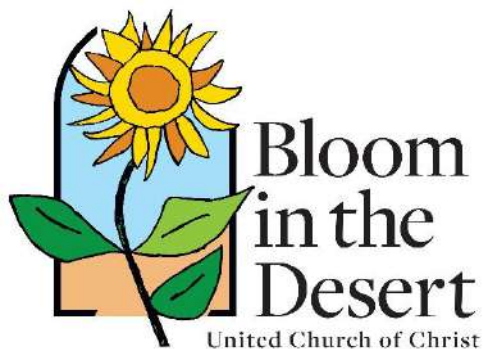




Asian American Pacific Islander Month

Third Sunday of Easter

May 4, 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

Malcolm Swan, piano

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

Rich Fluechtling, Worship Leader

Music for Centering

Malcolm Swan, piano

Extract from "Clair de Lune" by Debussy

Call to Worship

Gary Lange

We gather this morning still remembering Easter morning's resurrection; which signals the coming of new life in ways beyond ordinary.

We have faith that, even in threats and changes to the cycles of life, we can recognize and celebrate new life in ways beyond the ordinary.

O Compassionate Maker of this new and wonderful reality, you are among us.

Show us how to live and love in ways that help us thrive. Today break us free from conventional thinking, so we rise again and again as Easter people.

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

* Opening Hymn

Come, Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain 315

1. Come, ye faith-ful, raise the strain of tri-um-phant glad-ness;
 2. 'Tis the spring of souls to-day; Christ hath burst his pris-on,
 3. Now the queen of sea-sons, bright with the day of splen-dor,
 4. Neith-er might the gates of death, nor the tomb's dark por-tal,
 5. "Al-le-lu-ia!" now we cry to our King im-mor-tal,

God hath brought forth Is-ra-el in-to joy from sad-ness;
 and from three days' sleep in death as a sun hath ris-en;
 with the roy-al feast of feasts, comes its joy to ren-der;
 nor the watch-ers, nor the seal hold thee as a mor-tal;
 who, tri-um-phant, burst the bars of the tomb's dark por-tal;

loosed from Phar-aoh's bit-ter yoke Ja-cob's sons and daugh-ters,
 all the win-ter of our sins, long and dark, is fly-ing
 comes to glad Je-ru-sa-lem, who with true af-fec-tion
 but to-day a-midst the twelve thou didst stand, be-stow-ing
 "Al-le-lu-ia!" with the Son, God the Fa-ther prais-ing,

led them with un-moist-ened foot through the Red Sea wa-ters.
 from his light, to whom we give laud and praise un-dy-ing.
 wel-comes in un-wea-ried strains Je-sus' res-ur-rec-tion.
 that thy peace which ev-er-more pass-eth hu-man know-ing.
 "Al-le-lu-ia!" yet a-gain to the Spir-it rais-ing.

WORDS: John of Damascus; trans. by John Mason Neale, 1859 (Ex. 15)
 MUSIC: Arthur S. Sullivan, 1872

ST. KEVIN
 76.76 D

Alt. tune: AVE VIRGO VIRGINUM

In Faith We Open Our Hearts to Ministry

Prayer for Good and Growth

Now we enter the embrace of God, to find openness and reconciliation:

Risen One, live in us that we may live in you. We gather to thank you for in your resurrection we are renewed and transformed. Like the butterfly, we unfold and fly free, free from the cocoon, free from all the grave clothes that bound us—our prejudices, our fears, our angers, our self-centeredness, our loneliness. We thank you because in your resurrection all those who have died who are dear to us now live with you. In you they have victory over suffering, peace never known on earth, and the joy of your presence always. We thank you because in your resurrection we ourselves may hope for the end of pain, grief, tears, weakness, and for everlasting life in the beauty of your spirit. Alleluia, we pray in Christ's name. Amen.

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 love and grace, receive now our silent prayers as we believe and trust in your possibilities for our lives and in our world.

~ 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 a nation that shrinks from love. Renew our trust that 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

Psalm 30

Phyllis Ramsey

I praise you, O God, because you raised me up

and kept my enemies from gloating over me.

