



THE SKYLINE

An e-news blast of Desert Skies United Methodist Church: Your One Stop Weekly Communication **September 22, 2026**

Church Office Hours:

Monday-Thursday: 9:00 am ~ 3:00 pm

Pastor Heath's drop-in office hours:

**Mondays: 10:00 am-2:00 pm
or by appointment**

**Wednesdays: 10:00 am-2:00 pm
or by appointment**

**1st Thursday of the month
9:00 am-10:30 am**

**Jerry Bob's Family Restaurant
7545 S. Houghton Rd.**

**If you live in Vail, so does Pastor Heath.
If you'd like to get together to meet, call
or text him. Cell Phone: (410) 758-7707
email: pastorheath@desertskiesumc.org**

**We are offering In-Person Worship
Services at both Campuses:**

**Traditional: 9:00 am
Houghton Campus-Sanctuary
Praise Band plays the
2nd & 4th Sunday
at our Houghton Campus**

**Look for the links page with our
9:00 am online worship service info**

**We are NO longer streaming
the Houghton service
on the Church Online platform.
You can find us on YouTube**

**Traditional w/Contemporary Music
11:00 am**

**Vail Campus-Arizona Senior Academy
13715 E. Langtry Lane**

Homecoming Sunday—October 4 at 10:00 a.m.

Come home to Desert Skies for one joyful, combined worship service at our Houghton Campus! We will gather at **10:00 a.m.** instead of holding our regular 9:00 a.m. Houghton service and 11:00 a.m. Vail service.

The Rev. Dr. Julie Wilson will preach, and we are delighted to welcome the **Reveille Men's Chorus**. They will sing a special piece commissioned for them exploring what it means to find "home." What a wonderful way to celebrate Homecoming and expand our table to include others who are still searching for a place to belong and call home. We also have some other musical surprises planned that you won't want to miss.

As we celebrate World Communion Sunday, we will share Communion with bread lovingly made by Pastor Heath and Rev. Julie. We will also joyfully welcome new members into the Desert Skies family (if we have any people who wish to join, reach out to Pastor Heath or the church office today).

After worship, the celebration will continue at Christ's Café with homemade bread, sticky buns, and other delights prepared by Pastor Heath and Rev. Julie. Regular and vegan/gluten-free selections will be available. You are invited to bring a cool, unusual, or favorite loaf of bread to add to our Homecoming World Communion bread display!

Come enjoy inspiring worship, beautiful music, delicious food, warm fellowship, and the opportunity to explore the ministries of Desert Skies and discover new ways to connect and serve. Whether you have been away for the summer, away from church for a while, or have only recently discovered Desert Skies, there is a place for you here.

Come home to worship, fellowship, and the table we share!

2026 All Church Conference w/our District Superintendent

**All Are Welcome & Encouraged To Attend!!
Wednesday, September 23rd at 6:00 pm ~
Houghton Campus in Fellowship Hall**

Come celebrate the ministry of Desert Skies and learn more about the state of the church and congregation.

This Week at Desert Skies

Tuesday, September 22

9:30 am Vail Bible Study Arizona Senior Academy

Wednesday, September 23

7:30 am UMM Breakfast

Jerry Bob's Restaurant at 7699 E. Speedway

1:00 pm Flea Market Board Meeting

Houghton Campus-Rm. 2

5:00 pm The Wired Word via Zoom

SPRC Meeting Houghton Campus-Rm. 2

6:00 pm All Church Conference Meeting

Houghton Campus-Fellowship Hall

6:00 pm Adult Bells Houghton Campus-Sanctuary

7:00 pm Voices of Desert Skies Choir

Houghton Campus-Sanctuary

Thursday, September 24

7:00 am Flea Market Fun Houghton Campus

9:30 am Flow Like a Mother Yoga Class

Houghton Campus-Fellowship Hall

10:00 am Coffee Chat via Zoom

Saturday, September 26

2:00 pm Houghton Praise Band Sanctuary



Our Annual Flea Market is Coming Soon!

Mark your calendars for November 5–7

The Desert Skies UMC Annual Flea Market Sale is fast approaching! An event this big takes a village, and we need your help to make it a success!

We are looking for joyful volunteers to help with setup, clean-up, and working during the sale in shifts. No experience is necessary—just a smile and a willing heart.

