

Dove Tales

Vol. XXXIII Issue 2
December 2021

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



Christmas Eve Services



4:00 pm
Family Worship



6:00 pm
Contemporary
Candle light
& Communion



8:00 & 11:00 pm
Traditional
Candle light &
Communion

Dove
Calendar



- 1 **Hanging of the Greens:** 6:00 pm
- 1-4 Family Promise
- 4 Church Work Day: 8:00 am
- 5 **Worship Services:** 8:00, 9:30, and 11:00 am with Communion
- 10 ***Dove Tales Deadline***
- 12, 19, 26 **Worship Services:** 8:00, 9:30, and 11:00 am
- 12 Handbell Concert: 3:00 pm
- 24 Christmas Eve Services - See above
- 25 Merry Christmas!



As we enter into a new year of ministry and life together, it's important that we thoughtfully engage with the needs of our own community of faith, as well as the needs of our surrounding neighbors. Below is a brief snapshot of five areas of focus that Dove will act on in the coming year. These five areas were prayed over and affirmed by Dove of the Desert UMC as a part of its Charge/Church Conference this year (held on November 18, 2021).

We invite you to review the areas, pray for our work in them, and then consider how you might take part in the growth of our church in 2022.

Your continued generosity allows us to have a bold vision for the year ahead. Thank you for your faithfulness to the Dove community, and to the work of God's mercy in the world.

Blessings,
Pastor Dave

The Vision stays the same...

INCREASING LOVE FOR GOD AND NEIGHBOR
GOING DEEPER
REACHING FARTHER
TRANSFORMING LIVES

The Plan:

1. Work towards full reopening (as health guidance allows)
 - a. Community Fellowship Events
 - b. Confirmation 2022
 - c. Choirs may return
 - d. Craft Sale 2022
 - e. Concerts return to campus
 - f. More community Celebrations (Food Trucks, Family Nights)
 - g. Host various Training Events
2. Develop our Online presence
 - a. Continue improving Streaming experience for worship
 - b. begin creation of pre-recorded devotions and offerings
 - c. Continue making website updates
 - d. Social media growth
3. Find our place in addressing the needs in our community
 - a. Continue to host and participate Forums related to community needs.
 - b. Continue offering book groups and classes on matters of justice.
 - c. Further our participation and relationships with Habitat for Humanity, Family Promise, Hope for Hunger, St. Mary's Food Bank and other local organizations
 1. Beyond being the hands and feet for people in need, how to we advocate for long term change?
4. Listening to Families and Friends
 - a. How do we prepare for the next decade in this community?
 - b. What are the felt needs of families in our congregation and community?
 - c. How do our current ministries align/match with the needs of our community?
 - d. How do we prepare our staff to serve and lead in the future?
5. Leading in the West District
 - a. Working with other UMC churches to offer combined opportunities to learn and grow.
 - b. Offering our campus for district and conference experiences
 - c. Sharing our leaders and volunteers with the district and conference to strengthen all of our churches.
 - d. Developing and deploying the depth of our talent and skills to assist organizations and churches.



As you begin to read this article you will note that it is about a “New Christian Year.” The Season of Advent is the first season of the year in the Christian Calendar. It is a time of Preparation for the “Coming Again” in our lives of Jesus. I wonder, “Do we ‘Really Know’ what that means?” I ask that question because each year we go through the same cycle of getting out the Christmas decorations, addressing Christmas Cards and maybe even writing a Christmas Letter. I always end our Christmas Letter by saying, “Remember, Jesus is the Reason for the Season.” But, in between all that there is the rush to buy gifts and prepare for parties and finish end of the year chores. As a pastor I have found that it is not until almost the very end of Advent that I actually am beginning to feel the true meaning of the Season. My prayer for you and your loved ones, is that this year, because of Not Having in person Christmas Services because of Covid last year, that this year will be even more meaningful.

