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## “Doing Things Right vs. Doing Right Things”

by Rev. Javier Olivares, West District Superintendent, Jul 4, 2022

In his book *Quietly Courageous*, Gil Rendle talks about the difference between management and leadership, and he refers to an old proverb where “management asks the question of whether we are doing things right, while leadership asks the question if we are doing right things.”

There is an abyss between these two approaches. Doing things right I think it is easy because it is familiar to us, it's what we know to do:

The right number of bulletins, the smooth flow of a worship service, a well-crafted sermon, music, and hymns that go along with the scriptures of that day, having the needed committees lined up with their respective chairs, having job descriptions for staff, protocols and procedures, and the list goes on. We are excellent at doing things right, we strive for it, yet as leaders, pastors or laity, we are asked, are we doing right things?

This is the most difficult and as Rendle mentions “deeply disturbing because people must stop to figure out again, who they are, what their purpose is, and how they will live out that purpose in the context that has changed around them.”

Now, there is nothing wrong with doing things right, however then we let the system think for us with no space for change.

In the first comedy movie of *Meet the Fockers* there's a scene where Ben Stiller is about to board a flight, in which he is the only passenger waiting to board, and the flight attendant stubbornly calls the order of rows that need to board, so he has to wait his turn regardless...

This would be the *modus operandi* of doing things right.

Jesus' ministry was more on doing right things than doing things right. His encounters with the Samaritan, tax collectors, the Canaanite, the woman with a hemorrhage. If you look at Jesus, he was more about doing right things.

As you begin in a new conference year whether as a pastor or lay person, whether it is a new appointment or not, I encourage you to do right things. It does take more work since you have to figure out who you are, who the other person is, the context of your situation, why do you feel discomfort? what is your purpose? How will you live out that purpose?

## Doing Things Right vs. Doing Right Things (cont.)

I close with the hymn “This is the Day of New Beginnings” as a blessing to you and as we move on to do right things.

This Is A Day Of New Beginnings,  
Time To Remember And Move On,  
Time To Believe What Love Is Bringing,  
Laying To Rest The Pain That's Gone.

For By The Life And Death Of Jesus,  
Love's Mighty Spirit, Now As Then,  
Can Make For Us A World Of Difference,  
As Faith And Hope Are Born Again.

Then Let Us, With The Spirit's Daring,  
Step From The Past And Leave Behind  
Our Disappointment, Guilt, And Grieving,  
Seeking New Paths, And Sure To Find.

Christ Is Alive, And Goes Before Us  
To Show And Share What Love Can Do.  
This Is A Day Of New Beginnings;  
Our God Is Making All Things New.

May it be so,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Javier". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "J".

## FROM THE DESERT SOUTHWEST CONFERENCE

### Changing Seasons

by Rev. Matt Ashley, South District Missional Strategist & Superintendent, May 30, 2022

*See! The winter is past; the rains are over and gone. Flowers appear on the earth; the season of singing has come, the cooing of doves is heard in our land. The fig tree forms its early fruit; blossoming vines spread their fragrance.*

~Song of Songs 2:11-13~



When my wife and I moved into our house in Vail, AZ outside of Tucson in December 2020, there was a new little tree planted in our front yard. It had some leaves but they were brown and drying and within a month or so they'd all fallen off, so the tree was completely bare – just a trunk with some dry branches and twigs attached. It looked like that tree in *A Charlie Brown Christmas* – does anybody remember that tree?

Now neither my wife nor I are gardeners and neither one of us has a good track record when it comes to keeping plants alive, and so we feared the worst. We feared that this little tree wouldn't survive the transplant process, that it was dying if it wasn't already dead.

Should we give it more water? Should we spread fertilizer around the trunk? Should we call over some deacons for the laying on of hands? What should we do?

But then the seasons changed. Winter passed, and spring arrived, and flowers started to bloom across the Sonoran Desert, and some little green buds appeared on this tree. And then those little green buds turned into leaves, and then little purple dots appeared, and soon our little tree was blooming with purple flowers, vital and alive and full of life.

It has been a long winter for the church, hasn't it? And sometimes it's felt like death. But we are an Easter people, and our God specializes in making all life new.

And so we're learning to live with Covid, and people are emerging from isolation, and ministries are ramping up, and new opportunities are emerging, and new life is springing up in the Church, and the churches of the Desert Southwest Conference are ready for a new and different future.

Are you ready? Are you ready for what comes next?

