

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 welcome you to join in our journey of faith through worship, prayer, Bible study, and service for social justice and ministries of compassion.

At First Church Tucson,
You have a home.

At First Church Tucson,
You have a family of faith.

At First Church Tucson,
You belong.

"A Time for Preparation (ADVENT)!"

By Pastor Ko

Our new church season began on Sunday, Nov 28. It always comes right after Thanksgiving Day. The season of Advent, which comes from the Latin word *adventus* meaning "coming" or "visit," begins four Sundays before Christmas and ends on Christmas Eve. Advent is the beginning of the church year for Christians.



(Altar decorated for the season of Advent)

Due to the pandemic, people have waited for a long time to visit their families, shop to exchange gifts, and have parties. So, I expect that this year in Advent will be busier than last year for most of us. However, we might feel empty once everything is over.

Why don't we take a deep breath to prepare for that emptiness in advance?

It is still worthy for you to enjoy this season as you wish and long for. But, meanwhile, you need to make room for preparation, hope, love, peace, and joy in faith.

(cont. pg 2)

A Time for Preparation (ADVENT)! (cont.)

First Church in Tucson would like to encourage and inspire all of you to have that room in your heart and spirit. Please, join our Advent church programs which will invite you to the spiritual ground you can find peace and rest in, in the midst of busyness and chaos.

- Advent Book Study with “The Journey: Walking the Road to Bethlehem” has begun on every Monday at 2PM for four weeks.
- Christmas Cantata will be held on Sunday, Dec 12th at 10AM.
- Sights, Sounds, and Smells of Christmas will be held on Sunday, Dec 12th at 4PM
- Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be held on Friday, Dec 24th at 7PM



(Advent Book Study group)

The founder of the Methodism movement, John Wesley's brother (Charles) is a great hymn writer. One of Charles Wesley's hymns is “Come, Thou long expected Jesus.”

1. Come, Thou long expected Jesus
Born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us,
Let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel's strength and consolation,
Hope of all the earth Thou art;
Dear desire of every nation,
Joy of every longing heart.

2. Born Thy people to deliver,
Born a child and yet a King,
Born to reign in us forever,
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal Spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all sufficient merit,
Raise us to Thy glorious throne.

1. 오랫동안 기다리던 주님 강림하셔서
죄에 매인 백성들을 자유 얻게 하시네
주는 우리 소망이요 힘과 위로 되시니
오래 기다리던 백성 많은 복을 받겠네

2. 모든 백성 구하려고 임금으로
오시니
영원토록 우리들을 친히 다스리시네
죄로 상한 우리 마음 은혜로써 고치고
주의 빛난 보좌 앞에 이르도록 하소서
아멘

Also, please check out the order of worship in this weekly digest since we haven't printed out our bulletin every Sunday. If you have any concerns or suggestions, feel free to contact pastor Eun Young Ko (pastortucsonfirstumc@gmail.com).

With God's comforts and blessings,

Pastor Eun Young Ko

First Church Choir - Christmas Cantata Dec 12TH at 10AM

Love's Pure Light

A Christmas Cantata for SAB Choir, Narrator, and Congregation
by Lloyd Larson

1. O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
2. Comfort My People
3. The King Shall Come
4. Light Our Darkness
5. a. Do Not Be Afraid
b. Glory to God!
6. Silent Night, Holy Night!
7. Hark! the Herald Angels Sing
8. Arise, Shine! Your Light Has Come!

Sights, Sounds and Smells of Christmas

- **Who:** The church family and friends of all ages
- **What:** Celebrate the Sights, Sounds and Smells of Christmas
- **When:** December 12th, an Advent Sunday 4-6PM
- **Why:** To share the traditions of Christmas and prepare for the baby Jesus
- **How:** Enjoy the many offerings of Christmas through food, song, music, readings, and crafts
- Food: Hot Cocoa Bar, Decorated Sugar Cookies, Turkey Soup & Bread
- Mission: Letters/cards to shut-ins Music: Sing Christmas Carols before Dinner
- Readings: Come and enjoy wonderful stories about Christmas
- Crafts: 3 different crafts to create
- Photos: Take a picture at the Nativity with Jesus



Share in the many activities for one night that bring family and traditions together.

There will be several stations to rotate through in about 90 minutes, then we will finish with carols and dinner.

CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS FOR MISSIONS

We will be supporting local and global missions with a portion of our Christmas offerings collected on December 12th, 19th, 24th, and 26th.

Please be part of our mission projects this year--we can make a difference together! The collections will help build a middle school in Tanzania, and contribute to the Hopi reservation Native American mission near Sedona. The FUMC Foundation will match the total offerings collected.

