



Dove of the Desert

# *Dove Tales*

Vol. XXXI, Issue 12  
October 2020

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



# October



## Pastor Dave

I don't remember the first time I put coins in the collection plate on a Sunday. But there are a few other times I recall incidents with "passing the plate" during worship.

I remember at age nine, being so upset that I had to put my fifty cents worth of quarters in the plate (My mother had *literally* forced my hand) that I smacked them into the plate so hard that one quarter flew three pews forward and hit Ms. Elizabeth in the head, and the second one fell right at my father's feet, two seats over. My pastor at the time told me it was the hardest he had laughed in church for a while, but I don't remember the outcome being so funny.

I remember the first time I served as an usher, and I was passing the collection plates between rows with my best friend (we are still close friends, and he's a pastor in Baton Rouge now). We had decided that we were going to race the other sections to complete our rows before they completed theirs. We did not let the other ushers know about this at the time. I have to imagine it was odd seeing two teenage boys running up and down the aisle to complete the given task in sub-biblical times. Needless to say, we were benched for a month or two for that stunt. Also, we totally beat the other ushers that day.

Then there are the times I've dropped plates. Like a wide receiver who starts to look downfield before they have full grasp of the ball thrown to them, I've tried to smoothly pass the plate only to hear the round rattle of the plate as it bounces off the seat only to fall to the ground, sending money, checks, and coins scattered everywhere. Thankfully, as far as I know, Ms. Elizabeth was only hit once by flying offering coins.

And there is more. So much more. There always is, isn't there? But why am I sharing these stories in this month's newsletter? Well, because my faith story has had the practice of generosity interwoven with it since the beginning, and it's something I believe is an important topic in the life of the church. But also,

Because it's important to normalize talking about giving at church. Money shouldn't be a taboo issue for people of faith. (Acts 2:42-47)

Because our offerings aren't simply financial transactions, they are intricate in the story God is telling. (Malachi 3:10)

Because the subversive act of generosity is in the very DNA of the teachings of Jesus (Mark 12:41-44)

This month, we will be beginning our Stewardship campaign as we build towards our operating budget for 2021. This campaign will invite you to see the numerous way lives have been transformed by God through the ministries at Dove. You will be invited to reflect on, and even share;

your own story of why you belong to this church,  
what it has led you to believe about God,  
how you have seen yourself and others become the persons God celebrates they would be,  
and who we will be in the years to come as we face new opportunities and challenges.

I am prayerful that you will join us in the coming months, not only in our worship gatherings but also in this exercise of considering your generosity, and how we can best lead with faith into the coming years through all of our lives, including our generosity. To be able to give is a freedom to celebrate, to be able to give to the ministries of God is something more!

Thank you for being a generous Church. Your presence in the community is noticed, and as that occurs, we will be given more and more opportunities to not only minister to new folks, but also share with them the Light that we know.

Blessings,  
Pastor Dave







## Pastor Louie

There is no need for me to tell you what has been occurring in each of our lives through the past seven months or so but an event occurred recently that got me to thinking, thus this article this month. This article will discuss three **Important** topics that I hope you and your family have discussed and prepared for.

Dove is a “younger church” (membership and attendees) than I have had the privilege of serving in the past, thus I didn’t give what I am going to share with you much thought until an experience I recently had. With COVID-19 and all the deaths that have occurred in Arizona, our country and the world, I would have hoped that you had begun to think about what I am going to discuss, but I don’t think it has happened. So please pay attention to what I have to say. First, I am going back 33 years to something that occurred in the life of my late wife and my life.

