



Dove of the Desert

# *Dove Tales*

Vol. XXXII Issue 1  
November 2020

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





## Pastor Dave

A while back, I went out to dinner with my family. We had picked a nice, locally owned spot that we could support and eat some great food. We took our seats, ordered our drinks, and started browsing the menu. As menu browsing usually goes, we quickly lost track of what we were doing and we started conversing at the table. After a few minutes, the server came by and asked if we needed more time. Of course, we said we did, and the server went to go check on other tables.

This happened three more times that night. Each time we asked for more time, and the server, with an increasingly pained smile, went to go check on their other tables once more. It was upon this realization that the server had become weary of our inability to pick from thirteen items on a menu in the twenty minutes that had elapsed since we sat down. I became acutely aware of what was now happening (we were becoming THAT table, you know, the problem table). With new knowledge and a sense of renewed focus, I called the table to buckle down and pick their dinners, so that we would be ready the next time our server came around.

Like clockwork, the industrious worker returned, with focus and intent, committed to the receiving of our order upon this visit. Around the table we went, choosing our courses and sides, and salad dressings. Everyone made such a good choice on what to eat, I was impressed!

Then came my turn. It was here that I realized my fatal mistake. In helping everyone else decide what they wanted to order, I never chose my entrée for the evening. The server now stared at me, sitting at the head (or tail) of the table, waiting to memorize my order.

I panicked. I ordered a burger.

When the food came, everyone's dishes looked like they were being served a meal from a Michelin Star Chef. Mine, however, looked like a burger. While everyone ate their flavorful, complex meals in the midst of the silence of chewing, I would take another bite of my burger. My burger was fine, I want you to know. There was nothing about it that made it bad or inedible or taste funny. It was a just a burger ordered in a moment's panic.

It was a panic burger.

Panic burgers never taste great. They just... exist. Mine was like all of the other panic burgers; unremarkably forgettable. While my family sat and dined around foods they had chosen to enjoy, I took bites of my own indecision.

I feel like I have ordered a few of these overcooked burgers in my life, from personal to professional decisions. Fearing the consequences of making a choice that might upset, offend, or turn out unpredictably, I've at time forced my own hand to make a choice that I know in the end will not satisfy. Have you ever been there? Stuck in a hard place between choices, ultimately going with the lesser of all the choices, then being disappointed in the entire process?

When the reality that the pandemic was coming into our own communities, many experienced different forms of panic. Remember when there was no soap or toilet paper in the grocery stores for nearly a month? Do you recall how people reacted on the internet? It didn't matter where folks landed on how to deal with the virus, it felt like everyone was choosing panic first!

I'd like to think we have all learned and grown from our past 8 months. I'd hope we would consider how our panic at times exacerbated the problems we were facing. I'd like to hope that we, as Christians, can become people who look more like Christ than anything else to the rest of the world. I realize there is a long road to go in all of this, but as people who follow Jesus, we are called to seek peace and not panic. Peace is the work.

And so, as the Fall of this year has come (it's under 105 degrees outside, so that is close enough for me to call it), new opportunities have been opened to us that we will pursue, not rooted in panic, but in God's peace. Recently our Bishop, the Rev. Robert Hoshibata, communicated that the United Methodist Church in The Desert Southwest Conference was moving into Phase 1 of our conference's pandemic response. Phase one begins for the preparation and logistical work of partial reopening to begin. Let me be clear here, this is not a green light for indoor worship gatherings. Phase One is instead about preparing well for the challenges we will face in reopening. Rather than having to deal with all of the reopening details at once (panic), we have the ability to move thoughtfully and lovingly (peace) towards the process of campus use once again.

A sign that our church has already taken seriously the task that is still largely ahead of us is that we were granted an exemption from our closed campus by the Conference to host our annual Craft Bazaar on Nov 8 and 15 (you can find more about this year's event on page 5). This year, it will be hosted outside, there will be rules and expectations for participation that honor the best practices for social distancing and sterilization. What we do in this event will also help us learn and move closer into what worship on campus will look like for us next. Cont...





## Pastor Louie

The word that kept coming back to me as I was praying about what to write about in this month's Dove Tales article was "CHANGE". What changes have I or should I make in my life now because of the events that have occurred in our lives because of COVID-19.

I want to begin by saying this article is NOT meant to be a political statement, it is meant to get each of us to be thinking, "How should I lead my life (and help my family to lead) that would bring health, safety and harmony to myself and my family." Each of us have priorities in our life, things that we deem important. The question I ask of you is: Has Covid-19 changed any of those priorities? Many of us because of our age have not been able to personally visit with our children and grandchildren because of fears of spreading COVID-19 amongst family members. We are still reading of family gatherings that have led to the spread of COVID-19 amongst those in attendance. The events now occurring (as I write this article) at the White House is a prime example that "We have NOT turned the corner on this Pandemic". I believe that after eight or nine months we have "had it". Many of us have grown lax with precautions taken. So again, I ask, "What changes should we make?" (Maybe the anger or disappointment of not worshipping in person should be revisited in our minds).

