



Celebrating Women's History Month

Second Sunday in Lent

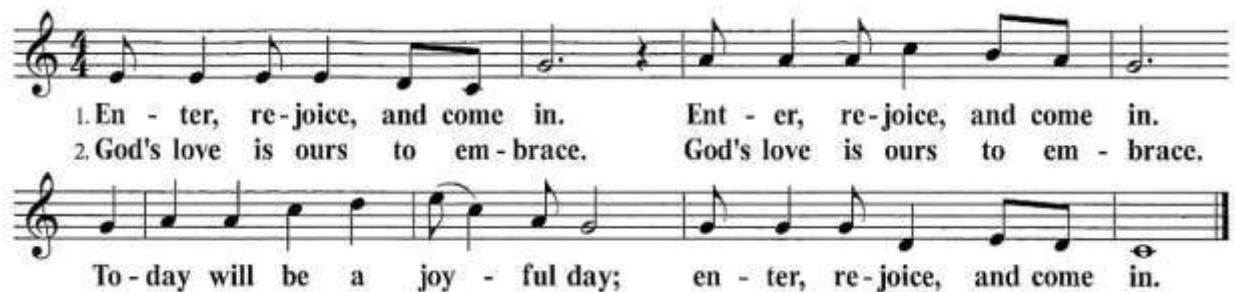
March 16, 2025

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

Darrell Calvillo, Bagpipes



Welcome and News of the Congregation

Rev. Jeff Munnis

Music for Centering

Rev. Doug Holder, piano

Call to Worship

Carol Moore

We are called to live a walk of trust and invited to walk the Way of justice.

We gather for worship because we trust God is good. We disperse later to live trusting God's love and direction for our journeys.

We pray to engage with God's Spirit and sense the good God is doing.

We will share with others from the bounty we are given, transforming our lives into an expression of God's goodness.

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

* Opening Hymn

Be Thou My Vision

451

Unison

1. Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
 2. Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;
 3. Great God of heav - en, my vic - to - ry won,
 naught be all else to me, save that thou art.
 I ev - cr with thee and thou with me, Lord;
 may I reach heav - en's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!
 Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
 thou and thou on - ly, first in my heart,
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,
 wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
 great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.
 still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

WORDS: Ancient Irish; trans. by Mary E. Byrne, 1905; versed by Eleanor H. Hull, 1912, alt.
 MUSIC: Trad. Irish melody; harm. by Carlton R. Young, 1963

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Alt. © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House; harm. © 1964 Abingdon Press

In Faith We Open Our Hearts to Ministry

Prayer for Good and Growth

Let us pray this prayer, 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.

**Energize our knowledge of your Holy Spirit in us,
so we appear to shimmer with your love
and live as your people giving your 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

"O hope of all the earth, God of light and truth: your power stills the roaring of the seas and the tumult of the peoples. Defend the cause of justice and truth in your world. Renew our trust daily, so the day will come when, together with all creation, we can shout and sing for joy."

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

Psalms 27

Charlotte Clement

YHWH, you are my light, my salvation—
whom will I fear?
You are the fortress of my life—
of whom will I be afraid?

When my enemies attack me,
spreading vicious lies about me
wherever they go,
they my adversaries and foes,
will stumble and fall.

Though an army mounts a siege against me,
my heart will not fear;
though war break out against me,
I'll still be confident.

One thing I ask of you, YHWH,
one thing I seek:
that I may dwell in your house
all the days of my life,
to gaze on your beauty
and meditate in your Temple.

You will keep me safe in your shelter
when trouble arises,
you will hide me
under the eaves of your Tabernacle—
you'll set me on a rock
high and out of reach.

Then I'll be able to hold my head up,
even with my enemies surrounding me.
I will offer in your Tabernacle
sacrifices of great joy—
I'll sing and make music to you, YHWH!

Hear me when I call, YHWH!
Have mercy on me and answer me!

You say to my heart, "Seek my face,"
and so it is your face I seek!

Don't hide your face from me,
don't turn your faithful one away in anger.
Don't reject me, don't desert me,
O God of my salvation,
for you are my only help.

Even if my own parents reject me,
you, YHWH, will accept me.

Teach me your way, YHWH,
and lead me on a straight path because of my enemies,

Don't surrender me to the will of my enemies;
for defamers rise up against me breathing violence.

Even so I have confidence
that I'll see the goodness of YHWH
in the land of the living.

Wait for God—stand tall
and let your heart take courage!
Yes, wait for YHWH!

