

Dove Tales



June 2022
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A publication of Dove of the Desert United Methodist Church

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



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Rev. David Wasson, Senior Pastor



My dad had this 1981 Lincoln Continental Mark VI (think the biggest, longest, widest 4-door sedan you've ever seen). Even in the late 1980s the thing looked out of place on the street, but I can remember the few times I rode in it with my Dad like it was yesterday (he only took the Lincoln out for drives on "special" occasions).

The Lincoln had these big, billowy burgundy bucket seats that you could almost get lost in. Of course, there was a sunroof that I used at every single opportunity that I had. There was an 8-track player in the console, and it was there in the passenger's seat of that car that I learned about the music of Jim Croce, John Denver, Willie Nelson, and even the Eagles. My dad would cruise with me in the car, listening to some of his favorite music, brining me along for the special ride, just dad and son.

Oh, and the ride! Riding in the Lincoln felt like flying. Whatever suspension they used on the car made it feel like the biggest potholes on Bell Road were barely noticeable. Sure, right-hand turns might take two or three minutes to complete, but they were smooth minutes. In the end, the car was impractical for our needs, beyond our budget, and even a little silly – but it was incredibly special to me, because it gave me something rare; good, positive memories with my father. I don't get to make those very often anymore.

I don't want to be done making memories. As a matter of fact, I want to create spaces and places where we can remember the most meaningful bits of life. Thankfully, I wasn't the first to come to this conclusion.

The Bible is full of places where God encourages those faithful to the Creator to "make memories". Sometimes through the creation of an altar or cairn (Genesis 31, Joshua 7, Jeremiah 31). These moments to be remembered may be to recall battles won, or miracles received, or peace between tribes.

In Deuteronomy, perhaps God's most famous instruction about "remembering" is shared:

⁴ Israel, listen! Our God is the Lord! Only the Lord! ⁵ Love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your being, and all your strength. ⁶ These words that I am commanding you today must always be on your minds. ⁷ Recite them to your children. Talk about them when you are sitting around your house and when you are out and about, when you are lying down and when you are getting up. ⁸ Tie them on your hand as a sign. They should be on your forehead as a symbol. ⁹ Write them on your house's doorframes and on your city's gates. (Deut. 6:4-9, CEB)

It appears memories are important to God too.

I'm grateful that we have been continually working to create memories for each other. Whether it was the Eggstravaganza during Easter Saurtday, Bell Concert Choir in May, the Food Truck Night in April, or the upcoming VBS, Dove of the Desert has continued to create memory markers along the way as we walk the path of Jesus together. Moments in the life of the church that allow us to present who we are to the community (and ourselves) is an important practice. It offers memories for our youngest members that they will keep for a lifetime. It offers reflection on those who have placed memory-markers well ahead of us. The practice of remembering helps us see how far God has brought us.

Modern day cairns might look more like social media posts, digital calendar reminders, or sticky notes on a fridge. Occasionally, if you hike here in Arizona, you might still see an actual cairn of rocks right off of a trail. To be honest, I don't really think what type of memory device it is, as long as it draws us back to the moment we want to recall.

What cairns have you created in your life? Do you have a memory piece from your baptism or confirmation? Do you have a shirt you picked up from an international mission trip that you still have in your drawer?



Pastor Dave (con't...)

How about a photo hung on your wall of that cohort of people that saved you? You'll know one when you see it, because it will spark memory and emotion. It will draw you in, and invite you to recall that time, that place, where you experienced love.

My hope is that you have places in the past that you can draw on to give you strength. My prayer is that you do not stop looking to create memories in yours, or others, lives. May Dove be a place where memories and made and remembered.

God be praised in all that we do.

Now, let's make some memories!

Blessings,
Pastor Dave



Care Ministry

Our featured ministry this month is our Casserole Brigade coordinated by Sharon Eshelman. Here is how she describes her ministry:

WHAT IS THE CASSEROLE BRIGADE?

A group of 19 dedicated volunteers who temporarily provide meals for a needy individual or family.

WHY HAVE A CASSEROLE BRIGADE?

Members or friends of Dove need help with providing nutritional needs.

WHEN DOES THE CASSEROLE BRIGADE START ACTING?

Dove's pastors contact Doreen or Richard about a meal need.

Someone has arrived home from the hospital and has limited abilities.

Someone has a death in the family and has out of town guests.

