



Celebrating Women's History Month

First Sunday in Lent

March 9, 2025

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

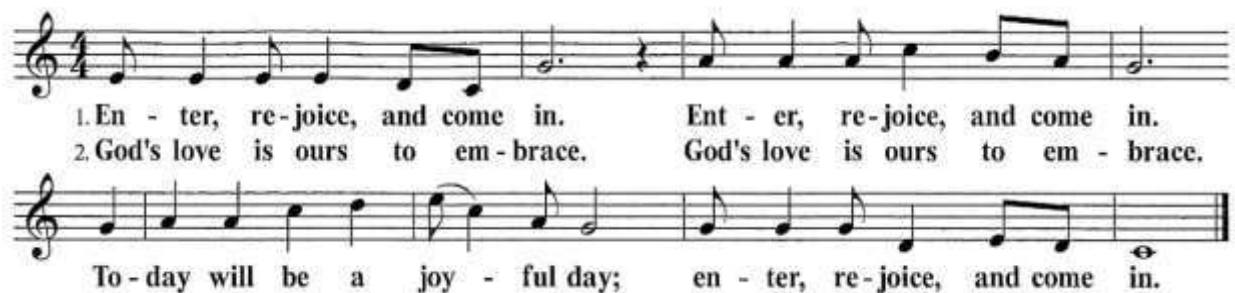
* Please rise as you are able in body and spirit.

During today's service, in recognition of Women's History Month, Dr. Moreen will play piano works written by women composers.

9:50am Pre-Service Music

Dr. Denis Moreen, piano

"Classic Hymns in Classical Styles" by Cindy Berry (1988)



Welcome and News of the Congregation

Rev. Jeff Munnis

Music for Centering

Dr. Denis Moreen, piano

"Prelude in D Minor" by Clara Schumann (1845)

Call to Worship

Megan Cassette

We are in the presence of the living, compassionate God. We remember God made us in the image of goodness. We are the reflection of our Creators.

Sustain us, then, with the blessings of our sisters as much as brothers, and non-binary siblings. Ground us with friends; bless us with desire to seek truth.

That's how we can help our communities find healing. We are encouraged to bless one another, comfort each other, showing love in all ways.

Empower us to make this reunion a time of renewal as well.

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

* Opening Hymn

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty 139

1. Praise to the Lord, the Al - might-y, the King of cre - a -
 2. Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so won-drous-ly reign -
 3. Praise to the Lord, who doth pros-per thy work and de - fend
 4. Praise to the Lord, who doth nour-ish thy life and re - store
 5. Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me a - dore

tion! O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and sal -
 ing bears thee on ea - gle's wings, e'er in his keep-ing main -
 thee; sure - ly his good-ness and mer-cy here dai - ly at -
 thee, fit - ting thee well for the tasks that are ev - er be -
 him! All that hath life and breath, come now with prais-es be -

va tion! All ye who hear, now to his tem-ple draw
 tain - ing. God's care en - folds all, whose true good he up -
 tend thee. Pon-der a - new what the Al - might-y can
 fore thee. Then to thy need God as a moth-er doth
 fore him! Let the a - men sound from his peo - ple a -

near; join me in glad ad - o - ra tion!
 holds. Hast thou not known his sus - tain ing?
 do, who with his love doth be - friend thee.
 speed, spread-ing the wings of grace o'er thee.
 gain; glad - ly for - ev - er a - dore him.

WORDS: Joachim Neander, 1680; sts. 1, 3, 5 trans. by Catherine Winkworth, 1863
 st. 2 by S. Paul Schilling, 1986; st. 4 by Rupert E. Davies, 1983 (Ps. 103:1-6; 150)
 MUSIC: Erneuerten Gesangbuch, 1665; harm. by William Sterndale Bennett, 1864

LOBE DEN HERREN
 14 14.478

Trans. sts. 2 and 4 © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House

In Faith We Open Our Hearts to Ministry

Prayer for Good and Growth

Let us pray this prayer responsively, opening ourselves to growth and purpose:

Loving and gracious God, we want to walk in your light.

We want to be light for your world.

We want to light with love and compassion the way to safety for others.

We want to fulfill the promises we make and keep the bright promise you see in each of us.

As the Sun shines upon us, help us feel the warmth as your love. Bathe us in your truth and grace, so we are ready and able to face the day.

