



First United Methodist Church
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“Living the Resurrection: After Easter”

By Pastor Eun Ko

Dear beloved church family,

Grace and peace to you in the name of the Risen Christ.

Easter has come and gone—the lilies are still beautiful, the music still echoes, and the joy of resurrection lingers among us.



But now a quieter question remains: what does it mean to live after Easter?

Because Easter is not only a day we celebrate; it is a life we are invited to live. The disciples also stood where we now stand - after the empty tomb, after the joy - and yet they returned to their ordinary lives, still learning how to live in the light of resurrection.

On Easter morning, we reflected on how the risen Christ calls us by name, just as He called Mary in the garden. In that personal moment of recognition, her grief was turned into hope. And later, we heard the words of the risen Jesus, “Peace be with you,” spoken into the fear and uncertainty of the disciples. These two movements—being called by name and being given peace—are at the heart of resurrection faith.

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Living the Resurrection: After Easter cont.

Korean theologian Sang Hyun Lee speaks of the “theology of marginality,” reminding us that God’s transforming work often begins not in strength, but in the in-between spaces of our lives - places of uncertainty, transition, and vulnerability. Perhaps this is where we find ourselves after Easter: not at the end of the story, but in the middle of being transformed.

We return to our routines, our worries, our familiar patterns. And yet the risen Christ meets us there - in closed rooms, on ordinary roads, in the middle of our everyday lives - and calls us again by name. So I gently ask: where is resurrection inviting you to live differently?

Is there something you need to release, a place where fear still speaks louder than hope, a relationship where love needs to be practiced again?

Resurrection is not only about new life someday; it is about new life now - choosing trust when fear feels easier, choosing grace when judgment feels justified, choosing love even when it costs something.

As Scripture reminds us, “So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new.” (2 Corinthians 5:17)

“그런즉 누구든지 그리스도 안에 있으면 새로운 피조물이라 이전 것은 지나갔으니 보라 새것이 되었도다.” (고린도후서 5장 17절)

As we move beyond Easter Sunday, we are invited into Easter living - a life shaped not by death, but by resurrection. May we not leave Easter behind, but carry it within us. And may the risen Christ meet you again in the ordinary places of your life this week.

With gratitude and hope,

Rev. Eun Young Ko 🙏

SPECIAL LECTURE
알뜰신잡 강의 시리즈 1
Introduction to the Choral Conducting
합창지휘에 관하여

김영은 지휘자 / Youngeun Kim
Doctoral student, University of Arizona

Saturday, March 21, 2026
12:30 pm to 1:45 pm
Lunch will be provided at noon.
915 E. 4th Street, First UMC of Tucson
투산제일연합감리교회
Let us seek knowledge and blessings together

WHAT’S HAPPENING AT FIRST CHURCH OF TUCSON!

Our music director, Young Eun Kim, offered a lecture for the Korean congregation on March 21 at 12:00 PM, titled “What is a Music Director and What Is the Role?”



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We were pleased to host the SAWs (Servants At Work) mission team, who stayed at our church from March 21 to 28 while serving in Tucson. They worshiped with us on March 22, and we provided dinner on Monday, March 23rd, and Thursday, March 26.



We were honored to provide transportation and snacks for the Korean Pastors' Wives Spiritual Academy in Tucson, AZ, from March 23 to 27.



Left: On Palm Sunday, the choir and Pastor Ko made a procession, waving palm branches. Special thanks to Tina, Joyce H., Joyce G., and Cindy T. for preparing the palm fronds for the service.

Below: The Maundy Thursday service was held on April 2 at 6 PM. Church members participated in a skit depicting the Last Supper, and we gathered together for a combined service.



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Right: The Good Friday service was held at Catalina UMC on April 3 at 6:00 PM.

The Easter Sunrise Service was held at 7:30 AM on April 5, followed by an Easter Pancake Brunch at 8:15 AM. Many thanks to Jessie and Laryssa for their helping hands. Easter eggs were prepared and donated to the Loving Church ministry. The sunrise service was held in the courtyard. We also rejoice that Ozzie has returned after knee replacement surgery.



Left: Helping hands: Jessie and Laryssa.
Right: Easter Eggs were assembled and donated to the Loving Church.



Left: Sunrise Service in the courtyard.
Right: Ozzie is back from his knee replacement surgery.
Below: Everyone enjoying brunch in the Social Hall.



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The Easter Service was held at 10:00 AM, followed by a blessing for the Loving Church ministry.



Below middle: Blessing for the Loving Church ministry. Rev. Rebecca Park with Rev. Raven Gaston. Right: Rev. Park, Rev. Ko, and Honorary Elder Andy Min.



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. (next page)

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, sewing notions, books, and much more available for use.

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, now in the church **basement**. (Access via the long stairs on the north side of the building, NOT the stairs next to the smoking benches.)

-Medallion Night is on the last Monday of the month. Celebrate your sobriety!

Chancel Choir

-Thursday practices take place at 6:30 PM.
-Shorter Sunday rehearsals start at 9 AM.
-Now is the perfect time to join the choir!

Progressive Book Study (PBS)

-The Thursday online book study group is finishing their current book, "The Fourth Gospel: Tales of a Jewish Mystic." If you'd like to join them for the next book (TBD) please contact Rev. Gaston at (520) 323-1611.

-PBS meets at 3:30 PM.

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

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:

Chaplains & Counselors in the South District
TMM Family Services – people served and staff, 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.

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Deullae Min (Apr 8)

Jae Hammond (Apr 19)

Sohee Kim (Apr 27)

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

A New Wave of Email Scams Targeting Churches

Published on Apr 01, 2026 | *The following article can be found in full at:*

<https://www.dscumc.org/news-detail/a-new-wave-of-email-scams-targeting-churches-19675405>

Not long ago, it was fairly easy to spot a phishing email.