I cried to you for help, YHWH my God,
and you healed me.

You brought me back from the realm of the dead, YHWH;

you spared me from going down into the Pit.

Sing to YHWH, you who love God!
Praise God's holy Name!

YHWH's anger is fleeting,
but God's favor endures forever.
There may be tears during the night,
but joy comes in the morning.

When I presumed I was secure, I boasted,
"I will never be defeated!"

When I stood in your favor, YHWH,
I stood as firm as a mountain.
But you hid yourself from me,
and I was filled with terror.

So I called to you, YHWH,
I pleaded for your help:

"What goodwill come from my destruction,
from my going to the grave?
Does dust praise you, YHWH?
Can the dead proclaim your unfailing
goodness?"

Hear me, YHWH, and be merciful!
Help me, YHWH!"

Then you changed my despair into a
dance—
you stripped me of my death shroud
and clothed me with joy.

That's why my heart sings to you,
that's why I can't keep silent—
YHWH you are my God,
and I will thank you forever!

~The Inclusive Bible Translation

Here ends the Hebrew Scripture reading.

* Gospel Reading

Luke 24:13-35

Robert Van Dyke

That same day, two of the apostles were making their way to a village called Emmaus—which was about seven miles from Jerusalem—discussing all that had happened as they went.

While they were discussing these things, Jesus appeared and began walking along with them, though they were kept from recognizing Jesus, who asked them, “What are you two discussing as you go on your way?”

They stopped and looked sad. One of them, Cleopas by name, asked him, “Are you the only one visiting Jerusalem who doesn’t know the things that have happened these past few days?”

Jesus said to them, “What things?”

They said, “About Jesus of Nazareth, a prophet powerful in word and deed in the eyes of God and all the people—how our chief priests and leaders delivered him up to be condemned to death and crucified him. We were hoping that he was the one who would set Israel free. Besides all of this, today—the third day since these things happened—some of the women of our group have just brought us some astonishing news.

They were at the tomb before dawn and didn’t find the body; they returned and informed us that they had seen a vision of angels, who declared that Jesus was alive. Some of our number went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they didn’t find Jesus.”

Then Jesus said to them, “What little sense you have! How slow you are to believe all that the prophets have announced! Didn’t the Messiah have to undergo all this to enter into glory?” Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, Jesus interpreted for them every passage of scripture which referred to the Messiah. By now they were near the village they were going to, and Jesus appeared to be going further. But they said eagerly, “Stay with us. It’s nearly evening—the day is practically over.” So the savior went in and stayed with them.

After sitting down with them to eat, Jesus took bread, said the blessing, then broke the bread and began to distribute it to them. With that their eyes were opened, and they recognized Jesus, who immediately vanished from sight.

They said to one another, “Weren’t our hearts burning inside us as this one talked to us on the road and explained the scriptures to us? They got up immediately and returned to Jerusalem, where they found the Eleven and the rest of the company assembled. They were greeted with, “Christ is Risen! It’s true! Jesus has appeared to Simon!” Then the travelers recounted what had happened on the road, and how they had come to know Jesus in the breaking of the bread.

