



Dove Tales

Vol. XXXII Issue 10
August 2021

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



Welcome back to
Campus!





Welcome to August! Welcome to campus!

That's right, August 1st is a day we have been planning on and praying towards for months now. It's the day that we fully open our campus and ministries to our community and her neighbors. Sunday school and Bible classes will return to meet in our rooms, as will many of our own various small groups, committees, and music groups. Beyond even that, we will welcome back vital community support groups such as AA and NA to regather on our campus. Dove is reopening for all, and we are grateful to God, who has seen us through this difficult season.

I want to remind you again that this reopening also bears witness to the faithfulness and generosity of this church. You have continued to support our ministries, our outreach efforts, and our reopening efforts as well. All of that means we had many active ministries already engaged before we ever took our steps back onto campus. That has allowed for a smoother transition for these ministries and their preparation for return to campus. With the inclusion of our new partnership with Family Promise to offer longer-term housing for four families experiencing homelessness. For the first time this fall, the campus of Dove of the Desert will be used **24 hours a day, 7 days a week**. That is a blessing that God will use to share compassion and hope to many people in our surrounding areas.

I hope you are excited for this fall and what we will be doing together. We are working hard to provide not only an excellent offering on Sunday mornings as we worship God together, but also a community that you can be a part of any and every day of the week that you want to be. From new small groups, to returning classes, and from new volunteer opportunities to simply eating across the table from a new family. Be on the lookout for all of the ways we communicate upcoming events: our weekly e-news, our Facebook page, our weekly Sunday bulletin, the Dove Tales monthly newsletter, and of course, our website.

I hinted at it in a recent Sunday lesson, but I believe we are living in a moment that is like what Jesus described in the parable of the talents in Matthew 25.

¹⁴ "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who was leaving on a trip. He called his servants and handed his possessions over to them. ¹⁵ To one he gave five valuable coins,^[a] and to another he gave two, and to another he gave one. He gave to each servant according to that servant's ability. Then he left on his journey..."

¹⁹ "Now after a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. ²⁰ The one who had received five valuable coins came forward with five additional coins. He said, 'Master, you gave me five valuable coins. Look, I've gained five more.'

²¹ "His master replied, 'Excellent! You are a good and faithful servant! You've been faithful over a little. I'll put you in charge of much. Come, celebrate with me.'

As we are faithful to the opportunities and challenges that have been a part of our context the past sixteen months, Dove of the Desert made a choice to pursue faithfulness despite the pandemic. This church adapted, learned new skills, sought joy during times that felt darkest, grew in generosity, mourned at loss, said goodbye to some, and said hello to others. This is not the story of a church that, like the proverbial ostrich, stuck its head in the sand. Instead, it is a church who keeps its eyes up and focused on the needs of others around them.

And so, welcome!

Welcome back to campus, we need you here.

Welcome back to the community, we need your help alongside us.

Welcome back to the new story the Creator is telling. God wants you sharing it with us.

Blessings,

Dave



WOW! Where has this year gone? As a matter of fact, “Where has the past year and one-half gone?” Now, I am not saying here that I want the past year and one-half to repeat itself but as we were “walking through those times” I never thought it would end. I remember how when COVID-19 was first seen to be a grave danger to all and we were in a “lock down,” how I worried about going outside, going to the market to shop for groceries and heaven forbid, coming into close contact with anyone. The unknown is frightening, even for a person of faith. You might be asking yourself, “Where is Louie going with this?”

Here goes, I am looking at myself and how I have changed and “maybe” where I need to go to move forward to a healthier and happier person. Whenever I preach a sermon, I always say, “I am preaching to myself, but if it fits for you that’s great!” This article is the same thing. At the beginning of COVID-19 Joyce and Louie were watching themselves and their food intake. I was proud of myself, hearing how others gained weight and how we stayed the same, not gaining weight. But what was happening unbeknownst to me is that without the normal exercise and routine, my body was going to “pot.” I haven’t felt like my ‘ole self but attributed it to worries about COVID. A few weeks ago, when I got on the scale, I realized that I was heavier than I have ever been. I didn’t need a scale to tell me this because my clothes were tight. So, the question was, “What am I going to do about it?” I am supposed to be your Pastoral Care Minister, but I had not been caring for myself. Thus, I bring this to you! How have YOU been caring for yourself during this time?

Knowing myself, I realized that I needed to set my mind to “Doing What Needed to be Done.” That means it is Louie and Louie alone that needed to decide the “time had come” to do something. I had seen on Facebook how a couple of UM Minister friends had lost a lot of weight using a program called Noom. I had no idea what it was, but I looked it up on the computer. As I write this it’s been 9 days since I signed up to begin the Noom program. I have lost 7 pounds toward my goal of 64 pounds. They said that if I followed the program, I would lose the weight by mid-February. Key words, “If I Followed the Program.”

