



Hispanic Heritage Month

Pentecost 15

September 21, 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

Rev. Doug Holder, piano

“His Eye Is on the Sparrow” “Children’s Song Medley” “Jesus Loves the Little Children”
“Jesus Wants Me for a Sunbeam” “Finlandia”
“This is My Song, O God of All the Nations, a Song of Peace”

Welcome and News of the Congregation

Wayne Sinclair

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.

Call to Worship

Wayne Sinclair

Praise the Holy One! From the rising of the sun until its setting, the name of God deserves our praise!

Who is like our God...seated on high?

Praise the Most High, who observes all things and remembers the poor and those in need.

God our Righteousness raises the lowly and levels the exalted.

Praise the Righteous One, who is just and mighty, who repairs and redeems.

The Redeemer pours out love and justice, compassion and conviction, hope and salvation. Praise the Holy One!

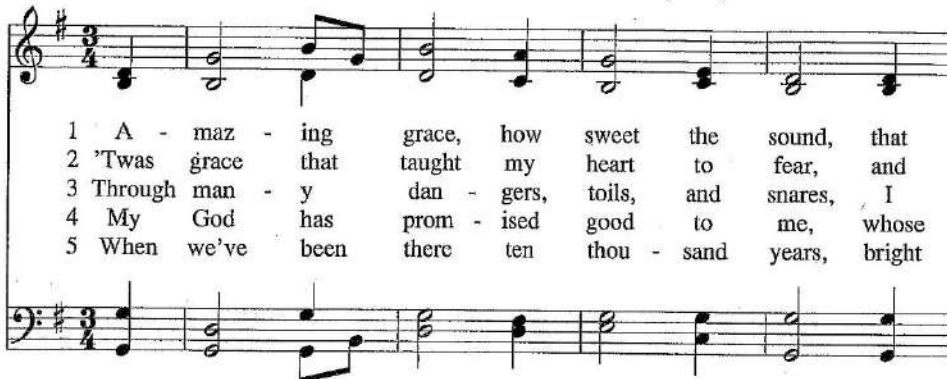
* Opening Hymn

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

547

St. 1-4, John Newton, 1779; alt.

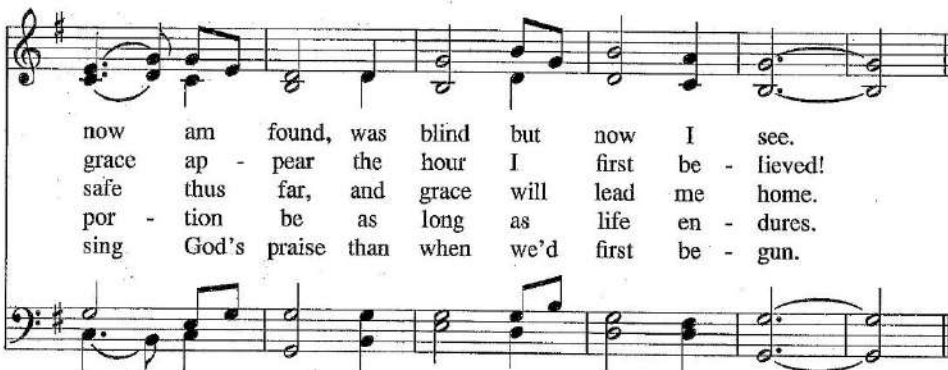
St. 5, A Collection of Sacred Ballads, 1790



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 My God has prom - ised good to me, whose
 5 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 has brought me
 word my hope se - cures; God will my shield and
 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.
 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

John Newton's autobiographical hymn reflects his conversion from his earlier existence as a slave trader. While serving as curate in the English village of Olney, Newton met William Cowper, and together they published Olney Hymns, which included this hymn.

Tune: AMAZING GRACE C.M.
 (NEW BRITAIN)
 Columbia Harmony, Cincinnati, 1829
 Arr. Edwin O. Excell, 1900

In Faith We Open Our Hearts to Ministry

Prayer for Good and Growth

Wayne Sinclair

Redeemer, forgive us for defiling your holy ground. We have not cared for your creation, we have not loved our neighbor as ourselves, and we have not been faithful with the gifts you have given us. We ask you not to clean our slate but to renew our hearts. Soften the hardness this world encourages us to wrap around our hearts, and replace it with compassion, empathy, and accountability to our neighbor, siblings, and creation.

Awaken a new life within us. 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.)

Great God, who gathers us together in spirit and in truth, sanctify our time together. Grant us wisdom and discernment. Open our hearts to receive and to give. Be glorified in our worship and transformation that moves us forward as your people.