Energize our knowledge of your Holy Spirit in us, so we appear to shimmer with your love and live as your generous people giving your unearned love to all. Amen.

(Mary Scifres Ministries, 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.)

Eternal Source of creativity and mercy, receive now our silent prayers.

~ Silence ~

To all our silent prayers let the people say amen.

Amen.

Words of Encouragement

Throughout our sacred text, when God calls each of us to faithful living, God gives us this clear promise, "I will be with you."

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

Sung Response

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah!



The Word Informs Our Living with Grace and Power

New Testament Reading

Romans 10:4-13

Larry Houts

The Messiah, however, is the goal and fulfillment of the Law, [*end of the law, NRSV*] and everyone who has faith will be made righteous.

Moses writes about the righteousness that comes from the Law: “Those who do these things will live by them.” But the righteousness that comes from faith says, “Don’t say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend to heaven?’” —that is, to bring Christ down— “or ‘Who will descend into the underworld?’” —that is, to bring Christ up from the dead. But what does it say? “The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart.’ This is the Word of faith. For if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Sovereign and believe in your heart that God raised Jesus from the dead, you will be saved. Faith in the heart leads to being put right with God, confession on the lips to our deliverance.

Scripture says, “No one who believes in God will be put to shame.” Here there is no difference between Jew and Greek; all have the same Creator, rich in mercy toward those who call: “Everyone who calls on the name of the Most High will be saved.”

~Inclusive Bible Version

Here ends the New Testament Reading.

* Gospel

Matthew 23:1-15

Jim Nixon

Jesus told the crowds and the disciples, “The religious scholars and the Pharisees have succeeded Moses as teachers; therefore, perform every observance they tell you to. But don’t follow their example; even they don’t do what they say. They tie up heavy loads and lay them on others’ shoulders, while they themselves will not lift a finger to help alleviate the burden.

“All their works are performed to be seen. They widen their phylacteries and wear huge tassels. They are fond of places of honor at banquets and the front seats in synagogues. They love respectful greetings in public and being called ‘Rabbi.’

“But as for you, avoid the title ‘Rabbi.’ For you have only one Teacher, and you are all sisters and brothers. And don’t call anyone on earth your ‘Mother’ or ‘Father.’ You have only one Parent—our loving God in heaven. Avoid being called leaders. You have only one leader—the Messiah.

“The greatest among you will be the one who serves the rest. Those who exalt themselves will be humbled, but those who humble themselves will be exalted.

“Woe to you religious scholars and Pharisees, you frauds! You shut the doors of heaven’s kin-dom in peoples faces, neither entering yourselves, nor allowing others to enter who want to.

“Woe to you religious scholars and Pharisees, you frauds! You go on and on with prayer and show, all the while devouring the only security that widows have—their houses; you, therefore, will be given greater punishment.

“Woe to you religious scholars and Pharisees, you frauds! You travel over land and over sea to make a single convert, and once that person is converted, you create a proselyte twice as wicked as yourselves.”

~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

156

I Love to Tell the Story

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

bove, of Je - sus and his glo - ry, of Je - sus and his
 seems than all the gold - en fan - cies of all our gold - en
 peat what seems, each time I tell it, more won - der - ful - ly
 best seem hun - ger - ing and thirst - ing to hear it like the

love. I love to tell the sto - ry, be - cause I know 'tis
 dreams. I love to tell the sto - ry, it did so much for
 sweet. I love to tell the sto - ry, for some have nev - er
 rest. And when, in scenes of glo - ry, I sing the new, new

true; it sat - is - fies my long - ings as noth - ing else can do.
 me; and that is just the rea - son I tell it now to thee.
 heard the mes - sage of sal - va - tion from God's own ho - ly Word.
 song, 'twill be the old, old sto - ry that I have loved so long.

Refrain
 I love to tell the sto - ry, 'twill be my theme in glo - ry,

WORDS: Katherine Hankey, ca. 1868
 MUSIC: William G. Fischer, 1869

HANKEY
 76.76 D with Refrain™



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.

