

2015 Holiday News & Alternative Gift Giving



Advent is quickly approaching. The first Sunday of Advent is Sunday, November 29. There is much going on here at Desert Foothills UMC to participate in during this holiday season. There are opportunities for fellowship, worship and gift giving ideas to keep our hearts and minds centered on the meaning of Christ's birth and how it relates to how we live.

Service & Fellowship

Thanksgiving for Foster Youth



Monday, November 23rd at 6pm DFUMC is again partnering with a Mesa UMC church to host this dinner. Last year over 350 foster children were served a hot Thanksgiving meal, and 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.

Advent Study for Youth and Adults



Jill Sears will be leading an Advent study for adults on Wednesday mornings at 9am in the adult Sunday school room starting Dec. 2. The study will be based on the book *Sent* by Jorge Acevedo. Together we will discover how, where and why we are **sent**. Books are \$12 each and can be ordered through Amazon (don't forget to use Amazon Smile to benefit missions.)

[DFY] will be doing the same study together during Sunday School at 10:30am. Youth books are provided. For more information and to RSVP for the class contact jill@desertfoothills.org.

Hanging of the Greens



Please plan on staying for the fun & fellowship of Hanging of the Greens on Sunday, Nov. 22 directly after 2nd service worship when we decorate our church for the Advent season. All ages and abilities welcome and needed! Desert Foothills Youth will be providing pizza!

Feliz Navidad Bag Sorting Event



Mark your calendars for Saturday, December 5th from 9am-1pm! Many hands are needed to make sure these bags are ready to make the trip to Mexico! Contact Jane Peterson at ericjanepeterson@gmail.com with any questions.

Children's Christmas Play



Stories of the Savior is coming to Desert Foothills! Calling all children to participate! We will rehearse during 9am Sunday school hour on Dec. 6, 13, 20, with dress rehearsal Tuesday, Dec. 22 (time TBD). Don't miss this new take on the Christmas Play!

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! More cookie donation information will be coming soon!

Luminarias



On Christmas Eve we light the path into church with about 200 luminarias! Dec. 20 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

Habitat for Humanity



DFUMC is participating in a Phoenix building coalition called the Mighty United Methodist Coalition, which began in 1985. This Advent you are invited to join a fundraising project which focuses on blessings most of us take for granted. If you want to participate, you will receive a paper bank that looks like a Habitat house and a special Advent calendar. How does this work? For example, on December 4, it's suggested you put 25 cents in the bank for each room in your home that is carpeted. On December 14, you're asked to deposit 10 cents for each electrical outlet in your home. You can also just put a bill in the bank and forget the calendar!

Kay Norton will collect Habitat house banks at the three Christmas Eve Services (and after Christmas) and will forward all funds to the Mighty UMC Coalition. The total raised will be linked to our Church. Two builds are planned in which our Coalition can participate: one soon in Glendale and one in Tempe in the spring. Kay can tell you more about the builds themselves, but the building work takes place on Saturdays from 7:30 am to about 2:30 pm.

Thanks for putting this fundraising effort on your prayer list. You can reach Kay Norton at knortonphd@gmail.com or 480-266-0690 if you have further questions! Extra Habitat house banks and Advent Calendars may be found in the church office after Nov 1.

A Night of Shelter



Desert Foothills Youth are providing a special alternative gift giving opportunity through UMOM. Purchase a UMOM Christmas card and provide a night, a week or a month of shelter for a homeless family as a gift for your family or friends.

\$15 donation, provides **1 night** of shelter to an individual

\$50 donation, provides **1 day** of shelter, food, and childcare for a child

\$100 donation, provides **1 week** of shelter to an individual

\$360 donation, provides **1 month** of shelter to an individual

The cards are available in the narthex. Make checks payable to UMOM and give to Jill Sears. Contact jill@desertfoothills.org for more information.

Christmas Cards or All Occasion Cards



Nov. 15-Dec. 13 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 Jane Peterson at ericjanepeterson@gmail.com.

Cafe La Colonia Coffee



Coffee grown in Vera Cruz and Chiapas, Mexico and ground by our Christian partners in Agua Prieta, Mexico is available for sale here at DFUMC in the narthex before and after services on Sunday.

The coffee is great tasting (often served during fellowship between services). Makes a great gift, is easy to ship and costs \$10 for a FULL ONE POUND bag, regular or decaf. Proceeds support the pastor of our sister church Fuente de Vida in Agua Prieta. For more information, please contact Jane Peterson at ericjanepeterson@gmail.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 will be available Nov. 8 and the deadline for ordering your cards is Nov. 29. Order forms showing the many gift card options will be available in the church narthex or from Sheryl Wolff at sherylb@cox.net.

Foster Teen Home Adoption

DFUMC will be adopting a teen foster home again this year and providing wish list items for these teen boys who otherwise don't receive Christmas gifts. Sizes and ages of the boys at the home as well as wish list items will be available once we are assigned a group home.

DFUMC was a huge blessing last year providing new t-shirts and tennis shoes to many teen boys who don't often receive new clothes!

Questions? Contact Carolyn Blaney Arndt at carocar@earthlink.net or Jill Sears at jill@desertfoothills.org.

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 Dwight Daniels at Dwight.d@cox.net or (480)962-4588 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 Missions!

Worship

Christmas Eve Services

We have three services to celebrate the birth of Christ on Thursday, December 24. We hope you bring your friends, neighbors & family to the service which suits you best.

4:00 p.m.

The children 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

6:00 p.m.

Service with Holy Communion and contemporary and traditional music led by our Praise Band. Worship concludes with candlelight. Stay for cookies and hot apple cider after service!

8:00 p.m.

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

Childcare available in the nursery at all three services.