When I was asked to assume the position of Minister of Visitation and Pastoral Care my main role was to visit in hospitals, care centers and homes. COVID-19 put a stop to those in person visits. We have had many in the hospital, some with emergency situations where family members and pastors have NOT been allowed to visit or be present. We have had deaths and the normal funeral or memorial service was not allowed to take place. These changes highlight again the importance of family and what is and what is not important in our lives. Ephesians 5:15-16 state, "Be careful how you live. Don't live like fools, but like those who are wise. Make the most of every opportunity in these evil days." Do you need to make changes to be "Wise?" (To wear a mask or not wear a mask; to wash your hands at every opportunity). In lieu of hospital visits I have made phone calls to check on folks. We have a daily email prayer chain that allows many in our community to be in prayer and support of one another.

Rev. Rick Warren wrote in his Daily Hope Daily Devotion that it is estimated that the average person will live an average of 72 years or 26,000 days. You may think that means you still have plenty of days to go but I want you to KNOW that we are NOT getting any of those days back once they are gone. Dear Ones, the question is, "Are we making the Most of those days?" We can always get more money and we can rest to build up our energy. But I want to remind you that in Ecclesiastes 3 it states that there is a time for everything. That means our time is limited on this earth. What changes do you need to make to make the most of your time?

I have not written what I have here to be morbid or to frighten anyone. My goal is to get us to realize that just maybe our priorities and our way of life may just need to change. Yes, I do believe that something good can come out of the year 2020. Joyce has spent a whole lot of time reminding me that I spend far too much time looking at my "smart phone" from the time I get up in the morning until I go to bed. What could I be doing instead of using my time looking at Facebook; no, it's not a sin to look at the computer or Facebook but how about spending the time, if not in person at least on the telephone telling someone who is meaningful to you that you love them. Oh yes, don't forget EXERCISE can always be added to our list of priorities. That's another way of taking better care of ourselves.

Shalom,

Pastor Louie



## Pastor Dave continued...

Our newly launched Reopening Team is working diligently to listen, learn, and begin the process that will lead to Dove's in person gatherings once again. This team is dedicated to not ordering panic burgers, and that is something else worth celebrating! As they lead the way towards reopening with grace and peace, honoring the diverse population that makes us our special church, let us pray for them. The task is complex, and it may require many more hands to complete, but we continue to trust that God is leading us, and that this season has only made us better prepared for what may come next.

Blessings,  
Pastor Dave



# Music Ministry

**Dove of the Desert** is blessed to have a wealth of musical talent in its midst. From the children and youth to the grassroots sound of the folk group to the majestic voice of the Dove Notes and Celebration Singers to the upbeat, contemporary sound of DoveSong, our Praise Team, to the exquisite sound of our Dove Bells, to the diverse array of vocal and instrumental talent of individuals in the congregation, the music at Dove enriches the worship experience for all ages. We want to introduce/acquaint you with our groups.

**Director of Music: Greg Ramsey – [gregramsey@doveofthedesert.com](mailto:gregramsey@doveofthedesert.com) 623-203-0250**

**Dove’s Children’s Choir** - Director: Lovita Christianson

Dove’s energetic children’s choir offers children the opportunity to grow both musically and spiritually, connect with other Dove children, and bless the congregation with their song. When we can return in person, the children’s choir will rehearse in Rooms 15/16 on Sundays from 9:30 – 9:50 am.

**Halos Youth Choir - A Youth Musical Ministry** - Director: Greg Ramsey

The Halos Youth Choir offers junior and senior high youth opportunities for musical development, fellowship, spiritual growth, and fun! This group shares its music with the congregation at Dove, while also performing many off-campus concerts throughout the year. When we can return in person, the Halos Youth Choir will rehearse Sunday afternoons in the Sanctuary.

**Celebration Singers** - Director: Lovita Christianson (Adult)

Performing a wide variety of traditional, sacred, contemporary, and gospel music, the Celebration Singers mixed chorus brings its majestic voice to the 11:00 am. worship service three of the four Sundays in a month. When we can return in person, rehearsals will be held Wednesday evenings in the Sanctuary from 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm. Currently, the choir prepares virtual choir anthems to be shared once a month in worship.

**Dove Notes** - Director: Lovita Christianson (Adult)

Dove Notes is a women’s chorus that brings beautiful music to the 8:00 am worship service twice a month. This choir performs a variety of musical styles, from traditional and sacred to contemporary and gospel. When we can return in person, this group will rehearse on Tuesday evenings in the Sanctuary from 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm.

