THE SKYLINE

An e-news blast of Desert Skies United Methodist Church: Your One Stop Weekly Communication **October 13, 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



Candy Collection for Secrist Middle School
Sunday, October 18th

SECRIST MIDDLE SCHOOL

In our continued support for Secrist Middle School, we are collecting candy for the teachers to hand out at their first Trunk or Treat on October 29th. Desert Skies will also have a Halloween photo booth at the event and we will hand out candy as well.

Please bring candy donations to services at Houghton or Vail on Sunday, October 18th. Candy may be placed in marked boxes at the back of the Houghton sanctuary or at the Vail campus. Donations can also be dropped off at the church office Monday-Thursday: 9 am-3pm through October 15th.

Thank you for your support in helping the children in our community.

All Church Houghton Campus Cleanup

sponsored by the Trustees Committee

Saturday, October 24th ~ 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!

A Message from Pastor Heath

Subject: This Sunday—Do You Have a Generosity Plan?

Last Sunday, ten apples and a ladder helped us ask two questions: Does God receive our first and best—or whatever happens to be left? And wherever we are in our giving, what might one faithful step further look like?

This Sunday, we continue our **One Step Further** stewardship series with Jesus' parable of the rich fool in Luke 12. The man in Jesus' story has a harvest plan, a storage plan, an expansion plan, and what sounds very much like a retirement plan. What he does not have is a generosity plan.

When his barns can no longer hold everything he owns, his solution is simple: build bigger barns. Honestly, it sounds remarkably modern. If we run out of room, we buy another cabinet, rent a storage unit, expand the garage—or place a box in a closet and promise ourselves we will sort through it "someday."

But Jesus asks a deeper question: **What is everything God has placed in our hands actually for?**

This is not a sermon about possessions being bad or about feeling guilty for having enough. It is about whether our plans include only what we will earn, spend, save, and keep—or whether generosity has an intentional place in them too.

A **2027 commitment card** will be included in this Sunday's bulletin. Please take it home, pray over it, and consider what your next faithful step might be. The card will also be included in next Sunday's bulletin, when we will bring our commitments forward together as an act of worship on **Commitment Sunday, October 25**.

Wherever we are, God invites us **one step further**.

I hope you will join us this Sunday as we ask: **Do I have a generosity plan—or only a plan for everything else?**

Pastor Heath



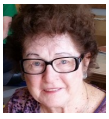
Attention Bakers!

Now is the time to start thinking about the UWF Cookie Walk on December 13th. We need lots of cookies to make this happen! If you have time between now and then, start baking and freezing those special cookies you make each year!

All proceeds will be to Sister Jose Women's Center. They provide shelter and other services for unaccompanied homeless women. More information to come.

Thank you in advance–United Women in Faith





A Celebration of Life Service for 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.

This Week at Desert Skies

Tuesday, October 13
9:00 am Helping Hands Houghton Campus-Kitchen
9:30 am Vail Bible Study Arizona Senior Academy
10:30 am Romans Bible Study
Houghton Campus-Rm. 2
6:30 pm Missions/Social Concerns Meeting via Zoom

Wednesday, October 14
7:30 am UMM Breakfast
Jerry Bob's Restaurant at 7699 E. Speedway
9:15 am UWF Zippy 49er's Circle Meeting
Houghton Campus-Fellowship Hall
9:30 am Moms Meet-up Houghton Campus-Rm. 3
1:00 pm Flea Market Board Meeting
Houghton Campus-Rm. 2
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, October 15
9:30 am Yoga-Flow Like a Mother Class
Houghton Campus-Fellowship Hall
10:00 am Coffee Chat via Zoom
3:30 pm Endowment Committee Meeting
Houghton Campus-Rm. 2

Saturday, October 17
2:30 pm Houghton Praise Band Sanctuary

In Honor of Anthony Starace's Legacy



Youth Ministry: Belong, Believe, Serve!

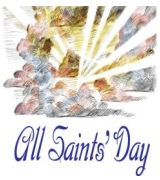
Shared Youth Ministry- *Updates & Upcoming Events*

Sunday, October 18th-youth are invited to our **Community Garden Service Day at Chaverim Community Garden** (5901 E. 2nd St.), from 4:00-5:30 pm.

