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“A Season to Listen and to Renew”

By Pastor Eun Ko

Dear Beloved Friends in Christ,

Even though the calendar says fall has arrived, Tucson still holds on to its warmth a little longer. The mornings are gentler now, and the evenings bring a hint of breeze that reminds us that change is coming. This soft turning of the season always feels like God’s quiet invitation to slow down, breathe, and listen.



Photo from the 2024 Church Conference

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A Season to Listen and to Renew cont.

This year, our Church Conference is scheduled for Wednesday, October 29. It will be a special time for us to gather as a family of faith—to reflect on the past year and to listen for what God is preparing in the season ahead.

A Church Conference is not simply a time for reports or decisions; it is a time to remember God's faithfulness and to renew our shared calling. We pause to give thanks for the ways God has guided us through challenges, sustained us in ministry, and called us to serve this community with grace and hope.

When John Wesley gathered the early Methodist societies, he believed that faith grows best when God's people meet often—to pray, to share, and to hold one another in love. That same spirit continues today in our Church Conference. It is not simply about reports or decisions—it is about renewing our covenant with God and one another, and offering our hearts again for the work of grace in this community.

As we prepare for this gathering, I want to express my deep appreciation to all who have served and led so faithfully this year—our lay minister, lay leader, certified lay servants, lay servants, and every family that makes up the beautiful body of Christ at First United Methodist Church of Tucson. Your love, prayers, and dedication are the heartbeat of this church. Through your faithfulness, God's presence is made visible in countless quiet ways.

As we move toward this day, I invite you to hold our church in prayer:

- Pray with gratitude, for all the ways God's grace has carried us.
- Pray with openness, to hear where the Spirit may be leading next.
- Pray with faith, that we may walk forward in trust and courage.

"He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."
— Philippians 1:6

"너희 안에서 착한 일을 시작하신 이가 그리스도 예수의 날까지 이루실 줄을 우리는 확신하노라."
— 빌립보서 1장 6절

My dear friends, even in moments when things feel quiet or uncertain, God is at work—healing, growing, and planting new seeds among us. May this October be a time of gentle renewal and holy listening for us all.

With love and gratitude,
Rev. Eun Young Ko

What is going on with our church and Pastor Ko in September and October!

In Loving Memory

Every year on September 9, Halla and I take a photo dressed in black in memory of her dad. This year marks thirteen years since his passing — a moment to remember, reflect, and give thanks for God's grace through the years.



Halla's Early Birthday Celebration

Because I attended the Korean Clergy Annual Convocation the following week, Halla had an early sleepover birthday party at our home on September 26. She just turned 15 years old. It was a joyful evening filled with laughter, friendship, and celebration.

Annual Corn Roast Fellowship

Our church hosted the Annual Corn Roast on September 28, 2025 — a wonderful time of fellowship and outreach to the community and nearby students, complete with hamburgers and hotdogs. A special thank-you to Arthur Turnbull, who generously provided the hamburger patties and hotdogs through his food distribution company.



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Korean Clergy Annual Convocation

From September 29 to October 2, I attended the Korean Clergy Annual Convocation in New Jersey. Each evening we gathered for powerful worship services that included beautiful Korean traditional instruments, creating a deeply moving worship experience.



Left: Meeting Missionary Young Sun Kim

During the Convocation, I met Missionary Young Sun Kim from Tanzania. Our church supported her ministry in 2021 through our Christmas Offering — what a joy it was to reconnect and hear about her ongoing mission work.

Right: Reunion with Rev. Han Kil Kim

I was also able to reunite with my clergy friend Rev. Han Kil Kim and their newborn baby, Riel. They visited Tucson last March 2024 as newlyweds, and it was heartwarming to see their growing family.



Evening at the Hudson River

The night before leaving New Jersey, a group of younger clergy gathered at the Hudson River to enjoy the city's night lights. They were there very late at night, around midnight. Though I was tired from the time difference, the beauty and stillness of the moment brought deep joy and renewal.

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Halla's Fall Break in San Diego

During Halla's fall break, we enjoyed a short trip to San Diego — visiting the beach and seeing the pandas at the zoo (Halla loves pandas!). I am grateful to the SPRC for their kind understanding that allowed me to take a few days of rest. Every moment with Halla feels precious as she grows so quickly.



Visit with the Hong's in Oceanside

During their trip to San Diego, Halla and I stayed two nights with Elder and Mrs. Hong, who moved from Tucson to Oceanside, CA in 2023. It was a joyful visit and a reminder of the lasting friendships and blessings shared through the family of faith at First UMC Tucson.



**An Installation Service For
The District Superintendent
Rev. Javier Olivares**

You are Invited to the
Installation service for
Rev. Javier Olivares



Oct. 18 2025

Saturday 3PM St. Mark's UMC
1431 W Magee Rd, Tucson, AZ 85704

Desert Southwest Annual Conference

Lay Servant Class - "Leading Public Prayer"

The last Lay Servant in-person class being offered in 2025 will be "Leading Public Prayer" on November 8th & 15th at Christ Church UM, facilitated by Rev. Mike Wilkerson. Both days are required for the path to becoming a Certified Lay Speaker. The cost of this course is \$15.00 and is payable upon registration. The deadline to register is October 31st. The link for registration is: <https://dscumc.org/lay-servant-ministries-training-sessions/>

Flourish

The APIDA Fund Celebration

Thursday, October 16 | 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM | CSFA Campus



Celebrating growth, resilience, and a thriving future for the APIDA community.

Celebrate the official public launch of the Asian Pacific Islander Desi American (APIDA) Fund, held at the Community Foundation for Southern Arizona. This special evening brings together community leaders, advocates, and friends to honor resilience, culture, and connection.