There were typos. The sender's address looked suspicious. The message felt off. That is no longer the case.

[...]

The level of sophistication in today's targeted phishing attempts is incredible!

Why these scams are harder to detect

This morning, I completed a routine training on the latest forms of hacking, scamming, and phishing attempts. Here's what I learned.

Today's phishing emails often look extremely legitimate. Scammers are now using artificial intelligence to generate emails that are polished, professional, and tailored to their targets. The messages may include:

- Accurate logos and branding
- Real names of staff or leadership
- Writing that sounds natural and error-free
- Attachments labeled as PDFs, Word documents, or spreadsheets

In some cases, those attachments are not what they appear to be. They may contain hidden executable code or macros that run in the background once opened. That code can capture login credentials, access sensitive information, or even lock your computer.

Even fake email addresses are harder to detect. A message may appear to come from a trusted source but include a subtle change like a period, a hyphen, or a number that is easy to miss. For example: **example@firstumc.com** vs. **example@first.umc.com**. At a quick glance, both look legitimate, but one has an extra period in the domain name.

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[...]

What to watch for

Even with more sophisticated scams, there are still warning signs to watch out for:

- Unexpected requests, especially involving money, gift cards, or urgent action
- Attachments you were not expecting, even from someone you know
- Links that ask you to log in or verify account information
- Slight variations in email addresses or domain names
- Messages that create urgency or pressure you to act quickly

Practical steps you can take

A few simple habits can significantly reduce risk:

- Verify before acting. If an email seems unusual, call or text the sender using a known contact method that is different from the message you received.
- Do not open unexpected attachments or click unfamiliar links. Some email accounts hide full file extensions. For example, a file that appears to be a PDF could actually end in .pdf.exe, which is an executable file. Files ending in .docm or .xlsm may look like standard Microsoft documents, but can contain macros that run code in the background.
- Check the full email address, not just the display name.
- Report suspicious emails to your organization's IT support or leadership.

A shared responsibility

Protecting our churches and ministries requires awareness at every level. Clergy, staff, and volunteers all play a role.

The goal is not to create fear, but to build informed caution. These scams succeed when they go unquestioned. A brief pause to verify can prevent significant harm.

As these tactics continue to evolve, staying informed is one of the most effective ways we can respond together.

April 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](https://www.olivegarden.com/locations/300-W-Wetmore-Rd-Tucson-AZ-85705)). If you're interested in coming, please notify the church office or Shirley Murray (520-297-4796) by the 8th so that enough seating can be reserved at the restaurant.

Animal & Environmental Holidays for April 2026

By Diane & Victoria Russell



April – National Lawn and Garden Month

“Spring has sprung, the grass is riz”, and it is time to think about how to beautify your lawn and garden space. Tucson’s area planting should focus on heat-tolerant and monsoon-adapted plants. Perform spring cleanup by pruning winter-damaged plants and check irrigation systems for any problems.



April 6th-12th – National Wildlife Week

Created in 1938 by the National Wildlife Federation (NWF) to connect people with nature and to promote conservation of vulnerable species. The 2026 theme is “Color Me Wild”, to highlight how wildlife uses color for survival.



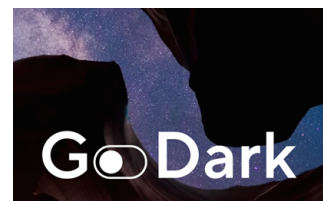
April 7th – World Health Day

The 2026 theme is “Together for Health. Stand with Science”. Focusing on the One-Health Approach to protect the health of people, animals, plants, and the earth.



April 11th – National Pet Day

Created by Colleen Paige, animal welfare advocate, to celebrate the joy and happiness that pets bring into our lives. It is a day to pamper your own amazing pet. This day is also meant to raise awareness not only on your own pet, but on the thousands of animals waiting to be adopted from rescues/shelters.



April 13th-20th - International Dark Sky Week

Created in 2003 by high school student Jennifer Barlow, who suggested turning off lights at night, so people could see the amazement of the night sky. Today, Dark Sky Week is a worldwide event that draws attention to light pollution. It’s a time to look up and see all the amazing sites in the night sky.



April 21st – World Curlew Day

Created in 2017 to raise awareness for conservation efforts for the hardships they face with habitat loss and predation. There are eight species of curlews with three found in the USA. The Long-Billed Curlew is North America’s largest shorebird. They can be found in coastal and grassland habitats.



April 21st – Tuna Rights Day

Created in 2016 to raise awareness of the importance of tuna in the ecosystem. The tuna population is being depleted at unsustainable levels due to commercial and illegal fishing. The goal of this day is to highlight the importance of mindful consumption of sustainably sourced tuna whenever possible.



April 22nd – Earth Day

Earth Day is a worldwide annual event where people celebrate the earth by promoting awareness for the health of our environment. We all need a healthy planet to thrive, and our planet needs us to take action for nature. The 2026 theme is “Our Power, Our Planet”



April 24th – World Day for Animals in Laboratories

Founded by the National Anti-Vivisection Society in 1979 to commemorate and protest the ending of the use of animals in research and testing. This day highlights the suffering of millions of animals worldwide and promotes the adoption of modern, non-animal scientific methods.



April 24th – Arbor Day

Founded in Nebraska in 1872 by J. Sterling Morton, is a day dedicated to planting, nurturing, and celebrating trees. This annual event encourages environmental stewardship by planting trees and cleaning up parks. Trees help combat climate change and it also enhances local communities.



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.