~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

Offering our Prayer Concerns, and Joys and Thanksgivings

Rich Fluechtling, 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

Malcolm Swan, piano

"The Young Prince and Princess" from "Scheherazade" by Rimsky-Korsakov

Presentation of Offerings, and Prayer of Dedication

Loretta Martin

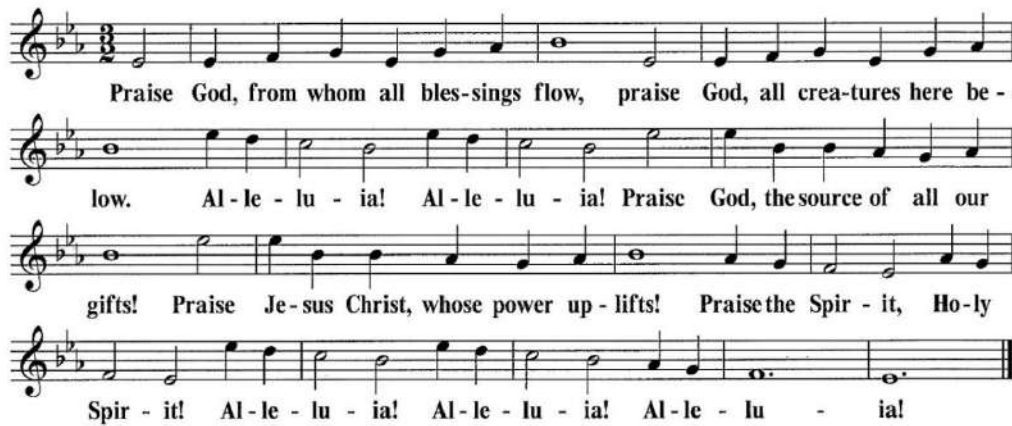
Life-giving God, we join others around the planet working for a peaceful, just, and sustainable world. We offer these gifts in gratitude for the earth and the web of life you have entrusted to us. Use these gifts to help sustain your world and all who inhabit it.

(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 Great Thanksgiving

God is with you.

Rev. Tim Rogers

And also with you.

Let us lift our hearts.

We lift them to our God.

Let us give thanks and praise.

This is a good and joyful thing to do.

Phyllis Ramsey: It is a right and good and joyful thing, always and everywhere, to give you praise, all-loving God, creator of energy and matter, heaven and earth. Long ago, you renewed your rainbow covenant with every living creature by entering our realm in the person of Jesus. He gave us your unconditional love and this mandate:

I give you a new commandment: Love one another. And you're to love one another the way I have loved you. This is how all will know that you're my disciples: that you truly love one another."

Therefore, we celebrate you, joining our voices with the wind and streams, the animals and flowers, the living and the dead, the stars, and the planets and all the company of creation, who forever sing of their devotion to your love and glory:

All sing.

Santo, Santo, Santo!

(Sing first in Spanish, then in English)

Text and music: Anon., Argentina

San - to, san - to, san - to, mi cor - a - zón te a - do - ra! Mi
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, my heart, my heart a - dores you! My

cor - a - zón te sa - be de-cir: san - to e - res Dios.
heart is glad to say the words: you are ho - ly, God.

Paul Gibb: We remember that on the night before Jesus was betrayed by one whom he loved, and killed by ones who feared him, he sat at table with his friends, women and men and children, sharing the feast of the Passover, which is the celebration of the liberation of God's people. Remembering God's power, Jesus took bread, and after he had given thanks and blessed it, he broke it saying,

“This is my work and my life, for you and with you. Take it all of you, and do this remembering me.”

Phyllis Ramsey: After the meal Jesus took the Elijah Cup, the cup traditionally reserved for the Holy One to come. But instead of waiting, Jesus passed it to them as it is now being passed on to us, and he said,

“This is the cup of the new covenant. It is the cup of justice and peace poured out for all. Drink of it all of you and do this remembering me.”

Paul Gibb: Each time that we break bread together we participate in the Body of the Risen Christ, for we are the Body of the Risen Christ. And each time we share this cup we participate in the New Community, for we are God's hope of the New Community. For this, we turn to you for blessing:

Pour out your Spirit on us and these gifts of grain and grape, so in this sharing we recognize Christ in our midst. This offering of praise and thanksgiving is an offering of us to you. Hasten the day when the prophets' dreams come to pass: when justice rolls down like waters and nations no longer threaten each other, neither shall they learn war any more. This we pray by the authority of Jesus and in your holy grace. Amen.

Communion Invitation

Rev. Tim Rogers

These are the gifts of God for the people of God. This is bread and beverage for the journey. In this church community, we share an inclusive communion, which means you need not be a member of this congregation or any community of faith to join us at the table. We believe Jesus welcomed everyone present. We do this in remembrance of him. We do this historically... globally... personally.... For we believe Christ is the host. Christ sets the table and Christ welcomes all. Likewise, no one is required by the host to come forward. If you wish to remain in your seat, you are welcome to relax and enjoy the music. If you wish to be served at your seat, please raise your hand as the line ends, so the servers will come to you. Now, let all who wish to come, come, for God's table is ready.

