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“A Summer of Sacred Listening”

By Pastor Eun Ko

Dear Beloved Church Family,

As the summer sun settles over Tucson and the campus of the University of Arizona grows quieter, many of us find ourselves stepping away from the routines that shape our year—whether it’s the rhythm of classes, meetings, or ministry programs. This slower season offers us not just rest, but space to reflect, to listen, and to look around with fresh eyes.



At the end of May, I had the opportunity to participate in a **Border Community Alliance (BCA) tour to Nogales, Sonora**, a journey that opened my heart and mind to new dimensions of what it means to be Christ’s body here—in this city, in this borderland, and on this campus.

As I walked the streets of Nogales and listened to stories of both hardship and resilience, I was reminded that **mission is not always somewhere far away**. Sometimes, our mission field is right where we are—at our doorstep, across our fence lines, and even across the street.

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A Summer of Sacred Listening cont.

It was a holy moment of re-envisioning what God may be calling us to do and be, right here on the edge of the University, in the middle of Tucson, and not far from the realities of border life.

We are uniquely placed as a church—on a university campus filled with young minds and searching hearts, in a city shaped by movement and migration, in a region rich with both struggle and hope.

As summer unfolds, I invite you to take this time not just for vacation, but for **reorientation**.

- What do you see when you walk your neighborhood?
- What breaks your heart or stirs your spirit?
- How might God be calling you to show compassion, welcome, or solidarity—right where you are?

Let this season be one of listening and looking - of renewing your spirit and rediscovering your purpose - as we reflect on the Scripture below:

“But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.”

—Jeremiah 29:7 (NRSV)

“너희는 내가 사로잡혀 가게 한 그 성읍의 평안을 구하고, 그를 위하여 여호와께 기도하라. 이는 그 성읍의 평안함으로 너희도 평안할 것임이라.”

—예레미야 29:7

May the quieter pace of these months allow God's still, small voice to speak new dreams into our hearts—for ourselves, for our church, and for our city

With grace and peace,

Rev. Eun Young Ko

June & July 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 two Meet'n'Eats are on **Friday the 13th (June) and Friday the 11th (July) at 11:30 AM** at the Olive Garden on the northeast corner of Oracle/Wetmore ([300 W Wetmore Rd, Tucson, AZ 85705](#)). If you're interested in coming, please notify the church office or Shirley Murray at (520) 297-4796 by Wednesday so she can reserve enough seating at the restaurant.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT FIRST CHURCH OF TUCSON!



Above left: The Special AAPI Heritage Month Event was held on Tuesday, May 6th at the CFSA Campus. Jeannine Lee (speaking) is a board member. Right: Dylan Boyd wrote a letter to his mother for the Mother's Day worship service.



Above left: Pastor Ko's birthday was celebrated on Mother's Day. Right: One of our UA graduates, Sudam Song (center), had her last Sunday here before leaving on Mother's Day as well with choir members, Joyce Garcia (left) and Laryssa Shipley (right).



Above left: Katherine (in the dark shirt), who is a choir member and graduate, had her last Sunday with her family on May 18, 2025. Right: We celebrated Lana Yoo's 70th birthday on May 18th, 2025 before her return to Korea.

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Left: Minhyeuk Kim (in the black shirt), a graduate, worshipped with his parents who came from South Korea on May 18th, 2025 as his last Sunday with us before returning to Korea. Right: Josh Williams visited his mother Susan at First Church on May 25th.



Above left: Pastor Ko visited John Proch on May 30th. He is not able to eat any solid food due to his fear of swallowing. Please pray for him. Right: Doug and Heather Fish were married at FUMC in 1995. Brian Fish is his brother visiting from Austin, TX. Doug and Brian were baptized in 1971 and 1975 at FUMC of Tucson.



Above: We had a Farewell Service for District Superintendent Rev. Matt Ashley (right photo, blue shirt) on June 1st at 3PM. He has been appointed the senior pastor of Willowbrook UMC in Sun City, AZ beginning July 1st. Many people came to wish him well on this next chapter of his life. Rev. Sharon Ragland (left photo) gave the sermon during the worship service.

