

Desert Chapel

NEWSLETTER

March 2024

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Mark Your Calendars 2024 Lenten Season

Palm Sunday

March 24 at 9:00am

Maundy Thursday

March 28 at 6:00pm
with Communion

Good Friday

March 29 at 6:00pm

Easter Sunday March 31

Sunrise Worship at 7:00am
Regular Worship at 9:00am
with Communion

From Pastor Philip's Pen

Welcome to spring in the desert! I know it's not officially spring yet, but it will be very soon.

We are more than halfway through our Lenten season here in 2024; Lent is our season for "listening." We are called to listen to God, ourselves, and our Community.

As I sit up here in the Pacific Northwest for a week, taking care of some business for my mother, I am inspired by the wind blowing through the fir trees. What a soothing, beautiful song!

This week I heard a song that I grew up with from Don Williams, entitled "Good Ole Boys Like Me." This verse caught my attention:

*Nothing makes a sound in the night like the wind does,
But you ain't afraid if you're washed in the blood like I was...*

Perhaps it's my bias as a scout and former Park ranger, but I believe that God speaks to us through the wind and through nature just as much as he speaks through people, places and events. What are you afraid of? Jesus's death and resurrection challenges each of us to face our own mortality --- no matter what age we are.

Through Maundy Thursday, we are reminded that Jesus' command is that we love one another in the same way that he has loved us. *(continued on the next page)*





In the darkness of Good Friday, we grieve the horrors and pain of the crucifixion, and on Easter morning we celebrate the resurrection and eternal life.

That's a lot to deal with in a short time! It's so easy to forget the depths and roots of our faith in the business of daily life. Let's intentionally take time to pray and reflect on it during Easter.

We've had some sound problems in the last month, both online and in our streaming services. I want to assure you we have been working to correct them and I personally thank you for your patience.

A special and heartfelt "shout out" goes to Mike Gray and Paul Mosier who have been tirelessly and selflessly working on the issues. And - thanks to your faithful tithing and giving to the church -- we have been able to purchase a few small items that will help fill in gaps.

Another special "shout out" goes to the Chargers who have concluded their season with another wonderful, tasty breakfast! The home-cooked meals, warm friendship, fellowship, and opportunity to sit down and visit on Saturday mornings are priceless.

I encourage all of you to join us during Holy Week. We will have special services for Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and then sunrise services on Easter. This is the most important week of the Christians year -- I encourage all to prayerfully join us as we reflect on Jesus's sacrifice for all of us, and God's love and grace that is given to us through Christ.

As I sit here and watch the sunset over the mountains up here in the Pacific Northwest, I am reminded that spring is a time of new life of rebirth -- of growth and new opportunities. Soon we will be at the cross celebrating rebirth -- our rebirth as Christians and the eternal life that Christ gives us.

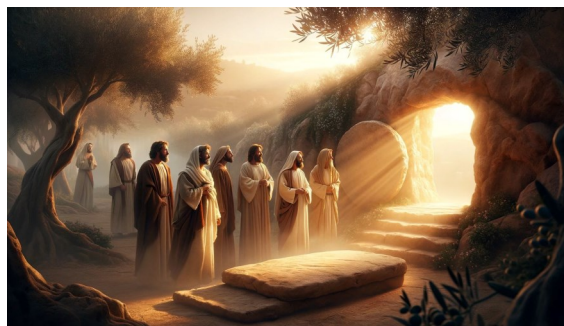
Special Points of Interest

Average Attendance
119

Average Online Attendance
45

February Income
\$16,812.84

February Expense
\$10,193.50



Hymnal

Submitted By: Eleanor Edwards

The information for this hymn review came from the Companion To The United Methodist Hymnal by Carlton R. Young and Then Sings My Soul by Robert J. Morgan.

