"Do to others what you would have them do to you. If you love those who love you, What credit does that do you? Even 'sinners' love those who love them. If you do good only to those who do good to you, what credit does that do you? Even 'sinners' do as much. If you lend to those you expect to repay you, what credit does that do you? Even 'sinners lend to other 'sinners,' expecting to be repaid in full. Love your enemies and do good to them. Lend without expecting repayment, and your reward will be great. You'll rightly be called children of the Most High, since God is good even to the ungrateful and the wicked.

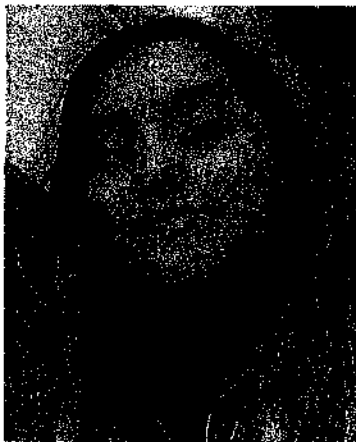
"Be compassionate, as your loving God is compassionate. Don't judge, and you won't be judged. Don't condemn, and you won't be condemned. Pardon, and you'll be pardoned. Give, and it will be given to you—packed down, shaken together and running over—will be poured into your lap. For the amount you measure out is the amount you'll be given back. (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



Victoria Jimenez is a local born and raised singer who since birth has always had a passion for all things music. From singing children's songs as early as she was able to form words to taking professional lessons with experienced musicians, singing was a passion no matter what period of life she was in. With a unique voice that blends a wide vocal range with contemporary elements, Victoria has performed in a variety of settings including live concerts, theater productions, and even weddings. Happy to be given the chance to share her voice with all of you, Victoria always strives to bring a professional yet personable approach to every performance, ensuring a pleasant experience for any occasion.

Hymn of Response

(sing twice)

507

Through It All

Through it all, through it all,

The first system of musical notation for the hymn. It consists of a treble and bass staff in 4/4 time, with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The melody is in the treble staff, and the bass staff provides harmonic support. The lyrics 'Through it all, through it all,' are written below the treble staff.

I've learned to trust in Je-sus, I've learned to trust in God;

The second system of musical notation. The melody continues in the treble staff, and the bass staff provides harmonic support. The lyrics 'I've learned to trust in Je-sus, I've learned to trust in God;' are written below the treble staff.

through it all, through it all,

The third system of musical notation. The melody continues in the treble staff, and the bass staff provides harmonic support. The lyrics 'through it all, through it all,' are written below the treble staff.

I've learned to de - pend up-on God's word.

The fourth system of musical notation, which concludes the hymn. The melody ends with a double bar line in the treble staff, and the bass staff provides harmonic support. The lyrics 'I've learned to de - pend up-on God's word.' are written below the treble staff.

WORDS: André Crouch, 1971
MUSIC: André Crouch, 1971

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THROUGH IT ALL
lit.

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



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

Victoria Jiminez, soloist, Mike Welden, piano

"True Kinda Love"

Presentation of Offerings, and Prayer of Dedication

Megan Cassette

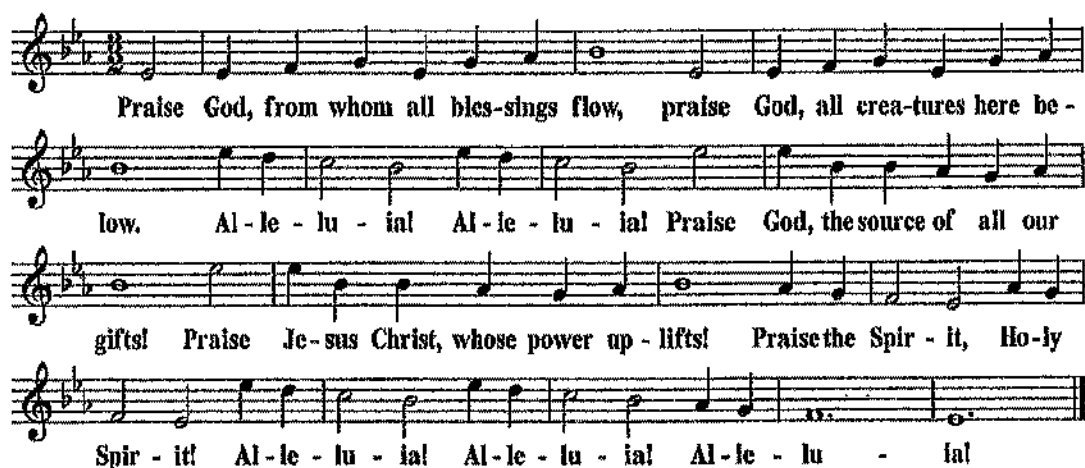
O God, who in Christ taught us how to be faithful, we respond to his instruction, trusting your favor. Through the offerings we give you, may our actions contribute to the well-being of others. Surprise the offender with our peaceful solutions and startle the beggar by our willing response. For then we shall love neighbors as Christ called us to do.