There is a misconception that some folks have about Christmas. That is, they think it is a most joyous and happy time for all. But the truth is, for anyone who has suffered a loss of a loved one, Christmas could be an empty or sad time because of the absence of the one who is not there. It is for you that I write the words which follow. Dear Ones, there could not have been an Easter if there wasn't a Christmas. The first holiday season after the death of my late wife just wasn't joyous or meaningful, I mean, I wanted it to be for the children so I tried but I just couldn't get into it. Knowing that I had to write a sermon and preach 3 services on Christmas Eve, what was I to do? I prayed, asking the Lord for help... The Holy Spirit came to me saying (not in audible voice) “Because I was born and came upon this earth that first Christmas, so too does your loved one, Gwen, have a New Birth and New Life.”

Did I still miss her after that conversation with God? Yes, I did, but I had the assurance that I could celebrate not only Jesus' Birth but my late wife's New Birth Too. I have done so now for 28 years. My prayer for those who have suffered a loss and for those who have not is that when you come to Dove on Christmas Eve or during this season of Advent (or view services virtually on your computer or TV screen) that you won't take this Advent/Christmas Season for granted. Yes, Advent is a time for “Preparing the Way”, preparing the way for the Lord to come anew in our lives. Because Jesus was born that first Christmas in the form of a human baby, you and I have already been given the Best Gift that could ever be given... I look forward to celebrating that gift with you...

As Most of you know by now this will be my last article for awhile as I prepare to leave Dove to serve an Interim Appointment for six months at First United Methodist Church Sun City. This is a church that I have served twice previously, first in 1997-2000 and then again from 2008-2013. Joyce and I will miss you all, we are already looking forward to our return to Dove at the conclusion of this Interim Appointment. Joyce and I came to Dove as retirees to worship with you as we found this congregation to be a vibrant and loving congregation. While worshipping here Pastor George Cushman asked if I would consider coming onto staff. I want to thank Rev. George Cushman for that opportunity, which blessed me by allowing me to serve along with him at Dove and Rev. Dave Wasson for the opportunity to continue serving as Dove's Pastoral Care and Visitation Pastor.

It is good-bye for now and Joyce and Louie wish you and your loved ones a Most Blessed and Holy Advent and Christmas Season.

Shalom,
Louie



Thank you!

A big Thank You to all who were able to walk and to those who supported the Walk to End Alzheimer's. It was a great success for the Alzheimer's Association in a fight to end Alzheimer's. Our Team Dove collected \$3,640.00 to help to discover a cause and cure for this disease that affects so many of our loved ones and friends. God Bless You All and Thank you for your support. Anita Burnett, Dove Care Ministry.



Thank you for supporting Arizona Hope for Hunger food bank located in Glendale. Discipleship was joined by our Youth Ministry and Pet Ministry on five Sundays in 2021. We collected bottled water, canned foods, boxed food, paper supplies, hygiene products, pet food and supplies. Look for 5th Sunday food drives in 2022, January 30, May 29, July 31, and October 30.



Contact Peggy Burt with your questions: 847-727-4763 mkburt2@att.net

Food Truck Night



Dove of the Desert's first Food Truck Night was amazing!

Thank you to all who came! Food was delicious, kids loved the bouncy house! We filled the parking lot with nine trucks and 250 people from the community. Looking forward to our next Food Truck Night, February 12, 2022. See you there!



Youth Ministry



We are so blessed to celebrate the coming and the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ this Advent and Christmas season. Part of that celebration is the giving of ourselves to others, just as Christ did for each of us.

Our Dove youth continue to volunteer and reach out to others in need. Here is what they have been doing recently.

On October 16th, the Dove Youth participated again in volunteering at the St. Mary's Food Bank. A great time was had by all. Here is what St. Mary's Volunteer Engagement Specialist wrote to us after we worked in October:

“On behalf of St. Mary's Food Bank, I just wanted to take the time to thank you for volunteering with us! You guys (part of a team) packed 2,160 EFB boxes for our families. That's a total of 38,792 meals!! Without you we could NOT distribute 250,000 meals a day. You have provided a service that your community will greatly benefit from.”

By the time you are reading this article, the Dove Youth will have returned and volunteered again at St. Mary's on Saturday, November 20th.

We will plan on going back to St. Mary's beginning in January 2022. If you would like to be part of our Dove Youth volunteer team in the coming new year, please do contact Greg Ramsey, gr@gopiano.com, 623-203-0250.

