



Dove of the Desert

Dove Tales

Vol. XXXII Issue 6
April 2021

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



Christ
is
Risen!

Alleluia



The following is the announcement we shared following worship on March 14, 2021, pertaining to our regathering for outdoor worship. I felt it was important to reiterate all of these important items as we prepare for this time, and so I invite you to read this article, and prayerfully consider how you can be a part of the church going forward.

One piece of information we did not share in the initial announcement but want to communicate clearly is that we will continue to have online/digital worship services going forward. We believe this is a part of the call of the church in the long-term, and so we will continue to create and develop digital worship experiences for our community members who are unable to physically attend worship services.

Here now is the announcement of our reopening.

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Friends, we are excited to share with you the news that we are headed towards our first in-person worship services in over a year, beginning on, you guessed it, April 4, Easter Sunday!

That's pretty big news, right? Well, it is definitely something to be excited about. I want to thank you for your patience and your participation in the life of this community throughout the first twelve months of this pandemic.

That being said, the pandemic has not ended, there are still people who are sick, getting sick, and who are dying. The reality is, reopening a church in a pandemic is not as simple as flipping on the light switches and unlocking the doors. We're going to need your help to do this right, and to do this well - so that we are honoring all people in our community with a lavish grace that points to God.

There are a number of important items that I want to share with you, because it's important that you understand what we are doing and why we are doing it.

So, let's do this list style, and maybe it will help...

1. [Worship will be different] As we return to worship, we won't be meeting in the sanctuary, but outside for worship on the lawn. This is in accordance with CDC guidelines and recommendations for group gatherings. As well as meeting outside for worship, you will be asked to visit our website (or call our office) to sign-up for a worship service time. The service times will be the same as they have been for Dove, but the cap for attendees will max out at 50 persons. This means that our services will be smaller for a time. They will also be shorter in length (some of you are cheering at that one I can tell). We also won't be starting with any choirs or congregational singing, **there will be no nursery or Sunday School for children or adults**, and properly worn masks will be required for attending our services. We will also follow the protocol of doing temperature checks as individuals enter into our worship space. Again, these are decisions we have made under the guidance of our Desert Southwest Conference and the CDC recommendations.

2. [We need volunteers] Because we will be meeting outside, we will need volunteers to be ushers, greeters, and folks who can help us set up and tear down the worship area each week, until we move back indoors. We have had many faithful members of Dove serve in these various roles, but because of the virus, they are unable to serve as they once did. If you visit the front page of our website, you can learn more about how to become a volunteer by following the "sign up to volunteer" link. We will only be allowing those who have volunteered and trained to assist with our worship volunteering, so please prayerfully consider whether this is an area you can serve in at this time. We are asking for pre-registered volunteers only because there will be important protocol information we will need to share, so that we continue to offer the safest environment possible in which to worship.

3. [Most of the Campus will still be closed] While we will be on the campus, our main building with the sanctuary and offices will be closed, along with the numerous classrooms. There will be bathrooms accessible and clearly marked, and we will have water for anyone who needs it. This again, all continues to follow the guidelines we have chosen to follow as we meet together.





Pastor Dave Cont'd...



4. **[Please Sign a Campus Waiver]** As a part of honoring one another and our covenant to take the best care we can of each other, everyone who comes onto campus for worship will be asked to sign a covenant waiver. you can find this waiver on the front page of our church website. You can download it, sign it, and return it on your own to the church office, or you can show up at your registered worship time, and someone will be there to assist you in filling one out.

5. **[I know I haven't answered all of your questions yet, but...]** We have a FAQ page (frequently asked questions) that is on the front page of the website also (it's almost like going to the church website would be very helpful and informative in learning more about the return to campus), and we will continue to add to that list of already answered questions as we get closer to meeting together and start filling out commonly asked questions about our reopening and how you can be a part of this important season for our church. Thank you for continuing to walk alongside one another in Christlike love and grace.

Blessings,
Pastor Dave



Easter Mysteries



Watch *Easter Mysteries* by John O'Boyle

Saturday, April 3, 2021 6:30 pm
Via Zoom

Easter Mysteries is a musical play written by Tony award-winning Broadway producer John O'Boyle to continue the tradition of medieval Passion Plays and more recent productions of *Godspell* and *Jesus Christ Superstar* by taking the story in a new direction. O'Boyle's version of the Greatest Story Ever Told tells it from the entry of Jesus and his followers into Jerusalem to not only His crucifixion and resurrection, but beyond to His appearances and ascension. The play was produced at St. Clemens Episcopal Church in New York City with a cast of Broadway veterans, and filmed to be screened in movie theaters March 22, 2016. It then aired on ABC in the spring of 2017, and on NBC on Easter Sunday, 2018.

