



FROM OUR PASTORS

LOOKING BACK ACROSS 2019 ...

While the special General Conference last February may have cast a pall on the UMC at large, Dayspring is strong as ever. Here are some highlights of the past 12 months:

SPIRITUAL FORMATION: A team led by Pastor Shirley began a monthly Taizé service. Pastor Joel created eight experiential prayer stations for prayer and reflection for the season of Lent. Weekly Sunday School averages 75 children and we had VBS in June with 127 children and 64 youth and adult volunteers. 22 Bibles were handed out to children on Bible Sunday. Church and Society sponsored several Kingdom Dinners to address current justice matters, and spring and fall sessions Wednesday Evening Fellowship brought folks together for table fellowship and enrichment.



Reaction following General Conference



Prayer Stations during Lent



Vacation Bible School



Kingdom Dinner discussion



Third graders receive their Bibles



Bestselling author Shane Claiborne spoke on the first anniversary of March for Our Lives about “Beating Guns”; hundreds of orange ribbons across our campus bore witness with names of victims of gun violence. The youth, women’s and men’s retreats were well attended and well received. Dayspring joined with Temple Emanuel synagogue during their High Holy Days to create powerful prayer trees filled with positive intentions for the upcoming year from members of both faith communities.



Shane Claiborne and the Beating Guns Tour

COMMUNITY: Our children’s and youth ministries, UMM & UMW remain strong and our Singles and Young Adult groups continue to meet weekly. Dayspring PRIDE, our LGBTQ+ advocacy and fellowship, sponsored regular gatherings including monthly TheoPubs and participated in the Pride Festival & Parade and Arizona AIDS Walk. Andrea Farley started a new Moms’ Group. With all 28 beds completed and planted, our Giving Garden interacted with the neighborhood and has been fruitful this year, with mini farmers markets offered. Dayspringers converged on a campground outside of Greer for an annual Labor Day Weekend family camp.



Women’s Retreat



United Methodist Men’s Retreat



Moms Fellowship Group



Prayer Trees with Temple Emanuel



Marching in the Phoenix Pride Parade



Giving Garden

MISSIONS: Our Missions & Ministries Fair was held in January with a chili cook-off sponsored by SPRC. Dayspring hands-on missions included Habitat for Humanity build days (our BeTween youth group again prepared and delivered lunch to the work crew on one of those dates), supporting the Justa Center and the Domestic Violence Shelter, serving Sunday night dinners at UMOM, supporting the medical clinic in Tochimizolco, Mexico (the '19 Tochi team consisted of 16 Dayspringers and helped provide 450 medical consultations and 328 dental procedures), hosting four weeks with Family Promise, and serving at a Thanksgiving Dinner for foster youth. Our children's ministry sponsored a second well in Liberia and ten senior high youth and two adults participated in a weeklong Sierra Service Project (SSP). We collected donations for the domestic violence shelter, asylum seekers, foster youth homes and UMCOR. We also provide monetary support to the UMOM New Day Center, Save the Family, Valley Interfaith Project, the Wesley Foundation at ASU, and the Wesley Community Center. A concert to benefit the Bahamas in the wake of Hurricane Dorian raised \$8,700 for UMCOR!



BeTween serves lunch at the Habitat build



Caring for patients in the Tochimizolco medical and dental clinic



Working at Sierra Service Project



Serving Thanksgiving dinner for foster kids



STEWARDSHIP: "I am Dayspring" was our stewardship focus. On Miracle Sunday in October, over \$100,000 was raised for ongoing capital needs.



Building a second clean water well in Liberia

Benefit Concert for Hurricane Relief in the Bahamas

STAFF: We celebrated Pastor Michael's retirement after 37½ years with a combined worship service featuring tributes and ten choral anthems. We welcomed Dr. David Schildkret as our new Director of Music Ministries, and Norman Jensen as our new organist, on September 1. Pianist Beth Lederman joined the first-service music team on September 15, along with Ken French on drums and Felix Sainz on bass. Jackie Miller retired after ten years and Kate Jelen became co-director of the children's Cherub Choir with Amanda Osman-Balzell. Recent seminary graduate Amy



Celebrating Pastor Michael's career and retirement



David Schildkret leads choir rehearsal



Quilters and Prayer Shawl knitters/crocheters bless their creations



Handbells perform at the Desert Botanical Gardens



Youth Sunday

Notbohm joined the staff as Community Curator, charged with developing a new ministry in the Arcadia area. She has been working with the Elijah Team consisting of members from Dayspring and Aldersgate UMC.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE: Pastor Chuck Winkler came on staff as volunteer Minister of Visitation. We continue to offer Prayer Ministry (requests are primarily received through the prayer request cards that are received in the Sunday morning offerings and distributed via email to the prayer team), Prayer Shawls (given to persons in need of care), Secret Santa (cards and/or small gifts during the Advent season for homebound persons or people who have been identified as needing some extra care), Stephen Ministry (we have 20 active Stephen Ministers), Grief Groups and a Dementia Caregiver Support group.

WORSHIP & MUSIC: As in years past, choirs combined both for MLK Sunday, Palm Sunday and Thanksgiving Sunday. In April, the Dayspring Chorale, soloists, and full orchestra presented "The Conversion of Saint Paul." Our youth led worship on Youth Sunday as well as the Easter Sunrise Service. Our children put on a memorable Christmas Pageant and the Chorale offered a divine service of Lessons and Carols. The Dayspring Chimers and DayStar, under the direction of Julie Hackmann, performed at the Desert Botanical Garden's Fiesta de las Luminarias, to sold-out crowds. Christmas Eve featured four worship services, and we added a Christmas Eve eve service: A Jazz Christmas.



Confirmation Sunday

Together we are on a mission to make God's world more peaceful, just, compassionate and inclusive, seeking to embody our core values:

- Welcoming, Nurturing, Empowering
- Progressive, Thinking Christians
- Compassionately Serving All People
- Emotionally Stirring Sacred Music
- Committed to Youth and Children

In the coming year, may we recommit ourselves to transforming the church and the world into a full expression of Christ's inclusive love!

Pastor Jeff