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Above: On May 26th (Memorial Day), Pastor Ko, Halla, Shirley, Nan, and Cristina went on a tour of Nogales, Sonora. Please see Nan's article below for more information!

Have You Wondered: What is the Border Like?

By Nan Rollings

On Memorial Day, Pastor Ko, Halla, Cristina Mokhtarian, Shirley Murray, and Nan Rollings embarked on a wonderful trip to the Mexican border organized by Border Community Alliance (BCA) Tours and the Fundación del Empresariado Sonorense (FESAC), which supports Sonoran businesses in projects of social investment. Guides Anne Gibson of BCA and Alma Cota de Yanez, Executive Director of FESAC, were eager to show us the resourcefulness, compassion, and pride of people accomplishing amazing things in Nogales, Sonora, population some 300,000. We made friends with others on the tour and were welcomed warmly at every stop:

- Historic Methodist church in Nogales, Mexico. With translation by Cristina, the pastor described outreach to those suffering on the streets and in prison. Photos were taken with Pastor Ko.
- Casa de la Misericordia y de Todos las Naciones: a healing home and school for families from many countries. We watched kindergartners learning about the solar system and older children painting musical instruments.
- ARSOBO builds customized wheelchairs and prosthetics, enabling the recipients to live full lives. Those doing the welding etc have overcome disabilities themselves. The site also tests hearing and provide hearing aids.
- Burrito Hass for a leisurely lunch. Many options, all delicious!

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- The Kino Border Initiative Catholic Shelter: boys were playing soccer in the yard. Vibrant large murals adorn the eating hall.
- Fray Marcos Hotel: to share our take-aways from the trip while being treated to a wide array of desserts and coffee.

Our day began and ended where we parked at Burger King in Nogales, AZ. More tours will be offered at the end of the summer. For information, contact Anne Gibson by email at AGibson@BorderCommunityAlliance.org. Here are a few words Nan chose to sum up her experience: **Uplifting. Informative. Fun. Safe:** A comfortable tour bus drove to each site.

Yummy: Such good food. **Myth-busting:** Nogales, Sonora reflects community pride, history and culture. Don't link it simply to drug cartels. **Invitational:** We can join with other people of faith in making good things happen at the Border!

Photo (right) is a painting by the founder of Casa de la Misericordia, Alma Angélica Macias Mejia, known as Lika. Note how the bars of the Border Wall become the keys of a piano surrounded by sunrise colors. Lika is loved by all those at the shelter she envisioned.



Share Your Story: How Is Your Church Living Into the 2025 Theme?

by Christina Dillabough | May 30, 2025

<https://dscumc.org/blog/2025/05/30/share-your-story-how-is-your-church-living-into-the-2025-theme/>



This year's Annual Conference theme is "A Healthy Church for a Healthy World: And Let It Begin With Me." We're inviting churches across the Desert Southwest Conference to share short videos that show how your congregation is putting this theme into action.

If your church has a story to tell, whether it's a ministry, a community effort, or a personal example that reflects the theme, we'd love to help share it.

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Videos should:

- Be between 2 and 3 minutes long
- Focus on individuals or groups taking action in ways that promote healing, wholeness, or hope
- Clearly connect to this year's theme
- Be finalized and ready to share (we cannot assist with editing or production)
- Include only music, images, or footage that your church has permission to use

Important: Along with your video, please include a list of any photos, music tracks, or other media used, and the source or license information for each. This helps us determine whether we have the right to share the video in a livestream or public recording. Without this information, we won't be able to consider your video for Annual Conference use.

We may feature submitted videos in Conference communications and, depending on licensing and schedule, potentially include a few during the livestreamed Annual Conference session.

Submit your video or video link by June 9 to <https://dsc-reg.brtapp.com/2025ACVideoSubmission>

If you have questions about this request, please contact Christina Dillabough, Director of Communications, at cdillabough@dscumc.org.

News from Subuiga Methodist Church

The following is a letter received by Shirley Murray from Rev. Daniel Kaumbuthi at our sister church, Subuiga Methodist Church in Kenya. Through the last Sunday in June (Coin Sunday), we will be doing a special collection for Subuiga to help with their HIV education and prevention ministry.

