



First United Methodist Church
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“Encounter, Engage, Empower: The Fruit of Seeds Planted Long Ago”

By Pastor Eun Ko

Dear First Church Family,

From October 5–8, I joined 315 Korean United Methodist pastors and lay leaders near San Francisco to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Korean United Methodist National Caucus. We gathered for worship, learning, fellowship, and reflection under the theme, “Encounter, Engage, Empower.”

One message especially stayed with me: Fifty years ago, someone planted seeds for us. Now it is our turn to plant. As I reflected on those words, I realized that my own ministry is fruit from seeds planted long before I was born. American Methodist missionaries brought the gospel to Korea, where Korean Christians received it, shared it, and built communities of faith. Through generations of prayer, sacrifice, and service, that faith reached me. Today, as a Korean pastor serving an American congregation, I am part of that continuing story. The people who first planted those seeds could not have imagined all the ways they would grow. Yet their faithfulness continues to bear fruit – in congregations, families, and ministries far beyond their own time and place.

Here at First Church, we also live within a story that began before us. We have received a church sustained by people who prayed, gave, welcomed strangers, taught children, cared for neighbors, and kept serving through difficult seasons. Their faithfulness has made room for us. We are facing challenges of our own, including financial pressures and questions about how best to use what has been entrusted to us. These concerns deserve our honest attention.

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Encounter, Engage, Empower: The Fruit of Seeds Planted Long Ago cont.

They can also make it difficult to see the good that is already growing among us. Yet we continue to gather for worship. We care for one another through illness and loss. We welcome students and newcomers. We offer our time, our space, and our gifts in service. These are places where faith takes root and God's grace becomes visible.

The gathering's theme helped me see our life together with fresh eyes. We encounter Christ as we listen to one another's stories. We engage when we respond with compassion to the needs around us. We empower when we help someone recognize that their presence and gifts matter.

These invitations can begin within the life we already share. A conversation after worship, a call to someone who is grieving, or an invitation to serve alongside us can become a seed of hope. We may never know its full impact.

I returned grateful for the people whose faith helped bring me here, and grateful for you. Your prayers, generosity, and care are part of this continuing story. Even in a demanding season, God is at work among us. We are fruit from seeds planted by others. And through our faithfulness today, new seeds are being planted for people we may never meet.

"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up." - **Galatians 6:9 (NIV)**

"우리가 선을 행하되 낙심하지 말지니 포기하지 아니하면 때가 이르매 거두리라." - 갈라디아서 6:9 (개역개정)

May we recognize the grace we have received and trust God to help it grow through us.

With gratitude and hope,

Rev. Eun Young Ko

Lead Pastor

First United Methodist Church of Tucson

November Meet'n'Eat

This is a fellowship time to visit with each other and see old and new friends.

All are welcome, everyone is invited!

The next Meet'n'Eat is on **Friday, November 13th at 11:30 AM** at the Olive Garden at [300 W Wetmore Rd, Tucson, AZ 85705](https://www.olivegarden.com/locations/300-Wetmore-Rd-Tucson-AZ-85705). If you're interested in coming, please notify the church office or Shirley Murray (520-297-4796) by the 11th so enough seating can be reserved.

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING AT FIRST CHURCH OF TUCSON!

Right: September 20 — A Celebration and Welcome

Elder Andy Min hosted an all-you-can-eat Korean BBQ meal after Sunday worship on September 20, 2026, to celebrate Dr. Changgon's achievement this spring and welcome his wife, Hyunjeong. The couple married last year, and Hyunjeong arrived in Tucson this summer.



Below: September 21 — APIDA Leadership Meeting



Pastor Ko, Jeannine, and Steve Lee participated in the APIDA (Asian Pacific Islander Desi American) leadership meeting on September 21, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. They serve the community as representatives of First United Methodist Church of Tucson.

Right: September 24 — Celebrating Margo

Pastor Ko celebrated Margo Kahler's 80th birthday on September 24, the day before her actual birthday, with gratitude for Margo's presence and many years of dedication to First United Methodist Church of Tucson.



Left: September 24 — Visiting Marilyn

Pastor Ko visited our faithful member Marilyn Hall on September 24. They enjoyed a wonderful conversation, and Pastor Ko surprised Marilyn by changing a light bulb in her walk-in closet! Marilyn will celebrate her 90th birthday in November.

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Right: September 26 - Celebrating Halla's Sweet Sixteen

Pastor Ko's daughter, Halla, celebrated her sixteenth birthday (Oct 1) with a party at home. Halla moved to Tucson when she was ten years old. Now she is sixteen and hopes to get her driver's license soon. Happy birthday, Halla!



Above & right: September 27 — Corn Roast and Church Picnic

Our congregation and neighbors gathered for a corn roast and church picnic after the English worship service on September 27. Our mission to love our neighbors continues!

