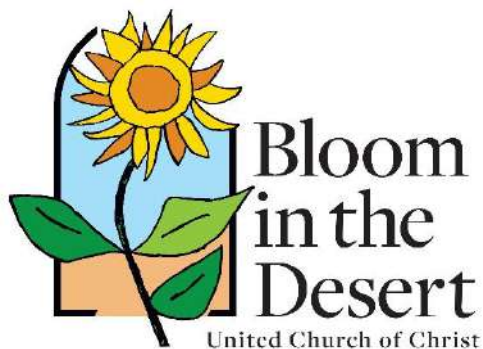




Sunday after Earth Day Second Sunday of Easter April 27, 2025

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

“Where the Tall Tree Grows” “Circle of Life” “Bless the Beasts and Children”

10:00am Gathering Song

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

Ray Allen, Worship Leader

Music for Centering

Mike Welden, piano

“The Lark in the Clear Air”

Call to Worship

Loretta Martin

We gather to create the human community, to promote justice and peace, to remember our children, to recall our destiny, to renew our spirits, and to reinvigorate our bodies.

We are full of the grace of creation. We are graceful. We are grateful. We rejoice in all life.

Our faith empowers us to bring new life to the land, to restore the waters, to refresh the air, to rejoice in the sunlight, and to sing the song of the stars.

We join with the earth and with each other to live abundantly.
Aloha, Shalom, Salaam, Vrede, Ping-an, Paz, Peace, Amen.

* Opening Hymn

28

For the Beauty of the Earth

St. 1-3, Folliott S. Pierpoint, 1864; alt.

St. 4, Miriam Therese Winter, 1993

1 For the beau - ty of the earth, for the splen - dor of the skies,
 2 For the won - der of each hour of the day and of the night,
 3 For the joy of hu - man love, broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child,
 4 For the good that love in - spires, for a world where none ex - clude,

For the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies,
 Hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light,
 Friends on earth, and friends a - bove, for all gen - tle thoughts and mild,
 For a faith that nev - er tires, and for ev - ery heart re - newed,

Refrain
 God of all, to you we raise this our hymn of grate - ful praise.

Folliott S. Pierpoint, author of numerous hymns, penned these verses near his native city of Bath, England, on a late spring day when flowers were in full bloom and all the earth seemed to rejoice.

Tune: DIX 7.7.7.7. with refrain
 Conrad Kocher, 1838
 Adapt. William H. Monk, 1861

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:

On this Sunday after Earth Day, we join with people around the world praying to benefit the good of creation. In the global community, we lift heartfelt hopes for the health and sustainability for our Earth and all that dwells herein. We read the news, O God, and we see evidence of environmental problems ranging from local to global. We are deeply concerned, and we want to find paths to healing. We know that many of the environmental problems that so concern us are not driven by personal choices alone. The state of the world is shaped by governmental policies, economic institutions, corporate deeds, social values, and diffuse cultural trends. While these are not matters of private choice, we admit our participation in these broader powers. Gracious and loving God, be with us. Call us now, as you always have, to be engaged and relevant to this moment in history. Call us to new visions, new understandings, and new relationships. Fill us with deep forgiveness and lead us into life-giving hope. Amen. (Eco-Justice 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.)

God of our history and our future, receive now our silent prayers.

~ Silence ~

To all our silent prayers let the people say amen.

Amen.

Words of Encouragement

The earth and everything in it –
the world and all who live in it –
belong to YHWH.

(Psalm 24:1)

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 1:1-31

Michael Thompson

(The congregation will read aloud the words God speaks, printed in bold.)

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

But the earth became chaos and emptiness, and darkness came over the face of the Deep—yet the Spirit of God was brooding over the surface of the waters.

Then God said, “**Light be!**” and light was. God saw that light was good, and God separated light from darkness. God called the light “**Day**” and the darkness “**Night.**” Evening came, and morning followed — the first day.

