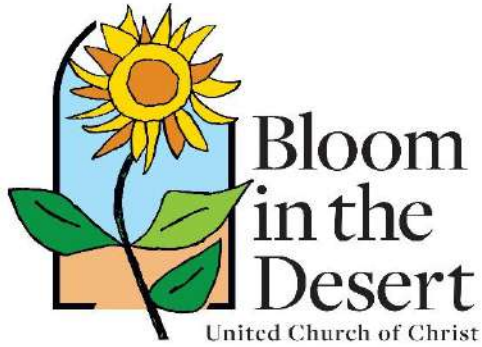




Labor Day Weekend August 31, 2025

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

Pastor James Harris

Music for Centering

Malcolm Swan, piano

“Lyric Piece” by Malcolm Swan

Call to Worship

Rich Fluechtling

From far and near, we gather. From far and near,
the Spirit of Christ brings us together.

For peace and renewal, we gather.

It is good to gather as a beloved community of God. Together we share...

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

* Opening Hymn

86

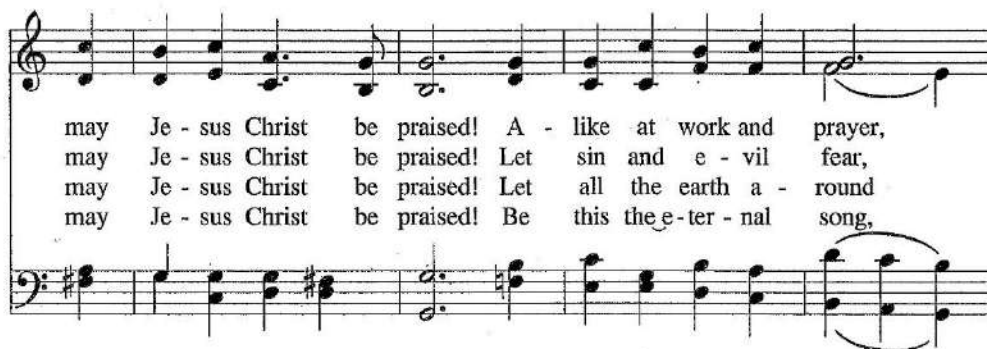
When Morning Gilds the Skies

Ps. 5:3; 59:16-17

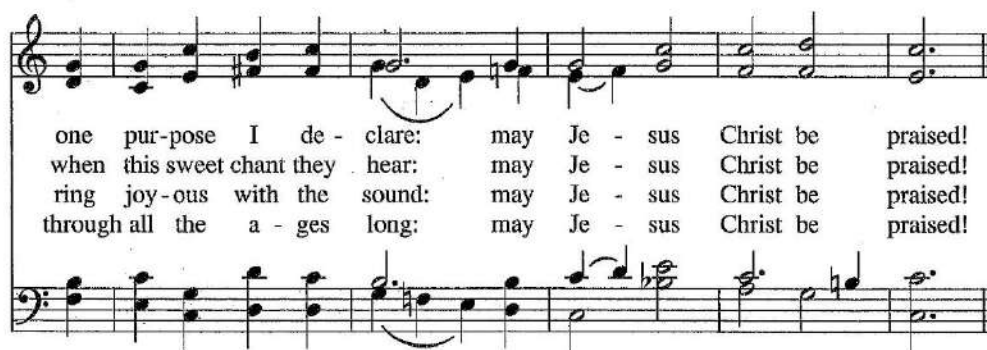
Katholisches Gesangbuch, 1828
Transl. Edward Caswall, 1854; alt.



1 When morn - ing gilds the skies, my heart a - wak - ing cries,
2 New strength comes night or day when from the heart we say,
3 Dis - cor - dant hu - man - kind, in this your con - cord find,
4 Be this, while life is mine, my can - ti - cle di - vine,



may Je - sus Christ be praised! A - like at work and prayer,
may Je - sus Christ be praised! Let sin and e - vil fear,
may Je - sus Christ be praised! Let all the earth a - round
may Je - sus Christ be praised! Be this the e - ter - nal song,



one pur - pose I de - clare: may Je - sus Christ be praised!
when this sweet chant they hear: may Je - sus Christ be praised!
ring joy - ous with the sound: may Je - sus Christ be praised!
through all the a - ges long: may Je - sus Christ be praised!

This anonymous German Catholic hymn was translated to English by Edward Caswall, an Anglican—and later, Roman Catholic—priest. Among the scripture references is Psalm 5:3, "O God, in the morning you hear my voice. . . ."