(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

557 Blest Be the Tie That Binds

1. Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in
 2. Be - fore our Fa - ther's throne we pour our
 3. We share each oth - er's woes, our mu - tual
 4. When we a - sun - der part, it gives us

Chris - tian love; the fel - low - ship of
 ar - dent prayers; our fears, our hopes, our
 bur - dens bear; and of - ten for each
 in - ward pain; but we shall still be.

kin - dred minds is like to that a - bove.
 aims are one, our coin - forts and our cares.
 oth - er flows the sym - pa - thiz - ing tear.
 joined in heart, and hope to meet a - gain.

WORDS: John Pawcett, 1782

MUSIC: Johann G. Nägeli; arr. by Lowell Mason, 1845

DENNIS
SM

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.

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?

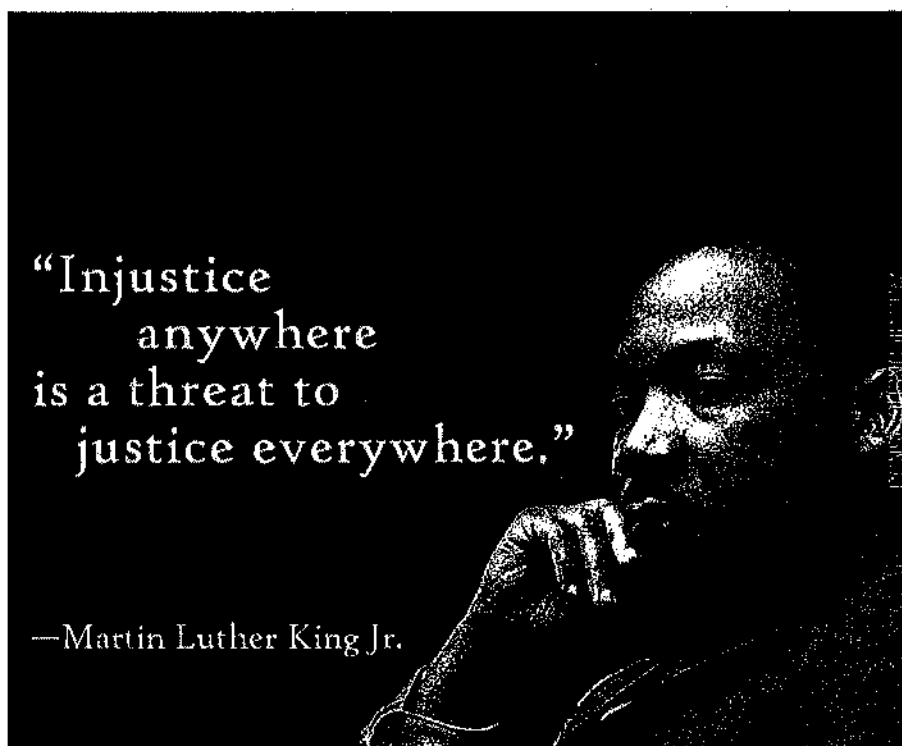
We will. Amen!

Passing of the Peace

Let us safely offer one another signs of grace and peace and go in peace. Amen.

Postlude

Mike Welden, piano



Congregational Life Announcements

--A warm welcome and thank you to **Victoria Jiminez**, soloist, and **Mike Welden**, piano, for sharing their musical talents with us today.

--Thank you, **Megan Cassette**, **Dewey Roach** and **Gerald Chester** 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, **Mike Kreiser** and **Charlie Phelps-Ramos** 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 **Randy Zeese** in appreciation for all who support Bloom and its ministries.

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

Last Sunday's Participation

--Souls Present at Demuth: 61 --Children: 0 --First Timers: 2

--- Facebook Live Views: 9 --Facebook Total Views: 130 --YouTube Views: N/A

Sunday Offerings

Tithes, Offerings, and Participation:

Offering online, by mail and text: \$215 Electronic Giving: \$1,852

Permanence Fund: \$0 Cumulative: \$345,020

Spring Fling Reservations: 132 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.

Rises the Moon, by Liana Flores, arr. by Noah Weinrich

True Kinda Love, by Rebecca Sugar, Estelle, et al., arr. by Cutest Link

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

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.

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

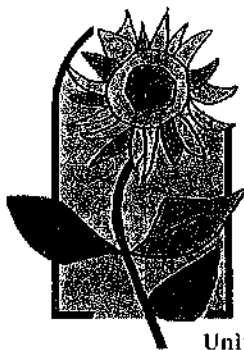
Monday Jan. 27	Tuesday Jan. 28	Wednesday Jan. 29	Thursday Jan. 30	Friday Jan. 31	Saturday Feb. 1	Sunday Feb. 2
10:30am-1:00pm Lunch for our unhoused neighbors, served at United Methodist	10:30am-1:00pm Lunch for our unhoused neighbors, served at United Methodist 6:00pm Bloom Book Club on Zoom	10:45am -- 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 resumes on Wednesday, January 15 at 4:00 pm on Zoom.



Bloom in the Desert

United Church of Christ

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