It's a fantastic way to meet new friends and make a big difference. The best part? Profits go directly to supporting local non-profits and community missions that change lives right here in our area. Over the years, this sale has helped fund dozens of vital community organizations.

Building the Great Wall of Soda/Water

“In addition to volunteer support, we also need your donations to build our Great Wall of Soda (and water).

For soda, we primarily need cans of Pepsi, Coke, 7-Up, Sprite, Dr. Pepper and Root Beer, including Diet versions, and are accepting name brands only, not generic store brands.

For water, any brand is fine, but please get the normal 500 ml size bottled waters. You can leave your donations in Office work room by the copier”.

Ready to join the fun?

Drop us a line at fleamarket@desertskiesumc.org, or feel free to reach out personally to any of our flea market committee members: Fred Pascoe, Mike Starace, Brian Roberts, Debbie Graves, or Diane Ellison

REMINDER CORNER

These are a few reminders to keep us all on track.

1. **Facility/Activities Planner Form:** If you have any committee meetings or events coming up for 2026-2027 calendar year, and you have not filled out a form for our calendar, please stop by the church office and do so. See Tammy.

2. **Name Tags:** If you have requested a name tag, one will be made and clipped to **the letter of your last name** located on the metal name tag holder.

3. **Facility Keys:** If you were issued a key from the church office that you are no longer using, please return it to Tammy. Also, if you were issued a key and will continue to use it for the upcoming 2026-2027 calendar year, The Trustees Committee asks that you return it to Tammy and she will recheck it out for you.

A Message from Pastor Heath

Stronger Than We Think

During the “Get to Know the Pastor” gathering, they asked everyone to share their hopes for Desert Skies. One person answered with a word: “Survive.”

I have thought about that answer ever since. I understand where it comes from. Over the past decade, this church has experienced real losses and significant changes, and it can be easy to look around and wonder what the future holds. But survival is far too small a hope for the church of Jesus Christ.

This Sunday, I will offer an honest “state of the church” message about where Desert Skies has been, where we are today, and where I believe God may be calling us next. I won’t pretend that our challenges are not real, but I also want us to recognize that this church is stronger than we think. God has given us faithful people, valuable resources, meaningful ministry, and opportunities all around us. The question is whether we are willing to offer our gifts, try new things, and move forward together. God is not calling Desert Skies merely to survive. God is calling us to serve.

Then, on **Sunday, October 4**, we will celebrate Homecoming with **one combined worship service at 10:00 a.m. at the Houghton Campus**. Please invite your family, friends, former members, neighbors, and anyone who may be looking for a church home. We will celebrate World Communion Sunday, welcome new members, hear some special music, break homemade bread at Christ’s table, and enjoy plenty of food and fellowship afterward at Christ’s Café.

If you have been thinking about joining Desert Skies, there is still time to become part of the group received on Homecoming Sunday. Just reach out to me this week. I would love to talk with you.

We are walking this road together. At times we need to pause, take a breath, assess where we are, then adjust the course if needed, and then continue the journey. So come join us on the journey!

—Pastor Heath

YOU’RE INVITED TO ROMANS!
Tuesdays | 10:30–11:30 a.m.
Fellowship Hall | Main Campus
Beginning October 6th ~ Everyone is invited!

Paul’s letter to the Romans has challenged and inspired Christians for nearly 2,000 years—and now it’s our turn to wrestle with it!

Join Pastor Heath for **Invitation to Romans**, an eight-week DISCIPLE Bible Study exploring faith, grace, sin, salvation, love, and what it means to follow Jesus together.

No biblical expertise required. If you already understood everything in Romans, we probably wouldn’t need the study!

Bring your Bible, your questions, and your curiosity. Sign-up on your connect card today!

All Church
Houghton Campus Cleanup
sponsored by the Trustees Committee

Saturday, October 24th
at 8:00 am

**Join us in helping to spruce up
our campus grounds!**

**Bring gloves, yard tools, and a
water bottle.**

Hope to see you there!

Shared Youth Ministry- Updates & Upcoming Events

September 20 - Creation Celebration at Christ Church: On Sunday, youth explored part of the Creation Celebration through a few educational and hands-on activities. They learned about recycling, desert plants, salt, and how long different materials take to break down, and several students were surprised by how long some trash can stay in the environment. They also used a microscope, made a desert craft, spent time with the Salt, Soil, and Saguaro Rubik's Cube mosaic, and finished with outdoor games. We connected it with Psalm 24:1: "The earth is the Lord's and everything in it."

