

Desert Chapel

NEWSLETTER

Summer 2025

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Worship with Us

Every Sunday

**Sunday
9am**

On Facebook

[https://www.facebook.com/
DesertChapelUMS](https://www.facebook.com/DesertChapelUMS)

YouTube

[https://www.youtube.com/
@danieledwards5059](https://www.youtube.com/@danieledwards5059)

From Pastor Philip's Pen

Welcome to **Summer 2025**! Our winter visitors have headed north for cooler weather, while those of us who live here year-round have settled in with plenty of water and reliable air-conditioning. My prayer is that each of you enjoys a safe, healthy summer wherever you may be in this beautiful country.

New Sermon Series: Long Days & Short Books

We kicked off a five-week series call "**Long Days & Short Books.**" Each week we'll meet one of the five shortest books of the Old Testament - little "hidden gems" you can read in the time it takes to finish a single glass of iced tea! Whether you join us in person or online, I hope you'll come along on this journey with me.



We believe that **all Scripture** - long or short, famous or **obscure** - is **God-inspired**. In our first week, we encountered the prophet **Haggai**, who calls God's people to *restore, rebuild, and renew* the holy temple.

While we aren't constructing physical sanctuaries today, each of us carries a *spiritual* temple in our own heart. God invites us to refresh, restore, and rebuild that inner life regularly as we face life's ups and downs.
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- **Facilities refresh:** Under the leadership of our **Trustees Chair, Ric Kayer**, several rooms have been freshly painted and our worship and classrooms have been brightened.
- **Upgraded sacristy:** A generous local donor provided beautiful gently-used cabinets and a new refrigerator - proof once again that *God is good, all the time!*
- **Potluck:** We joyfully reinstated a beloved Methodist tradition on Sunday, June 22nd. Thank you to Nancy, Iris, Bev, and Ernestine for organizing a wonderful potluck where our church family shared food, laughter and fellowship.



Wesley Pilgrimage in July

This month Susie and Anita are travelling to the United Kingdom and Ireland for a John Wesley Pilgrimage. Please keep them in your prayers for safe travels - we look forward to hearing their stories and seeing their photos when they return!



A Summer Invitation

As you enjoy your own journeys this season, *let us take the prophet Haggai's words to heart*. Set aside time for prayer and worship to **renew, refresh and restore your soul**. Haggai tells us to *take courage*, and Jesus assures us that we are never alone—we are beloved children of a gracious, forgiving God.

Have a blessed and refreshing summer! *Pastor Philip*



Congratulations to Cliff Heckman & Thank You Anita Thompson Desert Chapel's Two Certified Lay Speakers



Congratulations to Cliff Heckman for becoming a Certified Lay Speaker!

Thank you Anita Thompson for continuing to be a Certified Lay Speaker!

Desert Chapel is the only church in the Desert Southwest Conference to have not one, but **two**, Certified Lay Speakers! We are very fortunate to have Cliff and Anita!





Lay Leader Report

By: David Tom

If it seems like a long time since our last newsletter - it has been! But that doesn't mean Desert Chapel has been equally quiet.

In fact, these past months have been some of the most productive and dynamic that I can remember. A brief review seems in order.

The last six months of 2024 were filled with activity. As we anxiously awaited the return of our winter guests in late fall, we were not only preparing their (your) arrival but also navigating many of the same challenges faced by churches across the country - challenges related to the economy, health care, government changes, Methodist policy, mission needs, and the realities of an aging congregation and facility. Yet during this same time, we also witnessed a renewed enthusiasm for worship, missions, and social connection.

As we approached our annual Church (Charge) Conference in November, our leadership team saw an opportunity not only to highlight our current ministries and worship life, but also to plan intentional enhancements for the year ahead. Our District Superintendent, Rev. Melissa Ryders, has been both supportive and constructively challenging in this work.

A key element of our planning has been to identify a ministry approach that remains rooted in our values and history. After the COVID crisis, Desert Chapel emerged in a relatively strong financial position, even as we faced a decline in membership - especially among youth and adults under age 60. This trend is, unfortunately, common among many mainline Christian congregations.

