



First United Methodist Church
915 E 4th St, Tucson, AZ 85719
www.firstchurchtucson.org

Pastor Ko (847) 345-8070 pastortucsonfirstumc@gmail.com
Office (520) 622-6481 office@firstchurchtucson.org
Office hours: Monday-Thursday 10AM-2PM

"Extending Our Radical Welcome"

By Pastor Eun Ko

Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ!



As we enter the month of September, I am grateful for the many ways God continues to work through First United Methodist Church of Tucson. One of the special traditions that reminds us of our long history of faith and fellowship is our annual **Corn Roast and Church Picnic**. This year, we will celebrate our Corn Roast on **Sunday, September 27**, following worship.

For 144 years, our congregation has celebrated the Corn Roast as a time to give thanks for the corn harvest and enjoy fellowship together. Generations of First Church members have gathered around the table to share steamed corn and homemade pies brought by members of the congregation. It is a simple but beautiful tradition of gratitude, food, and community.

Beginning last year, we started to extend this beloved tradition in a new way. Along with our traditional corn and potluck pies, we began serving hamburgers and hot dogs and intentionally inviting university students and people from our surrounding community. We wanted to make our table a little wider and our welcome a little broader.

I believe this is a beautiful way to honor our tradition. We do not honor a 144-year-old tradition simply by repeating what we have always done. We honor it by carrying its spirit of gratitude, fellowship, and hospitality into a new generation. The food may expand and the faces around the table may change, but the heart of the gathering remains the same: there is a place for you at our table.

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Extending Our Radical Welcome cont.

Located next to the University of Arizona and surrounded by a vibrant community, First Church has a wonderful opportunity to extend Christ's welcome beyond our walls. Our Corn Roast can be more than a church picnic. It can be a place where someone new feels welcomed, a student away from home finds a caring community, and a neighbor discovers friendship and connection.

Jesus often welcomed people around the table and built community through sharing meals. In that same spirit, I hope our Corn Roast will be a joyful and generous gathering where there is room for everyone. I encourage each of you to think of one person you can invite this year—a friend, neighbor, coworker, student, or someone who may simply need a place to belong.

Come hungry, bring a friend, and come ready to celebrate! May this year's Corn Roast be filled with laughter, good food, new friendships, and the joy of being together as the family of God.

"Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God." — Romans 15:7

"그러므로 그리스도께서 우리를 받아 하나님의 영광을 이루심과 같이 너희도 서로 받으라." — 로마서 15:7

I look forward to celebrating with you on September 27!

Many blessings,
Rev. Eun Young Ko
Lead Pastor
First United Methodist Church of Tucson

Pastoral Message on the Tucson LGBTQ+ Community Shooting

Bishop Carlo's Blog / September 2026

<https://www.dscumc.org/blog-detail/pastoral-message-on-the-tucson-lgbtq-community-shooting-19976185>

"How long, O Lord? Will you forget me forever? How long must I bear pain in my soul, and have sorrow in my heart all day long?" (Psalm 13:1-2)

Beloved in Christ,

With weary hearts, we find ourselves grieving yet another act of gun violence. **Vincent Anthony Siqueiros, 42, and Cameron Davis Capara, 33,** have lost their lives to this senseless act of violence that struck Venture-N, a longtime LGBTQ+ bar in Tucson. Authorities are investigating the shooting as a possible hate crime after reporting that the suspect carried a note listing several LGBTQIA+-associated businesses.

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We mourn the deaths of Vincent and Cameron and pray for their families, friends, and all who knew and loved them. We stand with our siblings in Tucson and the broader LGBTQ+ community as they face the grief, pain, fear, and trauma caused by this violence and as they continue to ask if any place is truly safe for them.

As United Methodists, we affirm that every person is created in the image of God and is of sacred worth. Therefore, we reject hatred, prejudice, and violence directed at any people. Our Social Principles call us to resist violence in all its forms and to build communities where every person can live free from fear.