~Inclusive Bible Version

Here ends the Hebrew Scripture Reading.

Anthem

Darrell Calvillo, Bagpiper

*** Gospel**

Luke 13:31-35

Wayne Sinclair

Just then, some Pharisees came to Jesus and said, “You need to get out of town, and fast. Herod is trying to kill you.”

Jesus replied, “Go tell that fox, ‘Today and tomorrow, I’ll be casting out devils and healing people, and on the third day I’ll reach my goal.’ Even with all that, I’ll need to continue on my journey today, tomorrow and the day after that, since no prophet can be allowed to die anywhere except in Jerusalem.

“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem! You kill the prophets and stone those who are sent to you! How often I have wanted to gather your children together as a mother bird collects her babies under her wings—yet you refuse me! So take note: your house will be left to you desolate. I tell you; you will not see me again until you say, ‘Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God!’”

~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

Amazing Grace

378

1. A - maz - ing grace! How sweet the sound that
2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
3. Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares, I
4. The Lord has prom - ised good to me, his
5. Yea, when this flesh and heart shall fail, and
6. When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright

saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that
have al - read - y come; 'tis grace hath brought me
word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and
mor - tal life shall cease, I shall pos - sess, with -
shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to

now am found; was blind, but now I see.
grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved.
safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
por - tion be, as long as life en - dures.
in the veil, a life of joy and peace.
sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

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

$\text{♩} = 69$

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" 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

Elaine Wang-Meyerhoffer and Doug Nagel

"O Danny Boy"

Presentation of Offerings, and Prayer of Dedication

Carol Moore

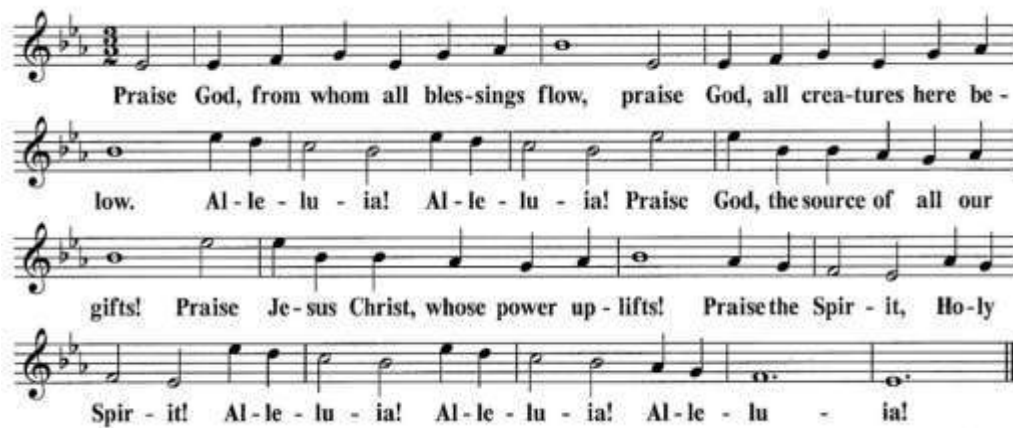
Great Shield and Defender, you visited Abram and made him a great nation. You sent to earth Jesus, who called out the church. We join with the hosts who have gone before us, pilgrims, on a journey toward your promised land. We pause on our way to give you offerings and dedicate ourselves anew to the faithful quest.