Yet, our strong legacy of mission and outreach continues. For years, we've called ourselves "*The Heart of Apache Junction*". When our current pastor, Philip, was being considered for the role, he emphasized that he would be a prayful leader. It's no coincidence, then, that we are now often described as "*a praying church*."

With both *heart* and *prayer* at our core, Desert Chapel UMC is rightly seen as a traditional church - traditional in people, values, ministry, and purpose.
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Next Leadership Board Meeting

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

So where do we go from here? How do we share our traditional strengths with our growing community? The answer has often felt elusive - partly because we rely on our winter members to bolster our ministries, and partly because it's difficult to shift from planning for maintenance to planning for growth and future vision.

All meaningful planning needs a clear document and coordinated effort for implementation. We are still in the early stages of building this capacity - but a lot has already been accomplished in a short time:

- Ten years ago, we installed projectors and screens in the Sanctuary, helping worshipers follow the service more easily.
- We then launched livestreaming so that those unable to attend in-person could still participate.
- We developed a church website and began producing content for Facebook and other social media platforms.
- We began engaging more with local community groups.
- We experimented with direct mail outreach.

In recent years, several key initiatives have taken shape:

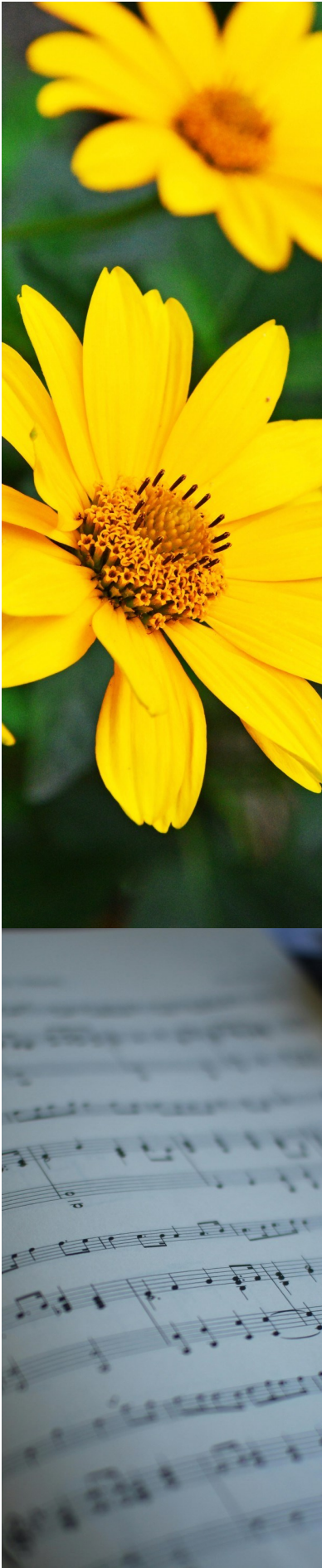
- We created regular social opportunities, both on and off campus, for deeper connection outside of worship.
- We started enhancing our curbside appeal and signage.
- We audited our financials and administrative procedures and repurposed the Narthex/Lounge into a welcoming multi-use area for fellowship after services.
- We completed major HVAC upgrades for comfort and efficiency.
- And most recently - thanks to generous donations and significant research - we began upgrading our audio visual systems with high-definition monitors and computer-driven image generation. These digital improvements include remote camera operation and allow us to free up seating space in front of the pulpit.

As of **May 5, 2025**, we welcomed **Iris McKinney** as our first full-time **Church Operations Manager**. This important position ensures our church office is now open Monday through Friday from 7:00 am to 3:00 pm. More importantly, Iris brings professional expertise to help coordinate the many non-worship functions of our church life.

This means one dedicated person can now support day-to-day operations that previously required coordination among multiple leaders. Her role will continue to evolve, always in service of both our administrative and worship ministries.

We are truly blessed with a dedicated team of leaders, staff and volunteers as we navigate uncertain times and respond to the rapid growth in Apache Junction and East Mesa.