Tune: LAUDES DOMINI 6.6.6.6.6.6.
Joseph Barnby, 1868

In Faith We Open Our Hearts to Ministry

Prayer for Good and Growth

Now, as we welcome the Labor Day weekend, we pray this Labor Sunday prayer.
Together we say:

God of rough hands, as we honor workers this day, we do not forget people whose work is often overlooked: homemakers who watch over children and homes, persons forced out of jobs by corporate changes, ones denied employment due to age; millions working far from home and sending money to loved ones; others who must work illegally to survive; anyone who loses a job because employers prefer undocumented labor.

Christ of the aching back, you worked a trade, you walked dusty roads, you knew hunger pangs and bitter thirst. Help our desires become passion for justice so we scrap economic policies that enable few to hoard the world's wealth, that value women as less than men and minorities as less than human, that fail to honor the labor that precedes capital.

Spirit of creative power, heal all who labor to survive in painful conditions. Renew our senses of vocation and a good day's work. Help us discern your Presence, even in our lowliest tasks. Amen.

(Chalice Worship, adapted)

Our Silent Prayers (These intentional moments of silence are included in worship to enable minds to settle, then move past the distraction of internal chatter, to connect actively with God. A few deep breaths may help make the connection. Relax, and embrace a spiritual dimension.)

Loving creator, wonderful counselor, receive now our sincere and silent prayers.

~ Silence ~

To all our silent prayers let the people say amen.

Amen.

Words of Encouragement

Throughout the scriptures, when God calls women and men to faithful living, God gives this 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

Old Testament Reading

Sirach 10:12-18

Bill Phelps-Ramos

Human arrogance begins when people rebel against the Lord,
and their hearts rebel
against the one who made them.

The beginning of arrogance is sin,
and those who cling to it
will pour out blasphemy.

For this reason
the Lord brings calamities upon them,
and he ruins them completely.

The Lord destroyed the thrones of rulers,
and he raised up the gentle
in their place.

The Lord plucked up the roots of nations,
and he planted the humble
in their place.

The Lord ruined the lands of the nations,
and he leveled them
to their very foundations.

He removed some people
and destroyed them,
and he erased their memory
from the earth.

Humans were not created to be arrogant,
nor were those born of women
made to indulge in anger.

~Common English Bible

Here ends the Old Testament reading.

*** Gospel Reading**

Luke 14:7-14

Ray Allen

One Sabbath, when Jesus went to share a meal in the home of one of the leaders of the Pharisees, they were watching him closely.

When Jesus noticed how the guests sought out the best seats at the table, he told them a parable. “When someone invites you to a wedding celebration, don’t take your seat in the place of honor. Someone more highly regarded than you could have been invited by your host. The host who invited both of you will come and say to you, ‘Give your seat to this other person.’ Embarrassed, you will take your seat in the least important place. Instead, when you receive an invitation, go and sit in the least important place. When your host approaches you, he will say, ‘Friend, move up here to a better seat.’ Then you will be honored in the presence of all your fellow guests. All who lift themselves up will be brought low, and those who make themselves low will be lifted up.”

Then Jesus said to the person who had invited him, “When you host a lunch or dinner, don’t invite your friends, your brothers and sisters, your relatives, or rich neighbors. If you do, they will invite you in return and that will be your reward. Instead, when you give a banquet, invite the poor, crippled, lame, and blind. And you will be blessed because they can’t repay you. Instead, you will be repaid when the just are resurrected.”

~Common English Bible

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

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Commentary

“Invite Everyone”

Pastor James Harris

Hymn of Response

166 All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine

1. All praise to thee, for thou, O King di - vine, didst
 2. Thou cam'st to us, in low - li - ness of thought; by
 3. Let this mind be in us which was in thee,
 4. Where-fore, by God's e - ter - nal pur-pose, thou
 5. Let ev - ery tongue con - fess with one ac - cord in

yield the glo - ry that of right was thine,
 thee the out - cast and the poor were sought,
 who wast a ser - vant, that we might be free,
 art high ex - alt - ed o'er all crea-tures now,
 heaven and earth that Je - sus Christ is Lord;

that in our dark - ened hearts thy grace might shine:
 and by thy death was God's sal - va - tion wrought:
 hum - bling thy - self to death on Cal - va - ry:
 and given the name to which all knees shall bow:
 and God the Fa - ther be by all a - dored:

WORDS: F. Bland Tucker, 1938 (Phil. 2:5-11)

MUSIC: Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

Words © 1940, 1943, renewed 1971 The Church Pension Fund

SINE NOMINE

10 10 10 with Alleluias

Alt. tune: ENGELBERG



Offering our Prayer Concerns, and Joys and Thanksgivings

Pastor James Harris

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.