And if I may speak plainly: I am tired of writing statements like this. I am tired of hearing about lives lost to senseless yet preventable gun violence. I am tired of watching families bury loved ones while leaders offer thoughts and prayers without the courage to pursue meaningful change. I am tired of seeing communities traumatized by acts of hatred and violence that continue to repeat themselves with alarming regularity.

And so I call us to action.

This tragedy reminds us why our vision of "A Healthy Church For A Healthy World" is so important. A healthy church stands with and protects those who are targeted, comforts those who mourn, and works to promote healthy communities that are rooted in justice, safety, and love.

The United Methodist Church has long recognized gun violence as a public health and moral crisis and has called for common-sense measures that protect life, including universal background checks, safe storage requirements, stronger licensing and accountability measures, and restrictions on weapons designed for mass killing. These are not partisan positions. They are life-affirming commitments rooted in our belief that every human life is sacred.

The healthy world we envision is one where hatred and violence will not be incubated. Beyond condemning violence after it happens, our call is to address the conditions that allow such violence to continue and demand that we protect vulnerable communities by confronting hatred wherever it appears and enacting policies that reduce the likelihood of these tragedies occurring again.

May God strengthen us to be advocates, peacemakers, and agents of transformation so that no more lives are lost, no more families grieve, no more communities are shattered, and no more statements like this ever need to be written after yet another preventable tragedy. May the God of justice and peace comfort the grieving, protect the vulnerable, and move us from lament to action.

Bishop Carlo

In Christ's love and solidarity,
Bishop Carlo A. Rapanut

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT FIRST CHURCH OF TUCSON!



Right: Shirley Murray's son, Michael, and grandson, Kaipo'i, visited us from Hilo, Hawaii, and joined our Meet 'N Eat at Olive Garden on August 14. Shirley was so happy to have them visit.



Left: We reached out to students and families at the University of Arizona during Move-In Week, August 18-20, 2027.

Below: A new church was built in Mexico through a generous anonymous donation of \$5,000 from a member of our congregation in support of missionary Samuel Lee's ministry. Praise the Lord!



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Below: A Celebration of Life for Leonard Salvador Santos was held on September 5, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. His sister, Alva, and her family chose to hold the service on what would have been Leonard's 70th birthday, in loving memory of him.



Below: The Korean Congregation held a retreat from September 6-7 over Labor Day weekend in Scottsdale, Arizona. Our time together was filled with worship, a lecture, exercise, delicious food, and games as we celebrated being together as a faith community and a family.



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. 예배 후 점심식사가 제공되며, 식사와 함께 친교의 교제 시간이 이루어 집니다.

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.

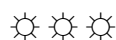
매주일 예배 후 주일 설교와 주보가 교회 홈페이지에 업로드 됩니다.



WEEKLY GATHERINGS

Nifty Needlecrafts

- Join us on Sunday at 3 PM for crafting and conversation! Work solo or collaboratively!
- Don't have your own supplies? We have 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 meets on Mondays at 4:30 PM for book study and accountability. All are welcome to join!



Narcotics Anonymous – The 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.)
- 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)

- This online book study group meets at 3:30 PM on Thursdays.
- The current book is, "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](#) [Passcode: 622648](#)



Praise Team

- The Praise Team gathers every other Saturday beginning on the first Saturday of the month.
- This month, they meet on the 5th and 19th.

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:

Peggy Ford ~ Marilyn Hall ~ Barb Jones ~ Kris Larsen ~ Patricia Murphy ~ John Proch ~ Doria Sem ~ Nancy Tomlinson ~ April DuBoce ~ Tripp Cahill-Gordon

We offer our prayers for these sister faith communities:

Sierra Vista UMC - Sierra Vista, AZ

Spirit of Joy UMC - Coolidge, AZ

St. Francis in the Foothills UMC - Tucson, 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.



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Diane Russell (Sep 3)
Shirley Murray (Sep 14)
Elizabeth Rollings-Friman (Sep 15)
Phillip Cahill-Gordon (Sep 18)

Grace Ageh (Sep 22)
Seong-Eun "Kathy" Min (Sep 22)
Margo Kahler (Sep 25)
Trang Phan-Haney (Sep 27)

Phillip & Tripp Cahill-Gordon (Sep 8 - 3 yrs)

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

Animal & Environmental Holidays for September 2026

By Diane & Victoria Russell

September – National Wilderness Month



Celebrating 62 years of the signing of the Wilderness Act. There are over 112 million acres spread across over 800 areas protected as federal public lands in USA. Arizona has over 30 million acres of federal public lands – to enjoy the great outdoors while also providing habitat for Arizona’s wildlife.