Then God said, “**Now, make an expanse between the waters! Separate water from water!**” So it was: God made the expanse and separated the water above the expanse from the water below it. God called the expanse “**Sky.**” Evening came, and morning followed — the second day.

Then God said, “**Waters under the sky: be gathered into one place! Dry ground appear.**” So it was. God called the dry ground “**Earth**” and the gathering of the waters “**Sea.**” And God saw that this was good.

Then God said, “**Earth: produce vegetation — plants that scatter their own seeds, and every kind of fruit tree that bears fruit with its own seed in it!**” So it was: the earth brought forth every kind of plant that bears seed, and every kind of fruit with its seed in it. And God saw that this was good. Evening came, and morning followed — the third day.

Then God said, **“Now, let there be lights in the expanse of the sky! Separate day from night! Let them mark the signs and seasons, days and years, and serve as luminaries in the sky, shedding light on the earth.”** So it was: God made the two great lights, the greater one to illuminate the day, and a lesser to illumine the night. Then God made the stars as well, placing them in the expanse of the sky, to shed light on the earth, to govern both day and night, and separate light from darkness. And God saw that this was good. Evening came, and morning followed—the fourth day.

God then said, **“Waters: swarm with an abundance of living beings! Birds: fly above the earth in the open expanse of the sky!”** And so it was: God created the great sea monsters and all sorts of swimming creatures with which the waters are filled, and all kinds of birds. God saw that this was good and blessed them, saying, **“Bear fruit, increase your numbers, and fill the waters of the seas! Birds, abound on the earth!”** Evening came, and morning followed—the fifth day.

Then God said, **“Earth: bring forth all kinds of living soul — cattle, things that crawl, and wild animals of all kinds!”** So it was: God made all kinds of wild animals and cattle, and everything that crawls on the ground, and God saw that this was good.

Then God said, **“Let us make humankind in our image, to be like us. Let them be stewards of the fish in the sea, the birds in the air, the cattle, the wild animals, and everything that crawls on the ground.”**

Humankind was created as God’s reflection: in the divine image God created them; female and male, God made them. God blessed them and said, **“Bear fruit, increase your numbers, and fill the earth—and be responsible for it! Watch over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and all living things on the earth!”** God then told them, **“Look! I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the earth, and every tree whose fruit carries its seed inside itself: they will be your food, and to all the animals of the earth and the birds of the air and things that crawl on the ground—everything that has a living soul in it—I give all the green plants for food.”** So it was. God looked at all of this creation, and proclaimed that this was good—very good. Evening came, and morning followed—the sixth day.

Here ends the Hebrew Scripture reading.

✧ **Gospel Reading**

Matthew 6:25-33

Allen Vander Linden

“That’s why I tell you not to worry about your livelihood, what you are to eat or drink or use for clothing. Isn’t life more than just food? Isn’t the body more than just clothes?”

“Look at the birds in the sky. They don’t sow or reap, they gather nothing into barns, yet our God in heaven feeds them. Aren’t you more important than they? Which of you by worrying can add a moment to your lifespan? And why be anxious about clothing? Learn a lesson from the way the wildflowers grow. They don’t work; they don’t spin. Yet I tell you, not even Solomon in full splendor was arrayed like one of these. If God can clothe in such splendor the grasses of the field, which bloom today and are thrown on the fire tomorrow, won’t God do so much more for you—you who have so little faith?”

“Stop worrying, then, over questions such as, ‘What are we to eat,’ or ‘what are we to drink,’ or ‘what are we to wear?’ Those without faith are always running after these things. God knows everything you need. Seek first God’s reign, and God’s justice, and all these things will be given to you besides. Enough of worrying about tomorrow! Let tomorrow take care of itself. Today has troubles enough of its own.”

