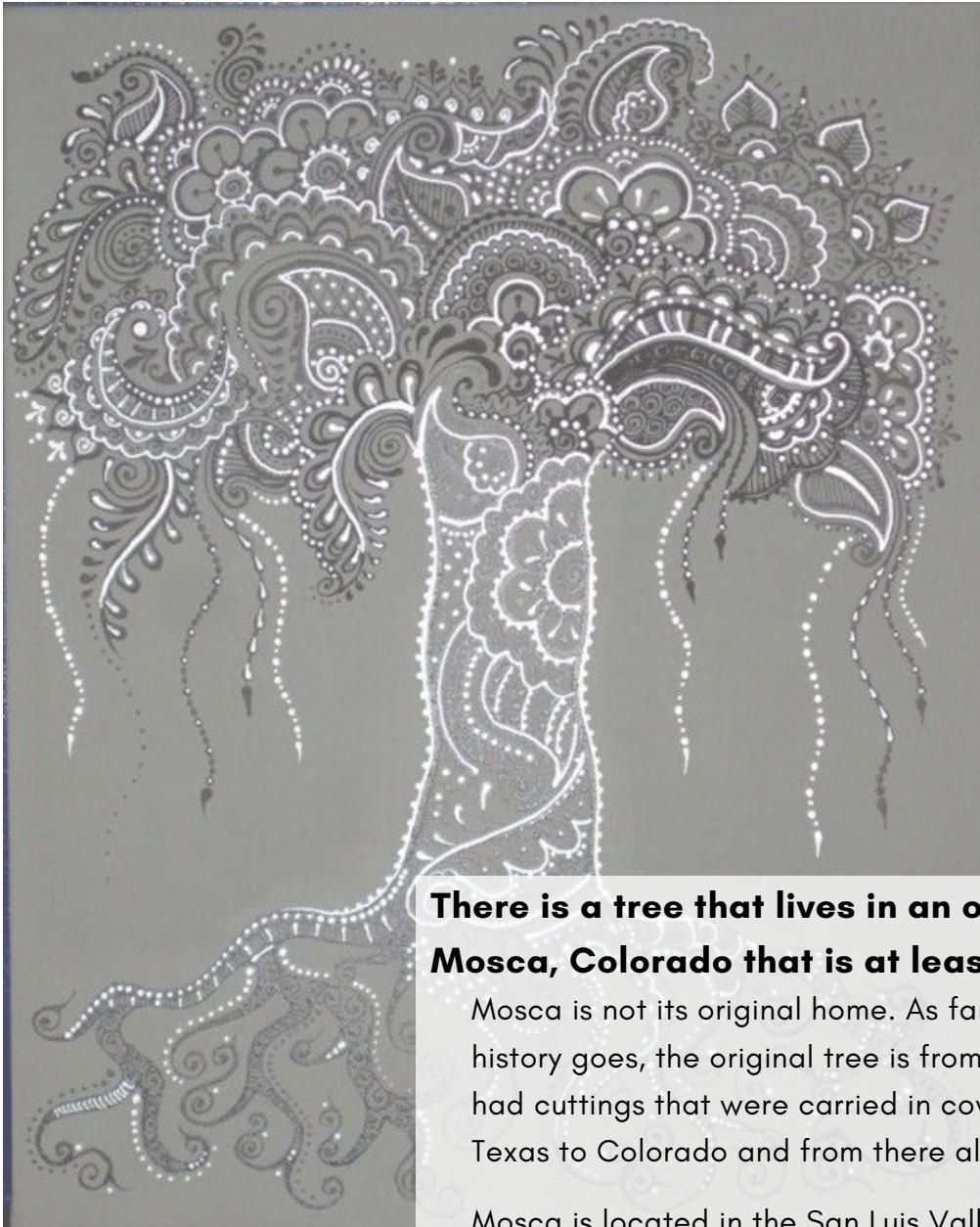


Bethany

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

3501 W 1st Ave ♦ Denver, CO ♦ 80219



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There is a tree that lives in an old greenhouse in Mosca, Colorado that is at least 132 years old.

Mosca is not its original home. As far back as the tree's history goes, the original tree is from Texas. This fig tree has had cuttings that were carried in covered wagons from Texas to Colorado and from there all over the country.