Soon we'll be gathering together online and in-person at the Mesa Convention Center to do the work of Annual Conference, and it will be wonderful to be together again. I'm not on the Sessions Committee that plans Annual Conference so I don't know if singing Charles Wesley's traditional Conference hymn 'And Are We Yet Alive' is on the agenda, but I will have that song in my heart throughout Annual Conference this year.

*And are we yet alive, and see each other's face?*

*Glory and thanks to Jesus give for his almighty grace!*

See you at Conference! And thanks for listening.

-Matt

## Desert Southwest Annual Conference 2022

Lay representatives of First UMC Tucson-- Nan Rollings and Margo Kahler used the magic of zoom to attend the June 8, 10 and 11 sessions. The 2022 Annual Conference was also an in-person gathering in Mesa, presided over by Bishop Grant Hagiya. The mood was respectful, reflective and at times celebratory.

With the theme “Thrive: From Languishing to Flourishing,” the Conference highlighted how our connectional church stayed faithful through the loss and isolation of a long pandemic. Financial giving often increased as churches expanded worship to digital viewers. Ministries in urban and rural churches showed creativity.

In the laity address, Deaconess Martha Lundgren ([martha@aztec506.net](mailto:martha@aztec506.net)) shared how the deaths of her sister and husband changed her view of mortality. Our last breath-- like our first in life-- can be a sacred moment. Another powerful speaker was Pastor Deontez Wimbley, who looked at the tendency within the church to pursue productivity instead of grace. “Why are we living as if we have no Shepherd?” he asked. The inspiring Rev. Hannah Bonner led the memorial service on Friday night.

Listen to speakers and learn more about the work of this gathering by going to the Annual Conference Report of June 16, 2022, by Christine Dillabough at [www.dscumc.org](http://www.dscumc.org). Here at First UMC of Tucson there are many opportunities to grow in ministry. We can support camp scholarships to help children who have missed out on the fun of playing with others. Relief efforts in Tonga help those devastated by recent natural disasters. Acts of justice can expand with the knowledge gained from training that will be offered by the Commission on Religion and Race.

Looking ahead, the Jurisdictional Conference to elect bishops will convene in Salt Lake City on November 2-5, 2022. Rev. Dan Hurlbert reported that the Committee on Episcopacy had made the process more welcoming and fair for those considering the role of bishop.

Rev. Hurlbert and Mr. Paul Gomez will represent the Desert Southwest Conference at General Conference in 2024. The last General Conference in 2019 revealed much pain and a need for healing and direction. Paul referenced <https://www.protocolresponse.com>, reporting that most delegates and those who authored the Protocol of Reconciliation & Grace through Separation no longer support this legislation. Many don't see the Protocol as timely, given the intervening years of the Covid 19 pandemic.

John 10:10 was a guiding scripture for this conference. Jesus said, “The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it more abundantly.” This means we look forward with hope.







## Arms Open Wide for New Summer Choir Members

Singing in our church choir only requires ONE thing: Wanting to make a Joyful Noise in Worship. Director Lorena Suarez and current choir members welcome everyone. Past experience in a choir, or any musical education is not required.

In addition to Lorena, the choir enjoys the wonderful expertise of pianist/organist Young Kim with substitute help by Pastor Raven Gaston.

Choir this summer might be the perfect time for you to step forward, particularly if you enjoy hymns. Please let us know your favorites. Travel plans mean that the choir will naturally vary in size during summer.

**Summer Choir kicks off June 12<sup>th</sup> with rehearsal ONLY at 9AM every Sunday.** Choir will sing during the 10AM service. The last day of the Summer Choir schedule will be Sunday, July 31<sup>st</sup>.

Please contact Music Director Lorena Suarez by phone, email or in person.

Email: [suarezmolina@email.arizona.edu](mailto:suarezmolina@email.arizona.edu)

Cell phone: 218-409-3783.

In August, the choir will resume weeknight rehearsals in addition to rehearsing at 9AM on Sundays.

**Reminder:** *You need to be fully vaccinated to sing in the choir.*

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## Invitation to a Practical Music Theory Course

FUMC Music Ministry would like to invite you to our Practical Music Theory Course that will take place on Wednesdays from 6:30PM to 7:30PM in the Carillon room, for some weeks of the summer.

In the course we will learn/review how to read: Treble and Bass Clef, note values, rests, time signatures, and other music fundamentals. No experience with music is required.

Please contact Music Director Lorena Suarez at [suarezmolina@email.arizona.edu](mailto:suarezmolina@email.arizona.edu) or (218)409-3783, or the First Church office for more information.

THIS WEEK'S  
ANNOUNCEMENTS & GATHERINGS

**10AM SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE**

Join us in person, or watch the service Live at  
<https://www.youtube.com/c/TucsonFirstUMC>.

