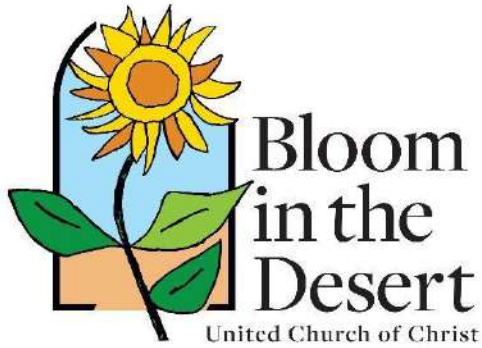




World Communion Sunday

October 5, 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.

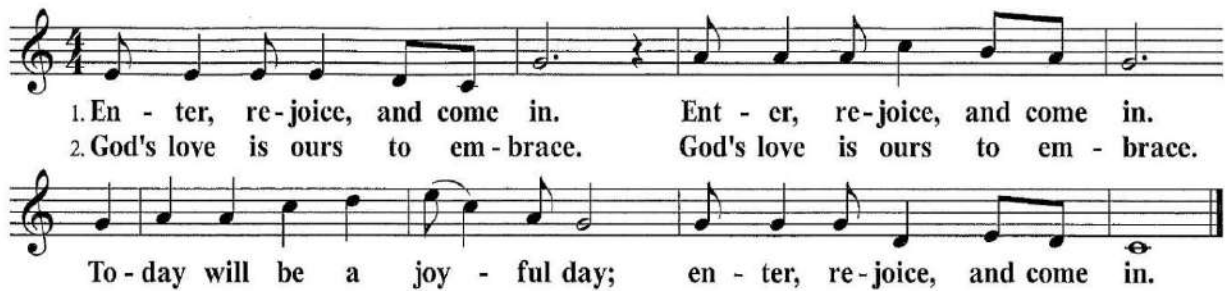
9:50am Pre-Service Music

Malcolm Swan, piano

10:00am Welcome and News of the Congregation

Michael Thompson

Gathering Song



Call to Worship

Michael Thompson

Do not despair at the acts of the wicked

Trust in God. Scatter the seeds of justice in our world.

Do not desire or trust in the power of worldly empires-

Delight in the power of God whose light fills our souls.

Do not embrace wrath or resentment; find patience in times of shadows-

Commit to the ways of God. Trust in the Holy One as Divine Love fills our earth.

Opening Prayer

Michael Thompson

Please join me in prayer:

Gracious God, with grateful hearts we gather to bring you praise. May your praises fill the whole earth. We are thankful for your mighty works, and for the tender care you give us. We praise you with our voices, our bodies, our instruments, ourselves. We join all of creation to give you praise. In the name of your Son, our Lord, Amen.

Now let us sing our opening hymn, it is a new one for us. You may recognize its theme

* Opening Hymn

GATHER

35

No Matter

$\text{♩} = 120$

No mat-ter who, no mat-ter what no mat-ter where you are on the
jour-ney of life; you're wel-come, wel-come in this place. No mat-ter
who, no mat-ter what, no mat-ter where you are on the
jour-ney of life: ac-cept-ed, wel-comed by God's grace. grace.

[To verses] [Last time, Fine]

Verses

1. For we are fam - i - ly, — meant to be —
 2. And in di - ver - si - ty, — u - ni - ty, —
 3. To - geth - er we will sing, — wor - ship bring,
 4. The God who spoke through Christ, — speaks to us; —

pur - posed for e - ter - ni - ty. — Born in love, —
 har - mo - ny for all to see: — Just - ice and —
 hands and hearts out - stretched to — all. — Je - sus praise,
 lis - ten to our Sav - ior's call. — Wel - come home,

from a - bove, — God's com - mu - ni - ty. —
 e - qui - ty, — God's com - mu - ni - ty. —
 hearts a - blaze, — lis - ten to God's call.
 wel - come in, — wel - come one and all. —

Words and Music: Roger P. Miller, Copyright ©2007. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

The Word Informs Our Living with Grace and Power

Old Testament Reading

Psalm 137

Wayne Sinclair

Alongside Babylon's streams,
 there we sat down,
 crying because we remembered Zion.

We hung our lyres up
 in the trees there

because that's where our captors asked us to sing;
 our tormentors requested songs of joy:
 "Sing us a song about Zion!" they said.

But how could we possibly sing
 the Lord's song on foreign soil?

Jerusalem! If I forget you,
 let my strong hand wither!

Let my tongue stick to the roof of my mouth
 if I don't remember you,
 if I don't make Jerusalem my greatest joy.

Lord, remember what the Edomites did
on Jerusalem's dark day:
"Rip it down, rip it down!
All the way to its foundations!" they yelled.

Daughter Babylon, you destroyer,
a blessing on the one who pays you back
the very deed you did to us!