Some photos [here](#).



Upcoming Youth Events: [View the calendar here](#) - We will update that link weekly if needed.

This Sunday, September 27, all youth are invited to our annual Escape Room Field Trip! We'll work together, solve clues, and have some fun at *Will You Escape?* (2577 N 1st Avenue). RSVP to Luis by Thursday. Gather at St. Paul's UMC at 3:15 PM to travel together in the Desert Skies church van. We expect to return around 5:40 PM.

Luis Ortiz

Shared Youth Ministry Director: [St. Paul's UMC](#) | [Desert Skies UMC](#) | [Christ Church UMC](#)

Office Phone: (520) 296-6149 | Ext. 7026 or Cell Phone: (815) 202-2000

Email: youthdirector@tucsonumcyouth.com



United
Women
in Faith

Mark Your Calendars ~ UWF General Meeting

The next United Women in Faith's General Meeting will be **October 3rd, from 10:00 am 1:00 pm at our Houghton Campus** in the Fellowship Hall. A light lunch will be served following the meeting with ample time for fellowship!

Previously, we gave out Lezlie Jars in memory of Lezlie Cooper, so each of you could collect your coins when you were thankful for something. October 3rd is when you need to empty those jars and count your coins, as we will have our World Thank Offering. Please come prepared to make an offering ~ checks should have World Thank Offering written in the memo space.

We also will have a tribute to Marilyn McKee. She gave so many hours in support of the work of United Methodist Women and then United Women in Faith. Please join us as we remember Marilyn and give our World Thank Offering.

DESERT SKIES FLEA MARKET

DESERT SKIES VOLUNTEER LUNCHEON SAVE THE DATE

Thursday, Oct 22 11:30 AM
FELLOWSHIP HALL

- Info & Update
- New Volunteer Badges
- Q&A Sessions
- Training
- Great Food
- Door Prizes

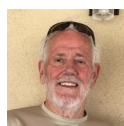
\$1000 CHARITY OF YOUR CHOICE DRAWING!

One Lucky Volunteer's Charity will
receive a \$1000 Donation!

Join us for an afternoon of appreciation, food, and fun
as we gear up for the 2026 Flea Market Sale!
Your dedication makes everything possible.
Please RSVP for food count.

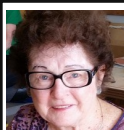


RSVP / QUESTIONS: fleamarket@desertskiesumc.org



A Celebration of Life Service for Roger Aulds

A service for Roger will be held on Saturday, October 10th at 11:00 am in the Sanctuary at our Houghton Campus with a reception to follow in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome.



A Celebration of Life service Marilyn McKee

A service for Marilyn will be held on Friday, October 23rd at 4:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall at our Houghton campus. All are welcome.

News from Children's Ministry

We are celebrating our Fall Curriculum...**"Big Faith", A Faith in God**, by Cokesbury! Our Sunday School classes are at the **Houghton Campus at 9:00 am** and for **Vail Campus at 11:00 am**, located at **Arizona Senior Academy**.

We hope you will join us this Sunday for **Fun, Adventure, Imagination, Trusted Theology, and Home & Heart Connection** which spells...**FAITH**.

Sunday School News

All Children are welcomed to join us Sunday morning! **Faith Focus**....**"God Shows Us Compassion"**. **Please note:** Each Sunday is a new adventure!

What's Happening this Fall for Sunday School!!—Join us each Sunday for fun filled time in a one room Sunday School! Together, we will learn how God shows compassion through our Bible Stories with Joseph in the Book of Genesis! We will discover as part of Joseph's story there is a connection to a bigger story showing us that God is constantly working in our lives!

Fall Sunday School Themes

September, 2026 ~ "Connected"

October, 2026 ~ "Warm and Cozy"

November, 2026 ~ "Run the Race"

MORE NEWS for Children at Desert Skies: An opportunity for children approximately ages 8-12—We are so pleased to announce the Acolyte lighting of the candles at Desert Skies prior to the church service at both Houghton and Vail Campuses! If you are interested to participate in the lighting of the candles on Sunday mornings, please contact Percie LeCheminant (Children's Ministry Coordinator) at percie@desertskiesumc.org

Volunteers Needed—for anyone who loves children! We are looking for volunteers to teach our children in Sunday School during the school year. If you are interested in volunteering or have questions, email Percie LeCheminant (Children's Ministry Coordinator) at percie@desertskiesumc.org

Helpful Reminder for Parents—We want to ensure the safety for our children in Sunday School. Here are the revised sign in and sign out guidelines:

1. **Houghton Nursery** —we are requesting to sign in when bringing your child prior to church service and requesting signing out when taking your child home
2. **Houghton Classroom # 1 and Classroom # 3**—we are requesting to sign out your children when picking them up from Sunday School.

