



THE SKYLINE

An e-news blast of Desert Skies United Methodist Church: Your One Stop Weekly Communication **September 15, 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 our choir—joined by additional instrumentalists—will present a special musical piece commissioned for Desert Skies. As we celebrate World Communion Sunday, we will share Communion with bread lovingly made by Pastor Heath and Rev. Julie. We will also celebrate joyfully welcome new members (and any baptisms if any requests come in) into the Desert Skies family.

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 wonderful worship, 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!

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!



A Message from Pastor Heath

Hello, Desert Skies family!

Last Sunday, we discovered that no two saguaros grow exactly alike—and that even the greatest desert giants need a community. This Sunday, we come to the final week of our **Rooted in the Desert** series:

Fruit in the Fiercest Season

The saguaro produces its flowers and fruit during one of the hottest and driest times of the year, just before the summer monsoon. When water is scarce and the desert is under tremendous stress, the saguaro offers nourishment and moisture to birds, bats, animals, and people.

The saguaro does not wait for comfortable conditions before becoming fruitful.

That may have something important to teach us.

It is fairly easy to be patient when life follows our schedule, peaceful when everyone agrees with us, and kind when people are kind in return. The real test of what is growing within us comes when the season becomes difficult.

When the world becomes cruel, can we offer kindness? When people are frightened, can we offer peace? When our community becomes divided, can we practice patience? When someone is exhausted or hungry, can our faith become tangible nourishment?

Apparently, the fruit of the Spirit is not intended merely to make us look spiritually impressive. Fruit exists because something else needs to be fed. And if the saguaro can produce fruit when it is over one hundred degrees outside, we may have to retire “I’ve had a difficult week” as our excuse for everything!

This Sunday, we will hear Jesus’ invitation to abide in divine love and Paul’s description of the fruit the Spirit grows within us: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

As we bring this series to its conclusion, we will remember everything the saguaro has taught us about being shaped for this place, growing slowly, receiving shelter, gathering grace, protecting what is sacred, appreciating our differences, and belonging to a community.

But the purpose of being rooted is not simply to survive.

We are rooted so that, through the grace of God, someone else may be fed.

Join us this Sunday as we celebrate what God has been growing among us—and consider what our faith is producing for the world.

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

Bearing fruit together,

Pastor Heath

This Week at Desert Skies

Tuesday, September 15

9:30 am Vail Bible Study Arizona Senior Academy

6:30 pm Finance Committee Meeting

Houghton Campus-Rm. 2

6:30 pm Missions Committee via Zoom

Wednesday, September 16

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

6:00 pm Adult Bells Houghton Campus-Sanctuary

7:00 pm Voices of Desert Skies Choir

Houghton Campus-Sanctuary

Thursday, September 17

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 19

2:00 pm Houghton Praise Band Sanctuary

2026 All Church Conference w/our District Superintendent

All Are Welcome & 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 ministry area you are involved in, please let Pastor Heath know A.S.A.P..

Written reports from committee chairs will go out to church council and will be available in a notebook in the narthex; **only reports 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@desertskaiesumc.org by **Thursday, September 17th at 8:00 am.** Thank you.



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@deserts skiesumc.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

Shared Youth Ministry- Updates & Upcoming Events

September 13 - Sonoran District Youth Splash Bash: The first Sonoran District youth event of the year brought teens from local United Methodist churches together for a fun afternoon at Highland Vista Pool. We enjoyed swimming, pool games, volleyball, snacks, and time to get to know each other. We ended with a short devotional and prayer, thankful for new friendships and a great start to the year. Some photos [here](#).

This Sunday, September 20, all youth are invited to **Sunday School Class + Feast of Creation.** Let's grow and learn together! *Gathering at Christ Church UM ([655 N Craycroft Rd](#)), 4-5:30 PM.*



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.

Community Event: *Desert Skies UMC is invited to join Christ Church for “**Salt, Soil, and Saguaros,**” a Creation Celebration on Sunday, September 20, from 11 AM- 2 PM. Come, enjoy time together, and learn more about how we can care for God's creation.*

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



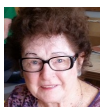
United
Women
in Faith

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.