Blessings to all,
Dave Tom
Lay Leader



Hymnal

Submitted By: Eleanor Edwards

The information for this review came from The Companion To The United Methodist Hymnal by Carlton R. Young, Then Sings My Soul by Robert J. Morgan, google.com, Hymnary.org, Old Mike's Today's Hymn, and David's Hymn Blog.

Fairest Lord Jesus,

When I look at Your heavens, the work of Your angels, The moon and the stars, which You have set in place; what is man that You are mindful of him, and the son of man that You care for him. Psalm 8:3-4

This hymn came from the Roman Catholic Jesuits in Germany. The text of the hymn was found in a manuscript dating back to 1662 but its origin remains a mystery. It is also unknown who translated it into English. It emphasizes the dual nature of Christ who was both human and divine, Son of God and Son of man.

Fairest Lord, Jesus, ruler of all nature, O thou of God and man the Son, thee will cherish, thee will I honor, thou, my soul's glory, joy and crown.

Fair are the meadows, fairer still the wood lands, robed in the blooming garb of spring, Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer, who makes the woeful heart to sing.

Fair is the sunshine, fairer still the moonlight, and all the twinkling starry host, Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer than all the angels heaven can boast.

Beautiful Savior! Lord of all the nations! Son of God and Son of Man! Glory and honor, praise adoration, now and for evermore be thine.

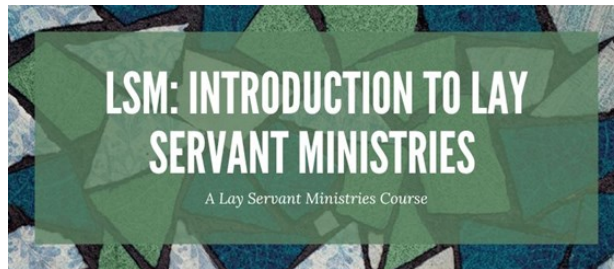
Mike Wilson states that Jesus is the Creator of all for he shines even brighter than angels in heaven and brings spring-like joyous melodies into the sorrowing heart. The average looking Man of Galilee had the imperishable beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit and His beauty shone in His words and actions according to David in his Hymn Blog.

He rules over all of nature. The beauty of the wildflowers
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along the roadside are a free gift of grace; “They are a cause of joy and lift my spirits”. The fairest of all who ever lived is to be worshiped because he is not only the Son of God but one of us. We desire to express our love and respect to Jesus because he is the soul’s glory, joy and crown. The knowledge of the glory of Christ is the crown for which we strive. The beauty of heaven and earth is but a reflection of the beauty found in Jesus, and none can be closer to our heart than Jesus, our Savior.

David in his hymn blog, says he has heard this hymn in congregations large and small, urban and rural, and in every context it seems to be owned and loved by the people, not as an “exotic transplant” but as one of “our hymns”. “We give all honor, glory, adoration and praise to You, now and forevermore.” 🎵

LSM: Introduction to Lay Servant Ministries at Trinity UMC - Phoenix **Saturday, August 9th & Saturday, August 16th**



The West District of the Desert Southwest Conference of the United Methodist Church is pleased to announce it will be offering the Lay Servant Ministries course:

The Introduction to Lay Ministries, The Basic Course.

WHEN: Saturdays **August 9 and 16, 2025 - 9:00am - 2:30pm**

WHERE: Trinity United Methodist Church

3104 W Glendale Ave, Phoenix, AZ 85051

This course is foundational for all courses in Lay Servant Ministries. Participants are encouraged to discover and employ personal spiritual gifts as God intended and to consider the importance of exercising servant leadership, developing future leaders, remaining rooted in consistent spiritual practices, and being part of a group that holds members accountable in their discipleship.

The participants text *The Introduction to Lay Ministry: The BASIC Course* by Sandy Zeigler Jackson and Brian Jackson is required reading for this program. You are required to have read the text prior to the course starting.

The cost for this course is **\$15** and is payable upon registration. You can register and pay online. If paying by cash or check, bring it to the class and give it to the instructor.

