

## **Epiphany Sunday Communion Sunday January 4, 2026**

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.

**9:50 am: Gathering Music**      “The Little Drummer Boy”      Paul Cady  
Words and music by Katherine Davis, Henry Ontario and Harry Simeone, arranged by Paul Cady

**10:00 am: Welcome and Announcements**      Mindy Harrington

**\*Please rise as you are able in body or spirit to join in and sing.  
Remain standing for our Call to Worship and Prayer of Invocation.\***

**Gathering Song/Prelude**      “Every Time I Feel the Spirit”      UMH404

### **Call To Worship**

Rise and shine, the Light is revealed. Look! God’s dwelling is now among us. From the sea comes abundance, from the desert comes hope; all creation moves toward joy.

**All: I lift my eyes up. We lift our eyes up. Holy, holy, holy is the Lord.**

Like frankincense, we offer our prayers, that our longing may breathe with God’s longing, that our voices rise with all who seek peace.

**All: I lift my eyes up. We lift our eyes up. Holy, holy, holy is the Lord.**

Like myrrh, we offer compassion, balm for the broken, mercy for the wounded. Where rivalries have ruled, grace now gathers; the scattered come home, nations share their treasures.

**All: I lift my eyes up. We lift our eyes up. Holy, holy, holy is the Lord.**

Let us desire what God desires, life for all creation, justice that sets every captive free, and joy where justice is fulfilled. The end of God’s justice is joy. The end of God’s compassion is peace.

**All: Look! God’s dwelling is now among us. I lift my eyes up. We lift our eyes up. Holy, holy, holy is the Lord!**

### **Prayer of Invocation**

**All: Radiant and Revealing God, you dwell not in temples or thrones but among us, in caravans of mercy, in the faces of those returning home, in the shimmering abundance of the sea.**

**You are the star that stirs our seeking, the Presence that refuses to be hidden,  
the Word made flesh in neighbor and stranger alike.**

**As we gather, let your justice take root in our hearts, your joy rise on our lips,  
your compassion steadies our hands, and your peace settle upon this world you  
so dearly love.**

**Lift our eyes, O Holy One, so that we may see as you see creation radiant,  
humanity restored, and you're dwelling now among us. Amen.**

<b>Opening Hymn</b>	"Joy to the World"	UMH246
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<b>Old Testament Reading</b>	Isaiah 60:1-6	Ray Allen
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<b>Chorus</b>	"His Name Is Wonderful"	UMH174
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**\*Please Stand as you are able for the Gospel reading\***

<b>Gospel Reading</b>	Matthew 2:1-12	Lorretta Martin
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<b>Chorus</b>	"His Name Is Wonderful"	UMH174
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<b>Epiphany Stars</b>	Marilyn Hannan, John DiNapoli, Randy Zeese
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### **Epiphany Litany of Acceptance:**

During our time of communion, you will be receiving an Epiphany Star with a word on it. You are invited to use your word to reflect on, challenge yourself, or to find inspiration, serving as a yearly reminder of God's manifestation and guiding your faith journey. I invite you to pray with me:

O God, we acknowledge that we are not always ready for your best gifts,

**All: At times we turn aside, stumble over, or even reject experiences and  
encounters in our human adventure that we later understand to have been  
precious gifts encountered along life's pathway.**

Today, as every day of our lives, we receive another gift from you, a quality of life, a spiritual value, a dimension of being. We acknowledge we may not yet fully understand this gift, yet we receive it from you with thanksgiving. We pray that your Holy Spirit will enable us to make it our very own.

**All: Loving God, teach us to understand, Wonderful Counselor, teach us to be  
grateful, Sovereign of Peace, teach us to be always learning, Spirit of Life, help  
us to be ever open to receive your best gifts. Amen**

## **Offering**

### **Offertory**

“Mary Did you Know”

Paul Cady

Lyrics by Mark Lowry, music by Buddy Greene, arranged by Paul Cady ”

**\*Please rise as you are able in body or spirit\***

### **Doxology**

#### **Concerns, Joys and Thanksgiving, and Lord’s Prayer**

Gracious and loving God, we come before you with open hearts, bringing the concerns we carry and the burdens we cannot name. We lift up those who are hurting in body, mind, or spirit, those facing uncertainty, injustice, grief, or fear. Hold them in your care and use us as instruments of your compassion and peace.

