



THE SKYLINE

An e-news blast of Desert Skies United Methodist Church: Your One Stop Weekly Communication

September 8, 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

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



New Pastor On Boarding Gathering **w/a District Staff Member**

All Are Welcome And Encouraged To Attend!!

Saturday, September 12th
11:00 am-3:00 pm
Houghton Campus in Fellowship Hall
Lunch provided

Questions? Contact SPRC Co-Chairs
Sara Leedy and/or Mike Nofziger

2026 All Church Conference **w/our District Superintendent**

All Are Welcome And Encouraged To Attend!!

Wednesday, September 23rd at 6:00 pm
Houghton Campus in the Fellowship Hall

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

**If you would like to request 2-3 minutes to speak about a min-
istry area you are involved in, please let Pastor Heath know**
A.S.A.P..

Written reports from committee chairs will go out to church coun-
cil and will be available in a notebook in the narthex; **only re-
ports required by the Book of Discipline will be printed in the**
packet of church conference documents.

If you plan on turning in a report to Tammy, leave a hard
copy on her desk or email her at: office@desertskiesumc.org
by **Thursday, September 17th at 8:00 am.** Thank you.

UWF Zippy 49ers Luncheon

UWF will meet on **Wednesday, September 9th at 11:30**
am at Rincon Mountain Grill, 12000 E. Tanque Verde
Rd, Tucson. Questions?? Contact Mary Broughton or Linda
Jakubowski.

This Week at Desert Skies

Tuesday, September 8

9:00 am Helping Hands Houghton Campus-Kitchen
7:00 pm SPRC Meeting Houghton Campus-Rm. 2

Wednesday, September 9

7:30 am UMM Breakfast Contact Mike Cline
11:30 am UWF Zippy 49er's Circle Meeting/Luncheon
Rincon Mountain Grill~12000 E. Tanque Verde Rd.
5:00 pm The Wired Word via Zoom
6:00 pm Adult Bells Houghton Campus-Sanctuary
7:00 pm Voices of Desert Skies Choir
Houghton Campus-Sanctuary

Thursday, September 10

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

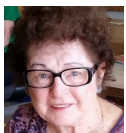
Saturday, September 12

8:00 am UMM Breakfast in Vail
Jerry Bob's Family Restaurant on Houghton Rd.
11:00 am New Pastor on Boarding Gathering
Houghton Campus-Fellowship Hall
2:00 pm Houghton Praise Band Sanctuary

Missions/Social Concerns Meeting

We have our church conference this month as well as an all church meeting next Saturday. Due to the timing of these events SPRC has scheduled a special meeting for tonight that conflicts with the normal Missions/Social Concerns Meeting.

Consequently, we need to reschedule the **Missions/Social Concerns Meeting for Tuesday, September 15th at 6:30 pm, via Zoom.**



Mark Your Calendar!! In Memory of Marilyn McKee

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



MomCo Group

A supportive group to connect parents of young children in community!

We are hoping to restart MomCo in September and meet twice a month on Wednesday mornings from 9:00 am–11:00 am at our Houghton Campus in the Nursery (kids) & Classroom # 2 (moms).

Childcare and snacks provided.

Questions or concerns, contact our Children's Ministry Coordinator, Percie LeCheminant at: percie@desertskiesumc.org

REMINDER CORNER

As we prepare for Fall, 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.
4. Look for an upcoming date for our All Church Campus Cleanup sponsored by the Trustees Committee.



A Message from Pastor Heath

Hello, Desert Skies family!

Last Sunday, we gathered at Christ's table and discovered that faithful love can hold tenderness and wisdom together. This Sunday, our **Rooted in the Desert** series continues with:

Even Giants Need a Community

No two saguaros look exactly alike.

Some stand as tall, solitary spears. Some grow only one or two arms, while others seem to have more arms than they know what to do with. Some bend, twist, droop, or grow into wonderfully unusual shapes. A rare few even develop magnificent fan-shaped crests.

We see those differences and marvel at them. We photograph the unusual saguaros, point them out to visitors, and celebrate the creativity revealed in their shapes.

Why is it sometimes harder to appreciate the differences in one another?

