



*Desert Chapel*

# NEWSLETTER

February 2024

## Inside this issue:

- Lay Leader Report
- Hymnal
- Community Feast & Clothing Closets
- February Calendar
- Classes & Community Events

## Mark Your Calendars 2024 Lenten Season

Ash Wednesday

February 14 at 6:00pm

Palm Sunday

March 24 at 9:00am

Maudy Thursday

March 28 at 6:00pm

Good Friday with

Communion

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 February! Whether you are a long-time member or new friend, we welcome you to Desert Chapel!

We've all survived the busy holiday season; by now the Christmas decorations are put away, and we start to look forward to warmer, dryer weather and Easter. Although I grew up in a rainy climate on the Gulf Coast of Texas -- I've been in Arizona for over 25 years and admit that I'm now used to the dry, hot weather.

The last few weeks have been unusually cold and wet here for the Phoenix area -- we remind ourselves that the rain is a blessing to a thirsty land that has been lacking rain for many years.

February is a month in which we are called to *listen and pay attention*. We are called to listen to the sound of the rain and the wind. We are called to listen to each other's stories of anguish, and hope, and joy. And - we are called to listen to God, and Jesus' teachings.

On Wednesday, February 14th, at 6pm - we will start the Lenten season and our journey towards the cross with a special Ash Wednesday worship service, complete with imposition of ashes.

Through ash we acknowledge our mortality: Genesis 3:19 (NIV) - *By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food* (continued on the next page)





### Special Points of Interest

Average Attendance  
109

Average Online Attendance  
59

January Income  
\$14,124.85

January Expense  
\$15,074.72

*until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return.”* Through Christ’s death and resurrection, we rejoice in our eternal life.

There are many Faith Traditions that encourage some form of “fasting” or “abstinence” during Lent. Lent is the 40 days before Easter, not counting Sundays. As my faith has matured -- I have come to think of fasting or abstinence as an opportunity for us to “double down” on focusing and listening. What do you fast from, or abstain from?

That’s a very individual decision. Lent recognizes the 40 days that Jesus spent in the wilderness after his baptism - fasting, praying, and listening to God. Sometimes, we need to remove distractions to give time and space for listening and prayer.

Here in the church office, we've started the New Year with a bang! Your Leadership Board has approved a formal budget for 2024, and a dedicated team of volunteers including Kathy Highland, Dave Tom, Nancy January, and Ernestine Tesarek spent long hours preparing a grant application to the city of Apache Junction to request funding for our weekly mission and Mission facilities.

If we receive the grant, it will help fund long needed repairs, improvements, and accessibility features to Woeller Hall and the rooms we use for the Clothing Closet. Regardless of the outcome of the application, we will faithfully live into our calling as Christians to help the last, the least, and the lost. We will continue to move forward in partnership with the community to feed and clothe those who need it. That’s who we are - a community of Christ, outwardly focused.

*Gospel of Mark, Chapter 9 : Then a cloud appeared and covered them, and a voice came from the cloud: "This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him!"*





# *Lay Leader Report*

By: David Tom, Lay Leader

As I write this day and article, a deadline looms. No, it is not Valentines Day, or Groundhog Day, or even preparing for the Sunday Birthdays and Anniversaries sing-along. It is the January 31, 2024, deadline for Desert Chapel to turn-in our application for a grant from The Health and Human Services Commission of the City of Apache Junction. We learned of this grant later in the process and then only through the efforts of our soon-to-be new member Kathy Highland.

Kathy approached me a few weeks ago saying; “This might be a great opportunity for Desert Chapel and our missions’ programs.” When I read the intent for the grant, I agreed. The overall grant is part of State and Federal programs to provide grant monies in the form of “Block Grants” for, in this case, financial assistance for agencies that provide services to the underserved populations of Apache Junction.

The Leadership Board approved that Desert Chapel apply for the above grant. The approval was to enhance the necessary upgrades and required health and safety measures needed for Desert Chapel to continue to operate our Community Feast and Clothing Closet missions. Specifically, to bring our facilities, namely Woeller Hall, and the south classroom building up to snuff.