**All, in unison: Merciful God, we also confess that we do not always love as you love. We have turned away from those in need, remained silent when justice called, and chosen comfort over courage. Forgive us, restore us, and renew us. Free us from guilt that binds us and awaken us to grace that transforms. By your Spirit, shape us again into people of mercy, hope, and faithful action. We offer these prayers in trust, knowing that your love meets us where we are and calls us forward into new life.**

**Lord, hear our prayers.**

#### **Lord’s Prayer (unison)**

**Great Spirit, who art in heaven, hallow 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 our trespassers.**

**Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power forever and ever. Amen.**

#### **Passing of the Peace**

#### **Great Thanksgiving**

Arise, shine, for your light has come. The glory of God rises among us, drawing people from every place and path. As the Magi followed the star to Christ, we are invited to this table, not because we have arrived, but because we are still seeking. This is Christ’s table. All who hunger for light, hope, justice, and grace are welcome here.

The Lord be with you!

**All: And also, with you!**

Lift up your hearts.

**All: We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**¡Santo, Santo Santo!**

Sung 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

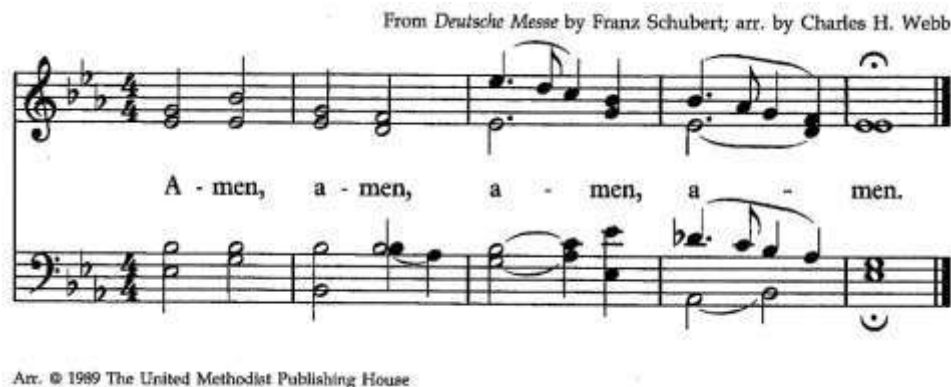
cor - a - zón te sa - be de - cir: san - to e - res Dios.  
heart is glad to say the words: you are ho - ly, God.

*From Deutsche Messe by Franz Schubert; arr. by Charles H. Webb*

Christ has died, Christ is risen,

Christ will come a - gain.

Arr. © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House



**Closing Hymn**                      “Go Tell It On The Mountain”                      UMH251

**Benediction**

**Sung Benediction**                      “Shalom to You”                      UMH666

**Postlude**                      “We Three Kings of Orient Are”                      Paul Cady  
words and Music by John H Hopkins

## Go In Peace

## Congregational Life Announcements

--A warm welcome and thank you to **Paul Cody**, piano, **the pop-up choir** for sharing their musical talents with us today.

--Thank you, **Mindy Harrington**, **Ray Allen** and **Loreta Martin** for serving as readers for today's service.

--Thank you to **JacksonENZler** and **Rich Fluechtling** 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, **Megan** and **Jack Cassette** for welcoming us this morning.

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

Flowers this morning are offered by **Loretta Martin** in memory of **Tim Martin**.

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

## Last Week's Participation

Christmas Eve --Souls present at Demuth: 37 --Children: 0 --First Timers: 2 --Facebook Live: 5

Sunday 10am--Souls Present at Demuth: 42 --Children: 0 --First Timers: 5 --- Facebook Live: 7

## **Sunday Offerings**

Offering \$225 On-Line: \$1,511  
Permanence Fund: \$150 Cumulative: \$397,087  
Year End Appeal \$398 Cumulative: 2,898  
5 for 5 Christmas Fund \$152 Cumulative: \$677

## **Ministries of Leadership and Support**

**--Open Council Meetings** -- The next hybrid meeting will be January 14 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 February 15 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](mailto:dinoinsps@gmail.com) or **Bill Wallace** at [adminassistant@bloominthedesert.org](mailto:adminassistant@bloominthedesert.org).

