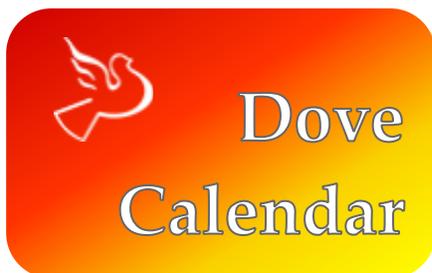
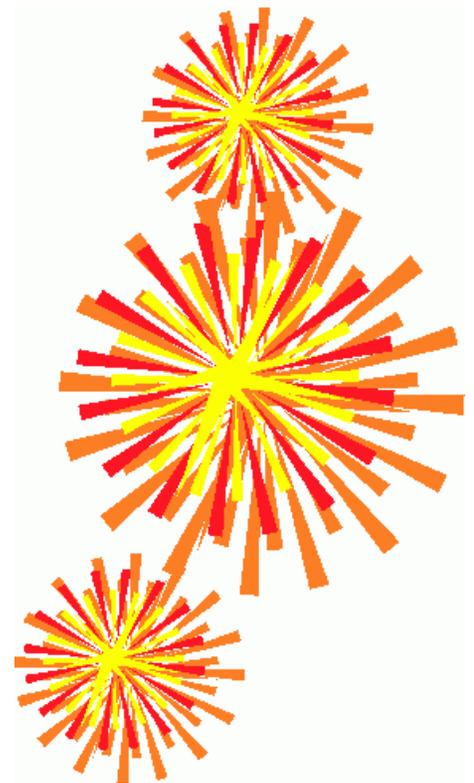




Dove Tales

Vol. XXXIII Issue 3
January 2022

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



2	Worship Services: 8:00, 9:30, and 11:00 am with Communion
8	Church Work Day: 8:00 am
9, 16, 23, 30	Worship Services: 8:00, 9:30, and 11:00 am with Communion
14	<i>Dove Tales Deadline</i>
17	Martin Luther King Day Dove Offices Closed
19	CPR Training 6:30 pm
22	Arizona Treasurers Unlimited
23	Everyone’s Birthday Party! 9:00 am - 1:00 pm
30	5th Sunday Food Bank and Pet Supply Drive



There are definitely fifty-two weeks in a year (I double checked), but it does feel like one week out of all of them gets the proverbial “short end of the stick.”

It’s that week between Christmas Day and New Year’s Day is a week caught in the middle.

It’s just past putting the last of the wrapping paper in the recycling bin, but it’s not quite time to start on any new resolutions, either. It’s the last few days of the secular calendar year, and there is an impulse in many of us to reflect on what was (and to double down on hot cocoas and binging Netflix).

However, in the Christian calendar the new year started with Advent just a few weeks ago. We just celebrated the birth of the Messiah, and we move forward into new stories and adventures with our rabbi Jesus. We are excited about what’s ahead!

That fifty-second week of the year becomes lost in the shuffle as our heads crank back and forth between what was, and what could be.

But, looked at another way, this could be a great opportunity to look **both** backward and forward.

As Christians, there’s another way we are caught in between times. Christ has come and his Kingdom has infiltrated the present time. The world is not the same, as God’s power and love shatter the darkness and open for us a new way to live.

And yet there is still brokenness, pain, division. All is not well, even though everything has changed. We see this reality in the world around us, and we see it within ourselves.

The week between Christmas and the New Year reminds us of this mystery: Christ is born yet the impact of this truth has not yet fully transformed our world. Now is a time for honesty as we wrestle with how to unravel what this means. The Apostle Paul captured this well when he lamented:

For if I know the law but still can’t keep it, and if the power of sin within me keeps sabotaging my best intentions, I obviously need help! I realize that I don’t have what it takes. I can will it, but I can’t do it. I decide to do good, but I don’t really do it; I decide not to do bad, but then I do it anyway. My decisions, such as they are, don’t result in actions. Something has gone wrong deep within me and gets the better of me every time. Romans 7:17-20 – The Message

Jesus has died and risen. The Holy Spirit fills our lives. And yet, we still struggle right along with the world around us. Let’s take this time to reflect. But let’s not reflect as those who have no hope. Let’s look for God’s in-breaking into our lives and communities. Let’s reflect in ways that empower us to trust God more even when we don’t get it right. Let’s reflect in ways that move us closer to God’s intentions for shalom and further from our inclination toward self-interest.