**DoveSong** - Praise Team Leader: Kate Smith (Adult)

DoveSong leads the congregation in praising God with upbeat, contemporary Christian music on Sundays at the 9:30 am worship service. Come and praise God in song, and share in a beautiful time of fellowship. Presently, this group provides music each week for our virtual worship services. DoveSong is an auditioned group.

**Folk Group** - Leaders: Grant and Karen Freeland (Adult)

The Folk Group performs a variety of good ole’ down-home folk music. The Folk Group sings once a month in worship. This group supports all worship services.

**Dove Bells** - Director: Brent Fike (Adult)

The Dove Bells are a multi-generational group. They play a vast array of music styles and play them all superbly. The Dove Bells share their music once a month in worship services. Also, they appear in many off-campus concerts, including numerous appearances at the Annual Desert Botanical Garden’s Las Noches de las Luminarias. This group rehearses on Monday evenings.

We would love to hear from you! If you are interested in learning more about Dove’s Music Ministry and our musical groups, please contact Greg Ramsey at your earliest convenience. On behalf of all of our musical groups, we would love to have you become part of our magnificent spirit-filled musical family!

Blessings always,

Greg Ramsey

Director of Music, Dove of the Desert UMC

[gregramsey@doveofthedesert.com](mailto:gregramsey@doveofthedesert.com) 623-203-0250



## Please Help.....

**Please help us** out in planning adult educational opportunities at Dove this fall. Take a short (painless!) survey at this link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/QDVFRVV> Thanks!



# Fellowship Opportunities

We will let you know when Fellowship Opportunities Resume



The **LUNCH BUNCH** meets the 1<sup>st</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month for a time of devotion, prayer, and fellowship. Please join them at 7:00 am on Saturday, November 14 via Zoom!

Please R.S.V.P. to Louie Lyon, 623.238.8455 or e-mail [CarePastor@doveofthedesert.com](mailto:CarePastor@doveofthedesert.com) and he will send you the Zoom information you will need to join the event. Don't forget to have your coffee and breakfast ready along with your Bible!!



Our Global Ministries is looking for members who wish to ACT on our Social Principles to slow the Climate Crisis. EarthKeepers receive online training to identify and grow their own environmental project in our Dove

Community. Contact Rev. Jenny Phillips at: [jphillips@umcmmission.org](mailto:jphillips@umcmmission.org)  
Or watch for the next training opportunity here: [creationcare.umcmmission.org/events/31137?network\\_id=global-ministries](http://creationcare.umcmmission.org/events/31137?network_id=global-ministries)



## Special Prayers

### Condolences to:

Bill Vascassenno & family on the death of his mother Marianna

Donna Anthony & family on the death of her husband Calvin Anthony

### For these churches:

Shepherd of the Valley UMC, Phoenix  
Spirit of Hope UMC, Peoria  
Spirit Song UMF, Peoria



**PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY** meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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, Prime Time Live! plus many more. Please check the calendar found on the Dove website.



## Craft Bazaar

### FALL CRAFTS BAZAAR

Dove's Annual Fall Crafts Bazaar will be held on Sunday, November 8, and Sunday, November 15 from 1:00 to 4:00 pm. It will be outside on the patio and lawn, well-spaced and ventilated, masks and social distancing observed. Don't miss out on the many wonderful projects offered by our Crafts Group and friends! Shop early in our kiosks: Christmas Crafts, General Store, Kitchen Korner, Art Gallery, Le Boutique, and Ye Olde Bakery. **Support your church! All proceeds go to Dove of the Desert.**



## Smoke Detectors

**Did you know that....**The National Fire Protection Association recommends that you replace your smoke detectors every 10 years. Age reduces their sensitivity and research has shown that 10 years is the best time to replace them. To check the age of your detector, remove it from the wall or ceiling and look on the back for a manufacturer's date.

Ref: [https://www.usfa.fema.gov/prevention/outreach/smoke\\_alarms.html](https://www.usfa.fema.gov/prevention/outreach/smoke_alarms.html)

Give thanks to  
**THE LORD**



## 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](mailto: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**



## Youth Ministry

**Dove Youth** is made up of the Halos Youth Choir and the Youth Fellowship all combined. Dove Youth is for 2020-2021 7th – 12 grade students.

Youth Leader: Greg Ramsey [gregramsey@doveofthedesert.com](mailto:gregramsey@doveofthedesert.com) 623-203-0250

(As you read the following, please note that we are currently meeting remotely due to COVID-19).

### **Dove Youth is made up of four main components:**

1. Study and Devotions – Each Sunday, we have an afternoon Youth Meetup! helping to nurture a personal relationship with God. The weekly Meetups! have both study and fun fellowship activities all in one! Each Sunday morning, we have both a Jr. High and a High School Student Sunday School Class, where great things and study happen!!
2. Musical Rehearsals and Performances (*For both the singer and non-singer*) – Each Sunday, we will have musical rehearsals and performances on campus and off-campus performances. Many tech and instrumental music opportunities available for the non-singer.
3. Service Projects and Mission Work – Once a month, we will have the opportunity to participate in community service and outreach. Annually, students will also have the opportunity to participate in a summer mission trip.
4. Fellowship and Recreation – Once a month, we have a fun activity.