May you have a very blessed Advent and Christmas season!

Blessings always,
Greg Ramsey, Director of Youth and Music, Dove of the Desert UMC

December Calendar:

December 5 - Game Night & Devo at Dove 5-6 pm

December 12 - VIDEO RECORDING NIGHT – We will be video recording Christmas Good Will Messages to our homebound people and all the people of Dove of the Desert Church 5 -6pm in the Sanctuary

December 18 - *SERVICE PROJECT: St. Mary's Food Bank 2831 North 31st Ave., Phoenix, 85009, 8:00 - 10 am

December 19 - **Pizza, Hot Chocolate, Christmas Cookies, & Carpool to World of Illumination (Glendale)
5:00 - 8:00 pm.

December 25 - Merry Christmas!

December 26 - Merry Christmas to you and your families. No Youth Today.

*For St. Mary's Event – Must Have Signed Waiver If you have worked there previously in last few months, no new waiver necessary. **Meet at the church first. Then depart for THE WORLD OF ILLUMINATION (GLENDALE) 9431 W Northern Ave, Glendale, AZ 85305. This will be a free event. We'll carpool to the World of Illumination and then drive through the holiday lights. Blessings, Greg Ramsey 623-203-0250. gr@gopiano.com

Trustees



Thank you to the following people who worked at the church workday on November 6th, 2021. We had 15 volunteers and were able to accomplish all tasks on the monthly list. It was a great day!

Volunteers

Mary Patterson, Becky Walling, Joyce Lyon, Roger Peckham, Keith Burt, Judy Martin, Nancy Martin, Dennis Albert, Sophia Balzarini - NJHS Volunteer, Vicky Guevara - NJHS Volunteer, Bill Vascassenno, Grayson Oswald, Jane Oswald, Ron Eshelman, Sharon Eshelman

Brett Humphrey – Work Day Organizer for November and December

Sign up for every Work Day using Signup Genius:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F48A9AA2CA7FBC34-dove>



Holy Land - Oberammergau Trip



Holy Land - Oberammergau Trip August 25-September 6, 2022 - By Nancy & George Cushman

Would you like to sing "Away in the Manger" near the manger where Jesus was born? Would you like to walk along the Sea of Galilee where he called Peter, James, and John to come and follow him? Would you like to walk along the streets of Jerusalem where he went on trial and walked to the cross? Would you like to touch the stone of Calvary where he died? Visiting the Holy Land is an incredible spiritual experience. You get to see and experience where the great stories of faith took place. You look at the mountains and walk along the roadway that Jesus and the disciples knew and traveled upon. It changes you to be in the places you have read about in the Bible. You never read the Bible in the same way after you have seen the Holy Land in person.

After experiencing the Holy Land for yourself, you will travel to Germany to see the passion story brought to life at the once in a decade Passion Play of Oberammergau. The townfolk have offered this play every decade for the last 320 years. COVID delayed the 2020 play so we have an opportunity to see it in 2022. Rev. Dr. George and Rev. Nancy Cushman will lead this 13-day spiritual journey leaving on August 25 and returning on September 6, 2022. The cost of the trip includes all airfare (from Phoenix), hotels, buses, guided site seeing, entrance fees, breakfast & most dinners. Are you interested?

Find out more online at <http://www.gohumani.com/group-travel.html> where you can download a brochure and register to go on the trip. There are also brochures with all the details at the Welcome Center in the church sanctuary. Please contact George (georgecushman@dscumc.net) or Nancy Cushman (nancycushman@dscumc.net) if you have any questions.



George & Nancy along the Sea of Galilee



George where Jesus prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane

Care Ministry



As 2021 draws to a close, we just wanted to give some accolades to the members of the Care Ministry Team who put in countless hours in the service of others. Their only reward is the appreciation from those they serve and the warm glow of knowing they are doing God's work. It is with heartfelt thanks and humility that I hold up each of these individuals to you for their outstanding service within the Care Ministry. So please let them know they are indeed appreciated when you meet them or talk with them. They are:

Jean LaMore – AED/CCC Training

Sharon Eshelman – Casserole Brigade and Baby Brigade

Anita Burnett and Lee Ann Harter – Blood Pressure Screening

Dianne McDaniel and George Mooney - Care/Prayer Notes

Rev. Louie Lyon - Prayer Chain and Grief Support Group

Jacque Kottmann - Card Ministry and Grief Support Group

Peter Mather - Duet Liaison and Homebound Communion

Sue Couch – Funeral Reception Team

Don Trotter – Home Care Equipment Loan and Cancer Care Ministries

Don and Velma Trotter - Transportation and Visitation Ministry; Delivery of Prayer Shawls and Blankets.