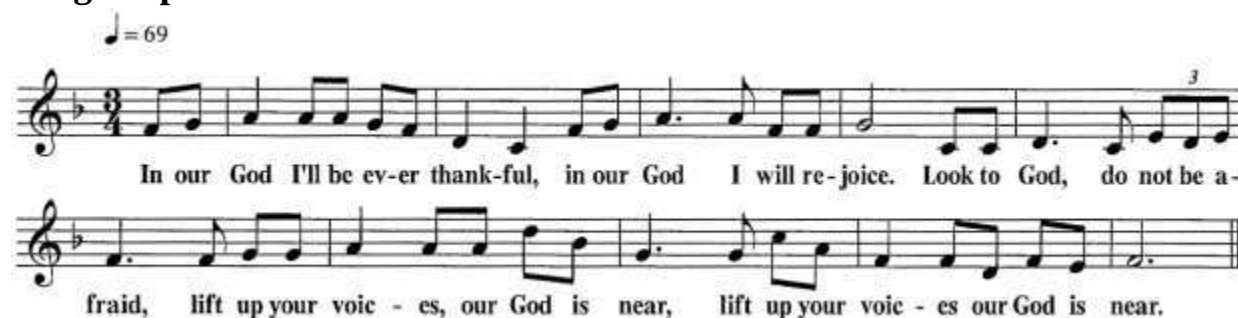
Joys and Thanksgivings:

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" 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

"Eternal Life" by Olive Dungan (1950)

Presentation of Offerings, and Prayer of Dedication

Megan Cassette

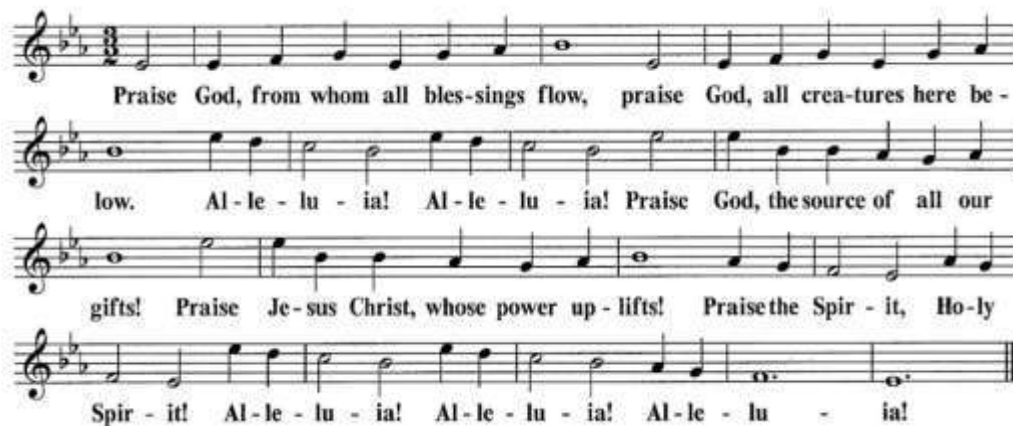
Fostered by your tender care and secure in the haven of your redeeming love, we are emboldened to approach you, O God, with our gifts and offerings. May they be used to bring refuge to the aimless, deliverance to the captives, and protection to all who call on your name. For we bring them in Christ's name, our source of salvation.

(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.

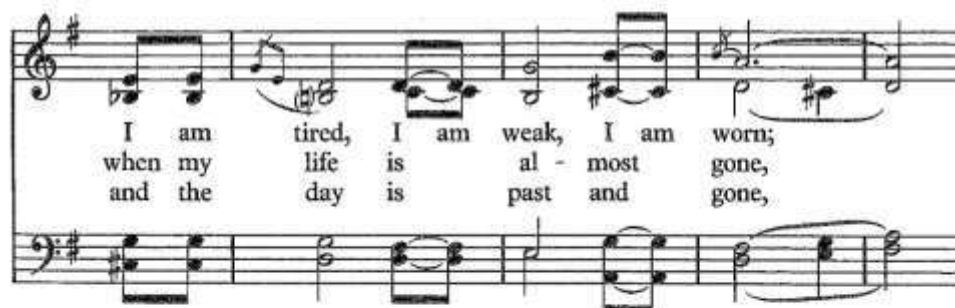
~Matthew 6:9-13, RSV, adapted

* Sending Hymn

474 Precious Lord, Take My Hand



1. Precious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand,
 2. When my way grows drear, pre-cious Lord, lin-ger near,
 3. When the dark-ness ap-pears and the night draws near,