Below: October 1 — Visiting Dottie

Pastor Ko visited Dottie Poczulp, our Certified Lay Minister, on October 1, 2026. Dottie has been facing many challenges, including her diagnosis of Parkinson's disease, her husband Gary's prostate cancer, and other family health concerns. Pastor Ko expressed appreciation for Dottie's faith and leadership and offered encouragement and support for her physical and spiritual needs. May she continue to find strength and comfort in God's presence.



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Below: Remembering Kathy Min

Our beloved sister, Kathy Min, passed away unexpectedly in her sleep on September 26. A celebration of her life was held at the church on Saturday, October 3.

(1) Kathy's daughters Jennifer and Allie shared memories of their mother. (2-3) Flowers were given in her memory for the service. (4) Her son Andrew said goodbye to his mother. (5) Her husband Andy shared memories of Kathy. (6) Andy Min with their four children: Andrew, Cindy, Allie, and Jenny. (7) Kathy's family gathered for the service.



THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS & GATHERINGS

10AM SUNDAY SERVICE

Join us in person for our English-language service! Or you can watch it live online at <https://www.youtube.com/c/TucsonFirstUMC>.

한국어 사역

주일 오전 11시 30분에 한국어 예배가 현장예배와 온라인예배로 진행됩니다. 매월 첫째 주 토요일 오전 11시에 선인장 모임 (소그룹 예배 모임)이 있습니다.

매월 마지막 주 주일 친교 후에 청년부 선인장 모임이 청년부실에서 있습니다. 많은 기도와 참여 부탁드립니다.

WEEKDAY GATHERINGS

Nifty Needlecrafts

-Join us on Sunday at 3 PM for crafting and conversation! Don't have your own supplies? We have quilting fabric, notions, sewing machines, books, and much more available for use.
-Questions? Text Tripp at 520-428-4680 or leave a voicemail.

Wanderers on a Spiritual Quest (WSQ)

-WSQ is on break until a new study book is chosen.

Narcotics Anonymous – Underground

-NA meets at 6:30PM on Monday evenings in the church basement. (Access via the long stairway on the north side of the building, NOT the stairs behind the smoking benches.)
-Medallion Night is on the last Monday of the month.

Chancel Choir

-Now's the perfect time to join!
-Practice on Thursdays in the Sanctuary at 6:30 PM.
-Shorter rehearsals on Sundays at 9 AM.

Progressive Book Study (PBS)

-The 3:30 PM Thursday online book study group is reading, "The Faith Club: A Muslim, a Christian, and a Jew," by Ranya Idliby, Priscilla Warner, & Suzanne Oliver. If you'd like to join, please contact Rev. Gaston at 520-323-1611.

[Zoom ID: 980 1573 8087](https://www.zoom.us/j/98015738087) [Passcode: 6226481](https://www.zoom.us/j/98015738087)

GIVING TO FIRST CHURCH TUCSON



When you attend Sunday services in person, the offering box is in the narthex for your generous giving. Head to our website www.firstchurchtucson.org/give to give online. As always, you can mail in checks to the church office at the address printed on the front page. Alternatively, have your IRA advisor automatically make payments from your IRA.

When we give to God from our hearts, it is always enough. We see you, and we thank you for your commitment to making a difference in our community.

PRAYERS FOR OUR COMMUNITY

We offer our prayers for those in our community who are suffering, who are physically, mentally, & emotionally unwell, and for those caring for them.

We offer our prayers for these sister faith communities:



St. Paul's UMC - Tucson, AZ
Trinity UMC - Bisbee, AZ
Trinity UMC - Yuma, AZ

If you have a prayer request you would like to share in the Digest, please contact the church office at office@firstchurchtucson.org or (520) 622-6481.

October & November Birthdays & Anniversaries

Halla Kang (Oct 1)
Vivian Carole Smith (Oct 10)
Bill Snyder (Oct 10)
John Oh (Oct 14)
Tina Todd (Oct 15)
Joyce Humphrey Holloway
(Oct 16)

Dottie Poczulp (Oct 19)
Gail Snyder (Oct 19)
Suzanne Van Ort (Oct 21)
Jeanne Jensen (Oct 24)
Jessie Hansen (Oct 26)
Carol Nelson (Nov 1)

Marilyn Hall (Nov 6)
Kyoung Hee Kim (Nov 6)
Nancy Tomlinson (Nov 7)
Laryssa Shipley (Nov 18)
Joonkil Ahn (Nov 29)
Patricia Murphy (Nov 29)

Joonkil Ahn & Deullae Min (Oct 24 - 28 yrs)

(If we have missed your birthday or anniversary, please let us know so we can update our records!)

Our Annual Church Conference is Approaching!