Looking back, where have you seen God at work this past year:

- In your life?
- In your family?
- In your neighborhood and community?
- In God’s world?

At each intersection of faith and life mentioned above, what has made your participation in this change possible? What has hindered your participation?

As you reflect on this, look forward. How might you better join the in-breaking of God’s Kingdom during the coming year? What do you need to be aware of and change to more courageously and effectively join with God and others to bring the light, joy, peace, love, hospitality, and celebration of God’s Kingdom:

- In your life?
- In your family?
- In your neighborhood and community?
- In God’s world?



Pastor Dave Con't...

This short reflection is not so much an invitation to make New Year's resolutions as it is an invitation to a deeper level of discipleship, spiritual formation, and living more intentionally into the Kingdom of God already present yet still coming in its fullness. This is also an invitation to join with others in discerning the way forward. We do not walk alone, we walk together as communities of faith, all fifty-two weeks a year.

Happy New Year! I'm so glad you're going along with us here at Dove.

Blessings,

Pastor Dave



Family Promise

Family Promise Update - What an amazing and blessed week Dove has had! Dove, feel good about your works this week. Your church, with the help of 43 individual volunteers, provided delicious healthy meals for dinner, helped set up a safe and warm room with privacy for each family to sleep and do homework, provided WIFI for parents and for the children, provided an outdoor area to kick a soccer ball and pass a football, donated blankets for the children, donated toothbrushes for each guest, provided a small breakfast of donated cookies and fruit, provided clean sheets and blankets washed and organized by our volunteers, and most importantly provided the love, help, and dignity to a community going through some very tough times.

THIS is the KINGDOM Jesus spoke of....and it feels sooo good!!

We were blessed to host 14 guests, 4 families in total. (1) Mom, daughters ages 9 and 10 months, son age 4 (2) Father and daughter age 9. (3) Mom, Grandmother, and twin sons ages 10. (4) Mom, daughter 12, and twin sons ages 14

Volunteers! We cannot thank you enough!! All of our 43 volunteers, you know who you are! Every big or small contribution helped us to run this week's program in the most smooth and effortless manner. Family Promise is providing an amazing service to our homeless population. Dove, we should feel very grateful and honored to be working alongside this organization.

Mark your calendars!! Our next host week will be April 3-10, 2022. We welcome returning volunteers and/or new volunteers! Be on the lookout for our next signup! Thank you all so very much! Thank you God for letting us see and participate so actively in your KINGDOM's work! As always if you have any questions about this ministry, please feel free to contact Sharon Eshelman 602-738-8310 or Elizabeth Tesman (623) 628-4636.



Everyone is invited to celebrate birthdays!

When: Sunday, January 23 between services. 9:00 am to 1:00 pm.

How: You will sit at the table of your birth month and get to know others who share the same birthday month. Special tables for children!

Sponsored by: Discipleship Team, Hospitality Committee, and Church & Family Committee.





Care Ministry

As 2021 has ended, we wanted to take a quick look back at some of the highlights of our various ministries as well as a peek at what's to come.

AED/CCC Training Ministry held an annual AED/CCC refresher training in April provided by the Glendale Fire Department. Fifteen congregation members participated. The next training will be held in January 2022.

Casserole Brigade and Baby Brigade Ministry provided 46 meal deliveries to six members in need who requested help, serving from one to five people in each residence.

Care/Prayer Notes Ministry resumed maintaining a rack of Care Notes pamphlets on various topics, over 50 titles, in the Narthex at Dove.

Congregational Prayer Chain Ministry, coordinated by Rev. Louie Lyon, sends out a daily list of those in need of prayer.

Card Ministry has continued sending cards to congregants who are experiencing both positive and negative events in their lives.

Diabetes Support Group resumed meeting monthly to provide education and support for those suffering from diabetes.