We will help with basic gardening tasks such as watering plants, pulling weeds, cleaning garden areas, and other simple activities. This will be a way to care for our neighbors and creation through hands-on service. ***Parents can drop off and pick up their teens directly at the garden.***

***Upcoming Youth Events: View the calendar here*. We will update that link weekly.**

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**



All Saints Sunday — Remembering Those Who Have Gone Before Us

Sunday, November 1, 2026 | Desert Skies United Methodist Church

On Sunday, November 1st, we will celebrate All Saints Sunday, one of the most meaningful and beautiful traditions of the church year. It is a day to remember, give thanks, and celebrate the lives of those who have gone before us—people whose love, faith, encouragement, and example continue to shape who we are.

As we begin our new sermon series, *"Well, Would You Look at That!"*, our message for the morning will be **"Look Who Got Us Here!"** We'll reflect on the great cloud of witnesses described in Hebrews and remember that none of us travels this journey of faith alone.

During worship, we will share in a special remembrance liturgy, including the lighting of candles and the presentation of white roses.

We will first remember **members of Desert Skies who have died during the past year**, lighting a candle in their memory and presenting a white rose to their family or loved ones.

We will then remember **other family members, friends, and loved ones who have died during the past year**, lighting candles and speaking their names as part of our worship.

Finally, we will invite the entire congregation into a time of spoken prayer, when anyone may lift aloud the name of someone who has gone on to glory, whether their death was recent or many years ago.

We Invite You to Participate

Submit names: If you have a family member, friend, or other loved one who died during the past year and was not a member of Desert Skies, **please send their name to Tammy by Monday, October 26th** so we can include them in our remembrance liturgy. We already plan to recognize our deceased church members, so there is no need to resubmit those names.

Bring photographs: We also invite everyone to bring photographs of loved ones who have died, regardless of when they passed away. These photographs will be displayed around the altar and sanctuary as a visible reminder of the many lives that have touched our own. Please bring your photographs with you to worship, and we will make sure they are returned afterward.

Invite family and friends: If you know someone who would find comfort in this service, especially someone grieving the loss of a loved one, please invite them to join us. All are welcome to participate in this time of remembrance.

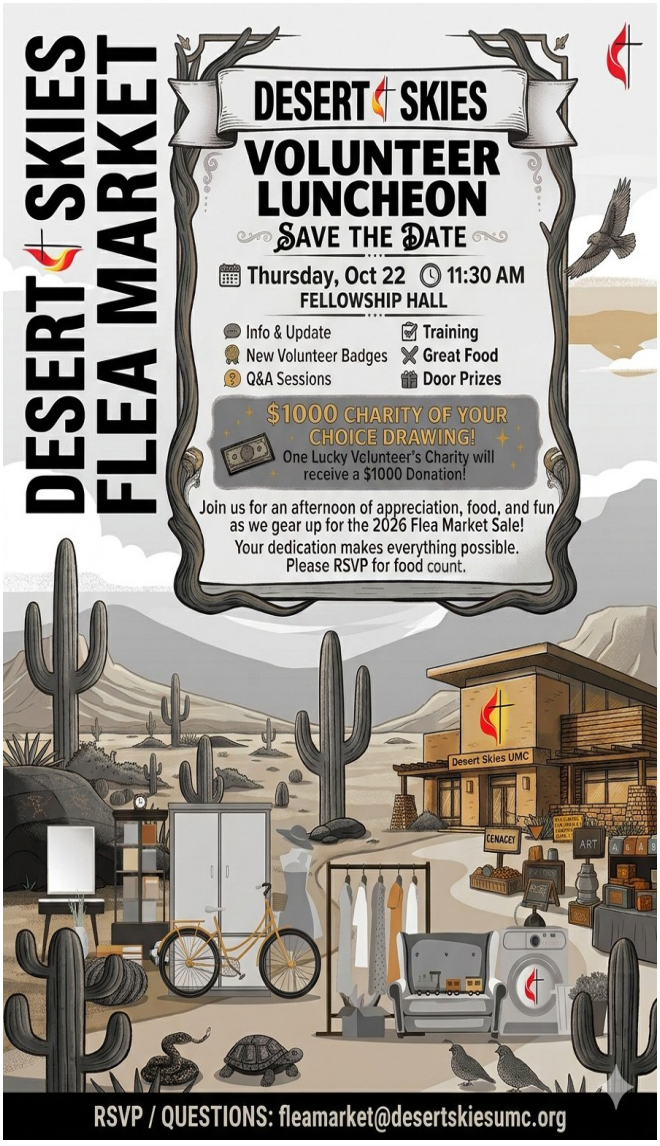
All Saints Sunday is not simply about mourning those we have lost. It is about celebrating the love they shared, the faith they lived, and the ways their lives continue to bear fruit through us.