The sign in and sign out sheets will be placed in notebooks located as you enter the classroom areas. Any questions, contact: Percie LeCheminant (Children's Ministry Coordinator) at: percie@desertskiesumc.org

Announcements

VAIL Bible Study-Tuesday mornings, **9:30 am at the Arizona Senior Academy**. Topic: Faith in Practice. Contact Cathy Croft if you have any questions.

Yoga Class-We will meet twice a month on Mondays at 12:00 pm ~ September 28th, October 5th & 19th, November 2nd & 16th, and December 7th & 14th. Email Jennifer Sulger: **drishtiyogatuson@yahoo.com** if you have any questions.

Church's Zelle Tag-**DSUMC 3255**

Altar Flowers-You can still order Altar Flowers for Sunday mornings (\$55.00). If you have a special occasion coming up, please contact Mimi Salber.

Peanut Butter & Jelly Sandwiches-Thanks to everyone who provides supplies and/or makes PB&J sandwiches for Casa Maria. The soup kitchen at Casa Maria provides about 400 sack lunches a day, each including one PBJ and one meat sandwich. Peanut butter and jelly sandwiches freeze well and can be made ahead of time. There is a freezer in the Fellowship Hall kitchen with designated space for these sandwiches and also hot dogs for the soup kitchen. PB&J sandwiches can be made and placed in the freezer in Fellowship Hall at any time during the church office work week (Monday ~ Thursday: 9 am ~ 3 pm).

Primavera/Helping Hands-If you are willing to donate food items for the Primavera Sandwich Program (Helping Hands) please contact Bev Bly for food items needed. **Helping Hands packs once a month on the second Tuesday of each month at 9:00 am in the Kitchen at our Houghton Campus.** ALL are welcome to come out and help. Thank you!

DSUMM-You are all invited to join the Desert Skies United Methodist Men for breakfast. **The DSUMM meet every Wednesday morning at Jerry Bob's Restaurant (7699 E. Speedway). We start arriving around 7:30 am and usually order about 8:00 am.** No agenda, no dues, just a chance to get together and socialize. Questions? Contact Mike Cline.

DSUMM VAIL-You are all invited to join the Desert Skies United Methodist Men Vail for breakfast. **The DSUMM Vail meet the second Saturday of every month at 8:00 am at Jerry Bob's Family Restaurant on Houghton Rd. (7545 Houghton Greenway).** No agenda, no dues, just a chance to get together & socialize.



God's Beauty Oil Painting Classes ~ Facilitator: Lorna Niven ~ **Supplies are included!**

God's Beauty Oil Painting Classes in Vail at Esmond Station Library

The September class dates are Monday, September 28th, and Thursday, October 1st. Class time: 1:30 pm -3:30 pm. Please sign up on Connection Card or by calling the church office front desk at (520) 749-0521. Any questions, please contact Lorna Niven at (520) 360-1084. No experience necessary ... just lots of fellowship!

God's Beauty Oil Painting Classes at our Houghton Campus

Stay tuned for Fall announcement!

Online Coffee Hours, Book Studies and Groups via Zoom to Help us Connect!!

Houghton Worship, Traditional Service Online at 9:00 am: You can find us on YouTube at:

<https://www.youtube.com/@desertskiesumc7262/streams>

Past archived services are also available at this link.

Video Disclaimer: This service is being live streamed. Your image may appear in certain parts of the video. If you prefer to be mostly off camera for our live stream, please sit in the pews farthest to the left. The video will be available for replay on YouTube channel: www.youtube.com ~ Desert Skies UMC.

Vail Worship, Traditional with Praise Band Service Online-via Zoom at 11:00 am-All our welcome!