~ Silence ~

To all our silent prayers let the people say amen.

Amen.

Words of Encouragement

Dear friends, receive now these words of encouragement. A new life is possible. The Holy One has planted compassion within our hearts. We need only allow ourselves to come alive to the hope and joy that transformation promises us. Receive the grace of God to release fear of failure in order to try and fail and try again to be all that God will empower us to be.

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

Psalms 113

Linda Lang

Praise the Lord!

You who serve the Lord—praise!

Praise the Lord's name!

Let the Lord's name be blessed

from now until forever from now!

From sunrise to sunset,

let the Lord's name be praised!

The Lord is high over all the nations;

God's glory is higher than the skies!

Who could possibly compare to the Lord our God?

God rules from on high;

he has to come down to even see heaven and earth!

God lifts up the poor from the dirt

and raises up the needy from the garbage pile

to seat them with leaders—

with the leaders of his own people!

God nests the once barren woman at home—

now a joyful mother with children!

~Common English Bible

Here ends the Old Testament reading.

Chorus

Spirit of the Living God

283

Daniel Iverson, 1926

Acts 11:15; 2 Cor. 3:1-6; Gal. 5:25

Chorus 1: Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me;

Chorus 2: Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me.

Chorus 3: Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.

Chorus 4: Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me.

Chorus 1: Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me;

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Chorus 4: Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me.

Presbyterian minister Daniel Iverson was inspired to write this chorus one evening while attending revival services led by the George T. Stephans Evangelistic Party in Orlando, Florida, in 1926. It became widely popular at similar meetings before it was published several years later.

Tune: IVERSON 7.5.7.5.8.7.5.
Daniel Iverson, 1926

*** New Testament Reading**

1 Timothy 2:1-7

Mindy Harrington

First of all, then, I ask that requests, prayers, petitions, and thanksgiving be made for all people. Pray for kings and everyone who is in authority so that we can live a quiet and peaceful life in complete godliness and dignity. This is right and it pleases God our savior, who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. There is one God and one mediator between God and humanity, the human Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a payment to set all people free. This was a testimony that was given at the right time. I was appointed to be a preacher and apostle of this testimony—I'm telling the truth and I'm not lying! I'm a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

~Common English Bible

Here ends the New Testament reading.

Thanks be to God. Amen.



Chorus

Spirit of the Living God

283

Daniel Iverson, 1926

Acts 11:15; 2 Cor. 3:1-6; Gal. 5:25

Chorus 1

Chords: F, Gm, D, Gm, F, Dm, C, F

Melody:

Bass:

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me;

Chorus 2

Chords: F, Gm, D, Gm, F, Bb/C, C7, F

Melody:

Bass:

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me.

Chorus 3

Chords: Bb, F, G7, C

Melody:

Bass:

Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.

Chorus 4

Chords: F, Gm, D, Gm, F, Dm, C7, F

Melody:

Bass:

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me.

Presbyterian minister Daniel Iverson was inspired to write this chorus one evening while attending revival services led by the George T. Stephans Evangelistic Party in Orlando, Florida, in 1926. It became widely popular at similar meetings before it was published several years later.

Tune: IVERSON 7.5.7.5.8.7.5.
Daniel Iverson, 1926

Hymn of Response

Take My Life, God, Let It Be

448

Frances R. Havergal, 1874; alt.

Rom. 12:1

1 Take my life, God, let it be con-se-crated faith-ful-ly.
 2 Take my spir-it, let it move at the im-pulse of your love.
 3 Take my will; your will be done! Make your will and mine be one.
 4 Take my love and help it grow; let my lov-ing ov-er-flow.

Take my mo-ments and my days, let them flow in cease-less praise.
 Take my in-tel-lect and use all its pow-ers as you choose.
 Take my heart, and by your grace make of it your dwell-ing place.
 Take me now, and help me be part of Christ's com-mu-ni-ty.

Frances R. Havergal wrote her hymn following a visit to Areley House in Worcestershire, England. Among the ten persons at the house were "some unconverted . . . some converted but not rejoicing." Before she left, "everyone had got a blessing."

