

April – June 2018

THE CHURCH CRIER

Desert Congregational Church
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Pastor's Message

Easter Brings Hope - Greg Laurie put this on his web site. "Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live." —[John 11:25](#)

Easter is not about brightly colored eggs, wearing pastels, or enjoying a big meal, although it could include these. Easter is about the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

For some, Easter will be a great day, spent surrounded by family and friends. But for others, it will be a sad day, because Easter is a reminder of a loved one who has died and is now desperately missed.

Death seems so cruel, so harsh, and so final. That is what the disciples were feeling when they saw their Lord, whom they had left everything to follow, hanging on the cross. They were devastated. Death had crushed them. But if they would have gone back in their memories, they would have recalled an important event and statement Jesus had made.

They would have remembered Jesus standing at the tomb of his close friend Lazarus. They would have remembered that Jesus did something completely unexpected: He wept (see John 11:35). Jesus wept, because He knew that death was not part of God's original plan. Humanity was not meant to grow old, to suffer with disease, or to die. But because of the sin of Adam and Eve, sin entered the human race, and death followed with it. And death spread to all of us. Jesus wept, because it broke His heart.

But standing there at Lazarus' tomb, Jesus also delivered these hope-filled words: "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live" (John 11:25). Death is not the end. And the resurrection of Jesus Christ proves it.

If you have put your faith in Christ, then Easter means that you will live forever in the presence of God. Easter brings hope to the person who has been devastated by death."

Every day as a hospice chaplain I am sharing is with almost everyone I meet. The resurrection is our victory over death, without it we are all left hopeless.

Have a wonderful Easter and live in the light of Christ's resurrection.

Pastor Allan

Upcoming Events

April

- 1 **Easter Sunrise Service**
- 1 **Easter Sunday**
- 8 Deacon's Meeting
- 15 Trustee Meeting
- 22 Christian Ed Meeting
- 28 Men's Breakfast

May

- 3 **National Prayer Day**
- 4-5 Rummage Sale
- 6 Deacon's Meeting
- 13 Trustee Meeting
- 20 Christian Ed Meeting
- 9 Women's Fellowship
- 26 Men's Breakfast

June

- 3 Deacon's Meeting
- 10 Trustee Meeting
- 17 Christian Ed Meeting
- 11 Women's Fellowship
- 21 First day of Summer
- 23-25 NACCC Annual Meeting, San Diego
- 30 Men's Breakfast

Operation Christmas Child

For the next few months, we are looking for donations of necklaces, simple craft items and small stuffed animals.

Remember, when children get the box, they also get the Message.

For more information, contact
Laurel Morrow

Deacons – Wayne Mackey, Chairman

Trustees – Nancy Lake, Chairman

Trustees have been working on rekeying to have one key for all the locks on the church and fellowship hall. We will be bringing the sanctuary and fellowship hall up to code according to the fire chief; lighted exit signs at all doors and emergency lights for when the power goes out. We are exploring solar energy for the sanctuary and fellowship hall.

Christian Ed – Tim Perez, Chairman

Hello all and greetings from your Christian Ed Chair (Tim Perez). We continue to have our monthly meetings and our push to make Christian education a top priority for our youth.

We are currently working on and building on Desert Congregational Vacation Bible School. So far we have adult leaders volunteering to teach the youth classes, crafts, games, and snacks. Thank you to all the adult leaders for your continuous support. We ask for the congregation to also be prepared to assist and donate items that may be needed to make this year's VBS a great success.

Other items for future actions, we are looking into building a shade cover for our basketball court to protect the youth from the dangerous rays and heat of the sun during the summer months. We are also speaking to a few adults who have an extensive knowledge and experience in construction and are awaiting ideas. As always, we'll keep you all informed of the progress.

If you have any ideas or suggestions for Christian Ed, please feel free to approach us or put the ideas on paper. We are grateful for the continuous support of our congregation and for Pastor Allan.

Music – Rew Hennessy

Dear family – There are so, SO many things I want to tell you. . . . and ASK you. I am overwhelmed with topics, information, choices, problems, issues, concerns, victories, and failures and it all races around in my mind. We have politicians yelling at each other, newscasters telling us that we should be afraid of this or that, and scientists telling us that they have discovered some new virus that we need to worry about. And yet the sun still rises in the east, and sets in the west. The moon and stars still illuminate the night sky, more beautiful than ever. And the days gradually get warmer, as we slowly drift toward springtime, my favorite time of year.

Looking at the contrast between friends and foes, I want to ask all of us to look at Psalm 59 for just a moment (NASB). Verse 1 says "Deliver me from my enemies, O my God; set me *securely* on high away from those who rise up against me." Verses 9 & 10 ; "Because of His strength I will watch for Thee, For God is my stronghold. My God in His lovingkindness will meet me; God will let me look *triumphantly* on my foes." (13 - 17); " Destroy *them* in wrath, destroy *them*, that they may be no more; that *men* may know that God rules in Jacob, to the ends of the earth. [Selah] And they return at evening, they howl like a dog, and go around the city. They wonder about for food, and growl if they are not satisfied. But as for me, I shall sing of Thy strength; yes, I shall joyfully sing of Thy lovingkindness in the morning, for Thou hast been my stronghold, and a refuge in the day of my distress. O my strength, I will sing praises to Thee; for God is my stronghold, the God who shows me lovingkindness."