Dove has had a faith partnership with Duet, Partners in Health and Aging for over 12 years and has a member to liaison with them. Several Dove members are trained volunteers and provide ongoing services to homebound adults.

Homebound Communion Ministry has served three to five homebound people with communion visits each month since resuming visits in April.

Home Care Equipment for Loan Ministry has loaned out many types of medical equipment and other donated items to our members and their friends.

Pet Care Ministry collected \$1,418 for the animal rescue groups we support: Sun Valley Animal Shelter, Arizona Humane Society, Animal Benefit Club, and Animal Rescue Friends. We also collected animal food and various pet supplies in February, May, August, and October for the groups we support. We had a Blessing of the Pets event on November 21.

Prayer Shawl Ministry has produced approximately 25 shawls and blankets in 2021 and has distributed 47 (including some from last year) to various care facilities in the area and will deliver 10 to Florence Crittenton Center in Phoenix this month.

Transportation Ministry has coordinated our Dove volunteers with assisting those who needed transportation to church services.

Alzheimer's Ministry has added Alzheimer's resource material and caregiver material and books to Dove's library. In October we sponsored an Alzheimer's Walk and raised over \$3,500 for Alzheimer's. We are planning an Alzheimer's seminar for early 2022.

Stephen Ministry continues to support persons during their time of loss by mailing grief booklets throughout the first year of loss of a loved one. Nineteen persons received our booklets during 2021.

Care Ministry also collects altar flowers that have been designated to come to us and makes up vases of flowers from the arrangements and delivers them to our homebound members. We have delivered approximately 61 bouquets and mum plants to homebound members since campus opening in May 2021.

In December, we introduced a new program, Empty Chairs, a network to pair up hosts within our congregation with members who are facing spending holidays alone to fill any empty chairs at their holiday meals.

As you can see, Care Ministry Team has been extremely busy and productive in reaching out to our members and caring for their needs. But we are the recipients of the greatest reward, the gift of service.



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.)*



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.



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.)*

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.

Youth Ministry



DOVE YOUTH JANUARY OF 2022

We are excited to have many wonderful events scheduled for January. Here they are:

January 2: No Youth due to Winter Break

January 8: Service Project: We will work at Dove as part of our church's monthly work morning/day. The event will run from 8:00 – 10:00 a.m.

January 9: Wheel of Fortune Game Night and Devotional from 5:00 – 6:00 pm in the Sanctuary

January 16: Castle's 'N Coasters afternoon. This event will run from 1:00 – 5:00 pm. Please Meet at Castles 'N Coasters at: 9445 N Metro Parkway East, Phoenix AZ 85051. The total cost is \$36.80. If partial funding is needed, please feel free to let Greg Ramsey know at your convenience. This will include \$10 credit toward arcade games and unlimited rides.

January 17: (Monday, Martin Luther King Day Holiday): Snow Day - Possible trip up to the snow. This will depend on the weather. More information will be provided as the date gets closer.

January 23: Jeopardy Game Night and Devotional from 5:00 – 6:00 pm in the Sanctuary

January 30: Youth will be putting together "Thinking of You" Cards & have a Devotional.

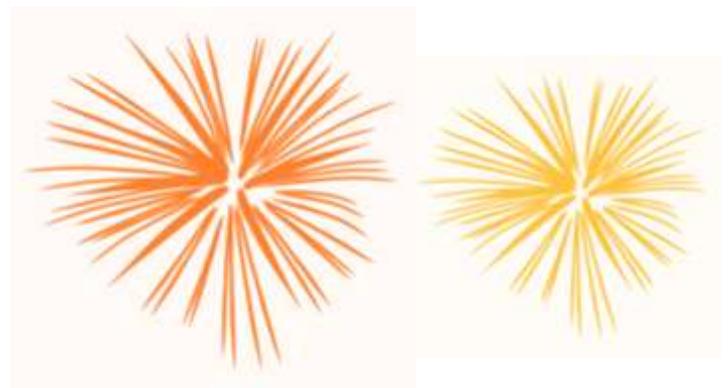
Wishing you a Very Happy New Year!