Tune: VIENNA 7.7.7.7.
 Justin H. Knecht, 1797
 Alternate tune: HENDON

Ministry of Generosity — Expressing God’s Love and Empowering Good Works

Wayne Sinclair

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

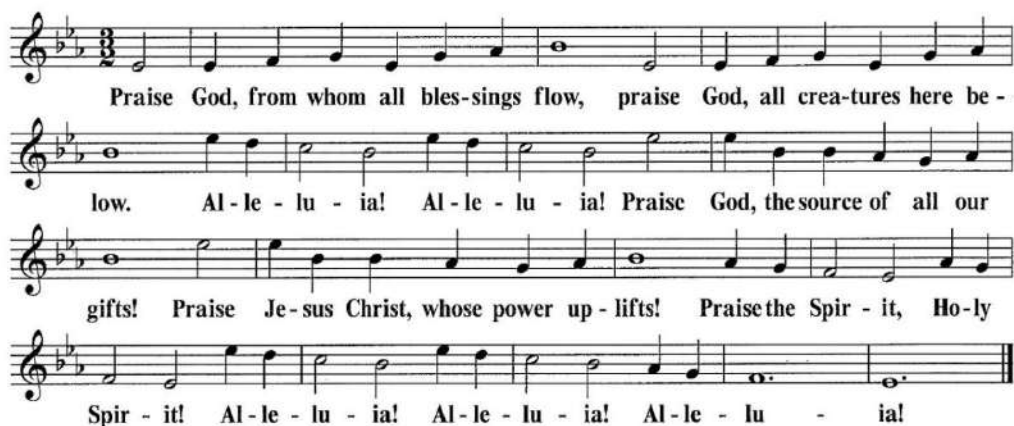
Rev. Doug Holder, piano

“The Peace Carol” by Bob Beers

Presentation of Offerings

* Doxology

Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow



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



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

The Prayer of Jesus

Pastor James Harris

Creator God, 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.

*** Passing of the Peace**

Let us offer one another signs of grace and peace. Amen.

Reception of Members

Presentation and Introduction of New Members

John DiNapoli

We invite to come forward those who are becoming members or associate members with us in Bloom in the Desert Ministries United Church of Christ.

Friends in Christ, these people have found nurture and support in the family of Christ. They are here to claim in our presence their covenantal relationship with Christ and the members of the church. They are here for service to Jesus Christ, the church, the community, and the world, using the gifts which God's Spirit bestows. *Brief words of introduction of each person.*

Welcome of New Members

Rich Fluechtling, Moderator

"You are no longer strangers or outsiders. You belong here. God is building a home, using us all—irrespective of how we got here! God used the apostles and prophets for the foundation. Now God is using you, fitting you in brick by brick, stone by stone, with Christ Jesus as the cornerstone that holds all the parts together. We see it taking shape day by day—a holy temple built by God, all of us built into it, a temple in which God is quite at home.

Membership Covenant

John DiNapoli

Do you promise by the grace of God to follow in the way of Jesus Christ, to resist oppression and evil, to show love and justice, and to share in the work and word of Jesus Christ as best as you are able?

Candidates reply I promise, with the help of God.

Do you promise, according the grace given you, to grow in the Christian faith and to be a faithful member of the church, celebrating Christ's presence and furthering Christ's mission in the world?

Candidates reply I promise, with the help of God.

Vision Statement

Brian Schimpf, Assistant Moderator

Let us read together the Vision Statement adopted by the congregation.

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.

The Assistant Moderator addresses the new members

You have had spiritual encounters and experiences throughout your life, perhaps with family, churches, or other spiritual communities. Today, we rejoice in your pilgrimage of faith which has brought you to this time and place. We give thanks for every community that has nurtured you and been nurtured by your presence along your spiritual journey. Today we celebrate your presence among us in this household of faith.

Covenant Promise of Participation

Rich Fluechtling, Moderator

Members of the congregation may also take this opportunity to reaffirm their covenant of membership.

Do you promise, as you are able, to participate in and support the life and mission of this family of God's people, sharing regularly in the worship of God and enlisting in the work of this local church as we serve this community and the world? If so, please respond: "I promise with the help of God."

Candidates reply **I promise, with the help of God.**

Covenant Promise of the Congregation

John DiNapoli

As a gathered congregation, let us express to these persons our welcome and affirm our covenant of mutual ministry in Christ.

All: We members and friends of Bloom in the Desert United Church of Christ, joyfully welcome you into membership of this church. We promise to love you as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. We will walk with you amidst life's hopes and fears, in happiness and sadness. By the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow together in our faith, as we love God with all our hearts, souls, minds, and strength, and as we love one another and our neighbors as ourselves.