Well, isn’t that the way it is with all of us, “If we follow the program.” Reading and studying God’s Word, listening to what Medical Science or Medical Experts, NOT TV Pundits say regarding COVID. I started out by saying that the past year and one-half was a scary time that I wondered if we would ever get through. I then moved on to say that I found I had not taken very good care of myself. I realize I need to change so I can become, once again, the person God created me to be. Dear Ones, is God speaking to you at this time? What is God trying to say to you about how YOU are to make the most of each day that He gives you. I know that I am not going to take one day for granted again. Will you join me in doing the same, along with doing what the Holy Spirit leads you toward?

It’s August, church school both for children, youth and adults will be beginning this month. What will you participate in to continue your growth in being the person God created YOU to be?

Shalom,
Louie





YOUTH KICK-OFF

I hope that all of you are doing well. My prayers are with each of you. I am writing to announce that the beginning of the Dove Youth 2021-2022 season is now upon us! Dove Youth includes Sunday School, Youth Fellowship, and the Halos Youth Choir for students grades 7 - 12. Our youth program is for both the singer and the non-singer.

The youth ministry at Dove of the Desert will provide an environment that fosters unconditional love and genuine, uplifting relationships with one another, will aim to equip our youth to develop a strong relationship with Jesus Christ, and will empower them to enter the world and extend the love of Christ to everyone they meet!

ON SUNDAY, AUGUST 1ST, WE HAVE A SPECIAL SUNDAY SCHOOL PREVIEW AND YOUTH KICK-OFF EVENT.

9:30 – 10:30 am SUNDAY SCHOOL

4:00 – 6:00 pm YOUTH AND PARENT KICK-OFF BOWLING EVENT (Please read below for details).

Here is our Exciting Regular Sunday Schedule for all 7th – 12 graders Beginning Sunday, August 8:

9:30 – 10:30 am Sunday School

4:00 – 5:00 pm Halos Youth Choir

5:00 – 6:00 pm Youth Fellowship

END OF SUMMER ALL DOVE YOUTH/HALOS KICK-OFF EVENT

What: Bowling!!!

Who: All 2021-2022 school year 7th-12th graders are invited!!

Parents also invited to bowl and fellowship among themselves in lanes...AT A DISTANCE from your student :0)

Where: Bowling at BOWLERO, 17210 N. 59th Ave, Glendale, AZ 85308

When: Sunday, August 1, 2021

Time: 4:00 - 6:00 pm - be there on time, we will start right at 4pm!!

Cost: \$15 per student (Includes 1.5 hour of bowling, shoe rental, cheese pizza, unlimited soft drinks, and cupcake!)

Please RSVP and Pay Greg - we need a minimum of 15 committed Youth for this event to take place!

Let's go DOVE Youth!!

A Special Youth and Parent Orientation Meeting

will be held on Sunday, **August 15**, from 3:30 – 3:50 pm in the Sanctuary.

Blessings to All from your Dove Youth Team!

Greg Ramsey, Youth Director and Director of Halos Youth Choir; gr@gopiano.com; 623-203-0250;

Patty Swindle, Curt Getting, and Jan Ramsey



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.

(Currently Not Meeting)



DOVE MEN'S BREAKFAST

meets on the 2nd Saturday of each month for a time of devotion, prayer, and fellowship at the Black Bear Diner, 6039 W. Bell Rd. For more information,

please contact Louie Lyon, 623.238.8455 or CarePastor@doveofthedesert.com.

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! *(Will begin meeting again in fall.)*



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 MINISTRY

meets the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month from 9:00 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 *Mary Patterson* at 623-219-9679 or at suszq16@gmail.com. New people welcome! Please join us.

OTHER FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Many other opportunities exist for fellowship at Dove, including Adult Sunday School classes, Women's Bible Studies, and Dove's musical groups including Celebration Singers, Folk Group, and the Bell Choir, plus many more. Please check the calendar found on the Dove website.

Shepherds



Shepherd program revived...

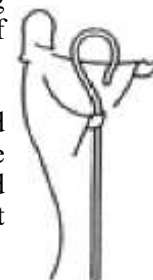
Do you remember what it was like when you first started coming to Dove and you didn't really know anyone, where things were or what programs may be available?

Now, you can help make new people feel more comfortable. We are reviving our Shepherding program and you can be someone who can serve as a Shepherd for a new member.

As a Shepherd you will help new members feel welcome, introduce them to other Dove members, help them with the campus surroundings and the many opportunities Dove has to offer.