~Inclusive Language Version

Here ends the reading of the Gospel. This is the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Commentary

Rev. Tim Rogers



Hymn of Response

32

God of the Sparrow God of the Whale

1 Thess. 5: 18; Ps. 136

Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1983

(Introduction) G G7 Unison C Em Am Dm

1 God of the spar - row God of the whale
 2 God of the earth-quake God of the storm
 3 God of the rain - bow God of the cross
 4 God of the hun - gry God of the sick
 5 God of the neigh - bor God of the foe
 6 God of the a - ges God near at hand

G7 C FM7 E7 Am Em

God of the swirl - ing stars How does the crea-ture say
 God of the trum - pet blast How does the crea-ture cry
 God of the emp - ty grave How does the crea-ture say
 God of the prod - i - gal How does the crea-ture say
 God of the prun - ing hook How does the crea-ture say
 God of the lov - ing heart How do your chil-dren say

FM7 Em7 Am Dm 1-5 Gsus4 G C

Awe How does the crea-ture say Praise
 Woe How does the crea-ture cry Save
 Grace How does the crea-ture say Thanks
 Care How does the crea-ture say Life
 Love How does the crea-ture say Peace
 Joy How do your chil-dren say Home.

After forty years in the ministry, Jaroslav Vajda wrote this text to provoke answers to how and why we serve God. By creating new poetic forms and adapting ageless ideas and expressions, Vajda speaks in the language of his time.

Tune: ROEDER 5.4.6.7.7.
 Carl F. Schalk, 1983

Music Copyright © 1983 by G.I.A. Publications, Inc.

Offering our Prayer Concerns, and Joys and Thanksgivings

Ray Allen, Worship Leader

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" 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

Mike Welden, piano

"For the Beauty of the Earth"

Presentation of Offerings, and Prayer of Dedication

Loretta Martin

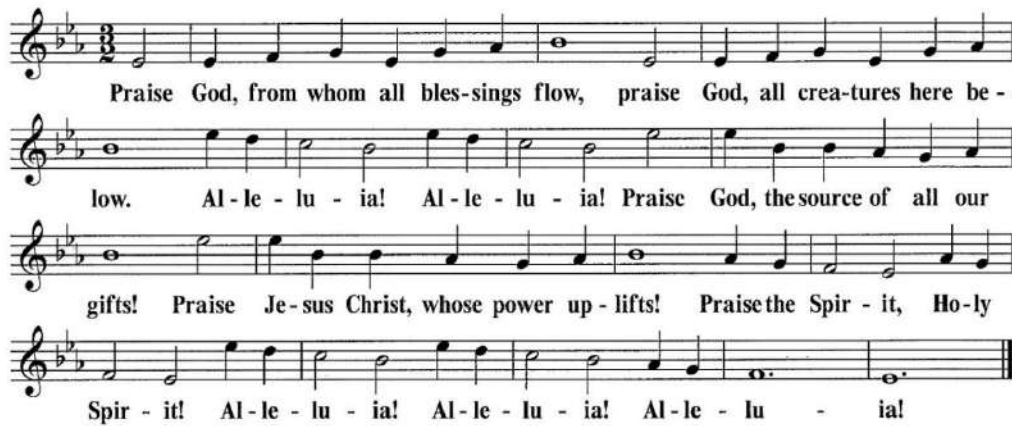
Life-giving God, we join others around the planet working for a peaceful, just, and sustainable world. We offer these gifts in gratitude for the earth and the web of life you have entrusted to us. Use these gifts to help sustain your world and all who inhabit it.

(from webofcreation.org, 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. Tim Rogers

Our mother,
which art the earth,
Nurturing are thy ways.
Thy web of life be woven
Thy way be found within,
As it is all around.
Thank you, this day, for our daily bread
and sweat
and forgive us our misuse of you,
as we forgive others their misuse of us.
And lead us not into exploitation,
But deliver us from lording it over you,
And over each other,
And over all our other fellow creatures.
For thine are the waters of life,
The hills, valleys, and plains of home,
The breeding, seeding, feeding ground,
For now, and for as close to forever
As we will ever come.