I Need Thee Every Hour

Annie S. Hawks; Robert Lowry

Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think of anything as being from ourselves, but our sufficiency is from God.
2 Corinthians 3:5

A person can be as close to feeling the presence of God in the kitchen as well as the Chapel. So notes Brother Lawrence in his book. The Practice of the Presence of God.

Annie Sherwood became a published poet at the age of fourteen. After her marriage to Charles Hawks, she and her husband moved to Brooklyn where they attended Dr. Robert Lowry's Hanson Place Baptist Church. There, Annie began writing Sunday school songs for children and Dr. Lowry set many of them to music.

One bright June morning in 1872, when she was busy with the tasks of her household, Annie began to suddenly feel so close to the Master that she wondered how anyone could live without Him, either in joy or pain. The words, "I Need Thee Every Hour" came to her mind and this thought seemed to take full possession of her.

The next Sunday she handed Dr. Lowry the words and he added the tune and chorus there in the living room of his parsonage. The hymn was first sung at the National Baptist Sunday School Association meeting in Cincinnati, Ohio and was published in a hymn book the following year. It was included in the Methodist Hymnal in 1875.

After the death of her husband, Annie found her own hymn was her greatest comfort. She began to understand why " - - this hymn had touched the greatest throbbing hearts of humanity. It was not until long after, when. the shadow fell over my way, the shadow of a great loss, that I understood something of the comforting power in the words which I had been permitted to give out to others in my hour of sweet serenity and peace." *(continued on the next page)*



Next Leadership Board Meeting

Wednesday, March 20th
4:00pm–6:00pm
at the
Desert Chapel Narthex
462 N. Palo Verde Drive
Apache Junction, AZ
85120



I need Thee every hour, Most gracious Lord;
No tender voice like Thine can peace afford.
I need Thee, O I need Thee; Every hour I need Thee;
O bless me now, my Savior, I come to Thee.

What can you do to prevent your congregation from being scammed?

By Christina Dillabough | Mar 12, 2024 | Communications, Conference Newsletter, East District Newsletter, North District Newsletter, South District Newsletter, West District Newsletter



Have you heard this story?

A United Methodist clergy member from a different conference recently shared details about a gift card scam that went to a new level at their church. Someone created a fake account for a member and then emailed the church asking for a new directory. With the directory in hand, the scammer had emails and phone numbers for almost half of the congregation. Next, the scammer created another fake email posing as the pastor asking for gift cards. The emailed request looked legitimate because it included the pastor's name, signature, church name, and the church email address.

Scammers are doing a better job of impersonating people, so it's getting harder to spot a fake email from a legitimate one. With the power of AI, voice cloning could be the next way a scammer might target your congregation.

What can you do to prevent your congregation from being scammed?

Get the congregation informed. Share information in the bulletin, in the newsletter, from the pulpit, and in committee meetings about what to watch for *and* what to do. Let them know:

1. No matter how convincing or desperate it may sound, the pastor will **never** text, email, or call you asking for your Social Security number, bank account information, or credit card number or ask you to pay anything with gift cards.
2. If you paid a scammer with a gift card, contact the company immediately to see if they have a process to minimize fraudulent activity. [Click here](#) to find contact information for some popular businesses with gift cards.
3. If you've been scammed, file a complaint today through the Federal Trade Commission at [ftc.gov/complaint](https://www.ftc.gov/complaint). *(continued on the next page)*

Side Note: While conducting research for this article, I learned that many people struggle with emotional and mental health after falling victim to a scam.
Let us be mindful to surround them with love and support.



Community Feast & Clothing Closets at Desert Chapel



Volunteers & Friends always enjoy fellowship time together at Community Feast.

Current Items Needed for the Clothing Closets

Towels, Hats, Gloves, Smaller Men's Jeans, Sweatshirts, and Jackets



If you would like to help,
Contact Nancy January
at (715) 492-1466



Ray, homeless, friend at Community Feast. Very grateful for a sleeping bag, nights are still cold.



