



First Church Tucson Weekly Digest

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

3.29.2021

First Church Tucson is an inclusive multi-ethnic faith community, 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 and disability, 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.



“Holy, Every Day”

By Rev. Paul Cho

As strange as it feels to be celebrating Easter at home for the second year, I am quite at peace. I have full confidence that all will be well. Through the pandemic, I have found that God's holy glory can shine through the curtains on a clear morning. I have experienced the love feast of Christ at the dinner table when the family was all together. I have heard angelic songs of praise by birds singing for the first time since their birth. I have experienced the Spirit of God comforting me through the warmth and breath of my dog. For all the fanfare and celebration we made Easter to be, I have learned by way of this pandemic that God's abundant grace which leads us from death to resurrection is truly all around.

This week, I pray that you will do all you can, wherever you are, in whatever you do, to acknowledge God's presence. Meditate, pray, fast, read, sing, dance, cry, write, exercise, stitch, clean, drive, cook, pet, drink, watch, sleep, breathe... Know that with every moment, God sees you and is drawing closer to you. All we must do is simply receive. Receive the love of God this week. And should that cause you to respond in some other loving way, do that too. Know that this Holy Week, God is with you.

HOLY WEEK DEVOTIONS

Monday

Read:

Mark 11:15-19

Ask:

Who am I excluding today?

Am I willing to disrupt the status quo that perpetuates systemic oppression, even if that leads me to question my own value systems and traditions?

For whom is the Gospel good news?

Pray:

Loving Creator, as I welcome you into my life, I invite the presence of the Holy Spirit to reveal those spaces in my life where I need to be in solidarity with those who have been oppressed and marginalized. As you call me to repent, give me strength and humility to genuinely examine where, in the depths of my soul, my words and actions remain far from you. Show me your mercy, so I can stand before you and be safe. Grant me the courage, so I won't feel weak when you invite me to be a prophetic voice that denounces the wickedness of the powers to be. In the name of the One who taught us how to love, Jesus the Christ... So be it!

Tuesday

Read:

Mark 11:12-14, 20-25

Ask:

How have I set God as my purpose in life?

Is my purpose in God clear and evident to those who know me?

Where in my life do I need to realign?

Pray:

Purposeful God, we seek to be true to your calling for us today. We want to be about what matters in the world. Guide us and give us courage to be the people you call us to be, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Wednesday

Read:

Mark 14:3-9

Ask:

What treasure do I possess that I want to recklessly share with Christ and with others?

How can I honor Jesus with that which means most to me, despite objections or misunderstandings?

Pray:

Lord Jesus, Lamb of God, you freely poured out your precious life for us after first joyfully accepting the extravagant offering of the woman who anointed you with expensive nard. Fill us with your Holy Spirit of generosity so that we, too, may follow the example set by her and by Mary Bosanquet and Sarah Ryan, giving without counting the cost, being motivated by nothing but love of you and of neighbor. May it be so! Amen.

Holy Thursday

Read:

Mark 14:66-72

Ask:

How can God redeem my denials of Him?

Pray:

God, thank you for stories like Peter's that remind us so much of ourselves.

Jesus, give us strength when doing the bold thing takes a back seat to our fear.

Holy Spirit, help us to follow the examples of both Peter and Jesus,

in staying the course and in showing others the grace that we want shown to us. Amen.

Good Friday

Read:

Mark 15:33-41

Ask:

"New beginnings are often disguised as painful endings." by Lao Tzu.

Where in my life do I experience grief and suffering?

How does Christ crucified help you to hope for new beginnings?

Pray:

O God, help us feel your presence in our daily lives, in our pain and our despair.

Open our eyes to see your new beginnings in our endings.

Guide us to live as a part of your redemptive story. Amen.

Holy Saturday

Read:

Mark 15:47-1:3

Ask:

Sawubona is the Zulu greeting that means "I see you."

How are you seeing, acknowledging, and responding to the grief around you?

Pray:

God in Heaven, tarry with us as we sing songs of lament, cry tears of grief and pain,

and pray with expectation that weeping may endure for a night,

but joy does come in the morning.

Remind us, O God that Sunday is coming. Amen.