We were serving a church in the Las Vegas area and my late wife’s mother was living with us. I received a call at my church office that Olive had suffered a stroke and was being rushed to the hospital from our home. I beat the ambulance to the hospital and my late wife, Gwen met me there. We stayed with Olive until after she was taken to her room; she really wasn’t communicating too well. We were told by the nurse that she would call us in the night if a change was occurring in her situation. Around 2:00 am we received a call stating that a pacemaker was needed immediately, and they wanted to know if we would give permission for the procedure. We said that we could be at the hospital within 10 minutes and would talk with the doctor then. The Dr. spoke to my wife and said, “This will prolong her life, but I can’t tell you it will help her situation from the stroke, do you want me to install the pacemaker?” My wife and I talked about it and after realizing this wasn’t really going to help her get better, we told the Dr. not to install the pacemaker. He then said, “I think you made the right decision.” He then got up and walked away. My wife then said, “Aren’t you going to do something?” To which I said, “I don’t understand, you said no pacemaker.” To which my wife said, “I NEVER have spoken to my mother about whether or not she wanted her life prolonged, I need to give her a chance.”

What I am asking you to do is to speak with each member of your adult family concerning their wishes, so you won’t have to struggle (that is why a Medical Power of Attorney is important). The second item I bring up is, “Have you Made Plans for end of life decisions?” What mortuary will you use? Will it be cremation or burial? No one likes to talk about our end of life on this earth but as you know, two things are certain once we come upon this earth: Death and taxes... The Good News for us as followers of Jesus Christ is that we know God’s Word is True and He has prepared a place for each of us, a place where there is no pain or suffering and He wipes away all the tears. But at the time you take your last breath on this earth dear ones, it is important to have an understanding of where you would like either the hospice or your family to call to have them come to where you are when it is time. It will bring you a peace of mind and it could also save you a whole lot of money when you check out different mortuary prices, as they do not all charge the same, in advance.

The third topic is, it’s never too soon to plan what you would like to have included in a Memorial or Funeral Service. Tell each other what hymns are meaningful, what Scriptures and if there might be anyone you would like to participate in your service.

My friends, as I have mentioned these three topics are not fun topics and many people ignore them until it is sometimes too late. As your Pastoral Care minister, I want you to know that I am more than happy to discuss any of these end of life issues with you and I am here to help you if I can.

Shalom,  
Louie





# Things to do....

**15 Things to Do with Your Family While You Are Quarantined** (I think most of us have figured all of this out, but maybe a Christian perspective will offer something different. I don't have room for all of them but here are a few. See website below for all 15 ideas. Colleen)

## **1. Play Board Games, Trivia Games, or Break Out a Puzzle**

Playing classic board games or trivia games has been a great pastime for snow days or long summer afternoons because they provide hours of entertainment. Classic games like Monopoly can bring out some healthy competition, while games like Apples to Apples bring about roars of laughter. Trivia games will test your knowledge, and you just might learn a thing or two along the way! Puzzles are another great way for the family to strategize together and offer each person something to work on until the final result is achieved by all. Playing games like these can also be a much-needed break from screens; it allows you to look at other people in the room and have discussions while being entertained. This is an activity that gets the whole family involved whether young or old, and it has the tendency to produce cherished memories of family fun and laughter. [Nymag.com](http://Nymag.com) offers a list of best family board games from Amazon.

## **2. Journal the Experience for Historical Record**

A nation-wide quarantine is quite rare, and most definitely will be written about in history books for years to come. This is a great time to write a record day by day of not only events on the news, but of personal opinions and perspectives. What a gift it will be to a later generation to feel as if they were living in the events themselves as they read these entries, and they will serve as a time capsule for us to reread in the future of what life was like during such an age. If you have children of reading and writing age, assign a day to each child and rotate with that person being the family notetaker for the day. What did we do that day, what is the best memory of the day, who laughed the most, who did we pray for, what did we eat, did we learn anything new? It might be fun later for kids to read back over the quarantine journal and remember how the family bonded during a time when usual activities were put on hold. Like the games idea above, it's another strategy to reduce screen time and get family members involved in each other's lives. Kids could even create a family newspaper to practice writing skills and might have fun playing journalists finding out what each family member is focusing on for the day.