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



AED/CPR Class

You could save a life! Dove of the Desert UMC is holding a class on AED/CPR presented by Dr Janet Boberg from the Glendale Fire Department. It will be Wednesday, January 19, 2022 at 6:30 pm in rooms 15/16. Learn the latest recommendations and practice the skill.





Prayer Requests

Dove of the Desert

After January 1, 2022,
please send prayer requests to:

Rev. Jean Newell

CarePastor@doveofthedesert.com



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



Fill the Shelves!

The Discipleship Team, Pet Ministry and Youth **thank you** for supporting **Arizona Hope for Hunger** food bank (located in Glendale) and our local no-kill animal shelters.

Sunday, January 30 from 7:30 am to 12:15 pm will be our next donation drive of non-perishable food, hygiene products, diapers and pet food and supplies. Drop-off donations by the pitcher fountain or room 4. Questions contact:

Pet Ministry, Mary Clark 602-615-5078 budandmary2002@gmail.com

Food donations, Peggy Burt 847-727-4763 mkburt2@att.net



Worship Opportunities

You are invited to worship with us in two ways ~ In-person and online. Join us for in-person worship at 8:00 am, 9:30 am or 11:00 am in the Dove Sanctuary or join our live-streamed service at 9:30 am or 11:00 am on FaceBook or YouTube by using our livestreaming services. Visit the Dove website (doveofthedesert.com) Home screen each Sunday or at your leisure anytime during the week to join us via FaceBook or YouTube.





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.



Special Thank You:

Dove of the Desert Family,

I can never thank you enough for your many prayers. I'm sure they really worked! I know the Lord was with me when I had the accident. All the visits from Pastor Louie, the meals sent from the casserole brigade, Thank you all. I am doing much better now – not completely well but on the road to complete recovery. Soon I hope to be back in church.

Blessings,
Ruth Cacicia



Condolences to:

Patti, Jason and Jacob White on the death of Patti's Aunt, Betty Isaac.

Rosemary Miller and family on the death of her son-in-law, Rob Hendrick. Prayers for his wife, Brenda and their children and Rosemary during this time of loss.

Doreen and Richard Borgmann on the death of her nephew, Kennon Case.

Mike and Debbie Przybylka on the death of Mike's 104 year-old Aunt Stella. Prayers also for Linda and the rest of the family.

For these churches:

Ajo Federated Church
Calvary UMC, Phoenix
Chino Valley UMC



Our Finance update for this month pertains to Dove's financial performance through November...In this regard, we continue to be blessed with year to date income that exceeds expenses by almost \$28,000. Income through November is \$571,819 vs. expenses of \$543,855. Thank you for your faithful giving that allows us to maintain such a positive result.

As you may have seen from Pastor Dave's communication at the beginning of December, our pledge campaign has resulted in 120 pledge commitments for 2022 for a total in excess of \$409,000. The total number of commitments and total dollars pledged exceeded our totals vs. each of the past 2 years. These commitments are an important part of Dove's financial planning as well as the planning of resources and programs for the future. Thank you for enabling Dove to plan for the future in this manner.

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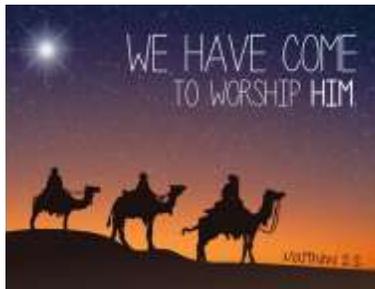
Dove Tales is a monthly publication of Dove of the Desert United Methodist Church. The editorial staff reserves the right to edit all items submitted for publication.

Dove of the Desert

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

Return Service Requested

Sending January Blessings to:



In This Issue

Calendar.....	1	Prayer Requests/Missions.....	6
Pastor Dave.....	2	Fill the Shelves.....	6
Family Promise.....	3	Worship Opportunities.....	6
Invitation.....	3	Zoom Groups.....	7
Care Ministry.....	4	Thank You.....	7
Fellowship Opportunities.....	5	Finance.....	7
Youth Ministry.....	5	Special Prayers.....	7
AED/CPR Class.....	5	Contact Information.....	7