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.

RE: NEW PASTOR ON BOARD!

Wow, did you miss a good meeting! Ever wonder, "Is that possible?"

Yes, it is. On Saturday a small group of dedicated members of Desert Skies got together with Pastor Heath Wilson. We looked at what we already know about our new pastor and how our hopes and dreams intersect with his vision of what Desert Skies can become. We were Small but Mighty and very active in our words and thinking.

We discussed aspects of our church life with our new pastor such as: "Who Are We?" That answer raises another question: "We are an aging congregation, especially at the Houghton Campus, so what's the best way to thrive spiritually? Answer: We want to grow in the most important aspects of Who We Are Already. And, What are our Hopes and Dreams for Desert Skies?"

We heard from Pastor Heath about his priorities for our church, including eliminating unnecessary meetings (!), having open and honest conversations about our concerns and how we as a congregation can assist in problem solving. We agreed that connection leads to integrity and integrity leads to trust.

From my perspective one of the most important visions to emerge from this lively gathering was the word "Trust", a word and concept critical to our Faith and to our every-day lives beyond the Church Door. So, knock on our new pastor's door. Bring your likes (Yes to children leading in worship. Bible Study!), what we can do better (Why did you say THAT during Communion?). And be prepared. You will have an open and honest conversation.

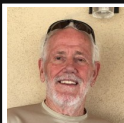
Ask me how many "meetings" I have attended over the years. Yeah. You should'da been there!

By Pat Walker

A Special Thank You to Desert Skies

*To the Desert Skies family -
For the many prayers and
expressions of support received
during our brother John's
illness, we are extremely grateful.
Susan Lake & family*

From Susan Lake & family



Mark your Calendars!

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 Special Thank You to Desert Skies



Tucson Wildlife Center

September 3, 2026

Desert Skies United Methodist Church
3255 North Houghton Road
Tucson, Arizona 85749

Dear Desert Skies United Methodist Church,

Thank you for your \$50 recent gift. We are deeply touched by your generosity and appreciate your support. We are honored you chose to donate to us during these times of difficulty for us all.

Tucson Wildlife Center takes in around 4,000 sick, injured, and orphaned wild animals! Together we have served bobcats, coyotes, coatis, ringtails, javelina, hawks, eagles, owls, songbirds, small mammals like cottontails and everything in between! Donations like yours have allowed us to continue caring for Southern Arizona's native wildlife for over 25 years! We are the only wildlife hospital/rehabilitation facility still operating in Southern Arizona and we serve Tucson and eight counties, 24/7, free of charge.

Board of Directors

Peter M. Lininger
Founder, President

M. Lisa Bates, MS, LWR
Founder, Vice-President

Jack Herring
Secretary

Maryjane Gallagher
Treasurer

Dr. William Follows, MD

Ann Pearson DVM

Sue Watts

Advisors to the Board

Bonnie Kay

Sincerely,

Hubert Parker
Development Director
Tucson Wildlife Center, Inc.

*Thank you so
much for your
donation!
Hubert*

Our Mission: Tucson Wildlife Center is dedicated to the rescue, emergency medical care and rehabilitation of sick, injured, and orphaned wildlife before return to the wild, while promoting education, habitat protection and peaceful coexistence with wildlife.

Tucson Wildlife Center, Inc., is a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) organization. Our tax ID is 86-1001344. As no goods or services were provided in exchange, this donation is tax-deductible to the full extent of the law. Please retain this acknowledgment letter for your records.

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. ****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 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 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

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. 15-Ezek. 38, 39; Ps. 145; Rev. 20

Sept. 16-Ezek. 40, 41; Ps. 128; Rev. 21

Sept. 17-Ezek. 42-44; Rev. 22

Sept. 18-Ezek. 45, 46; Lk. 1

Sept. 19-Ezek. 47, 48; Lk. 2

Sept. 20-Dan. 5, 6; Ps. 130; Lk. 3

Sept. 21-Dan. 7, 8; Ps. 137; Lk. 4

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 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