Once you register for this course, you will receive a confirmation email with a link to the book and other information. Register here: <https://dsc-reg.brtaapp.com/>

[IntroductiontoLayServantMinistriestheBasicCourseatTrinityUMCPhoenixAugust9162025](https://dsc-reg.brtaapp.com/IntroductiontoLayServantMinistriestheBasicCourseatTrinityUMCPhoenixAugust9162025)

If you have further questions, you may contact Jill Cristina-Krebs, the West District LSM Director, at email westlayservants@dscumc.org.



Community Outreach Ministries at Desert Chapel

March 1st we had an Open House to highlight our ministries at Desert Chapel Community Feast, Clothing Rooms, Pantry, Blessing Box, and Quilting Room. Over one hundred people attended. Several people from the church congregation attended.

We served two hundred meals. Pastor Philip prayed for the meal before our guests started eating. Ted's chili recipe was enjoyed by everyone.



Many people visited our resource table and took tours of each ministry. We also had many people from the local churches stop in.

Kim washed feet (Biblical significance). Shari, from Valley Baptist Church, gave haircuts. There were a few people interested in volunteering in our ministries.

A Big **THANK YOU!** to all our wonderful volunteers who helped make the Open House a success.

Community Feast is going well. The past two Saturdays in April, we served 344 meals and 169 people.

Our winter visitor volunteers have left. There are 2-4 more volunteers that started on April 26th.

Several of our Saturday guests have passed away. We decided to do a photo memory board to remember them. It is displayed in Woeller Hall on Saturdays.

We are grateful for the continued support and donations from our Desert Chapel UMC Church Family. If you would like more information on volunteering, please call Sherry Hussein at (480) 529-9621 or Nancy Greinke at (928) 486-6401.



7 Tips to Avoid Scammers Who Clone Facebook and Instagram Accounts

Protect yourself from fakers on social media who pretend to be you or someone you know.

By Ken Budd, AARP • Published July 14, 2025

Many residents of Macomb County, Michigan, thought the comments were offensive. A Facebook post from County Prosecutor Pete Lucido's office noted that a local high school teacher and two parents had been arraigned in connection with a drug deal. In the comments section, a note appearing to be from Lucido stated, "Spread this story so everyone knows what happens when you let Detroit spill over into OUR neighborhoods!"



In another post, Lucido purportedly disparaged a commenter as "another whiny liberal" and instructed the person to "go play with your terrorist friends at another Black Lives Matter rally." But Lucido quickly issued a statement denying responsibility for the January posts.

He was the victim, he said, of social media cloning: when scammers create a fake Facebook or Instagram account using someone else's identity.

How social media cloning scams work

Cloning accounts, also known as duplicate or copycat accounts, is not new, but the problem persists for a simple reason: Fake accounts are effective and easy to create.

Scammers simply copy your name, photo and personal information to create an account that appears to be yours. Next, they scan your friend list and send friend requests to people you know. Because the request is seemingly from you, your friends and family are not only likely to accept it but may trust the impostor's messages, which can include not only political rants, as with Lucido, but phishing schemes and links that download malware, as well as requests for personal information and, you guessed it, money.

"It may be something along the lines of 'I'm stuck in Europe and someone stole my wallet. Can you please send me \$100?'" says Josh Kirschner, founder and CEO of Techlicious, a site that publishes reviews and articles on consumer technology. If a friend of yours receives that message and thinks it's really from you, they might send that money.

Conversely, Kirschner adds, when you accept an impostor's friend request, that person now has "a channel into your Facebook feed. They can start spamming your account. They can post links to fraudulent websites or send you information about Bitcoin investments or whatever it may be." Although cloning can occur on any social media platform, it seems most prolific on (continued on next page)

Facebook and Instagram. In the third quarter of 2024 alone, Facebook took action against 1.1 billion fake accounts, Statista reported in February.

If you've ever received a friend request from someone who's already a friend – or had a pal message you “Did you just send me a friend request?” – you've probably dealt with a cloned account. Here are some ways to fight back.

How to identify and avoid social media cloning scams

1. Stop and think before accepting a friend request.

Any time you receive a friend request, make sure you're not already friends. If not, consider calling, emailing or texting the person to make sure the request is real.