Prayer

John DiNapoli

Eternal God, we praise you for calling us to be your people and for gathering us into the Body of Christ. We thank you for sending to us our new members, that we may work together in serving the needs of others. Confirm in us the power of your eternal covenant with every living creature that we may live in our spirit, share regularly in worship, and so love each other that we may have among us the same mind which was in Christ Jesus, our savior, brother, sovereign, and friend. Let the congregation say "amen."

Amen.

Greetings of Christian Love

John DiNapoli, Rich Fluechtling, Brian Schimpf

In the name of Jesus Christ, and on behalf of Bloom in the Desert United Church of Christ, we extend to you our Christian love, welcoming you into the community of this local church.

Congregation may affirm their welcome with applause. New members sign the Register and place a rock in the membership vase.

* Sending Hymn

Sung twice.

431

Let There Be Peace on Earth

Let there be peace on earth, and let it be - gin with

me; let there be peace on earth, the peace that was

meant to be. *With God our cre - a - tor,

chil - dren all are we. Let us

walk with each oth - er in per - fect har - mo - ny.

*Original, words: With God as our Father, brothers all are we. Let me walk with my brother in perfect harmony.

WORDS: Sy Miller and Jill Jackson

MUSIC: Sy Miller and Jill Jackson; harm. by Charles H. Webb, 1987

WORLD PEACE

Irr.

© 1955. Assigned to Jan-Lee Music, © renewed 1983

Let peace be - gin with me; let this be the mo - ment
now. With ev - ery step I take, let
this be my sol - emn vow: to take each mo - ment and
live each mo - ment in peace e - ter - nal - ly.
Let there be peace on earth, and let it be - gin with me.

As the light of Christ passes by, please turn and face the back of the church.

Benediction

Pastor James Harris

Postlude

“Postlude in C” by Reginald Martin Rev. Doug Holder, piano

Congregational Life Announcements

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

--Thank you, **Wayne Sinclair, Linda Lang** and **Mindy Harrington** 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 ushers, **Randy Zeese and Linda Lang**, for welcoming us this morning.

--Thank you to **Logan Bakomitros** for setting up our worship space and hospitality hour.

--Flowers on the Worship Center donated by Wayne Sinclair and John DiNapoli.

--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: 54 --Children: 0 --First Timers: 2

--- Facebook Live Views: 12

Sunday Offerings

Sunday Offerings \$3,160

Permanence Fund: \$215 Cumulative: \$381,515

Don Hall Bequest:

Permanence Fund: \$10,000

Sunflower Legacy: \$5,000

Food Bank and Laundry Love: \$1,800

Shoes for Students: \$2,000

Music Director/Musician Fund: \$8,000

Spring Fling 17 (2026) Producer \$5,000

Webster Advent Devotional Fund: \$600

Total Bequest Distribution \$32,400

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.

His Eye is on the Sparrow, by S.A. Martin

Children's Song Medley, by Mark Hayes, **Jesus Loves the Little Children, Jesus Wants me for a Sunbeam**

Finlandia by Jean Sibelius **This is my Song, O God of All the Nations, A Song of Peace**

The Peace Carol by Bob Beers

Postlude in C, by Reginald Martin.

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Ministries of Leadership and Support

--Open Council Meetings -- The next hybrid meeting will be November 12 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: resumes October 7 at 6:00pm with a new book. Discussing: "Complaint Free World: (Revised and Updated) How to Stop Complaining and Start Enjoying the Life You Always Wanted" 2024 by Will Bowen.

-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 5:30-9:30 pm at Sunrise and Vista Chino.
- 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 22	Tuesday Sept 23	Wednesday Sept 24	Thursday Sept 25	Friday Sept 26	Saturday Sept 27	Sunday Sept 28
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

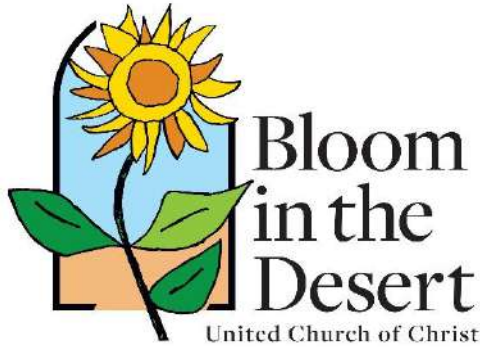
God wants you to think for yourself and live for others.

Bathrooms are located through the double glass doors and to the left.

Bloom Book Club resumes on
Tuesday October 7 at 6:00 pm PST on Zoom.

Discussing: "Complaint Free World: (Revised and Updated)
How to Stop Complaining and Start Enjoying the Life You
Always Wanted" 2024 by [Will Bowen](#)

-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