You see my friends - Even with our enemies lurking around, we should be able to sing God's praise. I also want to urge everyone to search for TRUTH! Proverbs 4:5 "Acquire wisdom! Acquire understanding!" There are so many lies out there, and I don't want any of us to be deceived. Turn

OFF the evening news, go to the internet, go to a book, turn on "To Every Man An Answer" (<http://csnradio.com/tema/>) , and do some of your own research! You might be amazed at what you find. Thank you and God Bless you. Love - Rew

Men's Fellowship - Rick Buckles, Chairman

The Desert Congregational church men's fellowship started off the New Year by electing new officers, the full review can be seen in the minutes for the meeting. I was elected as the new leader for the group to my surprise :D. Please keep me in your prayers as I go forward in this task.

All Men from the church are invited to attend the Men's fellowship breakfast the 4th Saturday of each month for an excellent breakfast and good fellowship.

The men decided to assume the duty of the "street cleanup" for the church. It will take place the same morning as the breakfast at 0700 on Mesquite Springs road with breakfast to follow. All are invited to help and it usually takes about ½ hour.

In our first meeting we discussed doing Food for life 1 Saturday this year with more info to follow. Also a men's camp night in Joshua Tree National park for fellowship and sharing of God's word and testimonies, more to come. Also I asked for feedback on participating in "Harvest America" from showing the live event, time delayed showing or financial support. We will discuss these items this month.

The pastor always has a great message for the men so come and join us to be enriched and blessed and become some of God's Mighty Men. Let's come together for Christ and help carry out our commission to bring the gospel to the world and strengthen our faith and love for one and other. Come and join us and make a difference for Christ.

Women's Fellowship – Barbara Hinderliter, Chairman

Women's Fellowship completed its third Women's Tea which was a success. Many of our members worked hard to make this a successful event. From organization, food purchasing to decorating tables, it was a combined effort of all members. We thank the Men's Fellowship for their excellent "butler services to the individual tables", to serenading us with their music and Laurinda Stewart for her accompaniment on the piano. Laurinda also brought as lively entertainment venue to us, which included audience participation. There were 90 women at the Tea and all considered it a success.

We took a free-will collection at the Tea and received \$250.00 which was donated equally to the Food Pantry and Food for Life.

We are now planning our Spring Rummage Sale for the first weekend in May. We accept all clean donations to this effort. Additionally, we are researching the replacement of the dishwasher, as its seen its best days and decided to retire. We are also deciding which organizations to support for our missionary statement. We've been busy in our Christian pursuits and will further support organizations at home and throughout the world. Any woman who wants to participate in welcome in our fellowship.

Hymn Sing Sunday

Every third Sunday at Desert Congregational, we sing your favorite songs. Thumb through the hymnal and let us know the song(s) you really like to sing. Fill out the form that's on the information table in the Narthex and put it in the offering plate any Sunday. That's all you have to do – we'll do the rest.

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Got a suggestion for the Deacons to consider and discuss? There's a suggestion box on the information table in the Narthex
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APRIL

Birthdays

2 – Ava Neste (Sandoval); 15 – Nicholas Perez;
23 – April Kuhlmeier; 24 – Marie LaFond;
29 – Kayla Speer

Anniversaries

9 – Eric & Cindy Ross;
17 – Timothy & Denice Perez;
22 – Travis & Lliani Gaines

MAY

Birthdays

3 – Allan Morrow; 4 – Darlene Subriar;
12 – Willow Martinez; 21 – Ellen Chambers;
26 – Davyn June; 29 – Howard Snowden;
30 – Aryanna Martinez

Anniversaries

11- Louie & Barbara Kisner

Meeting Dates to Remember:

- Adult Bible Study – Sunday @ 9 AM
- Youth Group = Sunday @ 6 PM
- Pioneer Club = Monday @ 6 PM
- Adult Bible Study = Thursday @ 6 PM
- Worship Team = Thursday @ 6 PM
- Choir Practice = Thursday @ 7 PM
- Deacons = 1st Sunday of each month
- Trustees = 2nd Sunday of each month
- Christian Ed = 3rd Sunday of each month
- Men's Fellowship Breakfast = Last Saturday of each month
- Women's Fellowship / Luncheon – 2nd Monday of each month

JUNE

Birthdays

4 – Fred Robertson; 6 – Lea Speer; 7 – Karen Kluge; 8 – Mike Harz; 10 – Annette Faudel;
18 – Ed Kuhlmeier; 23 – Robert Paxton, Laura Hudson, Delores Robertson; 26 – Tony Renner;
28 - Don Lake

Anniversaries

7- Howard & Rachael Snowden; 16 – Blaine & Peggy King; 29 – Tony & SunRe Renner

Welcome New Members

***Eric and Cindy Ross, Grace and Melody; Clarissa Escareno; Wayne Turnbaugh;
Linda Lubitz; and Rew Hennesy***

Women's Fellowship Annual Rummage Sale

The sale of all sales will be held on May 4-5 in the Fellowship Hall and the Shed. Tell your friends and neighbors about it and to come on by. We have a little bit of everything – furniture, household items, toys, and, of course, the BAKERY. Setup for the sale will begin on Sunday, April 29.

NACCC Annual Meeting

NACCC Annual Meeting will be held on June 23-25 in San Diego, CA. Pastor Allan and Laurel will represent Desert Congregational Church at this meeting.

National Day of Prayer 2018 Theme Unveiled



Dr. Ronnie Floyd, President of the National Day of Prayer, announced last week that the theme of the 2018 observance will be "Pray for America – Unity," based upon Ephesians 4:3, which challenges believers to mobilize unified public prayer for America, "Making every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace."