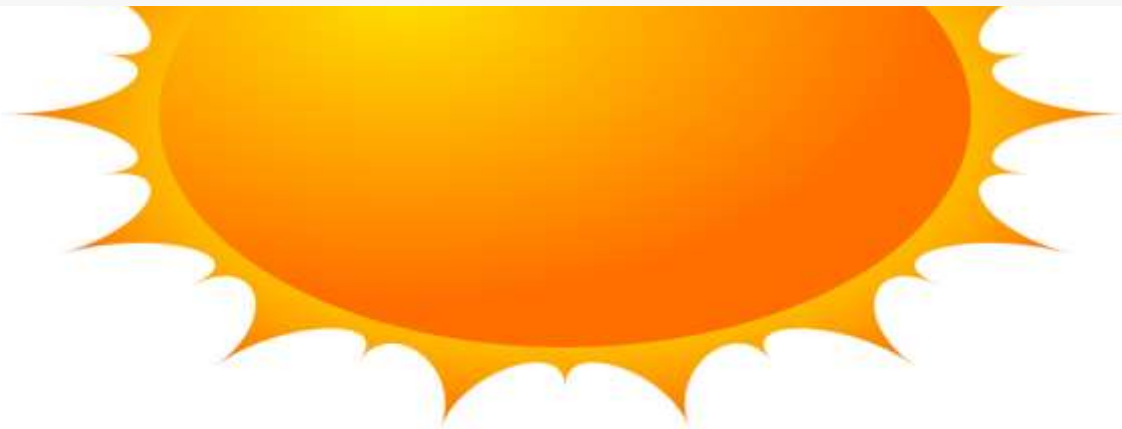




Dove Tales

Vol. XXXI, Issue 10
August 2020

"Increasing Love for God and Neighbor by Going Deeper, Reaching Farther, Transforming Lives"





God's riches, wisdom, and knowledge are so deep! They are as mysterious as his judgments,
and they are as hard to track as his paths!

Who has known the Lord's mind?
Or who has been his mentor?
Or who has given him a gift
and has been paid back by him?
All things are from him and through him and for him.
May the glory be to him forever. Amen.

(Romans 11:33-36)

I'm no good at guessing the future. I've tried, trust me. It never turns out well.

That's not to say I don't make plans and goals, I do. But, those plans and goals have always had to be continually adjusted, corrected, or even reset at times. It didn't make the goals less desirable, it just meant that there were factors outside of my plans that I could neither control nor account for as I was plotting my own course.

Enter, stage right, the year 2020.

Recent months have brought to our screens and tables countless troubles, worries, and pain. Each one of us has had to make course adjustment to our plans. Our work, our families, our community, and our churches have all been affected. What a world we find ourselves in! Had we been given editorial powers over 2020, I am sure that all of us would have made some plot and character changes prior to finding ourselves in this current context.

When the Apostle Paul wrote to the church in Rome, they too probably had some editorial edits that they had desired to make about the world around them. The increasing socio-economic pressures of not adopting the polytheistic worship of the land, and the previous expulsion of the Jewish people sometime in the late 40's A.D., were just two of the problems they faced as Paul penned a letter to them. He wrote to them about their blended (Jewish and Gentile) community, about the gift of resurrection, and the fulfillment of grace at work in the promise of the Messiah.

Paul's focus on what was coming from the context, what was being birthed through the difficult season that the people of faith were going through. His teaching for them was about adaptation and evolution in the life of the church (8:12-38). He did not make a plea for the church to go back to how it was, because there was no "back" for it to go to. The Christian church was still new, in its own infancy, and so it lacked an institutional history from which it could lean on. Instead, the community of those who followed Jesus of Nazareth were creating a new thing, and they GREW. This constant adaptation and cultural tension brought forth a church that had to be lean, contextually effective, and ready to address the needs that it faced.

As I've sat in what can only be counted as hundreds of Zoom meetings now, I know the struggle we are wrestling with right now as the global community of faith. I know what longings we face as a denomination as Methodists, and I know the ache to see each other face to face at Dove. All of these are genuine pain points that we walk through right now, on top of all of the other areas our lives have been inextricably changed. But what I do not yet know is... what is God leading us into?

In Romans, God led the church to allow the voices of both the Jewish and Gentile people of the community of faith to have equity (Romans 9 is a peek into Paul's argument towards this. When the Jewish people were sent out of Rome, it left a vacuum in the Christian church in Rome that the Gentile people had to fill. When the Jewish people returned from their exile, they found all of the "church committee" seats had been taken by Gentile people. This upset them because they saw it as their Jewish-Christian church).

Today, we find ourselves in an in-between space. We are waiting.

Not passively mind you.

Pastor Dave (cont'd)



Hear me clearly here, friends. We have not abandoned meeting regularly nor have we stopped being the church. We are no less the bride of Christ than we were seven months ago. We are still the church, the form in this season has simply shifted out of necessity.

So what is God leading us into? Well, we are learning new skills, we are cutting the fat on some redundancies, and we are streamlining how we communicate and reach out to our community. Our technology and worship teams have matured and developed into strong, vital ministries of the church. Our education program has pivoted to meet needs in a way that are better suited for our time. Our ministry staff has rallied around one another, and you – the community of faith, to set a standard of excellence and effectiveness in our ministries at Dove. God is leading us into a new vision for the future.

Maybe, just maybe, a piece of what is coming through this very difficult year is that the church is being stretched to grow – to become an effective agent for the spreading of the Gospel in the twenty-first century. Perhaps we are on the precipice of a new age in Christian fellowship, discipleship, and communication. I am not suggesting that the troubles of this year have been brought on by God, but I am suggesting that God's love can draw out a blossom even out of the roughest terrain.

I am so grateful to be going through this period with a church that has already dedicated itself to compassion and choosing love of God and neighbor first. That is the story I am most excited about now. This is another reason my family is so excited to be a part of the Dove of the Desert Community.

May God bless us with an awareness of what is happening around us, what we are learning, and what we are letting go of in this time of separation and reimagining our ministry in the world.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Dave Wasson

P.S. What have you seen in the past few months about the life of the church that gives you hope? Let me know, I would love to hear from you.



Grief Group



New Grief Group Starting Up in August

If you have suffered any kind of loss whether it be through death, a job, a move or loss of your freedom because of the Pandemic you are invited to become part of Pastor Louie's Upcoming New Grief Group. Because of COVID-19 we have not been allowed to get together in-person to worship or hold any small group gatherings. That is still the case dear ones BUT through the medium of Zoom Pastor Louie can offer a Grief Group once again. Our weekly sessions usually last an hour, give or take a few minutes either way, depending on how many we have in our group and how much sharing there might be.

If you might have an interest or know of anyone you think would benefit in being part of this New Grief Group the requirement would be having either a computer or smart phone that can be used for Zoom. If you have a camera on your computer or smart phone you would be able to participate. All you need to do is send Pastor Louie an email to Carepastor@doveofthedesert.com. In the email tell Louie that you are interested in the group which will begin meeting on Monday, August 10 at 1:00pm. Louie will send you an email with the Zoom Log-in information several days before we start to meet. If you might have any questions you can email Pastor Louie with them or call him on his cell phone (623)238-8455. Please don't worry if you don't know what Zoom is or how to use it, Pastor Louie can easily help you get on and talk you through it if you have a computer or smart phone with a camera.

Pastor Louie



I am preparing this article on July 3rd, while I write it, I am thinking of the 4th of July. The first thing that comes to my mind is how different it will be this year. For the Lyon's there will not be a gathering with anyone because of Covid-19. But the significance of the day will still remain. It will be and by the time you read this it was a continual reminder of the freedoms we have in this country because of decisions that were made by several men who today we call Patriots. I know that the British would have another name for those men. I believe this tells us that "things" depend on from what direction you are coming from. We don't all see things in the same way. That seems to be the condition of our country today when we look at how one responds to the COVID-19 virus. There is no question in my mind that we are all getting very tired of this period in our lives and would like it to be a thing of the past.

Summer is a time that many get away for a period of rest and travel. Reports state this year will see less travel but getting a way and going to a place where I haven't been gets me to think. If Joyce and I go to a place where we haven't been we can drive around and see the beauty of the place but how much are we learning about it because of our limited knowledge? Oh yes, we can read a guidebook about the area before we go but will we remember all of what we read by the time we are driving through? In order for us to get the most out of our trip or journey, it is best to hire a local guide who can tell us about what we are seeing and maybe even some of the background. Isn't our life like that? We have a choice of wandering through on our own or getting a personal guide to help us through.