The Leadership Board will be considering the potential impact of the grant, should we receive all or part of the requested funds. There is, of course, no guarantee that Desert Chapel will receive any of the funding for which we applied. Therefore, the board will operate within the confines of the 2024 budget approved in January.

The application for this grant forced us to take a good and deep look at our missions’ programs and the facilities that support the missions. Regardless of the grant outcome, we will be financially and administratively challenged by age, the deferred maintenance, and the unforeseen uses of our facilities.

There are many people to thank for their hard work to complete and submit this grant application. At the risk of leaving  
(continued on the next page)

## **Next Leadership Board Meeting**

Wednesday,  
February 21st  
4:00pm–6:00pm  
at the Desert Chapel  
Narthex  
462 N. Palo Verde Drive  
Apache Junction, AZ  
85120



# Lay Leader Report

By: David Tom, Lay Leader

(continued from previous page)

someone out, your Leadership Board deserves kudos for both examining the past budgets and carefully engineering a 2024 budget that is based in the real expected income from pledges, loose plate, unrestricted gifts, and dedicated gifts. Similarly, expected expenses were analyzed to provide a clear picture of the costs of Desert Chapel operations for 2024.

The grant is focused on Health and Human Services. That focus necessarily demanded that our Missions Leader, Nancy January and our Trustee, Ric Kayer, provide financial details and projections. Our Pastor Philip provided guidance to all of us from both the Pastoral and administrative perspectives. Ernestine Tesarek, Pastor's wife, has had experience with similar grant applications. She spent several long days and nights getting our rough submissions into the required grant format.

Earlier in the grant process, Kathy Highland was assimilating our rough data into the correct format when only days from completion, her computer went dark! This is when Philip and Ernestine jumped into the fray. Fortunately, Kathy was able to recover her work and electronically transmit it to the Tesareks.

A truly team effort no matter the outcome. Let's all pray that the grant reviewers are moved by the sincere devotion of our outreach ministries.

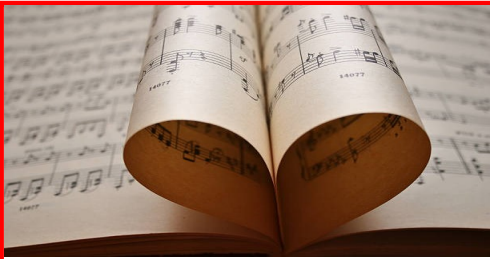
## Psalm 51:2-3, 10-14 (NIV)

### *A Psalm of David*

Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.  
For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always  
before me.

Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast  
spirit within me. Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me.  
Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.  
Then I will teach transgressors your ways, so that sinners will turn back to you. Deliver  
me from the guilt of bloodshed, O God, you who are God my Savior, and my tongue  
will sing of your righteousness. Open my lips, Lord, and my mouth will declare your  
praise.





# Hymnal

Submitted By: Eleanor Edwards

The information for this review was taken from the Companion To The United Methodist Hymnal by Canton R, Young and The Cyber Hymnal.

## Here I Am Lord

Words & Music - Daniel L. Schutte, 1981

Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I; send me!" Isaiah 6:8

The author writes about the Hebrew characterization, in the Psalms, of God as Lord of the sea, sky, snow, rain, wind and flame and yet a God who cares about the poor and oppressed - a God who is concerned about the well-being of each member of the human family. And, even though we feel unworthy and not equal to the task we, as members of God's family, hear Him calling us and respond with faith, devotion and positive action.

The Cyber Hymnal, in a Weekly Reflections' article, lists many of God's servants who are confronted with the idea of complete surrender to His will. It states that, "Here I am" is a formal Hebrew response of a servant to his master. After Adam's downfall he hid when his creator called his name. Despite his anguish at his failing, he still answered with devotion and commitment. "Here I Am".

When God called Moses from the burning bush, he also answered, "Here I Am" - the reply of an obedient servant. Isaiah gave the same response when he had the vision of seeing God and realized his own unworthiness. Mary told God's messenger that she was the Lord's servant and ready to accept an unimaginable awesome task. The Cyber hymnal states that obedience and love are interwoven, and we cannot love God without the obedience. When we answer God's call with "Here I Am" we leave our busy-ness, obligations and worldly pursuits and respond with sacrificial service. We don't just study the problems of the world but actualize our faith and say, "Here I am, Lord - ready to do Thy will".

