



Christmas 2017

Special Holiday Inspiration Newsletter Edition

Christmas songs are on the radio, stores are stocking the turkeys and stuffing, and children are starting their lists for Santa. It is also the time when we remember the birth of Christ and how everything is changed, which often gets lost in the busyness. So take a few minutes and look through the ways you can celebrate this year and create a little more Christ in your Christmas.

Coming up this Season

Monday, November 20 **Thanksgiving Foster Care Dinner**

Saturday, November 25th **Ahwatukee Festival of Lights Booth**, Noon–8PM

Tuesday, November 28th, **Advent Study begins** 9AM and 7PM

Sunday, December 3, **Hanging of the Greens & First Sunday of Advent** 9:00AM and 10:30AM

Sunday, December 3, **Kid's Advent Crafting Extravaganza** 5:00-6:30PM

Sunday, December 10, **Kid's Choir Practice** 5:00-5:20PM, **Family Caroling** 5:30-6:30PM

Sunday, December 10, **Youth Christmas Party**, 5:30-7:30PM

Sunday, December 17, **Practice for Christmas Eve Family Service for Kids and Youth** 11:45AM

December 21, **Blue Christmas Service**, 6PM Service, 7PM Meal

December 24th, **Christmas Eve Morning Worship** 10AM and **Evening Services** 5 and 7PM

December 31st, **New Years Eve Combined Morning Worship** 10AM Breakfast Potluck and Carols

More Inside....

Alternative Gift Giving Ideas (Gift Cards, Youth Ornament and Water Bottle sale)

Ways to support the Church as you shop (Amazon Smile, Fry's Card)

Service Opportunities (Foster Thanksgiving Dinner, Volunteer at Festival of Lights Booth)

Ways you can help for Christmas Eve (Cookies donation, Luminaria set up)

Coming Up...

Thanksgiving for Foster Youth

Monday, November 20th at 5:45pm DFUMC is again partnering with a Mesa UMC church to host this dinner. We expect to serve 400 youth from group homes this year. **We need home baked pies, donations to DFUMC to purchase turkeys, and volunteers 18 and over to make this dinner a success again this year.** For details or to sign up to volunteer, please contact Carolyn Arndt at (480) 460-3453 or carocar@earthlink.net. If you are volunteering at the event, remember to wear your DFUMC t-shirt.



Festival of Lights Desert Foothills Booth

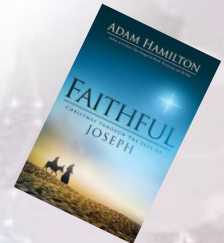
November 25th, 8am-Noon

This year as you peruse the festivities at Desert Foothills Park for the Festival of Lights, stop by our church's booth to say "Hi!" If you would be willing to spend a couple hours with us greeting our community and helping with a game for kids, sign up for a slot in the narthex or email Stephanie@desertfoothills.org.



Advent Study

Bev Jones, Karen Colbourn and Maureen Kartchner will be leading an Advent study on Tuesday mornings at 9am and Tuesday evenings at 7pm in the adult Sunday school room starting Nov. 28. The study will be based on the book "Faithful: Christmas through the eyes of Joseph" by Adam Hamilton. Fifteen books have been pre-purchased and are available for \$10, and the book is available on Kindle for \$10. If you are interested in participating you can sign up in the narthex or contact Bev Jones at edbevj@cox.net or Karen Colbourn at kecolbourn@cox.net.



Hanging of the Greens & First Sunday of Advent, December 3rd

This year we are "Hanging the Greens" in a whole new way! At both the 9 and 10:30am service we will be singing carols, decorating the church, and learning about the traditions and meanings of Christmas.



Coming Up... (cont.)

Kids' Advent Crafting Extravaganza, Sunday, Dec. 3

On the First Sunday of Advent there will be a Kids' Crafting Extravaganza from 5-6:30pm! All children preschool through 5th Grade are invited to participate in this fun way to start the Advent Season!



Youth Christmas Party, Sunday Dec. 10

Youth and their families are invited to Come Join the Fun of the Youth Christmas Party on Dec. 10 from 5:30-7:30pm at the Giel home!

Potluck with a Feliz Navidad theme! Bring Mexican food to share such as chips, dip, salsa, burritos, tamales, nacho sauce, taco makings, rice, etc... Drinks, plates, flatware, cups, napkins will be supplied. Purple Camel gift exchange (same as a regular gift exchange, only more Adventy/Christmasy!) \$10 max

Youth are invited to bring gifts for the homeless: we are collecting adult socks &/or adult underwear &/or \$5 so we can purchase items for homeless ministries.



Children & Family Caroling on Sunday, Dec. 10

All are invited to participate in caroling with Pastor Kristin on Sunday, Dec 10.

from 5:30-6:30pm! Children's ensemble will practice at Desert Foothills from

5-5:20pm and then the caroling will begin! Come join the fun and festivities!