I don't know if you have thought about it or not, but we do have both a guidebook and a personal guide for our life. Our guidebook is God's Word, our Bible and the Personal Guide is the Holy Spirit, that if we open ourselves up to in prayer prior to reading the Bible will show us things we had not previously seen or understood while reading a particular passage before. Many of us are spending much more time at home these days because of COVID-19. I want to challenge you to begin to use God's Guidebook (The Bible) more. Spend part of your day going through it. Don't worry if you don't understand all that is written as you won't be alone in that predicament.

Dear Ones, if you come to a place where you don't understand a particular passage use your personal guide (The Holy Spirit) by going in prayer, asking for an interpretation. If you don't just don't happen to have a Bible Commentary around the house you can go to your computer and find some Bible Commentaries to help you. My prayer is that you will take up my challenge and become a regular reader of God's Guide Book. Then you can have your regular conversation with our Heavenly Father. Remember, prayer is a conversation with our Heavenly Father, don't be afraid of it, God wants to hear from you....

Shalom,
Pastor Louie

Craft Bazaar



CALLING ALL CRAFTERS

Your talents are needed! All crafts and arts are welcome. Utilize your quarantine time to benefit your church. Dove's annual craft bazaar is scheduled for Sunday, November 8 and Sunday, November 15. We have a Plan B if our church building is not yet open. If you have questions, call Doreen Borgmann at 602-859-0136, or Mary Patterson at 623-219-9679.



Fellowship Opportunities



We will let you know when Fellowship Opportunities Resume



The **LUNCH BUNCH** meets the 1st Thursday of each month for good food and fellowship. Please call: 623.931.4283 for reservations or information. Newcomers are always welcome! (Currently not meeting).



DOVE MEN'S BREAKFAST meets on the 2nd Saturday of each month for a time of devotion, prayer, and fellowship.

Dove Men, including Fathers & Grandfathers, Sons & Grandsons, age 13 and up, are invited to come and bring a friend. A great way to make some new friends! (They are currently not meeting at this time.)



PRIME TIME LIVE! is the Dove of the Desert adult fellowship group and includes all Dove adults: married, single, young and young at heart. We meet the 3rd Friday of each

month at a member's home and enjoy the evening together with food, fun and Christian fellowship. The host supplies a main course, attendees bring sides and dessert. (Currently not meeting).



PRAYER SHAWL GROUP meets the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month from 9:00 - 10:00 am in Room 7. The group knits or crochets shawls, baby blankets, lap

blankets, prayer squares, and other items to be given to Dove members and others in need of comfort. For information, please call **Mimi Griffiths** at 602.762.6709 or at mimig7852@gmail.com. (Currently working on projects from home.)

OTHER FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Many other opportunities exist for fellowship at Dove, including Adult Sunday School classes, Tuesday Talks, Women's Bible Studies, and Dove's musical groups including Celebration Singers, Dove Notes, Folk Group, and the Bell Choirs, plus many more. Please check the calendar that you can find on the Dove website.



Special Prayers



Condolences to:

Cheryl & Emma Barber on the death of mother & grandmother, Charlene Madera

TJ & Kim Jackson and family on the death of Kim's father

The family and friends of Joan L'Hommedieu

For these churches:

Mountainview UMC, Cottonwood

New Song UMC, Surprise

Nuevo pacto, Phoenix



Prayer Line



For a daily prayer and devotion with Rev. Louie please dial **602-375-PRAY (602-375-7729)**

Please send all prayer requests to Rev. Louie at carePastor@doveofthedesert.com

Missions



Please deliver directly to the Mission

**Donations for St. Mary's Food Bank Alliance
Pet Food & Supplies to Animal Shelters
Justa Center Donations
UMOM Donations**