(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

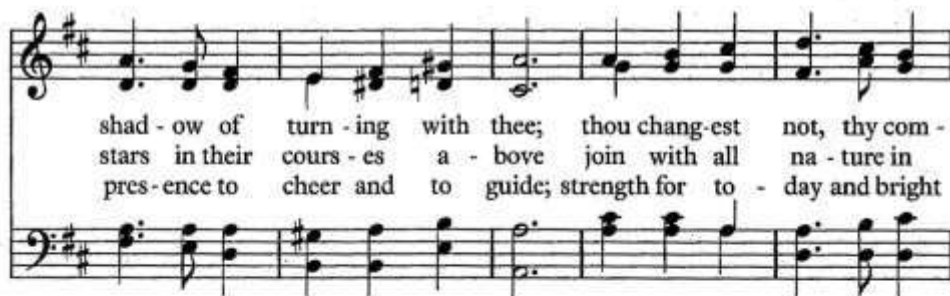
* Sending Hymn

140

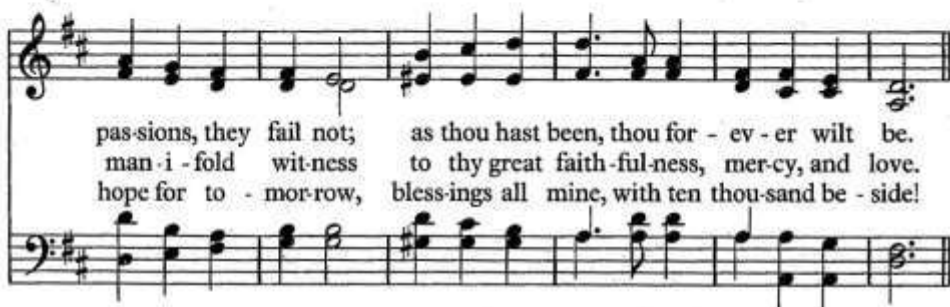
Great Is Thy Faithfulness



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

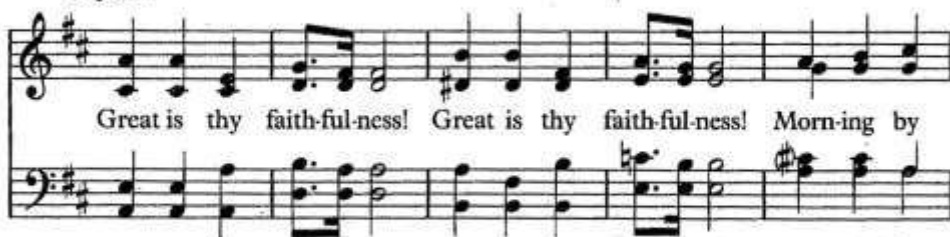


shad - ow of turn - ing with thee; thou chang-est not, thy com -
 stars in their cours - es a - bove join with all na - ture in
 pres - ence to cheer and to guide; strength for to - day and bright



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



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

Darrell Calvillo, Bagpiper

Congregational Life Announcements

--A warm welcome and thank you to **Rev. Doug Holder**, piano, **Darrell Calvillo**, bagpipes and duet, **Elaine Wang-Meyerhoffer** and **Doug Nagel** for sharing their musical talents with us today.

--Thank you, **Carol Moore**, **Charlotte Clement** and **Wayne Sinclair** 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, **Randy Zeese** and **Jim Nixon** 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 **Buddy Sizemore** in appreciation of Jeff Munnis.

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

Last Sunday's Participation

--Souls Present at Demuth: 71 --Children: 0 --First Timers: 3

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

Sunday Offerings

Tithes, Offerings, and Participation:

Offering, online, by mail and text: \$1,904 Electronic Giving: \$3,500

Permanence Fund: \$0 Cumulative: \$345,120

Spring Fling Reservations: 138 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.

--**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 April 9 at 2:00 pm PDT in the church office and on Zoom. All are welcome with a voice. Only council 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**, 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: resumes Tuesday, March 25 at 6pm on Zoom. We will be discussing our new book, "Falling Upwards" Zoom link:

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

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. 17	Tuesday Mar. 18	Wednesday Mar. 19	Thursday Mar. 20	Friday Mar. 21	Saturday Mar. 22	Sunday Mar. 23
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 6pm Book Group on Zoom	10:45am – 1:00pm Lunch for our unhoused neighbors served at Our Lady of Guadalupe	10:45am – 1:00pm Lunch served at Our Lady of Solitude	10:45am – 1:00pm Lunch served at Our Lady of Guadalupe 4:30pm Spring Fling at Palm Canyon Theatre		10:am Sunday Service at Demuth and on Facebook Live Rev. Jeff and Stelli's last Sunday with Bloom

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: chose a new book, "Falling Upwards"
discussing it on March 25, at 6pm on Zoom

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

-Bible Bites is on hiatus

Open Council Meeting

April 9 ~ 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

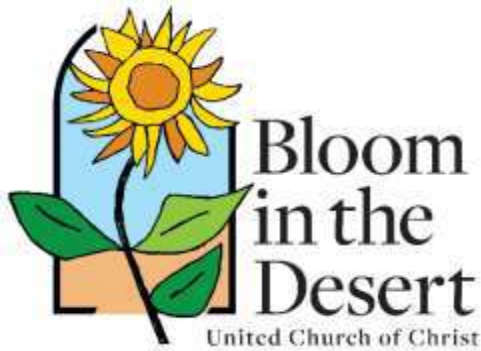
Doors open 4:30pm
Performance starts 7pm
Palm Canyon Theatre
538 N. Palm Canyon Dr., Palm Springs
\$95/person

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