THIS WEEK'S
ANNOUNCEMENTS & GATHERINGS

SUNDAY MORNING HYBRID SERVICE

There are two ways for you to participate in our 10AM hybrid online/in-person Sunday Service.

YouTube: Join us Live! on our channel. Visit bit.ly/fumcYouTube

In-Person: For those of you who are well and fully vaccinated, join us in person.

NOTICE: Due to the new COVID-19 variant cases that are emerging, our safety guidelines have been updated. Please see below:

- Masks are required to be worn by everyone inside the church building, and social distancing is still in effect (min. 6 ft between family groups).
- If you are not yet fully vaccinated or are immuno-compromised, it is very strongly recommended 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.

* * *

한국어 사역

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

기도와 참여 부탁드립니다.

금요일 저녁 7시에 성경공부 모임이 줌으로
진행됩니다.

Youtube 주소는 bit.ly/fumcYouTube
Meeting ID: 998 6112 0822 Passcode: 6226481

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WEEKDAY ONLINE GATHERINGS

Women on a Spiritual Quest (WSQ)

-WSQ has joined the Advent Book Study on Monday afternoons at 2PM in the library. The book is "The Journey: Walking the Road to Bethlehem" (10th anniversary edition) by Adam Hamilton.

All God's Creation (AGC)

-A time of scripture reading and reflection with a focus on living creatures, on Tuesday afternoons at 3PM.

Meeting ID: 994 3610 1655 Passcode: 6226481

Chancel Choir

-To prepare for the upcoming Christmas Cantata, this week's practice will be held in the Sanctuary on Saturday morning at 9AM.

-There will be rehearsal on Sunday mornings at 9AM before the service.

Progressive Book Study (PBS)

-Finished for the year.

-New book study begins January 6th. The book will be "The God You Didn't Know You Could Believe In" by Dr. Jeffrey Frantz.

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

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Not seeing something of interest?
We'd love to hear from you. Let's talk.
Contact pastortucsonfirstumc@gmail.com



PRAYERS FOR OUR COMMUNITY

We offer our prayers for those in our community who are suffering, who are physically, mentally, & emotionally unwell, and those caring for them.

* * *

We offer our prayers for these sister faith communities:

Chaplains & Counselors in the South District

The Inn Project, Tucson

TMM Family Services - people served and staff, Tucson

* * *

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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UPCOMING **BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES**

Hae Sook Hong (Nov 30)

Bok Namgung (Dec 3)

Nan Rollings (Dec 3)

Bruce Billings (Dec 5)

Luna Lopez (Dec 5)

Adam Lange (Dec 9)

Kate Park-Havins (Dec 11)

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

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Christmas Eve Candlelight Service December 24th at 7PM

On Friday, December 24th, there will be a Christmas Eve candlelight service at 7PM. We will read scriptures and sing Christmas carols!





Advent Reflections



by Debbi Kapp (D), Margo Kahler (M), & Dottie Poczulp (d)

A: We wrote this devotional as a gift of love for our friends and family members; however, it was a blessing for each of us to read the scripture assigned to each day and put it into our own words, life, or experiences!

B: We ask you to do the same. Read the scripture, then the reflection and let your mind come up with your own thoughts or experiences. Then share them.

C: We are not professional writers; we are just Christians who meet regularly in our covenant group and love sharing Christ with others.

DAY 1. Jeremiah 33:14-16

(d)



“Watch for this--a time is coming!” I was in Maryland a couple of years ago, it really wasn’t all that long ago, I was having high tea with my dear friend. Our talk found its way to our God, and I felt such a warm feeling over how my friend, who is Jewish, and I share a loving and righteous God. In our relationship it feels we are so far apart by distance, but not in our shared beliefs. As I prepare for this advent season, I am looking at how much we are alike with others around us & not about what separates us. My dear friend has the same love of family, same love for God, same love of our long-term friendship. It makes me think about so many of my friends and what brought us together and what keeps our relationship strong. God has set things right for us, for me. The tree of life started with David!

DAY 2. Psalm 25: 1-10

(M)



As a child, life felt cruel, lonely, and unlovable. Unlike David, who put all his trust in the Lord, I could not believe that there was a God. If God existed, where was He, why didn’t He help me? After years of cutting myself off from any attachments to others, I realized the problem was within me; thanks to being encouraged to go to the “Walk to Emmaus” retreat. I was shown what I was missing, and that God was waiting for my call for help. It was not an easy road but with Jesus holding my hand all the way, together we changed me into a trusting soul believing God does exist and is my salvation.