Zoom Link: <https://dscumc.zoom.us/j/83330071030?pwd=dMHpJRvJbuUypbjmmvvmP6sGvQ1t5q.1>

Meeting ID: 833 3007 1030 **Passcode:** 319209

The Wired Word-Wednesdays from 5:00 pm-6:00 pm-The Wired Word applies the news stories, asks the BIG questions, connects scripturally and confronts the news with hope. Join us for another lively discussion!

Zoom Link: <https://dscumc.zoom.us/j/83469754585?pwd=Vwyt032QaX13MpynDEdaf2BKUHcXQc.1>

Meeting ID: 834 6975 4585 **Passcode:** 707466

Thursdays at 10:00 am-Coffee Chat-

Zoom Link: <https://dscumc.zoom.us/j/98653811783?pwd=YVFVbFJCbHhzRVZuM2hJVkhOTmliQT09>

Meeting ID: 986 5381 1783 **Passcode:** 333879

Lay Servant Classes for Fall/Sonoran District

Following is a schedule of Lay Servant classes for the Fall in the Sonoran District (all in person and in Tucson). Prayerfully, there will be some classes scheduled via Zoom by the conference and also in the Valley District. Please make your church congregation aware of this schedule and **especially, encourage participation in the Introduction to Lay Servant Ministries (Basic) as it is the foundation for the entire program.**

Link to register for all classes: <https://www.dscumc.org/lay-servant-ministries>

Introduction to Lay Servant Ministries: The Basic Class - Saturdays: October 3rd and 10th. Will be held at St John's UMC in Tucson -- Linda Sterling, Facilitator. **Invite someone from your church to take this class - foundation for all classes - open for registration now.**

Called to Preach: Saturdays, October 17th and 24th. Will be held at Christ Church UM in Tucson -- Pastor Bob Holliday, Facilitator. **Required class on path to Certified Lay Speaker - open for registration now.**

Dancing With Words: Saturdays, November 7th & 14th. Will be held at St John's UMC in Tucson -- Daniella Mendoza, Facilitator. This class may **NOT** be taken as the required preaching class.

UM Heritage: Saturdays, November 14th & 21st. Will be held at Christ Church UM in Tucson -- Pastor Brooke Wilkerson, Facilitator. **Required class on path to Certified Lay Speaker**

The Conference is working on providing several ZOOM classes for the Fall Semester - this will be communicated at a later date. Proposed class in Yuma - Leading Public Prayer - Date to be determined. A Spiritual Gifts Class in Tucson – TBD.

Gretchen Lofgren, Sonoran Director
Lay Servant Ministries

Prayer Requests

If you have a prayer request, please email Pat Walker at msnodlepray@gmail.com and/or click this link: <https://desertskiesumc.org/contact/>

Bible Readings

Sept. 22-Dan. 9, 10; Ps. 123; Lk. 5

Sept. 23-Dan. 11, 12; Lk. 6

Sept. 24-Ezra 1; Ps. 84, 85; Lk. 7

Sept. 25-Ezra 2, 3; Lk. 8

Sept. 26-Ezra 4; Ps. 113, 127; Lk. 9

Sept. 27-Hag. 1, 2; Ps. 129; Lk. 10

Sept. 28-Zech. 1-3; Lk. 11

If you would like a bookmark mailed to you for the months of July-September, please email Tammy with your request at: office@desertskiesumc.org

Prayers for Our Churches 2026

You are encouraged to be praying for the churches and pastors of the South District. Several churches will be listed each month for your prayer covering. It is encouraging to know that other churches are praying with and for each other. Please pray for the pastors/congregation/community.

SEPTEMBER: Tucson ~ St. James UMC, St. John's UMC, St. Mark's UMC



September ~ October 2026 Issue of The Upper Room

You can pick one up in the Church Office, Sanctuary, or you can use this link for a digital copy. *The Upper Room* and *El Aposento Alto* at: <https://www.upperroom.org/standingorderchurches> or if you would like a copy mailed to you, please email Tammy at: office@desertskiesumc.org. Thank you.

FROM THE STEPHEN MINISTRY TEAM

The Stephen Ministry Team would like you to know that we are available to listen and pray with you. Each week in this email blast we will provide the Stephen Minister who is Jeann Fishback. We ask that you contact the church office for his phone number, and email address if needed.

If you are in need of prayer, or just wanting someone to listen to you, The Stephen Ministry Team is available. You are not alone, we are here to walk with you during a difficult time.

Please do not hesitate to call the church office at (520) 749-0521 or email: office@desertskiesumc.org