Care Ministry



**Dove of the Desert UMC – Care Ministry Team
Don & Velma Trotter, Co-Chairs**

AED/CPR Training

Jean LaMore, Coordinator 928.237.0335

Baby Brigade & Casserole Brigade

Provide meals for Dove families

Baby: Carolyn Moody 602.663.0191

Casserole: Sharon Eshelman 623.566.2798

Blood Pressure Screening

Second Sunday – Sept to May

Cry Room – 9:00-9:30 & 10:30-11am

Anita Burnett 623.581.2732 &

Lee Ann Harter 520.289.9744, Coordinators

Care/Prayer Notes

Notes in Narthex for Dove members/friends

Dave Smith, Coordinator 623.810.6518

Congregational Card Ministry

Cards to those with requests/joys

Jacque Kottmann, Coordinator 623.572.7271

Congregational Daily Prayer Chain

Rev. Louie Lyon, Coordinator 623.238.8455

Duet, Partners in Health and Aging

Dove is a faith partner with Duet –

trained volunteers assist homebound adults

602.274.5022, www.duetaz.org

Don & Velma Trotter, Liaisons 623.376.9506

Funeral Reception Team

Plan/prepare/serve meals/refreshments for memorial services

Sue Couch, Coordinator 623.825.5916

Homebound Communion

Communion available in home, care facility or hospital

Peter Mather, Coordinator 602.547.1909

Home Care Equipment for Loan

Wheelchairs, walkers, shower chairs, etc

Don Trotter, Coordinator 623.376.9506

Grief Support Groups:

“Life After Any Kind of Loss”

Rev. Louie Lyon, Coordinator [623.235.9908](tel:623.235.9908)

“Passages from Grief to Hope”

Jacque Kottmann, [Coordinator](tel:623.572.7271) 623.572.7271

Pet Care Ministry

Pet items and cash donations for no-kill pet shelters

Jan Smith, Coordinator 623.910.3520

Pre-Diabetes/Diabetes

Diane Byler, Coordinator 623.933.0045

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Second and fourth Tuesdays, 9:00 am, Rm 7

Mimi Griffiths, Coordinator 602.762.6709

Transportation & Follow-up Visitation

Velma Trotter, Coordinator 623.376.9506

Youth Representative:

Kate Schwebke, Coordinator 602.321.3958

Ad Hoc Members:

Donna Anthony, Doreen Borgmann and Pat Kaufman

Available resources:

Alzheimer's

Anita Burnett, Coordinator 623.581.2732

Cancer Care Ministry

Don Trotter, Coordinator 623.376.9506

Stephen Ministry

Joyce Lyon, Coordinator 623.235.9908

Board of Church & Society



FAIR BALANCE

On March 10, 2020, a “fishbowl” discussion on economic inequality was held at the United Methodist Conference Center to address how, in the United States, the rich are getting richer, the poor are getting poorer, and the middle class is struggling to stay in the middle. By the end of March, as everyone knows, the United States was engulfed by the Coronavirus and the problems involving economic inequality were exacerbated. Even many of our “essential” workers do not make a “living” wage.

What does the Bible tell us? In Paul’s 2nd letter to the Corinthians, he asks them to donate to poor Christians in Jerusalem. He says, 13 “It isn’t that we want others to have financial ease and you financial difficulties, but it’s a matter of equality. 14 At the present moment, your surplus can fill their deficit so that in the future their surplus can fill your deficit. In this way there is equality. 15 As it is written, the one who gathered more didn’t have too much, and the one who gathered less didn’t have too little. 2 Corinthians 8:13-15 (CEB)

Paul calls us to help create a world with a “fair balance” between wealth and abundance for a few and the needs of many. How can we do that? We can speak out. We can support change. We can pray for fair balance. To see what the United Methodist Church says about economic inequality visit the General Board of Church and Society website at:

<https://www.umcjustice.org/what-you-can-do/advocacy/take-action/week-5>

Board of Church and Society



Family Promise



Family Promise (FP)

Greetings Dove Volunteers!

We have a Family Promise ministry week coming up, Sept 6-12. Because of COVID-19, FP is continuing to host families at the Scottsdale Center and they have asked if we could help delivering dinners and miscellaneous breakfast and lunch items.

Volunteers will be needed for meal transportation, meal preparation, and food and monetary contributions. All are welcome to participate by signing up to volunteer.

To sign up, please click on the following Signup Genius link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0c4daba92da46-dove2>. If you are not comfortable with Signup Genius and would like to help with this ministry, please feel free to contact either Sharon Eshelman (602-738-8310) or Elizabeth Tesman (623-628-4636). Thank you as always for your amazing support with this ministry. God bless!

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Rev. Louie Lyon

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Director of Music:

GregRamsey@doveofthedesert.com

Choral Director: Lovita Christianson

Choirs@doveofthedesert.com

Bell Choirs Director: Brent Fike bfike2@cox.net

Children & Family Director: Jan Ramsey

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Dove of the Desert

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Glendale, AZ 85308**

Return Service Requested

Sending August Blessings to:



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