Paul describes the church as one body made up of people with different gifts, experiences, questions, and hopes. We do not have to become identical to belong. In fact, the church needs the distinctive grace God is growing in each life.

But even the most unusual saguaro is not an isolated monument. Every saguaro belongs to an extraordinary community. Nurse plants protect its beginnings. Birds, bats, and insects pollinate its flowers. Animals spread its seeds. Rain, soil, sunlight, and neighboring creatures all contribute to its life.

The saguaro receives from its community—and gives life back to that community.

Apparently, even a desert giant cannot truthfully say, “I did it all by myself.” Of course, that has never stopped the rest of us from trying!

This Sunday, we will celebrate both the differences among us and the relationships that join us together. Christian community does not require sameness. It asks us to bring our distinctive gifts, stories, and perspectives—and offer them in love for the good of others.

We will also ask an important question about Desert Skies:

Does life become more possible around us because we are here?

Are people fed? Are lonely people welcomed? Are children protected? Are grieving people accompanied? Do our neighbors find shade, nourishment, friendship, and hope because we are part of this community?

Join us this Sunday as we discover:

We do not have to become identical to belong—but belonging means offering our distinctive lives for the good of others.

Bring a friend. Even giants need a community—and communities need every wonderfully different person God gathers within them.

God is growing a desert faith in us—rooted, resilient, generous, and alive.

Growing together,
Pastor Heath

Youth Ministry:
Belong, Believe, Serve!

Shared Youth Ministry- Updates & Upcoming Events



**This Sunday, September 13th,
all youth are invited to
our District Youth Splash Bash!**

Join us from 2:00-4:00 PM at Highland Vista Pool (350 N. Cloverland Ave) for swimming, games, volleyball, snacks, and fellowship with youth from other United Methodist churches.

Bring: a swimsuit, towel, sunscreen, water bottle, and sandals/flip-flops. Please come dressed ready to swim and bring a change of clothes if you'd like.

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

Confirmation Class: We are gathering interest in a 2026–2027 Confirmation Class. Students must be in 8th grade or above. No commitment yet, please let me know if your teen may be interested.

Luis Ortíz

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

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

Email: youthdirector@tucsonumcyouth.com



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.

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

News from Children's Ministry

We are so excited ...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-Our class begins on **Tuesday, September 15th, 9:30 am at the Arizona Senior Academy.** Topic: Faith in Practice. ****Please take note that we have changed from Thursday mornings to Tuesday mornings.**** Contact Cathy Croft if you have any questions.

Yoga Class-We will meet twice a month on Mondays at 12:00 pm ~ September 14th & 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 (TODAY) 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 (location TBA). 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 (September 12th) 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.

Mark Your Calendars!-UWF Esther Circle will meet Sunday, September 13th at 12:45 pm at Marty Bond's home, 13877 E. Carruthers St., Del Webb Section of Rancho del Lago. For additional information regarding the meeting, contact Nancy Goforth or Carol Mellgren. Thank you.



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 21st, 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

Tuesday Morning Bible Study Group-in Rm # 2 and via Zoom at our Houghton campus from 10:00 am-11:00 am. **We are breaking for the time being. More info to follow.**

There is knowledge and fellowship in Bible Study. Come and sample one of the things Desert Skies does best! All are welcome!

Zoom Link: <https://dscumc.zoom.us/j/88441428274?pwd=elVkSzFzVUJ5aDIheHVsYnZYRIVXQT09>

Meeting ID: 884 4142 8274 **Passcode:** 125748

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=Vwyt032QaX13MpvnDEdaf2BKUHcXQc.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

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. 08-Jer. 42-44; Ps. 48; Rev. 13

Sept. 09-Lam. 1, 2; Obad; Rev. 14

Sept. 10-Lam. 3-5; Rev. 15

Sept. 11-Dan. 1, 2; Rev. 16

Sept. 12-Dan. 3, 4; Ps. 81; Rev. 17

Sept. 13-Ezek. 33-35; Rev. 18

Sept. 14-Ezek. 36, 37; Ps. 110; Rev. 19

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 Ken Winkelmann. 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