It will take place on **Tuesday, November 3rd at 3:15 PM** (SPRC meets at 2:15 PM.)
Please pray for the upcoming Conference and for those preparing to participate.



Animal & Environmental Holidays for October 2026

By Diane & Victoria Russell



October – National Energy Awareness Month

Created by President George H. W. Bush in 1991 to raise awareness about energy conservation, efficiency, and sustainable resources. Some easy ways to help lower your utility bills and reduce your carbon footprint include unplugging unused electronics like coffee makers, chargers, and printers.



October – Church Library Month

Explore our church's amazing library! It is a special place that contains not only "Bibles" and the "Book of Discipline" – but also books to help our congregation with their spiritual growth. The library is a warm and inviting room that is filled with knowledge and helps support weekly growth filled studies.



October 11th – Pastor Appreciation Day/Pastor Appreciation Month

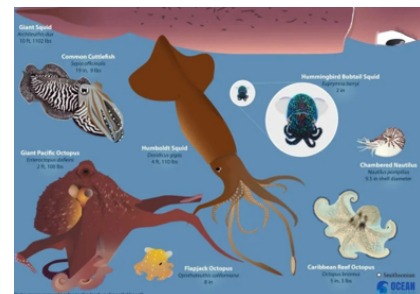
This month was inspired by the Apostle Paul's writing in 1 Timothy 5:17 which states:

"The elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honor, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching." Let's celebrate our Church's amazing clergy this day and month.



October 6th – National Bobcat Day

Let's celebrate the most common and widespread wild cat in North America. They are also known as the wildcat, bay lynx, or red lynx. Tucson has one of the highest urban bobcat populations in the USA. They are stealthy predators and play an important role in keeping ecosystems balanced and healthy.



October 8th-12th – International Cephalopod Awareness Week

Cephalopods are a class of marine mollusks (invertebrates) characterized by highly developed brains, advanced sensory organs, and camouflage abilities. Daily themes include Oct 8th – Octopus Day; Oct 9th – Nautilus Night; Oct 10th – Squid Day/Cuttlefish Day; Oct 11th – Kraken Day; and Oct 12th – Fossil Day.

International E-Waste Day
Fast tech: don't bin it, bring it!



14 OCTOBER 2026

October 14th – International E-Waste Day

The 9th Annual Int'l E-Waste Day is a day to raise awareness about the growing challenge of electronic waste. The 2026 theme is "Fast Tech: don't bin it, bring it!". "Fast Tech": small, inexpensive electronic items such as cheap earphones, charging cables, USB adapters, toys, and mini fans.



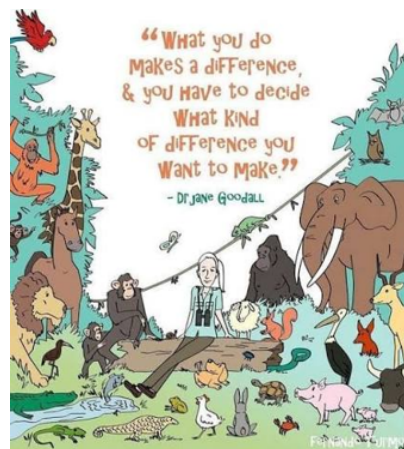
October 15th – National Pug Day

This is a day to celebrate and promote the adoption of pugs from Pug Rescues or from the Shelters instead of pet stores. According to the American Kennel Club (AKC), they are ranked at the 38th position as Most Popular Dog Breeds of 2025.



October 16th – World Food Day

Created by the United Nations General Assembly to celebrate the creation of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). The goal of this day is to raise awareness about people suffering from hunger in the world. The 2026 theme is "Innovate today. Nourish Tomorrow."



October 24th – National Make a Difference Day

Created in 1992 by the USA Weekend Magazine and Points of Light, it has become one of the largest days of volunteerism in the US. This day promotes acts of kindness and community service where people come together to volunteer and raise funds to help with the urgent needs of our society.



October 30th – National Treat Your Pet Day

Pets deserve to have the best treats and this is just the day to gift your faithful companion a sweet treat. Pets can have their own version of Halloween fun by having safe pet treats. Ways to celebrate include baking a pet safe homemade treat, buying a new toy, or getting out on a pet safe trail.



First Church Tucson is an inclusive multi-ethnic faith community and a reconciling congregation of the United Methodist Church. Established in 1879 as the first Protestant church in our city, First Church Tucson continues to pave the way in creating a faith community that embraces all peoples into the grace of God.

As a courageous family of faith, we celebrate the diversity of all God's children, welcome everyone to share in God's love and grace, and offer a sanctuary of hope.

We seek to be in ministry with all God's people, regardless of gender, race, age, class, ethnicity, culture, country of origin, ability/disability, gender identity, or sexual orientation. We continue to work towards building a loving and faithful community in Tucson and welcome all to be part of it.