Now you can watch this great film from the comfort of your home, yet surrounded by your friends and family from Dove. We will be showing it via Zoom on April 3, at 6:30 in the evening. You can enjoy your preferred snacks (and not pay concession prices!) and join your Dove family for a brief get-together and conversation before watching the movie from 7:00-8:30ish.

Join us for the fellowship and entertainment, and leave with hopefully new perspectives on your faith. Email Barb Fike at bfike2@cox.net for the Zoom link.





As I prepare to write this article, I am thinking about Easter Sunday that will soon be upon us. I know that I am going to be looking at this Easter differently this year than I have in the past. I don't even think I have to tell you why it is different this year. Yes, Easter is a time of Resurrection, New Birth and don't we all need that this year. Who would have thought last February when this "thing, called Covid-19" came into being that we would not have been over it, and worshipping together at Easter 2020? Easter came and we did not worship in person together. Do you remember how it was? Most of us were locked into their homes for a period of time to keep safe and not be close to anyone that might have been carrying that Covid-19 virus within them. Oh, that time was a time of darkness and "unknown." It reminds me of Holy Week, the period prior to Easter when Jesus was denied and then Crucified.

As we have moved along, now over a year later we are beginning to see the "light at the end of the tunnel." At least for now the Covid-19 new case numbers seem to be dropping, vaccines are here and more and more are being vaccinated. We were not able to worship in person for the two most important Christian Celebrations of the year, Easter and Christmas but now there is a possibility if all continues in the direction it currently is heading (down) that we might be able to worship together with certain precautions being met. Will I, will you, ever look at Easter in the same way again?

As a pastor, I always got up at what seemed like the middle of the night, the morning prior to Easter, to prepare and get the church ready for the Outdoor Easter Sunrise Service. I never really enjoyed getting up at that time but once I was there and watching the sun come up and then singing the words to "Christ the Lord Has Risen Today," it all became worthwhile. Will I look at it differently this year? YES! Because I can't wait to get up to sing those words and know that the Risen Christ has watched over me and my loved ones during a period of darkness. I remember that there couldn't have been that first Easter if there wasn't first Good Friday. I want to conclude with a true story that I believe might put it all into a new perspective.

"An Easter Miracle"

A church in Ibuga, Western Tanzania was meeting on Easter Sunday for a large outdoor service because the inside of the church could not hold 800 worshippers who wanted to attend. While they sang and worshipped, they had no idea of the calamity that was striking their neighborhood. About the time they started their service, a huge lioness came from the forest wild and mad. She was bent on killing everything in her sight as she dashed from house to house attacking everything in her sight. She killed three goats, a cow and then a woman and her child! As a cry of anguish arose, the lioness ran off in the direction of the Ibuga Easter Church Service.

The Congregation suddenly saw the creature only a few yards away. She stopped and growled furiously. The people quivered with shock! The preacher shouted, "Folks, don't be afraid, the God who saved Daniel from the lions is here. The Risen Christ of Easter is here." Then with a God-given faith and authority he turned to the lioness and said, "You lion, I curse you in the Name of Jesus Christ!"

Then the most amazing thing happened. From the scattered clouds, though there had been no rain - nor was there any later - a bolt of lightning struck the lioness dead in her tracks. The preacher ran and jumped up and down on the carcass and then used it as a platform to finish his Easter Sermon. Seventeen people came forward to be saved. Why, Because Christ the Lord was and IS ALIVE! He has been with us all the time. Easter is here.

It is time for us, to be Resurrected to New Life once again.

Shalom, Pastor Louie



Pen Pal Ministry

Do you know why 4:15 pm is the most exciting time of day at Perryville Prison for Women? (ASPC – Perryville) It's Mail Call. Women rush to see if they get a letter. Others never come out because they don't want to face yet another day without a letter. A letter in prison is an "envelope of hope" according to Sue Ellen Allen in her book, *The Slumber Party from Hell*.

Women who have pen pals are less likely to go back to prison after re-entering society. Matthew 25 Prison Ministry (originated through Red Mountain United Methodist Church in Mesa) has provided pen pals for 264 inmates at Perryville. 128 have become "returning citizens" and only four have returned to prison, giving Matthew 25 a return rate of 3.1%, as opposed to the national recidivism rate of over 50%.

Since the Arouet Foundation Storytellers Breakfast in Your PJs, at least 2 people have expressed interest in becoming pen pals. Luckily for us, Matthew 25 Prison Ministry will provide a Zoom Pen Pal training on Friday, April 9 at 10:00 am. This event will be recorded if you want to view it but are not available at the scheduled time. Please email Nancy Nonini at nnonini19@gmail.com with any questions or for a Zoom invitation.