We hope you'll join us for this beautiful morning of remembrance, gratitude, and hope as we give thanks for the saints who helped us become who we are today.

For name submissions, please contact Tammy by Monday, October 26th.

Email: office@desertskiesumc.org





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 set-up, 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".

We Need Bakers

Cookies, cakes, pies, brownies, lemon bars, and more are welcome! Drop off during sale week in the kitchen OR package and freeze ahead, and place in the kitchen freezer anytime. Mark your donations: Flea Market Sale!

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

W 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 **F**un, **A**dventure, **I**magination, **T**rusted Theology, and **H**ome & **H**eart 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

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

Houghton Welcome Podium Helpers Needed-Each week two from our congregation man the Welcome podium for nametags, first time gifts, and a special welcome to our sanctuary. We meet approximately at 8:20 am until the 9:00 am service starts. Recently several have had to step down, so the more helpers we have the less often you need to serve. Please contact Jeann Fishback at **529-850-9723.**

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.

****Beginning Tuesday, October 27th,** we'll spend 7 weeks with a course that will help us to faithfully engage scripture, realize we may have more questions than answers, and learn to live with the questions. We'll see that the Bible can point us to something bigger and help us grow our faith, while we learn to rethink the Bible and how we engage with it. The class is based on the book, "The Bible Tells Me So", by Dr. Peter Enns. Books will be provided and if you wish to sign-up for this course, **please email Laura McKay at llm61467@gmail.com** as soon as possible so that we can order the correct number of books. (Books will be paid for by a small fund gifted to Pastor Heath). If you wish to contribute to reimburse this fund, opportunity will be provided at the beginning of the class, but you are not obligated to do so. **Questions? Contact Laura at 520-409-7176. ****

Houghton Bible Study-Tuesday mornings, **10:30–11:30 am in Rm. # 2 at our Houghton Campus.** Pastor Heath is facilitating the class on Romans. All are welcome!

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

Christ Cafe Can Use You!-Our fellowship time at the Houghton Campus could use some people to add to the bounty. So if you feel inspired feel free to stop by a store and pick up something delicious to add to Christ Cafe. Or maybe you are making up a couple of pies or a batch of cookies, think about baking a little extra to add to the table. If we all add as our gifts and graces allow, you would be surprised how amazing our time at Christ Cafe can be.

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 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.

UWF Zippy 49'ers Meeting

Zippy 49'ers will hold their monthly meeting on Wednesday, October 14th at 9:15 for coffee and tea. It will be at Houghton Campus, Fellowship Hall.

The meeting will start at 9:30 am with a light breakfast and fellowship, followed by a business meeting and then we will start our new streaming study, "Christianity and World Religions, Revised Edition" by Adam Hamilton. The first session is about 15 mins and followed by discussion. All are welcome, sure hope to see you there!



Welcome all, for God's Beauty Oil Painting Classes!

Facilitator: Lorna Niven ~ **Supplies are included!**

God's Beauty Oil Painting Classes at our Houghton Campus

We will be beginning, Monday, October 19th, 2026 from 1:30 pm-3:30 pm, in Classrooms 5 & 6! No experience necessary...just lots of fellowship! Any questions, please contact Lorna Niven at **(520) 360-1084.** Please sign-up by calling the church office at **(520) 749-0521** or on the Connect card on Sunday mornings.