Enjoy cultural performances, inspiring speakers, and stories that reflect the strength and diversity of the APIDA community in Southern Arizona. Guests are encouraged to wear cultural attire to celebrate the beauty of APIDA traditions.

Let's come together to honor our roots and celebrate a thriving future.



RSVP at cfsaz.org/flourish

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.
기도와 참여 부탁드립니다.

WEEKDAY GATHERINGS

Wanderers on a Spiritual Quest (WSQ)

-WSQ meets on Mondays at 4:30PM in the library.

Narcotics Anonymous (Underground)

-NA meets at 7:30PM on Monday evenings.
-On the last Monday of the month, there is
Medallion Night in the Social Hall.

All God's Creation (AGC)

-AGC meets on Tuesdays at 3PM over Zoom.
[Zoom ID: 994 3610 1655](#) [Passcode: 6226481](#)

Chancel Choir

-It's a great time to join the choir!
-Practice on Thursdays at 6:30 PM
-Rehearsals on Sunday at 9 AM before the
worship service

Progressive Book Study (PBS)

-PBS meets on Thursdays at 3:30PM over
Zoom.
-The current book is "The Fourth Gospel:
Tales of a Jewish Mystic" by John Shelby
Spong.

Questions? Call Rev. Gaston at (520) 323-1611.

[Zoom ID: 980 1573 8087](#) [Passcode: 6226481](#)



Voices of Immigrants

October 17 - 19, 2025

Irish, English, Scandinavian,
Jewish, Mexican & Cuban Folk
Songs

True Concord Voices & Orchestra

featuring the True Concord Choir & Chamber players
presents:

Voices of Immigrants: Irish, English, Scandinavian,
Jewish, Mexican & Cuban Folk Songs

Friday, October 17, 4PM

St. Francis in the Valley Episcopal Church, Green Valley

Saturday, October 18, 4PM

Catalina Foothills High School Music Hall

Sunday, October 19, 3PM

Catalina Foothills High School Music Hall

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.

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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

Trinity UMC, Bisbee

Vista de la Montaña UMC, Tucson

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 BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Halla Kang (Oct 1)	Dottie Poczulp (Oct 19)
V. Carole Smith (Oct 10)	Gail Snyder (Oct 19)
Bill Snyder (Oct 10)	Suzanne Van Ort (Oct 21)
John Oh (Oct 14)	Jeanne Jensen (Oct 24)
Tina Todd (Oct 15)	Jessie Hansen (Oct 26)
Joyce Humphrey Holloway (Oct 16)	
Joonkil Ahn & Deullae Min (October 24 - 27 yrs)	

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

October 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 the 10th at 11:30 AM** at the Olive Garden on the northeast corner of Oracle/Wetmore ([300 W Wetmore Rd, Tucson, AZ 85705](http://300WetmoreRd.com)). If you're interested in coming, please notify the office staff or Shirley Murray at (520) 297-4796 by Wednesday so enough seating can be reserved at the restaurant.

Animal & Environmental Holidays for October 2025

By Diane & Victoria Russell

October - National Animal Safety and Protection Month

Celebrated each October to raise awareness about the ethical treatment and welfare of all animals that are both domestic and wild. Some ways to help animals include veterinary care, microchipping your pets, having animal emergency plans, learning basic first aid, and protecting wildlife and their habitats.



October 11th - Urban Wildlife Conservation Day

This day recognizes urban wildlife refuges that provide access to nature for city dwellers. The

purpose of this day is for people to connect with nature and to encourage outdoor recreation, and to also promote conservation efforts for nature and their habitat. Ways to participate include hiking and birding.

October 12th - Animal Road Accident Awareness Day

Every day, approximately one million animals are killed on US roads and then left to die on the side of the road. Often animals will survive if they receive medical assistance. Always report an injured animal on the road. Drivers should reduce speeds especially during dawn and dusk and scan for wildlife.



October 14th - International E-Waste Day

Created in 2018 by the Waste from Electronic (WEEE) Forum to raise awareness about electrical and electronic equipment waste and to encourage people to recycle. This year's theme spotlights Critical Raw Materials (CRM) that are only found in a few areas of the world.



October 16 - Global Cat Day & Nat'l Feral Cat Day

Created in 2001 by Alley Cat Allies to raise awareness that cats are community members and every community should have policies and programs to protect them. Programs such as the trap, neuter, and release (TNR) for feral/stray cats. Adoption doesn't always work with feral cats, but is an option for stray cats.

October 17th - International Day for the Eradication of Poverty

The United Nations 2025 theme is

"Ending Social and Institutional Maltreatment by ensuring respect and effective support for families." The theme highlights how social stigma, discrimination, and negative institutional practices hold back people in poverty.





October 21st – National Reptile Awareness Day

This annual celebration promotes the appreciation and conservation of reptiles around the world. The day highlights the ecological importance of reptiles and the threats they face from habitat loss and illegal trade. There are over 11,00 species of reptiles in the world.

October 23rd – International Snow Leopard Day

The annual celebration raises awareness and promotes conservation efforts for the Snow Leopard and their mountain habitats. Their habitats include the high mountain ranges across 12 countries of Central and Northern Asia. They are listed as Vulnerable with less than 6,390 left in the wild.



October 25th – 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, community service where people come together to volunteer and raise funds to help with the urgent needs of our society.



MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY



October 25th – Pit Bull Awareness Day

Created in 2007 by Jodi Preis, of Bless the Bullys to help promote positive perceptions of pit bulls through education and advocacy instead of just negative stereotypes. One of the myths is that pit bulls are inherently aggressive. Like all dogs their behavior is shaped by their environment and in a loving responsible home they are friendly, loyal, and affectionate.



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, and sexual orientation. We continue to work towards building a loving and faithful community in Tucson, and welcome all of you to be part of it.