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**한국어 사역**

주일 오전 11시 30분에 한국어 예배가  
현장예배와 온라인예배로 진행됩니다.  
기도와 참여 부탁드립니다.

매주 금요일 저녁 7시, 성경공부가 줌으로  
진행됩니다.

Meeting ID: 998 6112 0822      Passcode: 6226481

**NOTICE:** Due to the current decline in  
COVID-19 variant cases in Pima County, our  
safety guidelines have been updated:

- For now, wearing a mask in the church building is no longer required, though still encouraged. Social distancing is still in effect (minimum 6 ft between households).
- If you are not yet fully vaccinated or are immuno-compromised, or if you are not feeling well, we ask that you watch the YouTube livestream rather than attend in person.
- Choir members are required to be fully vaccinated in order to sing for the congregation during the service.

*These guidelines are subject to change with Pima County and CDC recommendations. If cases rise again, we will have to return to masking.*

**WEEKDAY GATHERINGS**

**Women on a Spiritual Quest (WSQ)**

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

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**Narcotics Anonymous**

-NA/Underground meets at 7:30PM on Monday evenings in the Arizona room.

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**All God's Creation (AGC)**

-AGC meets on Tuesdays at 3PM over Zoom. The group is reusing last year's book, "All God's Creatures: Daily Devotions for Animal Lovers 2021."

Zoom ID: 994 3610 1655      Passcode: 6226481

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**Chancel Choir**

-Rehearsal is at 9AM on Sunday.

**-Summer schedule in effect through July 31<sup>st</sup>;  
see page 5.**

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**Progressive Book Study (PBS)**

-PBS meets on Thursdays at 3PM. The current book is, "The God You Didn't Know You Could Believe In" by Dr. Jeffrey Frantz.

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](http://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:

El Mesías UMC, Nogales  
Grace UMC, Douglas  
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](mailto:office@firstchurchtucson.org) or (520) 622-6481.

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## **BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES**

Chuck Humphrey (July 8)  
Kathryn Sovie (July 12)

Jack Wen (July 13)  
Judith Billings (July 20)

Anita Lange (July 21)  
Bill Warnock (July 29)

Steven & Lana Yoo (July 12)

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

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### **July Meet'n'Eat**

This is a fellowship time to visit with each other and see old and new friends. *All are welcome!*

The next Meet'n'Eat is **this Friday, July 8<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 AM** at the Olive Garden on the northeast corner of Oracle/Wetmore ([300 W Wetmore Rd. Tucson, AZ 85705](http://www.olivegarden.com/locations/300-W-Wetmore-Rd-Tucson-AZ-85705)).

If you're interested in coming, please call Shirley Murray at (520)297-4796 by Wednesday, July 7<sup>th</sup> so she can reserve enough tables at the restaurant.

# Animal Holidays at a Glance

By Diane Russell



## July - National Pet Hydration Awareness Month

This month was created by “PetSafe” to raise awareness that pets need to stay hydrated to prevent dehydration. Signs of dehydration include: loss of appetite, loss of energy, sunken eyes, panting, dry tacky gums, and vomiting. Cats/dogs should drink at least 1 ounce of water per body weight per day.



## July 14 - National Pet Fire Safety Day

This day is to include your pets in your emergency plan should a fire occur. Plans should include escape routes for your family and pet's getting out of the house fast. Remember to put a sticker in your home's front window to alert emergency personnel of all your pets inside.



## July 14 - World Chimpanzee Day

This day is to celebrate and raise awareness about threats faced by the chimpanzees in the wild and in captivity. Some of the threats they face in the wild include habitat loss, disease, and wildlife trafficking. This day is to also promote improvement of their care in captivity.



## July 16 - World Snake Day

This day is celebrated to increase awareness and conservation efforts of snakes. Sadly, snakes have gotten a bad rap through myths and superstitions. There are over 3,400 species of snake worldwide with 600 being venomous and only 200 considered to be life threatening.



## July 23-31 - National Moth Week

This week was created by the East Brunswick Environment Commission in 2012 to celebrate the beauty, life cycles, and habitats of moths. “Moth-ers” are encouraged to become a “Citizen Scientist” by participating in local moth research and collecting much needed data.



## July 31 - World Ranger Day

This day was created in 2007 by the International Ranger Federation (IRF) to honor Rangers worldwide. This day is to raise awareness that they are on duty to protect our natural heritage and to honor and pay tribute to the rangers who have lost their lives while performing their duties.



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, and sexual orientation.

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