## **4. Teach Your Kids a New Skill**

Learning or teaching new skills is important, and this is a great time to share new skills with family members. Perhaps your grandmother taught you how to sew and you can teach your kids. Learning good car maintenance like how to check oil or how to change a tire is very important in life, especially for teens, and this is a good time to teach your household how. Basic home repairs can be fun, and seeing problems solved or transformed is inspiring. This is an opportune time to prepare your kids for life ahead so that they will not need to hire someone, they will know for themselves. If you're not sure how to do the skill either, rest assured that there's a YouTube tutorial for almost everything. Maybe your kids have been wanting to learn to play an instrument they have, practice artwork, or maybe they can help mom or dad plant new flowers or vegetables outside. Baking is a science that usually produces yummy results, that's one skill most kids are willing to help learn if it means they get to eat the end result.

## **10. Build a Pillow Fort**

A good old-fashioned pillow fort is always a fun option, especially when it is encouraged to distance. Grab a sheet, pillow cushions, and all the fluffy pillows you can find and craft the best fort you can. Make it even more fun with a challenge of forts or adding in nerf guns! This can be helpful if your kids are starting to lose focus on indoor activities, especially if you're trying to encourage quiet time or reading time. Have them help you build the fort complete with a lamp or twinkling lights and blankets so that they can crawl in and feel like it's a space just for them. They might be more motivated to read, nap, or journal in their new kid-friendly space. It's likely something they will remember as well: that time we built the fort together during the quarantine. You might find yourself crawling in to read after dinner as well.

## **15. Family [Bible Study](#) or [Devotionals](#)**

Perhaps the greatest thing we can do during this time, with most churches not meeting, is to have a family devotional time. Reading a Bible passage, praying for one another, or listening to a sermon together and discussing it will bring your family closer than ever. Taking this time away from usual busy schedules can allow for a readjustment of focus where it belongs - to God. At such tense times, it is imperative to encourage prayer for our country, for those who are sick, for those who are caring for the sick, and for each other. Encourage authentic and honest discussion to bring forth a new level of heart intimacy your family is yet to know. When we find ourselves worrying we need to dig into God's Word further because at it's core the Word of God is Truth, Hope, and Life. We can find such comfort in reading God's words to us. If you're not sure where to start, it's always encouraging to read through the Psalms. If you want to prepare for Easter, have your family start with the gospel accounts. Family worship time and couple's devotional time is never a waste and can only edify us and bring encouragement to our weary hearts.



# 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, October 10 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!! *(See page. 7 for more details.)*



### 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 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, plus many more. Please check the calendar that you can find on the Dove website.



## Finance

A very sincere "Thank You" to everyone in the Dove community who continues to help support the financial needs of our church. Your faithful and continued tithes and offerings have allowed us to maintain a financial position that seemed very challenging at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Dove's year-to-date income through August exceeded expenses by \$3,551 and our overall performance continues to be more favorable than the original approved budget expectations. The more positive actual trend vs. our planned budget is primarily driven by close monitoring and management of expenses related to church facilities that are not in use.

If you have any questions regarding Dove's financial operations, please do not hesitate to contact Finance Committee Chair, Rick Tesman at [ricketesman@gmail.com](mailto:ricketesman@gmail.com). **Thank you all so much for your continued blessing of financial support!**



## Family Promise

**Family Promise** - Once again, we wanted to thank our congregation for its generosity with Family Promise the week of September 6-13. Because of your generous donations, we were able to provide food to four families for an entire week! The directors at Family Promise want us to know that they are extremely grateful and that they very much appreciate our continued commitment to their mission of providing assistance to homeless families. Thank you, also, to those that so lovingly made and provided face masks as a donation to the families. Dove is truly blessed to be a part of this ministry! **Our next hosting week will be December 6-12, 2020.** We do not know if by then we will host at the church. We will have to wait and see what happens as we get closer to the date. Thank you again!





## 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**



## Care Ministry



### Baby Brigade and Casserole Brigade

Dove's **Baby Brigade** and **Casserole Brigade** serve families a meal or meals when there is a new baby, an illness or loss of a loved one. The ministry of **caring** for others not only satisfies hunger and thirst but fills the hearts of those involved and shows love and compassion with a purpose.