Mary Clark – Pet Care Ministry

Mimi Griffiths – Prayer Shawl Ministry

Anita Burnett – Alzheimer's Ministry

Diane Byler – Pre-Diabetes/Diabetes Ministry

Joyce Lyon – Stephen Ministry

Doreen and Richard Borgmann – Delivery of Altar Flowers to the Homebound

We highly recommend service to others as a way of coping with the stresses inherent in today's daily life. We look forward to 2022 and the continued opportunity to serve.

Doreen and Richard Borgmann

Co-Chairs, Care Ministry Team

Sweet Success



Sweet Success (diabetes support group) will hold the last meeting of this series on Thursday afternoon, December 9 at 2:00 p.m. We will meet in person in rooms 5 & 6 following current Covid guides with masks, social distancing, etc. The zoom option has been dropped due to lack of response.

In November's meeting mindful eating was the main focus. A snack of peanuts was used to demonstrate portion size, speed of eating and tips on how to slow down to avoid that regretful feeling of being over-stuffed. Another demonstration showed "tricks to the eye" when choosing plates, bowls, cups and glasses when plating & pouring food & drink portions. Tips for evaluating nutrition-related health research results were given to help separate media "sound bites", hype, and promotions from solidly executed research findings.

December's program focus will include penny-wise food choices during this crazy time of price increases, spot-shortages and "shrink-flation" in both groceries and restaurants. When you can't get (or afford) what you traditionally want for your holiday table, what are some tasty and healthy alternatives? Come and find out.

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*)



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. Everyone is welcome to the party! (*Currently not meeting.*)



PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

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. 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.

Permanent Endowment Fund



The purpose of this article is to introduce Dove's new members to the Permanent Endowment Fund and share an update concerning the Permanent Endowment Fund with the rest of the congregation.

An endowment fund is an investment account most commonly established by tax-exempt organizations, such as educational institutions, cultural institutions and religious establishments to advance and secure the future mission of the organization.

Maybe you think endowments are just for large nonprofits such as universities and hospitals. But nonprofits of any size can start an endowment fund. And they should as an insurance policy for the future. With an endowment, facing ups and downs of the economy and fundraising becomes easier.

An endowment is a fund that is restricted, only the interest and earnings from the fund can be spent, not the principal that anchors the endowment.

Usually, only a portion of the interest or earning from the endowment (typically five percent) can be spent annually to make sure that the original funds grow over time. Professional money managers often oversee endowment funds, investing in stocks, bonds and other investments.

The Dove Endowment Committee held their last meeting for 2021 on October 28th. We decided to hold our monthly meetings starting in January on the first Monday of the month. We hope to increase the church's awareness of the Fund and to give back to the church financially starting in 2022.

As of October 31, 2021, the Endowment Fund balance was \$167,451.39. We want to thank the twenty plus donor families that have offered their gifts to the Endowment Fund. We also want to thank the Committee Members both past and present for their work that helped to turn a dream into a reality.

If you have any questions or comments please feel free to contact me, Curtis Gipson at 623-396-8075 or at cgipson308@gmail.com.



Prayer Line

Dove of the Desert

Please send prayer requests to:

Rev. Louie Lyon
CarePastor@doveofthedesert.com
OR
623-238-8455

Missions



Fifth Sunday

Fill the Shelves Food Drive for
Hope for Hunger Food Bank
Pet Food & Supply Drive

On-Going

Justa Center Donations
UMOM Donations

Board of Church & Society



Re-Entry Simulation by Arouet Foundation

What a great Re-Entry Simulation on Oct 23! Thank you everyone who was a part of it - participants and volunteers. We heard so many positive and compassionate comments about this eye-opening experience. Even people who had experienced a Re-Entry Simulation previously felt this one was so powerful because the Arouet Foundation volunteers freely shared their experience with all the roadblocks one faces upon release from incarceration.