God's Beauty Oil Painting for Vail Campus

Our time together has ended at the Esmond Station Library for another year. Everyone is invited to the Houghton Campus to continue for fellowship and oil painting, too, on Monday, October 19th, from 1:30 pm-3:30 pm, in Classrooms 5 & 6. Hope to see you there! Please sign up by calling the church office at **(520) 749-0521** or on the Connect Card on Sunday mornings. Thank you!

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

New Council Actions Report

At the Onboarding conference meeting, it was decided upon to publish results of Council meetings in the Skyline. Here is the first report from the August 25th Council Meeting.

DSUMC Church Council Meeting Results/Actions

August 25, 2026 6:00 pm Fellowship Hall

Our Vision: **To be a joyful community drawing people to Christ!**
Our Mission: **Lead** our neighbors to Christ. **Love** one another in caring community.
Learn to follow Jesus. **Live** a Christ-like life that serves the world..
Our 2026 Focus: Serving, connecting and enabling seniors and families in Tanque Verde and Vail utilizing both online and in-person resources.

LEADING: ***Looking ahead to our upcoming ministries...***

Committee reports Q&A Highlights Received:UWF Board, Financial

- **Finance –**Finance Report –Connie Kraska - Expenses lower as are donations in summer. Flea Market and Foundations donations kept us in the black.
- **Notary Services –** Connie Kraska – Due to time and money costs, DSUMC will discontinue notary services in August when license expires.
- **SPRC –** Sara Leedy – Conference provided onboarding meeting when pastors change. Sept 12th 11-3 with lunch. All are invited especially Council members.
- **Cochise Harm Prevention** – Fred Killion – Introductory review for Sponsorship of CHP to use closed Benson UMC church for food-pantry and human assistance services. Sponsor need mandated by conference. Passed by unanimous vote.
- **Discussion –** Pastor Heath -
  Sunday Oct 4th World Communion and Homecoming with snacks afterward. One service 10 pm at Houghton. Van transportation available at Vail.
  Leadership positions for 2027 still open and Pastor Heath recruiting.
  POWWOW Borderlands Produce Rescue begins Dec 5th at Houghton. Volunteers needed. Contact Carrie Radomsky at scrads2@yahoo.com.
  Houghton Campus Cleanup Oct 24th 8am. Contact Mike Cline at mcline777@msn.com to volunteer.
  Activities calendar to be reinstituted for Council minutes till Jan 2027 when website Google Calendar self-reference replaces it.

PASTOR'S REMARKS: Pastor Heath – Charge Conference early this year on Sept 23rd, 5 pm SPRC and 6pm conference in Fellowship Hall. Reports due Sept 17th 8 am to Tammy and agenda time requests to Pastor Heath ASAP.

ACTION ITEMS: If meetings are canceled please alert all committee members and Tammy!

OLD BUSINESS:

ANNOUNCEMENTS & REMINDERS –

- **Next Meeting: Oct 25, 2026** – 6:00 pm Fellowship Hall. **Committee minutes and agenda time requests due Oct 20th to Jeann (fishback@ns.arizona.edu) one week prior to Council meeting.** Committee chairs or a representative should attend Council Meeting from each Committee. If committee meetings change date or time please alert Tammy for calendar and if Zoom changes are needed.
- Please drop off canned/boxed goods for our ELF food pantry to the office or Fellowship Hall M-Th 9-3
  Getting Resource list from Tanque Verde / Tammy to create emergency boxes if needed for food insecurity.

CLOSING PRAYER – Betty Ludlow

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

Oct. 13-Neh. 9, 10; Acts 2
Oct. 14-Neh. 11, 12; Ps. 1; Acts 3
Oct. 15-Neh. 13; Mal. 1, 2; Acts 4
Oct. 16-Mal. 3, 4; Ps. 148; Acts 5
Oct. 17-Job 1, 2; Acts 6, 7
Oct. 18-Job 3, 4; Acts 8, 9
Oct. 19-Job 5; Ps. 108; Acts 10, 11

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

Invitation To Giving

Church's Zelle QR Code

Tag-DSUMC 3255

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.

OCTOBER: Tucson: St. Paul's UMC, Vista de la Montana UMC, Bisbee: Trinity 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.** .

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 Mike Nofziger. 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