



Christmas 2018

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 19th, **Thanksgiving Foster Care Dinner**

Saturday, November 24th, **Ahwatukee Festival of Lights Booth**, Noon–8PM

Tuesday, November 27th, **Morning Advent Study begins** 9AM

Thursday, November 29th, **Evening Advent Study begins** 7PM

Sunday, December 2nd, **Hanging of the Greens & First Sunday of Advent** 9:00AM and 10:30AM

Sunday, December 2nd, **Join the Fun Committee at Buddyz for Pizza after Hanging of the Greens!**

Sunday, December 16th, **Youth Christmas Party**, 12-1:30PM

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

Sunday, December 23rd, **Luminaria Filling** 10-11:30AM

Sunday, December 23rd, **Christmas Caroling for All** 4:30-6PM

Monday, December 24th, **Christmas Eve Services** 5 and 7PM

More Inside....

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 19th 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)720-9503 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 24th, 8AM-Noon

Festival of lights is next week! Have you signed up to help in our booth? We need Meet and Greet people to tend to our booth and introduce the community to our church. Sign ups are in the narthex or contact Debby Moakley at drhmoakley@centurylink.net.

Our Sing Along will have one practice that will be after next Sunday's traditional service (Nov 18) at 11:45AM. Have you signed up? We'll be singing 3 well-known Christmas songs Nov 24 from 12:30-1PM and will be accompanied on the guitar by our music director, Charles Wolff.

Advent Study: Because of Bethlehem, Love is Born, Hope is Here, by Max Lucado

Long after the guests have left, the carolers have gone home and the lights have come down, Mr. Lucado urges us to remember to: Rekindle our connection to the Christ of Christmas and find hope for a lifetime, lay down our endless Christmas to-do list and receive what Jesus had already done, heal our heartache by embracing the God who is always for us and always in us.



Two classes are being offered in the adult classrooms here at church (across the hall from the church office):

Tuesday mornings from 9-10AM: November 27th, December 4th, 11th and 18th

Thursday evenings from 7-8PM: November 29th, December 6th, 13th and 20th

Sign ups and books are available in the narthex. The cost of the book is \$10, and cash or checks written to DFUMC can be dropped in the offering plate with the note "Advent Book". Contact Bev Jones at edbevj@cox.net or Maureen Kartchner at mokart@cox.net at for more information.

Coming Up... (cont.)

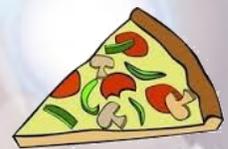
Hanging of the Greens & First Sunday of Advent, December 2nd

Join us for Hanging of the Greens & First Sunday of Advent, Sunday, December 2nd at both the 9AM and 10:30AM services! We will be singing carols, decorating the church, and learning about the traditions and meanings of Christmas.



Buddyz Pizza, December 2nd

The FUN COMMITTEE invites everyone to hang out after the Hanging of the Greens Sunday, Dec 2! We'll meet up at Buddyz in the Safeway Plaza at Chandler Blvd and Desert Foothills Pkwy at noon. Let's celebrate all of our decorative efforts and the start of the Christmas season over some Chicago-style pizza. (Or whatever you want to order! We'll all pay our own tabs.) Come, even if you decide spontaneously on Dec. 2! But, if possible, RSVP to drhmoakley@centurylink.net so that we can reserve a big enough table.



Youth Christmas Party, Sunday Dec. 16

Youth and Families are invited to Come Join the Fun of the Youth Christmas Party on Sunday, Dec. 16 from 12-1:30PM here at church! Potluck lunch! Bring pizza, tacos, sub sandwiches,... to share. Remember Don likes lobster! Drinks, plates, flatware, cups, napkins will be supplied. White Elephant gift exchange \$10 max.



Family Caroling on Sunday, Dec. 23

Families, parents, grandparents, single adults and kids of all ages: December 23, from 4:30 until 6PM, please join as we go around the nearby neighborhoods and sing Christmas carols, an invigorating way to embrace our Christmas heritage. We will start and end at the church. Dress appropriately. Don will be wearing a top hat and overcoat. Cheat sheets and water will be available. Contact Don Benton at don@desertfoothills.org for more information!



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! You can drop them off in the kitchen after church on Sunday, Dec. 23 or bring them with you to worship on Christmas Eve.



Luminarias

On Christmas Eve we light the path into church with about 200 luminarias! Dec. 23 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

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. 25. Order forms showing the many gift card options will be available in the church narthex or from Sheryl Wolff at sherylb@cox.net.



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!



As You Shop... (cont.)

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 IT268. 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 Missions!



Worship

Blue Christmas

Friday, 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

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.