Mosca is located in the San Luis Valley of Colorado at the crossroads in unincorporated Alamosa County. This tree lives at the famous Colorado Gators Farm. The alligators, crocodiles, emus, snakes, fish, and turtles make a fun stop on a mission trip to La Puente in Alamosa. Located on a spring in the midst of high desert plains, the gator farm also host a number of trees and plants.

TREE OF LIFE

by Rev. Denise Bender

continued page 4

September 2019

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

8 9 10 11 12 13 14
11AM Worship Linda Kaiser
Birthday

15 16 17 18 19 20 21
11AM Worship

22 23 23 24 25 26 27
11AM Worship Sara Feathers
Birthday

28 29 30
11AM Worship Kathy Caughran
& Curtis Gay
Birthdays

“

I honor my tradition.
I walk through my tradition.
But I don't believe my tradition
defines God.
It only points me to God.

Bishop John Shelby Spong

UMCOR SAGER-BROWN

featuring Lataine Shaw and Rev. Denise

UMCOR Sager Brown's history began in 1867 when the site was established as an orphanage and school for African-American youth left homeless by the Civil War. It was launched by members of one of United Methodist Women's predecessor organizations. Through many years of financial ups and downs, Sager Brown persevered

as a school. However, in 1978, the school closed its doors, and the property remained vacant for fourteen years.

In 1992, Hurricane Andrew tore through Louisiana and the Gulf Coast region. Despite the severe damage to surrounding communities, the Sager Brown facilities and grounds survived intact. In response to the disaster, UMCOR used the location as a distribution center to assist local communities affected by the hurricane. As a result, a partnership formed between the two institutions. UMCOR decided to maintain the campus as a location to assemble and deploy relief supplies to the world, and the depot was organized in 1996.

At UMCOR Sager Brown, volunteers can put their faith into action by participating in the many outreach programs provided, including the opportunity for volunteers to assemble relief supply kits that reach vulnerable communities around the world. Equipped to house individuals and teams, the Sager Brown campus welcomes short-term mission trips for United Methodists and people of other faith traditions.

One Hymn that seems especially poignant now is "Sent Out In Jesus' Name". It is a little challenging to sing, but once the beat is embraced, and the words are embraced, it will make you feel, once again, the call on your life to be like Jesus. This Cuban song conjures images and emotions related to hurt, pain, love, justice, and peace, and it sings with notes of both mourning and hope.

- Rev. Denise



TREE OF LIFE CONTINUED

The animals at this farm have all been rescued from owners who believed the alligators and snakes would make good pets; which, not only do they not make good pets, but many are illegal to own.

It is in the midst of forgotten animals and fish ponds that this tree grows and continues to offer life. And, so it is with us at times. We stand in the shade of an old tree waiting for the forgotten moments of our lives to make sense. Seldom do we remember that those moments have given us the framework for our lives, and despite of, or because of, those are the moments in which we thrive with the grace that God has surrounded us even when our spirits are feeling a weathered.

In yoga, the Tree Pose is known as *Vrksasana* in Sanskrit. The Sanskrit name comes from the words *vrksa* meaning tree, and *asana* meaning pose. It's a basic yoga pose used to promote balance and centering.

Parts of ourselves travel from place to place through study, books, conversations, partnership, family and friends. With that travel of our hearts through so many different thoughts, feelings, and epiphanies, even our most weathered souls flourish. So may you experience the flourishing of your soul this day.



Lectionary

Readings

September 1, 2019

Jeremiah 2:4-13
 Psalm 81:1, 10-16
 Sirach 10:12-18
 Proverbs 25:6-7
 Psalm 112
 Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16
 Luke 14:1, 7-14

September 8, 2019

Jeremiah 18:1-11
 Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18
 Deuteronomy 30:15-20
 Psalm 1
 Philemon 1:1-21
 Luke 14:25-33

September 15, 2019

Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28
 Psalm 14
 Exodus 32:7-14
 Psalm 51:1-10
 1 Timothy 1:12-17
 Luke 15:1-10

September 22, 2019

Jeremiah 8:18-9:1
 Psalm 79:1-9
 Amos 8:4-7
 Psalm 113
 1 Timothy 2:1-7
 Luke 16:1-13

September 29, 2019

Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15
 Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16
 Amos 6:1a, 4-7
 Psalm 146
 1 Timothy 6:6-19
 Luke 16:19-31