A blessing on the one who seizes your children
and smashes them against the rock!

~ Common English Bible

Here ends the Old Testament reading.

Chorus

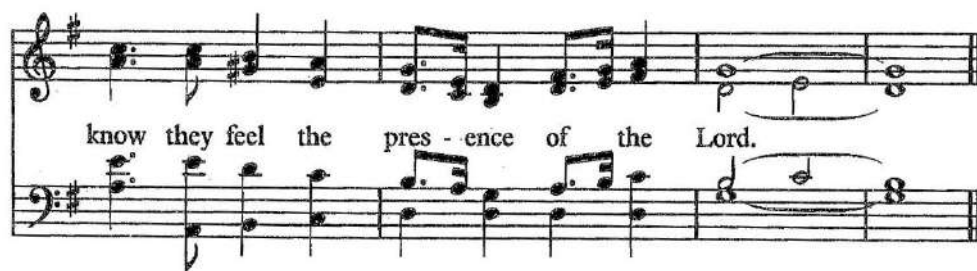
334 Sweet, Sweet Spirit

The musical score for 'Sweet, Sweet Spirit' is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It consists of three systems of music, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The lyrics are: 'There's a sweet, sweet Spir - it in this place, and I know that it's the Spir - it of the Lord; there are sweet ex - pres - sions on each face, and I'. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with the piano accompaniment providing a steady harmonic support.

There's a sweet, sweet Spir - it in this place, and I

know that it's the Spir - it of the Lord; there are

sweet ex - pres - sions on each face, and I



know they feel the pres - ence of the Lord.

Refrain



Sweet Ho - ly Spir - it, sweet heav - en - ly Dove, stay right here



with us, fill - ing us with your love; and for these bless - ings



we lift our hearts in praise; with - out a doubt we'll know



that we have been re - vived when we shall leave this place.

WORDS: Doris Akers, 1962
MUSIC: Doris Akers, 1962

SWEET, SWEET SPIRIT
Irr. with Refrain

© 1962 Manna Music, Inc.

* Gospel Reading

Luke 17:5-15

Mindy Harrington

The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!"

The Lord replied, "If you had faith the size of a mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it would obey you.

Would any of you say to your servant, who had just come in from the field after plowing or tending sheep, 'Come! Sit down for dinner'? Wouldn't you say instead, 'Fix my dinner. Put on the clothes of a table servant and wait on me while I eat and drink. After that, you can eat and drink'? You won't thank the servant because the servant did what you asked, will you? In the same way, when you have done everything required of you, you should say, 'We servants deserve no special praise. We have only done our duty.'"

On the way to Jerusalem, Jesus traveled along the border between Samaria and Galilee. As he entered a village, ten men with skin diseases approached him. Keeping their distance from him, they raised their voices and said, "Jesus, Master, show us mercy!"

When Jesus saw them, he said, "Go, show yourselves to the priests." As they left, they were cleansed. One of them, when he saw that he had been healed, returned and praised God with a loud voice.

~Common English Bible

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

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Chorus

334

Sweet, Sweet Spirit

The musical score is written for a four-part setting (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in G major and 4/4 time. It consists of two systems of staves. The first system contains the first line of the chorus, and the second system contains the second line. The lyrics are written below the staves.

There's a sweet, sweet Spir - it in this place, and I

know that it's the Spir - it of the Lord; there are

sweet ex - pres - sions on each face, and I

know they feel the pres - ence of the Lord.

Refrain

Sweet Ho - ly Spir - it, sweet heav - en - ly Dove, stay right here

with us, fill - ing us with your love; and for these bless - ings

we lift our hearts in praise; with - out a doubt we'll know

that we have been re - vived when we shall leave this place.

Hymn of Response

620

One Bread, One Body

Refrain (Unison)

One bread, one bod-y, one Lord of all,

one cup of bless-ing which we bless. And

we, though man-y through-out the earth,

we are one bod - y in this one Lord.

WORDS: John B. Foley, 1978 (1 Cor. 10:16-17; Gal. 3:28; 1 Cor. 12)
MUSIC: John B. Foley, 1978; harm. by Gary Alan Smith, 1988

ONE BREAD, ONE BODY
44.6 with Refrain

© 1978, 1989 John B. Foley and North American Liturgy Resources

1. Gen-tile or Jew, ser-vant or free,
 2. Man-y the gifts, man-y the works,
 3. Grain for the fields, scat-tered and grown,

wom-an or man, no more.
 one in the Lord of all. One
 gath-ered to one, for all.

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 Music

Malcolm Swan, piano

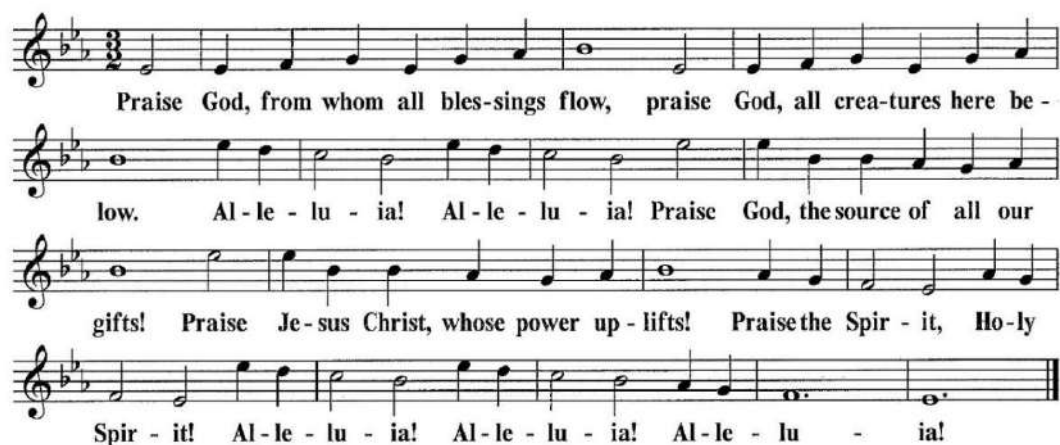
“He Hideth My Soul” Written by Willaim Kirkpatrick, arr. by Jennifer Cook

Presentation of Offerings

Please rise, as you are able, in celebration, as we sing the Doxology.

* Doxology

Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow



Offering our Prayer Concerns, and Joys and Thanksgivings

Pastor James Harris

Hear the good news of the Gospel. Jesus Christ came to love us, accept us for who God created us to be, and to give us the gift of salvation. We confess in the sure and certain knowledge that God's grace overflowed to us while we were yet sinners. In confidence let us confess our sins before God and one another:

Gracious God, our sins are too heavy to carry, too real to hide, and too deep to undo. We look at a world undone by strife, torn by violence, separated by hatred. Yet you call us to walk the way of peace.

Forgive us, O Lord, for refusing to follow you on this path because the cost is too high, the direction too confusing, the conditions too harsh.

Forgive us our complacency. Grant us clarity of vision to see the light, and the strength to walk behind you. In the power of your Spirit we pray, Amen.

In Faith We Open Our Hearts to Ministry

Prayer for Good and Growth

Now in prayer, we welcome God's universal embrace. Together we say:

We remember how Jesus prayed, "That they may be one." We understand this to mean one in spirit, one in mission – in union and communion with each other and with you, God: our creator, sustainer and redeemer.

We now turn from fumbling and failures to the direction of accomplishing unity. We use this day to remind us of our task. On this World Communion Sunday, give us eyes to recognize your gaze in the faces of persons everywhere. Give us the mind of Christ, to imagine ourselves as servants in the likeness of all, serving each other. Give us hearts filled with love for your children everywhere. We thank you for setting the global table with places enough for all of us! Now, help us nourish each other to strength, so we can care for your world and will. Amen.

~Adapted from the *Africana Worship Book*, Year B, (Discipleship Resources, 2007.) Used with permission.

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 of this world, wonderful counselor for every person on it, seeker of peace for us all, continue with us in meditation and receive our silent prayers.

~ Silence ~

To all our silent prayers let the people say amen.

Amen.

Words of Encouragement

By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us,
to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God.

Passing of the Peace

Now as people who are loved deeply and accepted fully, let us offer one another the Peace of Christ.

The Great Thanksgiving

Pastor James Harris

On the Lord's Day, Christians from around the world gather at the table, one family sharing one meal. On this day, we focus our attention on that global gathering that happens every time we share the cup and the loaf. Christ invites us: "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and : let the one who believes in me drink."

God is with you.

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.

Carol Moore: It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise, eternal God, creator of the universe.

You made us from the dust of the earth, breathed into us the breath of life, and set us in your world to love you.

We rejected your love, your peace. We chose to live in enmity with one another rather than peace with you and all creation. But you did not reject us, and you called us back to you repeatedly. We thank you for the prophets like John, who prepared the way of peace.

Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with the heavenly choirs and with all the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of your name:

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 - ral! 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.

Gary Lange: We give you thanks for Jesus at whose birth the angels sang of the coming reign of peace on earth, who fed the hungry, humbled the mighty, and proclaimed the good news. With thanks and praise we offer ourselves to you, sharing this holy meal. Remembering Christ's dying and rising, and praying: Come, Lord Jesus!

All: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Pastor James Harris:

Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us, this bread, this cup, this people, Christ's body and blood, that brings us peace. As you make us one in the Spirit, grant us the strength and wisdom to seek peace in the world. Keep us in the peace of Christ until you gather us at your table in glory. Guide us in the path of peace. Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, now and forever. Now let us pray the prayer Christ taught us:

The Prayer of Jesus

Pastor James Harris

Great Spirit, 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

Communion Invitation

Pastor James Harris

Our Lord Jesus, on the night when he was betrayed, took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, 'This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.' In the same way, he took the cup also, after supper, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.' For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Here at Bloom in the Desert, we fully understand that this is not our table but God's table. At God's table all are welcome. We will serve by intinction; we invite you to come forward cupping your hands together. We will place the bread in your hands for you to dip into the cup to take both elements at the same time. If you wish for us to serve you where you are, just remain seated and we will come to you. Friends, God has prepared the table, now all you have to do is come.

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

Communion Music

Malcolm Swan, piano

"Circle of Life" by Robin Spielberg

* Sending Hymn

374

Standing on the Promises

1. Stand - ing on the prom - is - es of Christ my King,
2. Stand - ing on the prom - is - es that can - not fail,
3. Stand - ing on the prom - is - es of Christ the Lord,
4. Stand - ing on the prom - is - es I can - not fall,

through e - ter - nal a - ges let his prais - es ring;
when the howl - ing storms of doubt and fear as - sail,
bound to him e - ter - nal - ly by love's strong cord,
lis - tening ev - ery mo - ment to the Spir - it's call,

glo - ry in the high - est, I will shout and sing,
by the liv - ing Word of God I shall pre - vail,
o - ver - com - ing dai - ly with the Spir - it's sword,
rest - ing in my Sav - ior as my all in all,

stand - ing on the prom - is - es of God.
stand - ing on the prom - is - es of God.
stand - ing on the prom - is - es of God.
stand - ing on the prom - is - es of God.

The musical score is written for piano and voice. It features a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is primarily in the treble clef, with the piano accompaniment in the bass clef. The lyrics are arranged in four systems, each corresponding to a line of music. The first system includes four numbered verses. The second system contains the main body of the hymn. The third system continues the main body. The fourth system is the refrain, repeated four times.

WORDS: R. Kelso Carter, 1886 (Eph. 6:14-17)
MUSIC: R. Kelso Carter, 1886

PROMISES
11 11.11 9 with Refrain

Refrain

Stand - ing, stand - ing,
Stand - ing on the prom - is - es, stand - ing on the prom - is - es,

stand - ing on the prom - is - es of God my Sav - ior;

stand - ing, stand - ing,
stand - ing on the prom - is - es, stand - ing on the prom - is - es,

I'm stand - ing on the prom - is - es of God.

Benediction

Pastor James Harris

Postlude

Malcolm Swan, piano

"What a Friend We Have in Jesus" by Charles C. Converse, arr. by Jeniffer Cook

Congregational Life Announcements

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

--Thank you, **Michael Thompson**, **Wayne Sinclair**, and **Mindy Harrington** for serving as readers for today's service. **Carol Moore** and **Gary Lange** will assist Pastor James with the communion portion of the 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, **Jim Nixon** and **Lynda Toland**, for welcoming us this morning.

--Thank you to **Logan Bakomitros** and **Michael Broderick** 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 **Robert Parish** in remembrance of his husband, Richard Steel, and their 30th anniversary

--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: 1

--- Facebook Live Views: 8

Sunday Offerings

Sunday Offerings \$962 On-line Giving: \$1,125

Permanence Fund: \$442 Cumulative: \$392,257

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.

He Hideth My Soul, by William Kirkpatrick, arr. by Jennifer Cook

Circle of Life, by Robin Spielberg

What a Friend We Have in Jesus, by Charles C. Converse, arr. by Jennifer Cook

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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 19 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: will resume Tuesday, October 7, at 6pm 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](#)

For more information, please contact our Education Coordinator, Gary Lange at 760-773-1014 or garylange13@gmail.com

-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 – Third Wednesday of each month at Wash Time at Sunrise and Vista Chino 5:30 to 9:30pm

--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 October 6	Tuesday October 7	Wednesday October 8	Thursday October 9	Friday October 10	Saturday Oct 11	Sunday October 12
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 Group meets 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		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.

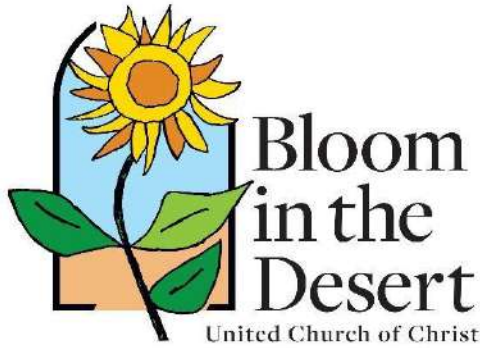
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-Bible Bites is on hiatus

Congregation Meeting
Sunday, October 19
in the Hospitality Room and on Zoom
after the service.



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