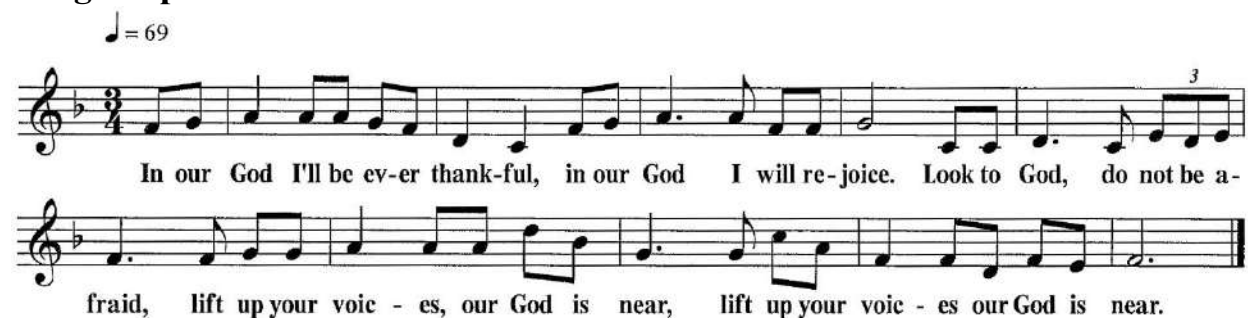
Joys and Thanksgivings:

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.



SCAN ME

Offertory-Meditation

Malcolm Swan, piano

“Reflection” by Mark Hayes

Presentation of Offerings, and Prayer of Dedication

Ray Allen

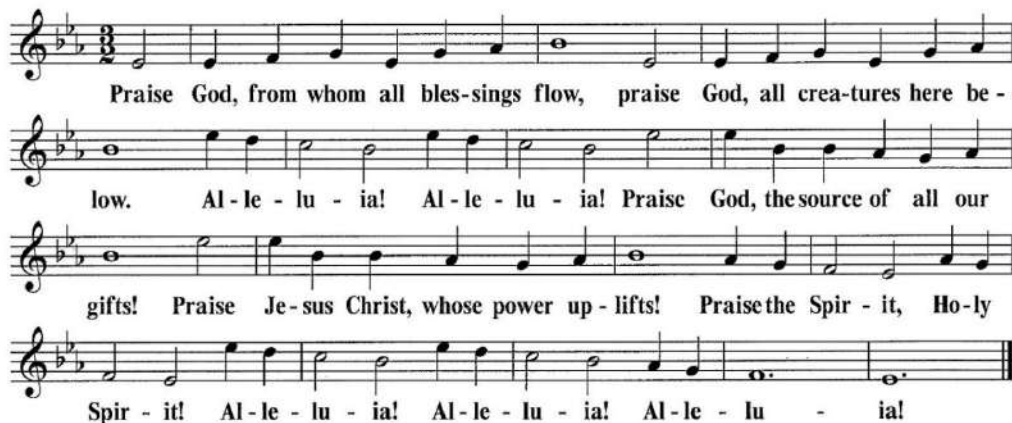
God our Host. You invite us to dine at your table. You anoint us through Christ with the oil of righteousness. Our cup overflows with the gift of the Holy Spirit. We come to your banquet of eternal redemption with gifts befitting our new life in Jesus. Receive them as signs of our commitment to be your faithful stewards. Amen.

~from “When We Gather: A Book of Prayers for Worship” by James G. Kirk

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

Pastor James Harris

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

18

Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer

Exod. 13:21; 16:4; 17:6; Ps. 105:39-44; Rev. 22:1-2

William Williams, 1745

St. 1, transl. Peter Williams, 1771; alt.