Day 3. 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

(D)



When we first moved to Oregon, I missed all of our dear friends and family in Arizona so much. We bought a house we could afford, but it can be a good hour from the family and especially the new baby we moved to be nearby. I prayed to see all their faces, both in Arizona and in Portland. My prayers were answered as I explored our immediate homeland, found volunteer activities, met new friends in Woodburn, and tried not to dwell daily on loneliness. And now Sarah and her family want to move here. If they can remain in Portland as they want to, it will be a dream come true for us. I still miss Arizona and so many precious people all the time, wishing love will pour on them and a road will clear to them at some point, but we have both been able to look forward.

DAY 4. Luke 21:25-28

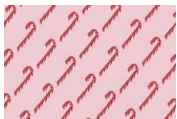
(d)



So, there is currently an international summit going on to deal with our climate change and I am amazed as I read Luke 21:25-28 that we see where our lives are today was predicted all those years ago. The scripture states that the son of God will be coming in a cloud. I see God in many forms, do I see our creator in the cat purring on my lap, or the golden barrel cactus all aglow and lighting up the morning. I see God as the perkier little hummingbird that helps the plants around me grow. Right now, today, I see all the butterflies that are in the garden. Son of man coming in a burst of power and glory. I am in awe. Where do you see God today?

DAY 5. Luke 21: 29-36

(M)



We are asked to live by avoiding sin and to be repentant, to not be overtaken by the worldly distractions of material things. I have found it is difficult to do this on your own, we might need someone or others to keep accountability for our actions. I now rely on friends in a Women’s Bible Study group at church where we know that what is shared in this group is confidential allowing more freedom to express ourselves. The pandemic created a new means of sharing by zoom meetings. I also can share with dear friends once a week, long distance, in a devotional get together that creates another means of spiritual growth and accountability. God puts helpful ways of honoring Him into our journey.

Day 6. Matthew 24:36-44

(D)



We arrived in Oregon in May 2017 and first visited our new church in June. John does not want to be involved in any ministries, although we did participate in a weekly food distribution, but that and the few one-time things I did (such as kitchen help for an event) ended with the pandemic. I am thinking I need to change that as we become involved again. I will be helping for the second year with Catechumenate, a new-to-us term for classes preparing adults for baptism, but especially would like to join a Bible study and search other ministry opportunities. Talking with Dottie and Margo, two of the best mentors of living deeply spiritual lives every day, models how to have Christ within and beside constantly. But I would like more models of that in my life. It's not that I don't strive to live as an example of Christ's love and teachings in my daily life, but I could be more conscious, vigilant, and alert about letting his light shine through me to others in my words and actions and also in my thoughts.

Animal Holidays - A Week at a Glance

By Victoria Russell



December 2 - National Mutt Day

Mixed breed dogs need love too. They are a blend of two breeds (so best of both worlds). This is celebrated twice a year. Ways to celebrate may include spoiling your mutt, adopting one, or volunteering at the shelter.

December 4 - International Cheetah Day

Cheetahs are known to be the fastest animal in the world. Dr. Laurie Marker created this day to remember a cub named Khayam she raised. Her goal is to raise awareness about the trials that cheetahs face and to celebrate them.



December 5 - World Wildlife Conservation Day

There are different types of wildlife crimes. Some crimes include illegal poaching and animal trafficking. The Endangered Species Act has a goal to end these atrocious crimes. Ways to celebrate this day include not buying illegal wildlife products such as Ivory, not using unsustainable food products, becoming educated on the crimes and the endangered species and the Act, and watching wildlife documentaries.

December 5 - International Volunteer Day

People volunteer for things/organizations they are passionate about. This is a day to volunteer for what makes you happy. For some that will be animals. For animal volunteers, find your local animal shelter and see what they need.



December 5 - Celebrate Shelter Pets Day (Humane Society of the US)

The Shelter Pet Project is a collaboration between the Humane Society of the US and Maddie's Fund. They created this day to help encourage others to share their adoption stories to help inspire others to adopt. The Shelter Pet Project even has templates to share online. Ways to celebrate are sharing your story however you can to whoever you can. Another way to celebrate is by spoiling your own shelter pet!

December 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 **December 10 at 11:30 AM** at the Olive Garden on the northeast corner of Oracle/Wetmore ([300 W Wetmore Rd, Tucson, AZ 85705](#)).

Shirley Murray, our usual Meet'n'Eat organizer, will not be joining us this time, but she has already made reservations at the restaurant for us.