**--For more information on the United Church of Christ**, visit [www.ucc.org](http://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:** Tuesdays beginning January 13 at 6pm on Zoom. Discussing: "The Separation of Church and Hate: A Sane Person's Guide to Taking Back the Bible from Fundamentalists, Fascists and Flock-Fleecing Frauds" by John Fuglesang,

**--"Blooming Together Grief Support Group"** will begin on Wednesday, January 14, 2026 from 12 noon until 1:30pm in the Bloom Office. It will be facilitated by psychotherapist Chris Flores at no charge. The ongoing grief support group will help individuals heal from deaths and losses. Please reserve your space by contacting Gary Lange or the Bloom office.

For more information, please contact our Education Coordinator, Gary Lange at 760-773-1014 or [garylange13@gmail.com](mailto: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 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. To volunteer, Go to: [wellinthedesert.com](http://wellinthedesert.com) and select location, date and time.

### **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 Laundromat at Sunrise and Vista Chino 5:30 to 9:30pm

You are welcome to take this bulletin with you for reflection or leave it with the ushers for recycling.

<b>Bloom Happenings This Week</b>						
Monday Jan 5	Tuesday Jan 6	Wednesday Jan 7	Thursday Jan 8	Friday Jan 9	Saturday Jan 10	Sunday Jan 11
<b>10:30am-1:00pm</b> Lunch for our unhoused neighbors, served at United Methodist	<b>10:30am-1:00pm</b> Lunch for our unhoused neighbors, served at United Methodist	<b>10:45am – 1:00pm</b> Lunch for our unhoused neighbors served at Our Lady of Guadalupe	<b>10:45am – 1:00pm</b> Lunch served at Our Lady of Solitude  <b>11:00am</b> Pastor Parish meets in the office	<b>10:45am – 1:00pm</b> Lunch served at Our Lady of Guadalupe		<b>10:am</b> Sunday Service at Demuth and on Facebook Live  <b>11:30am</b> Hospitality Potluck

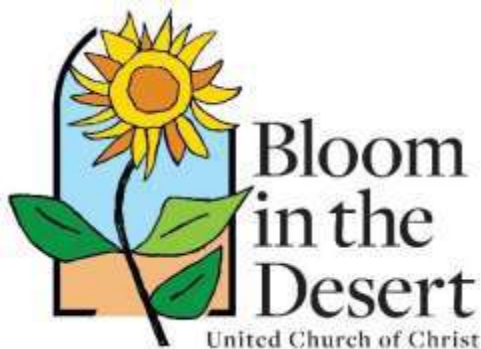
**God wants you to think for yourself and live for others.**

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

**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.

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# 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](mailto:james@bloominthedesert.org)**

**Rich Fluechtling, Moderator — 608-347-5178 — [moderator@bloominthedesert.org](mailto:moderator@bloominthedesert.org)**

**Bill Wallace, Administrative Assistant — [adminassistant@bloominthedesert.org](mailto:adminassistant@bloominthedesert.org)**

**Church Office is located at 400 South El Cielo, Suite G, Palm Springs, CA 92262**

**760-327-3802 — [www.bloominthedesert.org](http://www.bloominthedesert.org) — [info@bloominthedesert.org](mailto:info@bloominthedesert.org)**



# **Education**

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**"Religion in America" by Brian Schimpf on January 17, 2026 at 10:00 am in the church office at no charge.**

**"UCC Church Structure and How Members can Participate in it." by Steven Wayles and John DiNapoli on February 7, 2026, from 1:00-2:30 pm in the church office at no charge.**

**If you need further information or have questions, contact Gary Lange, 760-773-1014 or [GaryLange13@gmail.com](mailto:GaryLange13@gmail.com)**