The author was born in Neenal, Wisconsin, and was educated at St. Louis University, the Jesuit School of Theology at Berkeley, California And the Graduate Theological Union at Berkeley. He joined the Jesuits and served as director of liturgy on the campus ministry staff at Marquette University. He also was director of music at Immaculate Heart of Parish, Milwaukee, Wisconsin and then became director of music at the Lady of Lourdes parish in Milwaukee. He received an honorary doctorate from the University of Scranton.

I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry, All who dwell in dark and sin, my hand will save, I who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright, Who will bear my light in them, Whom shall I send? Here I am, Lord, is it I Lord? I have heard you calling in the night, I will go, Lord, if you lead me, I will hold your people in my heart.



# Community Feast & Clothing Closet at Desert Chapel

The Community Feast serves approximately 160 - 170 warm meals every Saturday from 11:00am to 2:00pm. Our Clothing Closets are open from 10:00am to 2:00pm.

We continue to be Blessed in so many ways through our Outreach Ministries at Desert Chapel. The Salvation Army and Midwest Food Bank provide us with food and drink items for our Saturday meals.

Gold Canyon UMC Food Bank gives us food items we can use in our Blessing Box. First UMC in Mesa has given us ten homemade sleeping bags.

We recently helped a family with three small children. They had a fire that destroyed most of their clothes. They shopped in our Clothing Closets, found clothes, blankets, and other items needed.



## Current Items Needed for the Closing Closets

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



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

Thank you to our Desert Chapel Church Family for your Generosity of Spirit, with all your donations that have Blessed so many people.

We continue giving out blankets and pillows, providing some warmth and comfort to people who are homeless, several that live in their vehicles.

Many people, from all walks of life, come on Saturdays for a good warm meal, fellowship and spiritual blessings.



**A Very Big THANK YOU...  
to all the Wonderful, Dedicated Volunteers  
that Contribute to the Success of these  
Outreach Ministries!**



# FEBRUARY

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
				1	2	<b>3</b>  Clothing Closet 10am - 2pm  Community Feast 11am - 2pm 
<b>4</b> Worship Service 9am  	5	6	7	<b>8</b> Choir Practice 4pm 	9	<b>10</b>  Clothing Closet 10am - 2pm  Community Feast 11am - 2pm 
<b>11</b> Worship Service 9am  	12	13	<b>14</b>  Ash Wednesday 6pm	<b>15</b> Choir Practice 4pm 	16	<b>17</b>  Pancake Breakfast 7am - 9am  Clothing Closet 10am - 2pm  Community Feast 11am - 2pm
<b>18</b> Worship Service 9am  	19	20	<b>21</b> Board Meeting 4pm	<b>22</b> Choir Practice 4pm 	23	<b>24</b>  Clothing Closet 10am - 2pm  Community Feast 11am - 2pm 
<b>25</b> Worship Service 9am  	26	27	28	<b>29</b> Choir Practice 4pm 		



**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.

**Desert Chapel Chargers**

**Breakfasts & Spaghetti Dinner Schedule**  
**at Woeller Hall**

Breakfast Dates—Serving 7:00am—9:00am

Saturday, February 17th

Saturday, March 16th

Cost: Adults \$6.00 / Youth \$4.00

Spaghetti Dinner 4:00pm-6:00pm

Tuesday, March 5th

Cost: Adults \$7.00 / Youth \$4.00



## 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](mailto:info@desertchapelumc.org).

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



PASTOR  
Philip S. Tesarek  
[ptesarek@desertchapelumc.org](mailto:ptesarek@desertchapelumc.org)

Desert Chapel UMC  
462 N. Palo Verde Drive  
Apache Junction, AZ 85120  
[www.desertchapelumc.org](http://www.desertchapelumc.org)



Office email: [info@desertchapelumc.org](mailto:info@desertchapelumc.org)  
Church Office: (480) 982-2259