MARCH

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
					1	2 Clothing Closets 10am - 2pm Community Feast 11am - 2pm 
3 Worship Service 9am 	4	5 Spaghetti Dinner 4-6pm	6	7 Choir Practice 4pm 	8	9 Clothing Closets 10am - 2pm Community Feast 11am - 2pm 
10 Worship Service 9am 	11	12	13 Ash Wednesday 6pm	14 Choir Practice 4pm 	15	16 Pancake Breakfast 7am - 9am  Clothing Closets 10am - 2pm Community Feast 11am - 2pm
17 Worship Service 9am 	18	19	20 Board Meeting 4pm	21 Choir Practice 4pm 	22	23 Clothing Closets 10am - 2pm Community Feast 11am - 2pm 
24 Palm Sunday Worship Service 9am 	25	26	27	28 Maundy Thursday with Communion 6pm 	29 Good Friday 6pm 	30
31  Easter Sunday Sunrise Worship 7am Regular Worship with Communion 9am						

Prayer Requests

We are a praying congregation. We encourage you to share your praises, concerns and prayer requests with the congregation. There are several ways to do it.

1. Place a prayer requests under Prayer Bear before service.
2. You can place a prayer request in the offering plate.
3. You may send a prayer request to the church's email address at info@desertchapelumc.org
4. You can call the Church Office and leave a message at (480) 982-2259.



LSM Introduction To Lay Ministry: The Basic Course

*Lay Servant
Ministries*

The South District of the Desert Southwest Conference of the United Methodist Church is pleased to announce:

Introduction to Lay Ministry: The Basic Course

Saturday, May 4, 2024, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm and

Saturday, May 11, 2024, 9:00 am - 3:30 pm

At St John's United Methodist Church

60 W. Veterans Blvd, Tucson, AZ 85713

(Class Limit: 15 participants)

This is an introductory course for Lay Servant Ministries and is the foundation for all courses in Lay Servant Ministries. The text Lay Servant Ministries "Basic Course" by Sandy Zeigler Jackson & Brian Jackson is *required* reading for this program.

Cost: \$15.00 payable upon registration by

(1) Credit Card or Debit, \$1.00 processing fee

(2) Check, send payment to:

DSCUMC, c/o Conference Treasurer

P.O. Box 32830

Phoenix, AZ 85064

with instructions to deposit check into the South District LSM account, include a copy of your registration with the check. No cash or checks will be handled at the class site.
Do Not Mail to the District Director.

(3) Prepaid credit available (verify with your District Director)

Once you register for this course, you will receive a confirmation email with a link to the book and other information.

Ways to Give 🕊

We give to the church as the embodiment of our Lord here on earth, to support its good works. Giving is a form of spiritual discipline - akin to prayer, church attendance, and doing charitable works - helps you to grow in your faith. There are several ways to give:

Giving In-Person: 🌸

Certainly, our preferred method is for you to join us for services at 9:00am and provide your gift there. We love seeing you!



Give By Mail: 📧

You can mail your gift to the church office. Please mail your offering to:
Desert Chapel UMC, 462 N. Palo Verde Drive, Apache Junction, AZ 85120

Give via Online Banking: 💻

Many banking institutions offer online banking. Via online banking, you can schedule checks to be mailed automatically, no stamps needed! Add Desert Chapel UMC to your list of payees for bill pay from your checking account through your bank for weekly or monthly gifts to the church.

When you set up Desert Chapel to receive, use this address:
Desert Chapel UMC, 462 N. Palo Verde Drive, Apache Junction, AZ 85120

Give Online using Subsplash: 🖱

Using the online option via Subsplash, you can provide a bank or credit card for payment and arrange auto-payments on your schedule. Click the "Subsplash" button at:
<http://desertchapelumc.org/giving/> to set it up and manage it!

Thank you for your generosity! If you have any questions, call the office at (480) 982-2259 or email info@desertchapelumc.org.

Your generosity and commitment to Desert Chapel is helping us make a difference in our church.



PASTOR
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