Watch for follow up events and presentations this next year. We hope that this was a beginning to build more enthusiasm for making change in the justice system and providing support for the incarcerated/formerly incarcerated.

If you are interested in joining us in the Criminal Justice Ministry of the Board of Church and Society, please contact Nancy Nonini at nnonini19@gmail.com.



What Every Church Member Should Know about Poverty

Twenty-seven people attended the class based on the book, *What Every Church Member Should Know about Poverty*, to better understand people living in poverty. They learned about “hidden rules” in different socio-economic classes and how difficult it is to work or go to school in the “middle class” when one lives in poverty. Now the study group wants to put what they learned into action.

Members of this class have formed a small group to discuss how the Dove community can take this knowledge and use it to benefit those around us living in poverty. They hope to identify groups to partner with to provide concrete help for people as they move out of poverty. When we complete our work, we will let you know. If you know of any groups that Dove might partner with, please let the Board of Church and Society know.

As the group was studying, they were also giving. When they heard the Glendale Community College was in need of toiletry items for the Food Bank, they collected and delivered over 160 items.

Board of Church and Society and Discipleship Committee

Advent Study



Go from “Bah, Humbug!” to a Blessed Advent and Merry Christmas.

Ebenezer Scrooge is a man in dire need of a second chance. Is redemption possible for such a greedy, dark, and sad character? The Redemption of Scrooge, from Matt Rawle’s *The Pop in Culture Series*, shows us how the teachings of Jesus can be found in Dickens’ Christmas classic. From the ghosts of Christmas past, to the Life of the present, and the resurrection of Christmas future, this Advent study will “bless us every one” and reinvigorate our spiritual journeys as we look at this familiar story through the lens of faith.

Join in on Sunday mornings at 11:00 or Monday mornings at 10:00. See the bulletin and e-news for additional information.

Zoom Groups



Thursday Morning Women's Bible Study ~ Steel Magnolias meets weekly on Zoom.

We have a time of fellowship from 9:30 to 10 am, study begins at 10:00 am to 11:00 am. Join us as we dive into timely, relevant, scripture based book studies of *1 & 2 Timothy and Titus* by Max Lucado followed by *It's All Under Control* by Jennifer Dukes Lee.

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.

Bells are Ringing



Christmas Bells are Ringing!

Share the wonder in preparing for the birth of Christ, with Dove's Hand Bell choirs. A combined concert of music celebrating the beauty and joy of the season will be presented by Dove Bells (& harp) and Las Palomas del Norte at 3:00 Sunday afternoon, December 12. Mark your calendar and invite your friends! You won't want to miss this one!



Dove Bells will also be playing in church services during the season. Palomas will be playing at Desert Botanical's Las Noches de las Luminarias Friday night, December 10, and at some senior living centers. A group from both choirs will be performing at the ACES school festival December 2.



Finance



The Finance update this month relates to our financial performance through October. Dove's year to date income continues to outpace expenses by more than \$23,000 in which income through October is \$515,150 vs. expenses of \$491,590. We continue to be blessed with faithful giving that is on pace with expectations and last year's pledge commitments. Thank You!

As we prepare to lead into 2022, we are grateful to everyone who has returned their pledge commitment card to date as part of the Future with Hope stewardship campaign. These commitments not only assist with Dove's financial planning, however, they are also an important commitment in our faith as we consider what each of us has been given and what can be returned to our provider. If circumstances are difficult at this time and a financial commitment is not possible, please know that there are still many ways to offer your prayers, gifts, and talents in support of your church. Thank you to everyone who participates in the life of Dove in order to sustain our mission of increasing love for God and neighbor.

Special Prayers



For these churches:

- Spirit Song UMF, Peoria
- Sunrise UMC, Phoenix
- Willowbrook UMC, Sun City



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**The editorial staff reserves the right to edit
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7201 W. Beardsley Road
Glendale, AZ 85308**

Return Service Requested

Sending December Blessings to:



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