



THE SKYLINE

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

October 6, 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 11th and 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 11th or 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.



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 Fellowship Hall.

A Message from Pastor Heath

Which Apple Belongs to God?

Last Sunday, Homecoming and World Communion reminded us what can happen when people bring what they have and offer it together—music, food, hospitality, service, leadership, financial resources, and simply ourselves. There was room at the table because people helped make room and we had an awesome celebration!

This Sunday, our **One Step Further** stewardship journey gets a little more practical...and apparently involves apples and a ladder.

We'll begin with an ancient practice called *first fruits*. In Deuteronomy, God's people were instructed to bring the first of the harvest—not whatever happened to be left after they had taken care of everything else. That raises an interesting question for us: **Where does God actually come in the order of our lives?**

So I'm bringing ten apples to worship. If I tell you ahead of time what I'm going to do with them, it will ruin some of the fun, but I suspect most of us will recognize ourselves somewhere in those apples.

We'll also introduce the **One Step Further ladder** and talk about percentage giving—not as a way to compare ourselves with anyone else, but as a way to honestly ask where we are and where God might be inviting us to grow. For one person, the next step may be beginning to give regularly. For another, it might mean moving from 2% to 3%, or 5% to 6%. For someone already tithing, God may be inviting them to think about generosity beyond the tithe.

Nobody needs to know what rung you are standing on.

The question is simply: **Are you willing to take one step further?**

We have started distributing our 2027 commitment materials electronically but we also have copies at the back of the sanctuary. You will have time to take pray, think, calculate, and talk together before Commitment Sunday on October 25. There is no rush and no pressure. This is an invitation to intentional generosity and deeper discipleship. And commitments are not just monetary, you might feel led to offer your gifts to help serve on a committee or lead a ministry. Use the commitment cards to share that offering too!

And if nothing else, come Sunday to find out which apple God gets.



Wherever we are, God invites us one step further.

Pastor Heath

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.

This Week at Desert Skies

Tuesday, October 6

9:30 am Vail Bible Study Arizona Senior Academy

10:30 am Romans Bible Study
Houghton Campus-Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, October 7

7:30 am UMM Breakfast
Jerry Bob's Restaurant at 7699 E. Speedway

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 8

10:00 am Coffee Chat via Zoom

Saturday, October 10

8:00 am UMM Breakfast in Vail
Jerry Bob's Family Restaurant on Houghton Rd.

11:00 am Celebration of Life Service for Roger Aulds
Houghton Campus-Sanctuary/Fellowship Hall

2:00 pm Houghton Praise Band Sanctuary

In Honor of Anthony Starace's Legacy



WALK WITH MISSION: VIVERE

JOIN OUR TEAM. MAKE AN IMPACT.



JOIN OUR TEAM



SCAN OR CLICK HERE
TO SIGN UP & SUPPORT

Walk with Purpose

Mission: Vivere carries Anthony Starace's legacy by promoting the development of our future military leaders and supporting those who persevere through all challenges.



**WE WOULD LOVE TO SEE EVERYONE
REPRESENTING MISSION: VIVERE!**

Visit www.missionvivere.com to secure
merch or wear green to support!

COMMUNITY | SERVICE | LEADERSHIP | VIVERE

YOU'RE INVITED TO ROMANS!

**Tuesdays | 10:30–11:30 a.m. | Fellowship Hall | Main Campus
Starting TODAY ~ 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.

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!**



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



Shared Youth Ministry- Updates & Upcoming Events

This Sunday, October 11th, all youth are invited to the **Social Principles Series, Ep. 2: Caring for Creation:** Explore environmental awareness and Earth stewardship. We will create art/flyers with Canva.com and by hand at St. Paul's UMC Life Center, 4-5:30 pm.

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

Luis Ortiz

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

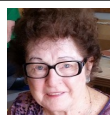
Office Phone: (520) 296-6149 | Ext. 7026 or Cell Phone: (815) 202-2000

Email: youthdirector@tucsonumcyouth.com

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!



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.

REMINDER CORNER

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.

Moms Meet-Up
COFFEE • CONNECTION • COMMUNITY

A casual, welcoming space for moms to come together, build community, and encourage one another — all while our kids play!

 **Wednesdays at 9:30 AM**

 **Classroom 3**
Desert Skies UMC
Houghton Campus

Bring your kids!
No childcare provided at this time, but we have plenty of toys and a kid-friendly space!

COME AS YOU ARE.
ALL MOMS 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

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 ~ October 19th, November 2nd & 16th, and December 7th & 14th. Email Jennifer Sulger: drishtiyogatucson@yahoo.com if you have any questions.



Church's Zelle QR Code and Tag-DSUMC 3255

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 (October 13th) 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 (October 10th) 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

More info to follow for class dates in Vail. Class time: 1:30 pm -3:30 pm.

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>

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

Oct. 06-Est. 9, 10; Lk. 19

Oct. 07-Ezra 7, 8; Lk. 20

Oct. 08-Ezra 9, 10; Ps. 131; Lk. 21

Oct. 09-Neh. 1, 2; Ps. 133, 134; Lk. 22

Oct. 10-Neh. 3, 4; Lk. 23

Oct. 11-Neh. 5, 6; Ps. 146; Lk. 24

Oct. 12-Neh. 7, 8; Acts 1

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

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. 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