### **Virtual Sessions**

As we cannot meet in person at this time, we have been having our Youth Meetups! on Sunday afternoons via Zoom.

### **In Addition:**

Our High School students have been having a separate 30-minute “check-in” session on Thursdays.

In November, we will also be adding a 30-minute “check-in” session for the Jr. High students.

“I can do all things through Christ, who strengthens me.” Philippians 4:13 EHV

“Go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone.” Mark 16:15 NLT

To receive more information about the Dove Youth, please contact Greg Ramsey.

Christ's Love and Joy!

Greg Ramsey - Youth Leader, Dove of the Desert UMC  
[gregramsey@doveofthedesert.com](mailto:gregramsey@doveofthedesert.com) | 623-203-0250



## Adult Ed. & Fellowship Opportunities

**Sunday Fellowship** ~ 10:30-11:00 am through Zoom we will have an opportunity to get together to chat and share our stories. If you would like to be a part of our Sunday Fellowship time send Pastor Louie an email, [Carepastor@doveofthedesert.com](mailto:Carepastor@doveofthedesert.com). Louie will send you the Zoom Invitation to join in Fellowship along with instructions on how to use Zoom. We'll be looking forward to chatting with you and seeing you again. If you have not yet utilized your Dove Coffee Cup Cozy, you can contact the Dove office and have one sent to you or pick one up at the church office), then color it and cut it out. There are two styles for different shaped cups. You can color them on regular paper for single uses or print it on card stock or laminate your finished cozy to last longer. Then you can bring your cozied mug with you when you join the Zoom fellowship time on Sundays.



# Board of Church & Society

On November 17 from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm, Bill DeVincenzi, one of the presenters for the Climate Reality Project, will host a Zoom meeting featuring a very professional presentation on the Climate Crises. The Christian perspective will be covered explicitly in the 15 minutes of Q & A at the end of the 45 minute presentation as per questions we may have. The following is a quick description of the presentation.

The Climate Crisis is already affecting ecosystems and communities across the globe, but it is not too late to take action. The climate reality presentation will show you how! The presentation is non-partisan, from the perspective of science. The presentation is broken into three parts – Must We Change, Can We Change and Will We Change. In Must We Change, we talk about the crisis itself, how it happened and what effect it is having on the planet. In Can We Change, we talk about the technologies that currently exist to deal with the problem. In Will We Change, we talk about what is being done now, across the planet, as well as what you can do by yourself and with others in your community.

Please contact Chris Samelson of the Dove of the Desert Board of Church and Society at csamels1@cox.net for the link to the Zoom meeting if you want to attend.



## Zoom Groups

Come to the “M.O.R.E.” (message, online, reflect and engage) discussion group, as we go deeper into the message. We gather Sundays from 11 am to 12 pm on Zoom. Email mkburt2@att.net (Peggy Burt) for the Zoom link.

**Thursday Morning Women’s Bible Study** ~ meets weekly on Zoom. We have a time of fellowship from 9:30 to 10 am, study begins at 10 am to 11 am. Join us as we dive into timely, relevant, scripture, based book studies. Contact Peggy Burt mkburt2@att.net, 847-727-4763 for zoom link.



## Care Ministry

Dove is a Faith Community Partner with Duet



**Duet**  
Partners in Health & Aging

Duet: Partners in Health & Aging is a nonprofit, interfaith organization that

promotes health and well-being through a broad range of services to homebound adults. We have several Dove folks who volunteer with Duet. Duet volunteers assist adults who can no longer drive due to physical or other issues related to age and wish to remain living in their own homes. To get started volunteering with Duet, the first step is to attend an orientation.

Orientations are mandatory for all volunteers who provide services to homebound adults such as: transportation to medical appointments, grocery shopping, friendly visits/phoning, paperwork assistance, minor handyman services and tech assistance.

Duet has resumed orientations for new volunteers under strict CDC guidelines and sessions are currently planned for Wednesday afternoons at the Duet office, 10000 N 31st Avenue, Phoenix. The orientations will be in small groups and only those who RSVP can attend. To register, call Duet’s office: 602.274.5022 and you should also visit their website: www.duetaz.org.

Any further questions, please contact Don Trotter, 623.376.9506 or email trotterdon@att.net

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**The editorial staff reserves the right to edit all items submitted for publication.**



# *Dove of the Desert*

**United Methodist Church  
7201 W. Beardsley Road  
Glendale, AZ 85308**

**Return Service Requested**

**Sending November Blessings to:**



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