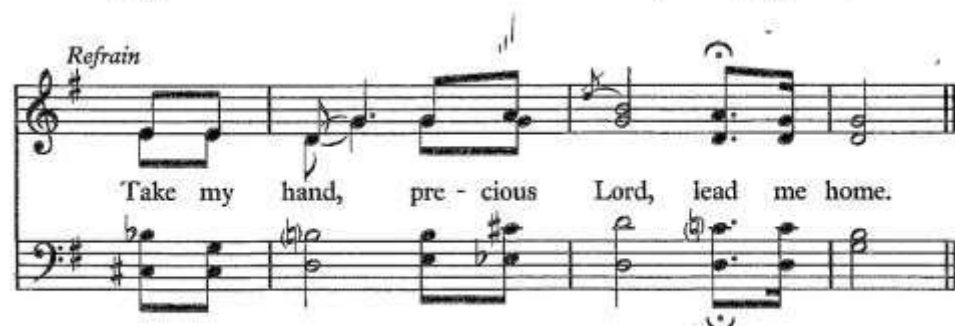


I am tired, I am weak, I am worn;
 when my life is al-most gone,
 and the day is past and gone,



through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light:
 hear my cry, hear my call, hold my hand lest I fall:
 at the riv-er I stand, guide my feet, hold my hand:

Refrain



Take my hand, pre-cious Lord, lead me home.

WORDS: Thomas A. Dorsey, 1932
 MUSIC: Thomas A. Dorsey, 1932

PRECIOUS LORD
 Irr.

© 1938 Hill & Range Songs, Inc., renewed Unichappell Music, Inc.

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

Dr. Denis Moreen, piano

"Gavotte in D minor" by Amy Beach (1897)

Congregational Life Announcements

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

--Thank you, **Megan Cassette, Larry Houts** and **Jim Nixon** 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** 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 **Pamela and Mike Robinson** in memory of their son, Aaron's birthday which was March 7th.

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

Last Sunday's Participation

--Souls Present at Demuth: 66 --Children: 0 --First Timers: 0

--- Facebook Live Views: 14 --Facebook Total Views: N/A --YouTube Views: N/A

Sunday Offerings

Tithes, Offerings, and Participation:

Offering, online, by mail and text: \$1,102 Electronic Giving: \$1,596

Permanence Fund: \$100 Cumulative: \$345,120

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.

Classic Hymns in Classical Styles, by Cindy Berry, © 1988 Word Music

Prelude in D Minor, by Clara Schumann, public domain

Eternal Life, by Olive Dungan, © 1950 The John Church Company

Gavotte in D Minor, by Amy Beach, 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 **Rich Fluechtling** 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**, dinoinsps@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 choosing a new book and will start discussing it on March 25.

-Bible Bites is on hiatus

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 Mar. 10	Tuesday Mar. 11	Wednesday Mar. 12	Thursday Mar. 13	Friday Mar. 14	Saturday Mar. 15	Sunday Mar. 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	10:45am – 1:00pm Lunch for our unhoused neighbors served at Our Lady of Guadalupe 2:00pm Open Council Meeting in the office and 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.

Bloom Book Club: Is choosing a new book and will start discussing it on March 25.

-Bible Bites is on hiatus

Open Council Meeting

March 12 ~ 2pm

in the office and on zoom.



Bloom's 16th Annual Spring Fling

PARIS IS BLOOMING

Friday, March 21, 2025

Featuring Palm Canyon Theatre's
production of *Victor, Victoria*

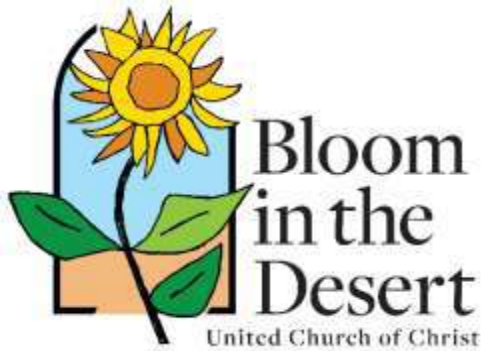
The evening also includes
food/beverages, Jazz Band
& pre-show Silent Auction

Doors open 4:30pm
Performance starts 7pm
Palm Canyon Theatre
538 N. Palm Canyon Dr., Palm Springs
\$95/person

Reservations and
donations online at
bloominthedesert.org



A Special Evening
Benefiting
 **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

Rich Fluechtling, Moderator — 608-347-5178 — 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