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. Please join them at **8:00 am on Saturday, April 10** via Zoom!

Please R.S.V.P. to Louie Lyon, 623.238.8455 or e-mail address: 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!!



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 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, 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.



Shepherds



Shepherd program revived...In the past Dove had a Shepherd program where we paired established church members with new members joining the church to help them navigate through what we have available and get them acquainted with other church members.

The Shepherd program is being revived and you can be part of the rebirth. Mike Przybylka is working on bringing the program back to life. Be on the lookout here in the Dove Tales, and in the weekly Friday e-News for more updates.

Within the next month we will have a planning/documentation phase completed. We will be looking for volunteers to serve as shepherds so please consider this opportunity to serve. More details will become available as we finalize the particulars.



Special Prayers



Condolences to:

The Krebs Family on the death of Dave's mother, Dorothy Krebs

Tiffany Dodge and family on the death of grandmother, Barbara Dodge

Bethyl Pearson and family on the death of her husband Rev. J. Michael Pearson

For these churches:

- Epworth UMC, Phoenix
- First UMC, Sun City
- First UMC, Yuma



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



Lay Servant Ministries

Lay Servant Ministries ~ *Opening Ourselves to Grace*

This Advanced ZOOM class is taught by Certified Lay Speaker Curtis Gipson, from Dove of the Desert UMC. Two ZOOM classes will be offered at the beginning of April, one during the day and one evening/Saturday morning class. We are trying to reach more people by offering both day and evening classes.

With COVID-19 here, we believe that the future of in-person classes will not be possible for quite some time. We want all of you to be safe and will endeavor, through ZOOM classes, to provide the same high quality Lay Servant Ministry Classes we have always provided in the West District.

To register for the classes go to: <https://dscumc.org/lay-servant-ministries-training-sessions>

The class is \$15. If you have to cancel or postpone you will get a credit for a future class. There will only be twelve (12) students per ZOOM class so please register as soon as possible. You need to download/purchase and read completely the text before class begins, *Opening Ourselves to Grace: The Means of Grace and Discipleship* by Steven W. Manskar. Available for free download at: https://s3.us-east-1.amazonaws.com/gbodassets/generic/Opening_Ourselves_to_Grace.pdf Purchase from Amazon for \$7.50: <https://www.amazon.com/OpeningOurselves-Grace-Discipleship-Wesleyan/dp/B084DQG9K3>

The Daytime Session is: Wednesday to Friday – April 7, 8, and 9, 8:30 am to Noon.

The Evening / Saturday Session is: Thursday & Friday April 8, 9, from 5:30 - 9:00 pm and Saturday April 10 from 8:30 am - Noon

Blessings,

Betty Stewart
West District Director Lay Servant Ministries
bettyboop491@cox.net Cell # 480-658-7713

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 11:00 am to 12:00 pm on Zoom. Email mkburt2@att.net (Peggy Burt) for the Zoom link. **Thursday Morning Women's Bible Study** ~ meets weekly on Zoom. The study is from 10:00 to 11:00 am. Join us as we dive into timely, relevant, scripture, based book studies. Please contact Nannette Carr nannettecarr@gmail.com, 602-621-1665 for zoom link.

Church Directory



Work is starting on a new Church Directory.

This year we will not have a picture directory due to COVID-19. You will have choices that you did not have before. You can receive the directory by a .pdf file or a printed copy. You have the choice of what phone number(s) you would like to have included in the directory. You can also add your email address if you would like to. Of course, the children will be listed too, as they are also a part of the church.

This will take several months as Mary Patterson will be calling everyone to make sure what information you would like published. Or, if you wish, you can email Mary at suszq16@gmail.com with your information.

So many people have moved, changed phone numbers, and/or changed email addresses. We want to make sure that we can still connect in some way if we cannot connect in person.

See you in the new Church Directory.

Mary Patterson



Finance



Following up from last month, 2021 continues to maintain a positive trend with year to date income higher than expenses by almost \$2,700. February income of \$41,696.01 was lower than our typical monthly average and less than planned from a budget perspective. February expenses of \$45,909.63 were also lower than both monthly averages and less than planned due to the reduced operational expenses. We continue to be grateful for your faithful giving in support of Dove's ministries. The mission, ministry, outreach and support to your Dove brothers and sisters as well as the local community has continued to be possible due to your generosity. Thank you for making a difference through your continued support.

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Dove of the Desert

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

Return Service Requested

Sending April Blessings to:



Happy Easter

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