Meals can be favorite recipes prepared from scratch or already prepared food purchased from a restaurant or grocery store. A note of information -- the meals do not always have to involve casseroles. When a need arises, the process is accomplished through the coordinators for **Baby Brigade** and **Casserole Brigade** who contact our volunteers by way of phone calls, emails, texting, etc.

**New volunteers are needed and always welcome!** Please contact our coordinators if you would like to help.

**Casserole Brigade**, Sharon Eshelman, Coordinator  
623.566.2798 - [Sharon.eshelman@Hotmail.com](mailto:Sharon.eshelman@Hotmail.com)

**Baby Brigade**, Carolyn Moody, Coordinator  
602.663.0191 - [kennermooddy@yahoo.com](mailto:kennermooddy@yahoo.com)



## Craft Bazaar

### FALL CRAFT BAZAAR

Dove's Annual Fall Craft Bazaar will be held on Sunday, November 8, and Sunday, November 15 from 1:00 to 4:00 pm. We 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.**



## Special Prayers

### **Condolences to:**

Ruth Cacia and family on the death of her husband, John

Bob & Judy Francies on the death of Bob's brother

Bill & Robin Lemkuil on the death of her uncle and Godfather, Eugene

Joyce Griggs and family on the death of her husband, Tom

### **For these churches:**

Trinity UMC, Yuma

Sedona UMC

Shepherd of the Hills UMC, Sun City West



# Board of Church & Society

## United Methodists Vote! Use Your Right to Vote!

The 2020 elections are almost here. In the United States we have a right that many countries do not have - the right to vote and to have free and fair elections.

We need to use our vote and let our voices be heard. Election Day is November 3, 2020. The deadline to register is October 5. With the COVID-19 pandemic, and so many unknowns, it's a good idea to have a plan for voting this year. There are many ways to vote in Arizona. What would be the easiest and safest for you?

- You can register to vote or request a mail in ballot at BeBallotReady.Vote
- You can vote in-person on November 3 at your neighborhood polling place.
- You can vote in-person at a polling center from Oct 7- Nov 3.
- You can vote by mail – the mail-in ballot must be in the mail by October 28 to ensure its delivery by November 3. Mail your ballot early!
- You can bring your mail-in ballot to a polling center from Oct 7-Nov 3.

With the COVID-19 pandemic, your usual polling place may have changed. Information on polling places will be available in October at: BeBallotReady.Vote  
Phone Number 602-506-1511.

Democracy works only if people participate.  
Don't miss out.

VOTE, because every vote counts.

Thank you from the Board of Church and Society at Dove.



## Men's Breakfast

### DOVE MEN'S BREAKFAST

On the 2nd Saturday of each month for many, many years Rob Sanders led a Men's breakfast which was a time of devotion, prayer, study and fellowship. After Rob took sick Pastor Louie began to facilitate our time together. Do you miss that time of fellowship? If you do Pastor Louie invites you to join him and others to the Saturday Morning Men's Breakfast, devotion, study and prayer together via Zoom.

Here's the good news, you don't have to drive anywhere. Let's just crawl out of bed and be together with brothers in Christ via zoom as we join together to lean, pray and support one another. If you are willing to fix your own breakfast or coffee, you can have it while we gather from "Your House." Meetings start at 7:00 am.

Just send an email to Pastor Louie at: [Carepastor@doveofthedesert.com](mailto:Carepastor@doveofthedesert.com) several days prior so he can send you the invitation and material via email....

Tell Louie that you would like him to send you a Zoom Invitation to the 2nd Saturday of the month Men's Breakfast and he will send you the link with instructions on how to use Zoom. He will also send you a copy of whatever the devotion or study will be in advance so you will have it before you.

We invite you to give this a try and we hope that you will consider joining us.

If you have any questions give Pastor Louie a call on his cell (623) 238-8455.

### Dove of the Desert UMC

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Rev. Louie Lyon

Minister of Pastoral Care and Visitation  
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# *Dove of the Desert*

**United Methodist Church  
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**Return Service Requested**

**Sending October Blessings to:**



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