This will take minimal time on your part. The only requirements are attending a brief training session, meeting the new member, and assisting them in becoming a part of the life of the church.

Additional information will be provided at the training meeting. If you are interested in becoming a Shepherd please contact Mike Przybylka at mdprzybylka@gmail.com or 623-680-3596.



Special Prayers



For these churches:

- Mission Bell UMC, Glendale
- Mountain View UMC, Cottonwood
- New Church Start, Yuma
- New Song UMC, Surprise



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



Fifth Sunday

Fill the Shelves Food Drive for AZ Hope for Hunger and Pet Food & Supply Drive

On-Going

Justa Center Donations

Finance



We can't say enough about the faithfulness of our Dove community that continued to shine through in the monthly giving. While our net cash flow was slightly negative during the month of June due to the timing of a couple of large items, our overall year-to-date operating cash flow remains positive. Your continued giving has enabled year-to-date income through June to remain higher than expenses by more than \$15,000.

June income of \$52,395 was higher than our monthly average for this year and close to our plan from a budget perspective. June expenses of \$55,932 were higher than the monthly average, however lower than planned from a budget perspective.

In addition to our cash flow from operations, Dove continues to maintain a very solid level of designated giving. Designated Funds are held for specific items such as our Endowment Fund, Building and Facility Improvement Funds, and other special designated gifts that are received. We continue to be blessed by so many sources of giving from our Dove family that help continue to fund the ministries to share God's love within the community. Thank you for continuing to be a blessing through your generosity. We are blessed to be a blessing!!

Rick Tesman, Finance Chair

Board of Church and Society



Understanding Poverty.

Learning what it is like to live in poverty is difficult. Most people in the middle and upper classes do not really understand what it is like living in poverty. How does a parent feel when he has to make a decision to buy groceries or pay the electric bill? How does a mother feel when she leaves her sick child home alone because she doesn't have "sick days" to cover her absence and her family needs the paycheck? Many of us have never had to make those decisions. But many people do.

During this past year, the pandemic has drawn attention to the many challenges of people who live in poverty. What can we do to help people move out of poverty? We know what works. UMOM (United Methodist Outreach Ministry) and Family Promise know how to do it. They have worked for years helping people deal with and work their way out of poverty. The problem is – it takes time – time to build relationships, time to set goals and, most importantly, time to work and build toward their dream. Doing this gives people hope - hope for a new beginning. As Christians, we know about hope. As it says in the Bible: "For I know the plans I have for you declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." (Jeremiah 29:11) Let us pray and work to help people see the hope in God's love. Let us pray for guidance in developing the ways and means to help people move out of poverty.



Dear Women of Dove, We are a women's group who meets on Zoom. We call ourselves the "Steel Magnolias," named after the movie, where the women stayed together through thick and thin. We invite any women who would like to meet just to keep in touch over the summer, to join us on Zoom on the first and third Fridays of the month from 10:00-11:00 am through August. If you are interested, please call Nannette Carr at (602) 621-1665, for instructions on how to join the group and be added to the Zoom link.



Greetings from the Prayer Shawl Ministries

This group started more years ago than I can count. As of June 22, 2021, we have made more than 1,900 prayer shawls, baby blankets, and lap blankets. These are given for baptisms, to give comfort to someone who is ill or grieving a loss, or who has hit a rock in the road of life.

We welcome anyone with a desire to be creative and give love at the same time. Everyone chooses a pattern and yarn. (We do request acrylic or cotton yarn.) We meet in the Parlor from 9:00 to 10:00 am on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays. We share our projects with each other, learn from others, and pray for the ones who will receive our gifts of love.

This ministry is supported in different ways: people donate yarn or scrip cards from Joann's or Michael's, or by the members of this group donating their own yarn. We donate to Dove members in need, local hospital cancer units, nursing homes, or wherever the love of God is needed.

If you know of someone in need, please contact the church office.

Come join us on August 10. If you have questions, contact Mary Patterson at 623-219-9679 or suszq16@gmail or Mimi Griffiths at 602-762-6709 or mimig7852@gmail.com.



The Trustees would like to thank these workers for coming to the workdays...

June Workday: Joyce Lyon, Ron Vanderhoof, Dee May, Mary Patterson

July Workday: Joyce Lyon, Roger Peckham, Dennis Albert, Mary Patterson, Ann Garwood

We got many things cleaned up and ready for campus use. Our next Trustee workday will be August 7 from 8-11 am. You do not have to stay the whole time to be a big help. We have inside and outside work to do. Hope to see you there!

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Dove Tales is a monthly publication of Dove of the Desert United Methodist Church. The editorial staff reserves the right to edit all items submitted for publication.



Dove of the Desert

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Return Service Requested

Sending August Blessings to:



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