A child is in the hospital. Parents must work. Children are at home.

A baby is born and meal help is needed at home.

One meal or meals for a week or two are requested.

This past year, April 2021-2022 we have served 6 people who requested help with meals.

WHERE IS THE MEAL TAKEN?

To the person's home by the meal preparer or by a volunteer driver of the meal.

HOW DOES THE CASSEROLE BRIGADE WORK?

With care and gratitude to be able to provide a meal for someone who needs help. New members are always welcome. This is an excellent way to get involved with one of Care Ministry Team's ministries. Meals prepared can be simple or more complex depending on your skill level. Don't cook? Pick up takeout and deliver it. Or volunteer to pick up the prepared meal from one of our volunteers and deliver it to the recipient. If you are interested in volunteering, contact Sharon Eshelman at 623-566-2798 or email her at sharon.eshelman@hotmail.com.



Promise of Hope - Thank You

The Promise of Hope benefit concert by Las Palomas del Norte Hand Bell Ensemble raised \$4,385 for Thrive AZ, thanks to your generosity, and thanks to the efforts of many people.

Special thanks go to Pastor Dave for his early and continued support for the project, which from the beginning was intended to be more than just a concert. The multi-media additions were made possible mostly thanks to the efforts of the incomparable Roger Peckham, who hung and wired extra projectors and built additional screens.

The support, cooperation, and flexibility from the Music Committee, Altar Arts Committee, and Trustees were invaluable, and we can't thank them enough! Thanks also to Marti and Robin/Rebecca for their weekly, sometimes daily, help and advice in all matters! Special thanks, too, to Sandy Clingenpeel and her team for connecting us with Thrive AZ, and to Dove Youth for acting as ushers.

Many people worked in many capacities to bring the concert about, so we also we want to thank the following groups:

- Media: Dave Kelly for sound; Greg Ramsey for lights and general stage management; Andrew Quintal for recording; Jana Winterton, Dave Wasson, and Brent and Barb Fike for the power point slides and especially Colleen Centner for running them!
- Promotion: Laurie Rahn, Lynne Storms, Cheryl Burton, Kathryn Fike, Barbara Fike, Brent Fike
- Sets and Costumes: Three craft days at church plus countless hours at home, from Joyce Nolan, Cindy Tigges, Sharon Eshelman, Jana Winterton, Barb Fike, Brent Fike, Laurie Rahn, Beth Sanders, Liz Pierotti, and Nancy Balm,
- Music: Our "Spirits of Hope" Kathryn Fike and Lovita Christiansen; Bryan Fike on saxophone; Singers Greg Ramsey, Mark Kelly, Jason White, Tim Birk, Ginger Worden, Sue Metzger, Cheryl Burton, Barb Fike, Kathryn Fike, and Lovita Christiansen; and of course Las Palomas del Norte ringers.



Board of Church & Society

You may have heard of the Board of Church and Society and wondered what its function is at our church. To begin with, its mission is "To promote God's greatest commandments by advocating for social, economic and environmental justice for the transformation of the world." The Board of Church and Society's job is to work to make a difference in the world, beginning with our local community, and to encourage the congregation to make a difference as well.

Many social justice issues need addressing: voting rights, women's issues, children's issues, education reform, prison reform, climate justice, individual freedoms, and others. We want to see the world for what it can be, not what it is now. We want to find new ways to do God's work to help our neighbors. We want to talk to each other and not argue with each other so that even our differences can help us learn to understand and address the needs of our community.

If you are interested in justice issues and would like to work to make this world a better place, we would love to have you join us. There are many ways to do this – by joining the committee, participating in classes on justice issues to learn more, working with one of our many ministries of Dove of the Desert to help others in need, and simply praying for our church and our community as we address social justice issues. If you want more information, please contact Sandy Clingenpeel sjclingenpeel@cox.net.



Fellowship Opportunities

For a complete calendar of events, visit www.doveofthedesert.com

Little Doves Social Club

Do you have kids elementary aged or younger? Come join us! On June 11 it's movie time! ENCANTO! In the sanctuary at 3:00 pm. Questions? Please contact Jen Centner at 480-818-1645 or Patrick Centner at 602-214-7836.



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.

The Lunch Bunch

The Lunch Bunch meets the first Thursday of every month at a local restaurant. If you'd like to join in, contact Steve and Rita Snyder at ridinzfun@aol.com or (703) 980-7673 (leave a message if no answer) to RSVP. It is important to RSVP, so we can reserve our space at the various restaurants.