Children and Youth Christmas Eve Practice, Sunday Dec. 17

Calling all children, youth and families to participate! This year for our Christmas Eve Family service at 5PM, we are inviting students to sing, play music, and dance for the service. There will also be parts for individual children to participate and read. We will practice on December 17th after the first service for all that would like to be a part. Friends are welcome! Please contact Pastor Kristin at Kristin@desertfoothills.org to let her know your child or youth is interested in participating!



Ways to Help for Christmas Eve

Christmas Eve Cookies

As you do your holiday baking remember to set a few cookies aside for Christmas Eve here at DFUMC. After each service on Christmas Eve we will continue with the tradition of cookies, cider and fellowship!



Luminarias

On Christmas Eve we light the path into church with about 200 luminarias! Dec. 17 between services all adults, children and youth are invited to stop by the cement table out front to help fill and fold bags. Donations of unscented white votive candles (not tea-lights) are much appreciated! If you are willing to purchase a box as you happen upon a sale over the next few weeks you can drop them by the church office!



Alternative Gift Giving

Christmas Cards or All Occasion Cards

Starting Dec. 3 until we are out of stock, you can purchase a set of cards handmade and signed by women of the Colonia Empacadora in Agua Prieta, Mexico. This is a cottage industry where proceeds are used to support the families of the women. Only \$5 for a package of 10 cards and envelopes. Cards for sale in the narthex; payment by cash or check to DFUMC (with AP Cards noted on payment). Questions? Contact Shirley Coomer scoomer@kw.com.



Gift Cards

Purchase a whole variety of gift cards through Great Lakes Scrip administered by Sheryl Wolff. Gift cards are available by order for many national companies, including department stores, restaurants, online stores, and specialty stores. A percent of your gift card purchase goes to DFUMC Missions. Order forms are available on our website and in the narthex. The deadline for ordering your cards is Nov. 26. Order forms showing the many gift card options will be available in the church narthex or from Sheryl Wolff at sherylb@cox.net.



Alternative Gift Giving (cont.)



Do you have people on your gift list and NO ideas? [DFY] has some ideas for you!

- * H₂O bottles
- * Christmas Ornaments



Look for these items in the narthex starting Sunday, Dec. 3! Both items will have a tag that you can include with your gift indicating a donation has been made to help [DFY] with their mission efforts.

Suggested donations for water bottles (\$20-\$25) and suggested donations for Christmas Ornaments (\$6 for one or \$10 for two).

As You Shop...

Amazon Smile

Do you shop online at Amazon for Christmas gifts? This year purchase those online Christmas gifts through Amazon Smile and 0.5% of everything you buy will be given to DFUMC Missions! It's so easy and it costs you nothing extra! Contact Shirley Coomer at scoomer@kw.com with any questions regarding how to sign up!



Donate as You Shop at Fry's

Fry's Community Rewards Program results in donations to your selected community group following purchases using your Fry's card. Our DFUMC Missions Organization Number is 83997. If you have questions, please contact Shirley Coomer at scoomer@kw.com. If you shop at Fry's it costs nothing extra and provides much support for DFUMC



Worship

Blue Christmas

Thursday, December 21st

A Service of Struggle with Darkness and Grief

Christmas is often called the most wonderful time of the year. Yet for many that is the last thing they are feeling. A reflective and meaningful evening for those who find themselves grieving loss or feeling depressed. You are not alone. You are invited to bring all that you are and are feeling.

Reflective Service at 6:00pm

Warm meal at 7:00pm

Everyone is welcome. This is a safe space.

Worship (cont.)



Christmas Eve Services

Christmas Eve is on a Sunday this year, which means we will be having one morning worship service and two Christmas Eve services that evening. This only happens on a Sunday every seven years, so we hope you bring your friends, neighbors & family to the morning and evening services!

10:00AM Morning Worship, Carols, and Christmas Preparation

Join us for our regular worship service with a Christmas Eve morning twist! Our contemporary band is leading this service while we prepare ourselves for the joy of Christmas Eve.

5:00PM Glowsticks, Families, and Cookies

The children and youth of DFUMC will lead us by telling the story of the birth of Jesus. This service is kid-oriented and family friendly. Worship concludes with candlelight from glow sticks! After the service join us for cookies and chilled apple juice

7:00PM Carols, Candles, and Communion

Service with Holy Communion, choir and traditional carols. Worship concludes with candlelight. Stay for cookies and hot apple cider after service!

Childcare available in the nursery at all services.

New Year's Eve Morning Worship

December 31, Combined Morning Worship 10AM

Join us for a celebration on New Year's Eve Morning! We will sing Carols, have a special message, and share food during the service. Wear festive New Years clothes or come in your Pajamas! Bring a breakfast item to share, whatever you enjoy eating for breakfast! We will provide table service and drinks, even have a non-alcoholic toast for fun! We will finish the service with Communion as we thank God for the year and prepare for a new year!