Also, look at their friend list. “If they only have six friends or they don't have any post history, that's a red flag,” Kirschner says. Also consider whether the request appears odd, based on what you know about the person, says Michael Sherwood, vice president of product at Malwarebytes, a cyber-protection software company.

“Maybe your mom is messaging you at 4:30 in the morning,” he says. “Ask yourself: Does this feel like a normal message?”

2. Hide your Facebook friend list.

Scammers clone Facebook accounts because they want to connect with your friends. To [prevent your friend list from being public](#), go to Facebook and click on your profile picture in the upper-right corner of the page.

Next, select “Settings & privacy” followed by “Settings.” Scroll down to “Audience and visibility” and click on “How people find and contact you.” Where it says “Who can see your friends list,” select “Only me.”

3. Make your posts private too.

While you're navigating Facebook's “Audience and visibility” settings, also click on “Posts.” Change the setting so that your posts are visible only to friends. “If you post something publicly and your friends go in and comment or react, then scammers will be able to see your friends that way as well,” Kirschner says.

4. Choose the “Private” setting in Instagram.

You can't hide your followers on Instagram as you can on Facebook, but you can still prevent scammers from spotting your people. Just go to “Settings and activity,” click on “Account privacy” and make your account private. After that, only your followers can see what you share.

5. Limit your profile information.

you work, where you live – to not only create a cloned account but also to connect with potential targets. The fake-you might target not just friends but people who went to the same high school or work at the same company.

6. Know the difference between cloning and hacking.

You probably know someone who has posted, “If you get a friend request, ignore it – my account has been hacked.” But if someone stole your username and password and logged in as you, they wouldn’t need to send out friend requests.

“A lot of people get their account cloned, and they think they’ve been hacked, and they’ll start changing their passwords,” Kirschner says. “But it’s not hacking if no one’s stolen your password or your ID. It’s simply a fake version of your account. Your original password and login are still fine.”



7. Report cloned accounts.

[Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) both allow users to report cloned accounts. One catch: “A lot of times when people clone accounts, they will actually block you so you can’t see their account, which prevents you from reporting it,” Kirschner says. If you can’t see it, ask your friends to confirm the cloned account’s existence and report it to Facebook or Instagram.

Ken Budd has written for National Geographic Traveler, Travel+Leisure, The Washington Post Magazine and many more. He is the author of a memoir, The Voluntourist.



**3rd
Sunday
of
Each
Month**

Donuts, Coffee, Juice & Fellowship



LET'S PLAY

**Friday, August 8th
12:00pm in the
Church Narthex/Lobby
Fun & Prizes!**

A Heartfelt THANK YOU!

Dear Desert Chapel United Methodist Church,

A+

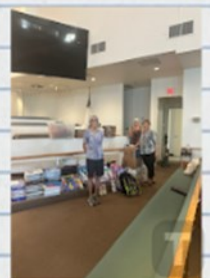
Thank you for the donations to the Annual Avalon Elementary School backpack and School Supply Program.

We want to extend our deepest gratitude to everyone who donated to our school supply drive. Your generosity will directly impact students who now have the tools they need to learn, grow, and thrive.

Because of you, backpacks are filled, pencils are sharpened, and young hearts are ready to take on a new school year with confidence and joy. Thank you for making a difference in our community - one notebook, one crayon, one kind act at a time.

Sincerely,

The Missions Committee



Coming Soon!

DESERT CHAPEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

AVALON KINDERGARTEN READING PROGRAM

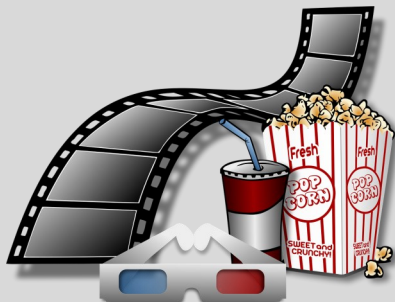
DATE | TIME | TBD



Watch for the
Sign-up Sheet.

Movie Night

**Coming to
Desert Chapel**



Potluck

We had such a great time at our Potluck. We want to do another one. Watch for more info.



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 this.

1. Place a prayer request 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.



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.



PASTOR
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