Other Fellowship Opportunities

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

Bible Study

Steel Magnolias is a Thursday morning women's Bible Study that meets weekly on Zoom, or outdoors, weather permitting. We have a time of fellowship from 9:30–10:00 am, then the study begins at 10:00 am. 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. Join us as we dive into timely, relevant, scripture-based book studies.



June 2022 Church Calendar

- 4..... Church Work Day
- 5..... Communion Sunday
(8:00, 9:30 & 11:00 am Worship)
- 10.....Dove Tales Deadline
- 12.....Graduate Recognition
- 12.....Sunday Worship
(8:00, 9:30 & 11:00 am Worship)
- 13-17..... Vacation Bible School
- 19..... Father's Day
- 19.....Sunday Worship
(8:00, 9:30 & 11:00 am Worship)
- 26.....Sunday Worship
(6:30, 8:00, 9:30 & 11:00 am Worship)



Youth Ministry

Vacation Bible School

June will be an exciting time of service to others. First of all, we need youth volunteers to help with Dove's Vacation Bible School. The theme of VBS will be "Discovery on Adventure Island." There will be all sorts of volunteer opportunities for our youth. Recreation, Snacks, Shepherding Children, throughout each day and much more. The list is vast. You will have the opportunity to work with young children from Age 4 through 4th grade.

The dates of VBS are Monday, June 13 – Friday, June 17. The times are from 9:00 am to 12:30 pm each day. If you are interested in helping (and who wouldn't be), please contact Greg Ramsey. gr@gopiano.com 623-203-2050



Feed My Starving Children

On Saturday, June 18, we will have the opportunity to put together meals for children at the organization known as Feed My Starving Children. They are located at 1345 S. Alma School Rd in Mesa. We'll work there from 2:00–4:00 pm. This will be an awesome experience and time of service. Following this time of work, we will then depart for some pizza at **Organ Stop Pizza**. Organ Stop is located at 1149 E. Southern Ave, Mesa, AZ. Youth are asked to please bring \$8 for pizza and drinks.

We Will Carpool... Please meet at the church to carpool to Mesa at 12:30 pm on June 18. We will return to the church by 6:30 pm.

If you have any questions, please contact Greg Ramsey gr@gopiano.com 623-203-0250

Peace and Blessings!
Greg Ramsey



Missions

Fifth Sunday

Fill the Shelves Food Drive for
St. Mary's Food Bank
Pet Food & Supply Drive

On Going

Justa Center & UMOM Donations



Prayer Line

Please send prayer requests to
Rev. Jean Newell:

CarePastor@doveofthedesert.com
623-238-8455



Adventure Island VBS

June 13–17, 2022
9:00 am—12:30 pm
ages 4-4th grade
\$15 per child (pay 1st day)

Register at
<https://doveofthedesertumc.mycokesburyvbs.com/>

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Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 9:00 am-3:00 pm
Friday 9:00 am-12:00 pm

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



Special Prayers

Condolences:

The Curless Family on the death of Rebecca's aunt, Christine Steiskal

Gary and Susan Lee and family on the death of Gary's father, Pete Lee

Michael and Susan Snyder and family on the death of Susan's father, Bob Breslin

Family and friends of Sara Myers

Tim and Cary Patonai and the Ramsey family on the death of Tim's father, Doug Patonai

Church Prayers:

Each year, we pray for all the churches in the West District. In June, please pray for these churches:

- Haven UMC, Jerome (*Pastor Vicki Lerdahl*)
- Lakeview UMC, Sun City (*Rev. Dave Summers, Rev. Linda De Atley, Rev. Ross Parrott*)
- Liberty UMC, Buckeye (*Pastor Clare Sullivan*)



Global Ministries

Global Ministries EarthKeepers Training Opportunity

EarthKeepers is a training program that equips United Methodists to launch and grow environmental projects in their communities. Topics include eco-theology, anti-racism, community organizing, and project planning. All participants plan a project during the training. Contact your local EarthKeeper at Dove with questions: J. P. Smith japezoid@gmail.com or <https://umcmmission.org/earthkeepers/> Application Deadline is June 30.



Dove of the Desert

**United Methodist Church
7201 W. Beardsley Road
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Return Service Requested

Sending June Blessings to:



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