SUNDAY COFFEE/SOCIAL TIME

We have fellowship time with coffee and snacks after the English worship service. Please observe the following rules:

1. Masks are to be worn when not seated at a table.
2. Tables have been set up with **only 5** chairs to ensure there is social distancing and **must** remain this way.
3. Food will be limited to finger foods like cookies, doughnuts and crackers or chips. Utensils must be used to pick up food from serving trays, **DO NOT** use your fingers.
4. Coffee and water will be the beverages for now.

If these rules are observed, we will continue until COVID conditions change and we must reconsider the circumstances. Welcome back to social time and enjoy responsibly.

SOUL KITCHEN

Sausage Casserole

Shared by Margo Kahler

Ingredients

1 lb bulk sausage
½ green pepper
½ c uncooked rice
½ c slivered almonds
1 large onion
1 ½ c celery
2 pkgs Lipton noodle soup
4 c boiling water
Chow mein noodles

Directions

Brown sausage and drain. Saute onions, pepper and celery in sausage drippings. Add boiling water to soup and rice, then mix. Mix all ingredients together. Bake 1 hr at 350°F. Stir a few times. Add Chinese noodles on top

FROM THE DESERT SOUTHWEST CONFERENCE

Webinar: What a Church & Society Ministry Team does (and why) and how to get started in your church

Nov 15, 2021

<https://dscumc.org/blog/2021/11/15/webinar-what-a-church-society-ministry-team-does-and-why-and-how-to-get-started-in-your-church/> or <https://bit.ly/3d5bEpf>



Desert Southwest Conference Board of
CHURCH & SOCIETY
The United Methodist Church

Living**FAITH** Seeking**JUSTICE** Pursuing**PEACE**

MISSION FILLS THE NEED, JUSTICE ELIMINATES IT

[Monday, Dec. 6, 12:00-1:30 PM](#) (MST) – or – [Thursday, Dec. 9, 6:30-8:00 PM](#) (MST)

How do we create a safe space to transform the world: a safe place to talk politics, health care, adequate funding for public education, affordable housing, living wages, immigration, neighborhood safety, climate change, prison reform, economic inequality, climate, peace, poverty, and racial equity?

The Desert Southwest Conference Board of Church and Society invites you to begin the conversation. How do we get started? How do we engage? What resources are available? Join us on December 6 at noon or December 9 at 6:30 PM for a webinar hosted by the Desert Southwest Conference Board of Church & Society. [Register for your preferred day/time by clicking one of the green links] and Zoom with us!

Our churches have engaged in some great justice practices! Church and Society has been the format that is used to educate the St. Mark's UMC in Tucson, Arizona congregation about the role that social media has in polarizing public opinion, as well as combating social media addiction. Over the years, environment sustainability, climate change, responsible stewardship has been studied, as well as voter registration drives at the church. Presently an assessment of racial equality is being implemented.

Another example comes from Red Mountain UMC; by hosting an undocumented immigrant, an individual church began listening. Red Mountain UMC recognized that charitable projects weren't reaching the needs; economic and justice issues became the focus.

The Desert Southwest Conference Board of Church and Society invites you to begin the conversation. Attend the webinar to learn how to get started, how to engage, and how to find resources at your fingertips. Registration is required but the event is free. Click on your preferred session to register and Zoom with us!

[Monday, Dec. 6, 12:00-1:30 PM](#) (MST)

[Thursday, Dec. 9, 6:30-8:00 PM](#) (MST)

"The gospel of Christ knows no religion but social, no holiness but social holiness. You cannot be holy except as you engage in making the world a better place. You do not become holy by keeping yourself pure and clean from the world, but by plunging into ministry on behalf of the world's hurting ones."

~ John Wesley

SUNDAY SERVICE ORDER OF WORSHIP

English Worship Service at 10AM

Welcome & Announcements

Call to Worship

Opening Hymn

Opening Prayer

Scripture Reading

Anthem (Choir)

Message

Song of Response

Holy Communion

Sharing joys and concerns

Prayers of the People

Offertory Prayer

Closing Song

Benediction

Postlude

Passing of the Peace

한국어 예배 오전 **11시 30분**

환 영 및 인사

조용한 기도

예배의 부름

찬양

여는 기도

성경봉독

설 교

응답찬송

성만찬

알리는 말씀 (광고)

목회기도

봉헌기도

결단찬송

축 도

후 주

Please contact the church office if you have any questions, need information, or want to submit an article or put an announcement in the weekly digest.

Office Hours: Mon-Thurs 10AM-2PM

Church Staff

Senior Pastor: Rev. Eun Young Ko

Visiting Pastor: Rev. Raven Gaston

Music Director: Lorena Suarez

Worship Video Team: Sumin Lee & Juyeon Lee

Office Assistant: Tripp Gordon

Bookkeeper: Sue Smith



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