Join with Pastor Paul for Minute Memoirs this week

Monday ~ Friday at 9am

[Meeting ID: 972 7492 7766](#) [Passcode: 6226481](#)

Participate in a self-paced Sonoran Stations of the Cross

By Rev. Cynthia Langston Kirk & Rev. Amy Barron-Gafford

Visit www.firstchurchtucson.org/holy-week-1

THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS & GATHERINGS

SUNDAY MORNING LIVE!

Join us this Easter Sunday morning at 10am on ZOOM for our joint Agape Gathering. Prepare elements for the love feast and join the meeting at the link below.

[Meeting ID: 972 7492 7766](#) [Passcode: 6226481](#)

Visit our Youtube channel. bit.ly/fumcYouTube

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한국어 사역

주일 오전 10:00에 Zoom에서 Zoom에서 연합 말씀 묵상, 나눔과 교제의 시간이 있습니다. 애찬식을 위한 떡과 물을 준비하시고 아래 링크를 사용하십시오.

[Meeting ID: 972 7492 7766](#) [Passcode: 6226481](#)

Youtube 주소는 bit.ly/fumcYouTube

금요일 오후 7시에 시편 묵상과 나눔의 시간은 아래 주소에서 진행되고 있습니다.

[Meeting ID: 998 6112 0822](#) [Passcode: 6226481](#)

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WEEKDAY ONLINE GATHERINGS

Women on a Spiritual Quest (WSQ)

-A classic UM small group accountability and fellowship on Monday Evenings at 4:30PM.

[Meeting ID: 920 5951 9248](#) [Passcode: 6226481](#)

All God's Creation (AGC)

-A time of scripture reading and reflection with a focus on living creatures, on Wednesday Mornings at 10AM.

[Meeting ID: 994 3610 1655](#) [Passcode: 6226481](#)

Chancel Choir

-Meet with the choir online from the comfort and safety of your home on Wednesday Evenings at 6:30PM.

- Join the choir in the parking lot on Saturdays at 2PM and sing in an ensemble with directing.

[Meeting ID: 929 7830 4567](#) [Passcode: 6226481](#)

Progressive Book Study (PBS)

- Would you like to be part of a book study? If you'd enjoy reading with us, join Progressive Christian theology on Thursday Afternoons at 2:30PM. The new book is titled: "Eternal Life – A New Vision" by John Shelby Spong.

[Meeting ID: 980 1573 8087](#) [Passcode: 6226481](#)

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*Not seeing something of interest?
We'd love to hear from you. Let's talk.
Contact pastor@firstchurchtucson.org*

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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 those caring for them.

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We offer our prayers for these sister faith communities:

Sierra Vista UMC, Sierra Vista
Christ Church UMC, Tucson
Menlo Park UMC, Tucson

SUPPORT FIRST CHURCH TUCSON

Head to our website www.firstchurchtucson.org 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.
We thank you for your commitment to making a difference in our community.

THIS WEEK'S BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Carol Velzy (Mar 30)
Martha Preston (Mar 31)

Aydrien Chavez-Lokey (Apr 2)
Justin Havins (Apr 2)

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

SOUL KITCHEN

Blackened Tilapia

<https://www.delish.com/cooking/recipe-ideas/a25239430/blackened-tilapia-recipe/>

Ingredients

For Tilapia:

2 Tbsp packed brown sugar
4 tsp ground cumin
2 tsp kosher salt
2 tsp paprika
2 tsp dried oregano
1 tsp black pepper
1 tsp garlic powder
4 (6 oz) tilapia fillets
2 Tbsp extra-virgin olive oil

For Avocado Salsa:

2 avocados, diced
2 tomatoes, diced
1 jalapeño, minced
2 Tbsp chopped cilantro
2 Tbsp extra-virgin olive oil
Juice of 1 lime
Kosher salt
Black pepper

Directions

1. In a small bowl, combine brown sugar and spices. Rub spice mix all over tilapia.
2. In a large cast-iron skillet over medium heat, heat oil. Add tilapia and cook until crust is deeply golden and fish flakes easily with a fork, 2 to 3 minutes per side.
3. In a medium bowl, toss avocado, tomato, jalapeño, and cilantro. Add oil and lime juice and season with salt and pepper.
4. Serve tilapia topped with avocado salsa.



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