Ah, woman!
Our Father, Mother,
who are in the world and surpass the world,
Blessed be your presence,
in us, in animals and flowers,
in still air and wind.
May justice and peace dwell among us,
as you come to us.
Your will, be our will.
Your will that we be sisters and brothers,
as bread is bread, water is itself,
For our hunger, for quenching of thirst.
Forgive us.
We walk crookedly in the world,
are perverse, and fail our promise.
But we would be human,
if only you consent to stir up our hearts.
Amen.

EARTH DANCE based on the Lord's Prayer published in Minnesota Women's Press,
December 1999, Author thought to be Karen Loveland, as member of Unity Church,
Santa Rosa, CA Passed on in 2000 by Nancy Carroll

* Sending Hymn

All Things Bright and Beautiful

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 Alexander, who became bishop of Ireland.

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

Benediction

Rev. Tim Rogers

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

“What the World Needs Now Is Love”

The Rev'd Tim Rogers is a transplant to the desert from Boston, MA. He has a love of music and is a member of The Palm Springs Gay Men's Chorus. Tim has worked for over 20 years as an ordained Episcopal priest in parish, hospital, and hospice settings. Tim is a former staff member of Easton Mountain Gay Men's Retreat Center in upstate New York. He is currently an Associate Marriage and Family Therapist at Hope and Healing Counseling, here in Palm Springs. Tim has worked for the empowerment and integration of body, mind, and spirit of the LGBTQ+ communities for most of his adult life.

--**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.

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What the World Needs Now Is Love, by Burt Bacharach, ©1965. 2004 by Casa David and New Hidden Valley Music

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Congregational Life Announcements

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

--Thank you, **Loretta Martin, Michael Thompson** and **Allen Vander Linden** for serving as readers for today's service. Thank you to **Ray Allen** for serving as worship leader today and a special thank you to **Rev. Tim Rogers** for providing our commentary today.

--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 Bakomitros** 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 **Paul Gibb** in honor of Bloom.

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

Last Week's Participation

Maundy Service: Souls present at the office -22 on Zoom-3

Sunday 6am--Souls Present at Demuth: 20 --Children: 0 --First Timers: 0

--- Facebook Live Views: 6

Sunday 10am--Souls Present at Demuth: 66 --Children: 1 --First Timers: 6

--- Facebook Live Views: 12

Sunday Offerings

Tithes, Offerings, and Participation:

Total offerings \$2,231

--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.

Ministries of Leadership and Support

--**Open Council Meetings** -- The next hybrid meeting will be June 11 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 18 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: meets Tuesdays, 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 April 28	Tuesday April 29	Wednesday April 30	Thursday May 1	Friday May 2	Saturday May 3	Sunday May 4
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 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	9:30am Leadership Retreat	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 Selection — "Falling Upward: A Spirituality for the Two Halves of Life Study Guide" by Richard Rohr. The book study on Tuesdays at 6:00 pm on Zoom.

Read Chapter 5.

For more information contact Gary Lange at garylange13@gmail.com

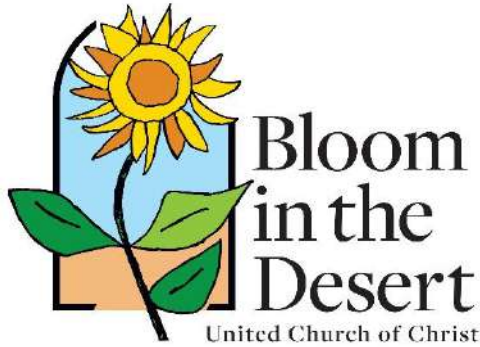
Below is the Zoom link.

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

-Bible Bites is on hiatus

Congregation Meeting

May 18 after the service
in the hospitality room and on zoom.



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

On-Call Pastoral Care — Rev. Ron Lang — 951-663-7261 — rflangx25@gmail.com

Rich Fluechtling, Moderator — 608-347-5178 — moderator@bloominthedesert.org

Bill Wallace, Administrative Assistant — adminassistant@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