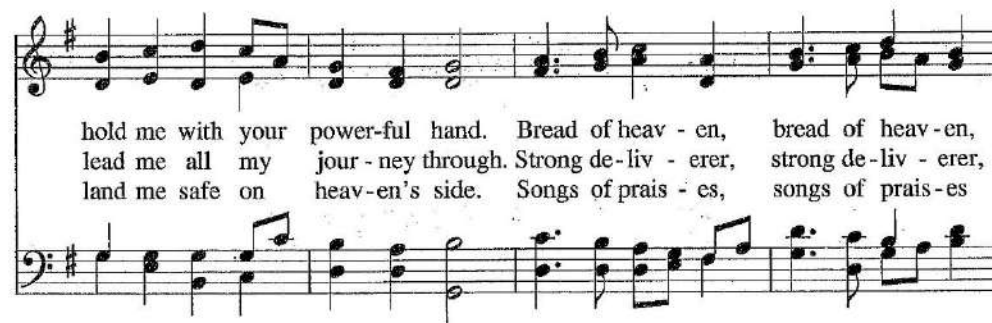
St. 2-3, transl. William Williams, 1772; alt.



1 Guide me, O my great Re - deem - er, pil - grim through this
 2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain, where the heal - ing
 3 When I reach the Riv - er Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious



bar - ren land; I am weak, but you are might - y;
 wa - ters flow. Let the * fire and cloud - y pil - lar
 fears sub - side. Death of death, and hell's de - struc - tion,



hold me with your power - ful hand. Bread of heav - en, bread of heav - en,
 lead me all my jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - erer, strong de - liv - erer,
 land me safe on heav - en's side. Songs of prais - es, songs of prais - es



feed me till I want no more, feed me till I want no more.
 ev - er be my strength and shield, ev - er be my strength and shield.
 I will ev - er sing to you, I will ev - er sing to you.

John Hughes, a railroad official by trade, composed this tune for the 1907 anniversary of Capel Rhondda, Pontypridd, Wales. Cwm Rhondda refers to the "low valley" area surrounding the urban district of Rhondda in southern Wales.

Tune: CWM RHONDDA 8.7.8.7.8.7.7.

John Hughes, 1907

Alternate setting: ZION

Benediction

Pastor James Harris

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 from wherever you are 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

"Wade in the Water" arr. by Mark Hayes

Congregational Life Announcements

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

--Thank you, **Rich Fluechtling**, **Bill Phelps-Ramos** and **Ray Allen** 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 to our greeter and welcome table host, **Jason Romine**, and **Sheila Dell**. Thank you to **Carol Moore** and her crew who set up our hospitality table.

--Thank you also to our usher, **Charlie Phelps-Ramos**, for welcoming us this morning.

--Thank you to **Logan Bakomitros** and **Anthony Mayers** 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 **Jim Nixon** in honor of Allen Vander Linden and Michael Thompson becoming full-time Palm Springs residents.

--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: 2

--- Facebook Live Views: 16

Sunday Offerings

Sunday Offerings \$1,831 Online Offering \$752

Permanence Fund: 0 Cumulative: \$381,300

Memorial Fund \$100 Cumulative: \$850

The Common English Bible and the **Revised Common Lectionary** are the usual references for Sunday morning scripture readings.

Liturgy and prayers are original, sourced and often adapted.

Lyric Piece, composed by Malcolm Swan

Reflection, composed by Mark Hayes

Wade in the Water, traditional Spiritual, arr. by Mark Hayes

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Ministries of Leadership and Support

--Open Council Meetings -- The next hybrid meeting will be September 10 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 October 12 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: on summer hiatus

-BibleBites is on hiatus.

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 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.

--Laundry Love – monthly free laundry service for low income and unhoused residents third Wednesday of the month

--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.

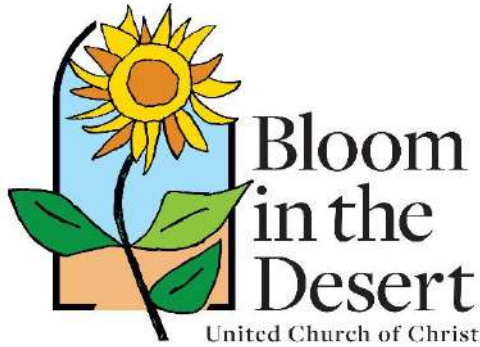
Bloom Happenings This Week						
Monday Sept 1	Tuesday Sept 2	Wednesday Sept 3	Thursday Sept 4	Friday Sept 5	Saturday Sept 6	Sunday Sept 7
10:30am-1:00pm Lunch for our unhoused neighbors, served at United Methodist	10:30am-1:00pm Lunch for our unhoused neighbors, served at United Methodist	10:45am – 1:00pm Lunch for our unhoused neighbors served at Our Lady of Guadalupe	10:45am – 1:00pm Lunch served at Our Lady of Solitude	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 is on Summer Hiatus

-Bible Bites is on hiatus



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

Pastor James Harris — 404-587-9816 — james@bloominthedesert.org

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