September – Second Hand September



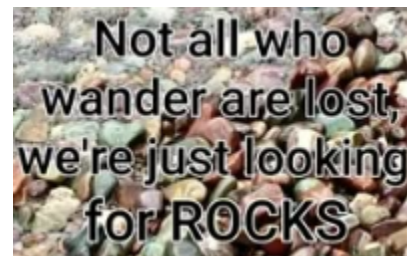
In 2019 the UK charity organization Oxfam created this global campaign to raise awareness about the social and environmental impact that the fashion industry has on the earth’s pollution. Ways to celebrate include shopping at your favorite thrift store instead of buying new fashions during Sept.

September 15th – International Colugo Day



Colugo’s are a unique gliding mammal that are native to the rain forests of Southeast Asia. They use a large membrane to be able to glide over 600 feet per leap between trees. They are often called the “flying lemurs”. Despite their nickname, they cannot fly and are not lemurs

September 16th – Collect Rocks Day



Celebrate the day by going on an outdoor excursion to your local public lands, washes, or nearby mountains to look for amazing rocks. Look down and enjoy the beauty of the Earth’s geological wonders. There are three different types of rocks to look for: igneous, sedimentary, and metamorphic.

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September 19th – National Cleanup Day/September is Cleanup Month



This annual event was founded in 2017 by founders Steve Jewett and Bill Willoughby to encourage people across America to clean up parks, trails, beaches, and neighborhoods. Ways to participate in a city organized event is with the City of Tucson – “Team Up to Clean Up” for local upcoming events

September 21st – International Day of Peace



Established in 1981 by the United Nations to invite all nations and people to honor a non-violence and cease-fire of all hostilities during this International Day of Peace. The 2026 theme is “Invest in Peace – For Everyone, Everywhere, Every Day”

September 21st – World Gratitude Day



Established by the UN in 1977 to unite people worldwide in expressing appreciation, thankfulness, and gratitude for the blessing in

their lives. According to the American Heart Association, by being thankful and having a regular gratitude practice can improve both your physical and mental health.

September 25th – National Lobster Day

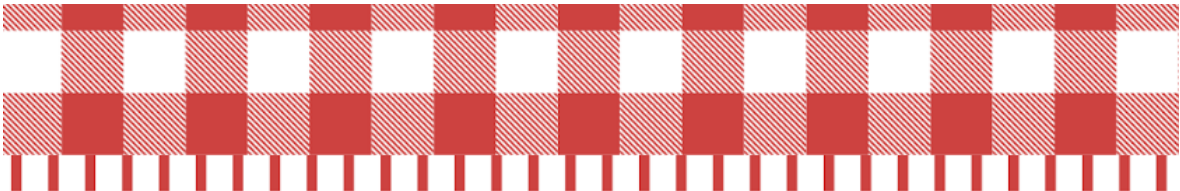


In 2015, Maine Senators Angus King and Susan Collins created this day to recognize the importance of this amazing crustacean in our country. There are two main types of Lobsters – clawed and spiny; and can have a life span of over 60 plus years. Let’s celebrate them today by not eating them.

September 26th – World Cassowary Day



The Cassowary is a large flightless bird that is related to the Emu and is considered to be the most dangerous bird in the world. They are native to New Guinea and are found in the Australian rain forests. There are three species – the Dwarf, Northern, and Southern. The Southern is endangered.



DON'T MISS OUT ON A GOOD TIME!

CORN ROAST & CHURCH PICNIC

SEPTEMBER 27, 2026 @11:00 AM
First UMC of Tucson
915 E. 4th Street

ROSTED CORN & PIE
FREE HAMBURGERS & HOTDOGS
ALL ARE WELCOME!



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.