14TH April 2025

Dear sister Shirley,

Happy Easter greetings which I presume will meet you enjoying healthy and abundant love of God. Especially this time we are entering to Easter .I hope your family and TFUMC congregation are well since December.

Here in Meru my family and Subuiga brethren we are well .The weather was favorable on upper zone out Subuiga and surrounding early experience dry season .

On our HIV ministry we are carrying on campaign as strategies by Nation Diseases Control Council as HIV triple threat which are affect young adolescents also sexual gender based violence and drug and substances abuse outreach on health education to the community, school

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and churches you will find in attached pictures .Where myself and my area Member of Parliament with grey hair addressing more than two hundred youths. Also, our churches congregation .This project in fact need facilitation from you as you have been giving support by FTUMC congregation, also hope your support will enable us reach more congregations and schools.

Statistics show that 44% of new HIV infection is higher on young adult age 10-19 years. For lack of information and clear on receiving early treatment which cause high death rate.

Send my heart felt gratitude to your Tucson First United Methodist church congregation for standing to support this HIV Ministry. Wishing them happy Easter.

Yours in Christ service,
Rev. Daniel Kaumbuthi

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 in the Arizona room.

All God's Creation (AGC)

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

Chancel Choir

-The choir is taking a well-deserved break during June & July. They will reconvene in August.

Progressive Book Study (PBS)

-PBS meets on Thursdays at 3:30PM over Zoom. The current book is "Wrestling with Doubt," by Adam Hamilton.

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

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

Bishop & Staff of the Desert Southwest Conference
Staff & Churches of the East, North, and West Districts
Grace UMC, Douglas
Sierra Vista UMC, Sierra Vista
Camping Program, South District

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.

JUNE & JULY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Howard Velzy (June 3)	Gretchen Lopez (June 18)	Chuck Humphrey (July 8)
Christopher Kang (June 8)	Sungjin Park (June 18)	Judy Longenbaugh (July 8)
Victoria Russell (June 9)	Joy Ageh (June 19)	TaeHyeong Kim (July 15)
Ann Goff (June 12)	Blaise Lolika (June 23)	Judith Billings (July 20)
Sungmin Ji (June 12)	Gary Poczulp (June 28)	Bill Warnock II (July 29)
Daniel Baek (June 15)	Art Turnbull (June 28)	Shinhye "Chloe" Park (July 30)
	Ron Longenbaugh (July 6)	
Blaise & Nathalie Lolika (June 2 - 24 years)		
Duk & Hae Sook Hong (June 5 - 51 years)		
Bob & Jessie Hansen (June 7 - 58 years)		
Howard & Carol Velzy (June 10 - 69 years)		
Steven & Lana Yoo (July 12 - 45 years)		

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

Animal & Environmental Holidays for June & July 2025

By Diane & Victoria Russell



June – National Pet Preparedness Month

Disasters can strike at any moment. Your pets are important members of your family and should be included in your family's emergency plan. Always take your pets in an evacuation. Be prepared for emergencies – make a plan. Things needed include food, water, medications, first aid kit, medical records, collars, ID tags, and...



June – National Great Outdoors Month

Originally starting in 1998 as a week-long celebration, it became a month-long celebration in 2019. This month encourages people to enjoy the world around them. The Tucson area offers Saguaro National Park, hiking, biking, mountains, lakes and rivers, caves, bird watching, wildlife viewing, and being in nature.



June 5th – World Environment Day

Since 1973, World Environment Day is the largest environmental public outreach program celebrated by millions of people worldwide. The 2025 theme is "Ending Plastic Pollution." Ways to celebrate this day include refusing, reducing, reusing, and recycling for a more sustainable future.



June 15th – National Smile Power Day

This is a day to celebrate the power of a smile which humans and animals both can enjoy. Just the simple power of smiling can make a positive impact on both ourselves and others. According to Very Well Mind, benefits of smiling include relieving stress, improving your mood, and reducing pain.



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.