(After a moment, ushers will invite you to move forward for Communion.)

Communion Music

Malcolm Swan, piano

"Pie Jesu" by Fauré

The Prayer of Jesus

Rev. Tim Rogers

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come.

Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil:

For yours is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

~Matthew 6:9-13, RSV, adapted

* Sending Hymn

Christ Is Alive

318

1. Christ is a - live! Let Chris-tians sing. His cross stands
 2. Christ is a - live! No long - er bound to dis - tant
 3. Not throned a - far, re - mote - ly high, un - touched, un -
 4. In ev - ery in - sult, rift, and war, where col - or,
 5. Christ is a - live, and comes to bring good news to

emp - ty to the sky. Let streets and homes with
 years in Pal - es - tine, he comes to claim the
 moved by hu - man pains, but dai - ly, in the
 scorn, or wealth di - vide, he suf - fers still, yet
 this and ev - ery age, till earth and all cre -

prais - es ring. His love in death shall nev - er die.
 here and now and dwell in ev - ery place and time.
 midst of life, our Sav - ior in the God-head reigns.
 loves the more, and lives, though ev - er cru - ci - fied.
 a - tion ring with joy, with jus - tice, love, and praise.

WORDS: Brian Wren, 1968, alt.

MUSIC: *Psalmody Evangelica*, 1789

Words © 1975 Hope Publishing Co.

TRURO
LM

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

Malcolm Swan, piano

"Somewhere in Time" by John Berry

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.

Extract from "**Claire de Lune**", by de Bussy.

The Young Prince and Princess from "Scheherazade", by Rimsky-Korsakov

Pie Jesu, by Fauré

Somewhere in Time, by John Berry

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Congregational Life Announcements

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

--Thank you, **Gary Lange**, **Phyllis Ramsey** and **Robert Van Dyke** for serving as readers for today's service. Thank you to **Rich Fluechtling** for serving as worship leader today and a special thank you to **Rev. Tim Rogers** for providing our commentary today. Joining Rev. Tim for the Communion portion of the service are Paul Gibb and Phyllis Ramsey.

--Thank you to **JacksonENZler** for handling the A/V technical aspects for today's service.

--Thank you also to our ushers, **Megan** and **Jack Cassette**, 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 **Linda Lang**.

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

Last Week's Participation

Sunday 10am--Souls Present at Demuth: 46 --Children: 0 --First Timers: 0

--- Facebook Live Views: 18

Sunday Offerings

Tithes, Offerings, and Participation:

Total offerings \$2,758 Eastertide Offering: \$922

Synopsis of March 2025 Financials

Income:

Regular Giving	\$ 16,618
CRV Fund Recyclables	\$ 100
Spring Fling 16*	<u>\$ 16,397</u>
Total Income	\$33,115

Expenses:

Payroll	\$11,351
Office Expense	\$ 3,124
Worship	\$ 2,320
Spring Fling 16*	<u>\$ 7,077</u>
Total Expenses	\$23,872

Gain/Loss **\$ 9,243**

Permanence Fund Giving **\$ 1,159**

*Spring Fling Revenue and Expenses identified in the month of March only.

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 May 5	Tuesday May 6	Wednesday May 7	Thursday May 8	Friday May 9	Saturday May 10	Sunday May 11
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 8:30am Harvey Milk Breakfast	10:45am – 1:00pm Lunch served at Our Lady of Guadalupe		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 6.

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

Below is the Zoom link.

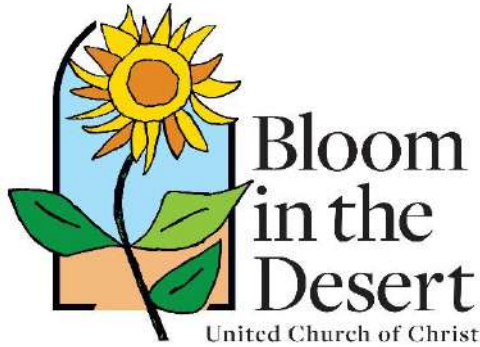
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85641302971?pwd=OKJBWngGovZg88uTgFDA88bAQQC7kU.1>

-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