



First Church Tucson Weekly Digest

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

6.21.2021

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.



“Every Child is a Precious Gift”

By East District Superintendent Rev. Susan Brims

When I read the words, something inside of me just wanted to break free. The words are from All In Education, an organization committed to addressing the inequities in our educational system. This is what I read:

¹OUR CHALLENGE

We seek to build an Arizona where ALL communities have access to opportunity and justice.

Where no child is at risk of falling behind, where parents feel valued and supported and most importantly where ALL kids feel loved and honored in their classrooms.

Where every single attribute that students and families carry is viewed as an asset that should be nurtured and developed so they can be our state's future leaders.

The appointive cabinet has been reading and discussing Ibram Kendi's book, *How to Be An Anti-Racist*. The author's stories about his experience of school and how that affected his own attitude in life are powerful stories.

I believe that teachers are amazing people, who want nothing more than to help their students succeed. The teachers I know

(cont. pg 6)

2021 Mission Project of the Desert Southwest Annual Conference

We at First Church can help alleviate **STUDENT HUNGER**, the worthy mission focus this year at Annual Conference. Director of Outreach Billie Fidlin is calling for us to do our part and be encouraged in the process!

Use the donations tab at <https://dscumc.org/mission-project>. You can read stories online about how satisfying hunger also feeds the soul, written by La Frontera Wesley's Director, Rev. Hannah Adair Bonner.

Another way to participate is to buy a gift card. Any cards destined for La Frontera Wesley can be left at the First Church office in the box of our lay leader, Nan Rollings, and she will deliver them to Hannah to distribute to students in need.

SOUL KITCHEN

Easy Peasy Chicken-Vegetable Casserole

From Kenneth Rogers, brother to Tripp Gordon

Ingredients

Chicken, cut into chunks, fillets, strips, or cubes as you prefer
Vegetables, assorted: Try butternut squash, carrots, zucchini, onion, frozen green beans, peas, mushrooms, corn, and/or asparagus
"Cream of" soups: any combination may be used; try onion, potato, chicken, celery, and/or mushroom
Seasonings and finely chopped herbs, such as rosemary and thyme
Bread crumbs or panko crumbs (optional)
2 Tbsp butter, melted

Directions

1. Preheat the oven to 400°F.
2. Wash and dice your vegetables. Dense vegetables such as butternut squash and carrots should be cut into slightly smaller pieces to allow them to cook at the same rate as the other vegetables. If using onion, saute it first. Mushrooms can be halved or quartered. Feel free to use frozen or canned vegetables if convenient; frozen veg do not need to be thawed beforehand, though large chunks should be broken up.
3. Mix together the cream soups and seasonings in a bowl. Go easy on the salt, as the soups will already contain some. Contrary to what the directions on the can say, do NOT add any water, unless you want your casserole to be very soupy.
4. Add all your chopped vegetables to a casserole dish or deep cast iron skillet. Place the chicken on top of the vegetables, then evenly spread the seasoned cream soups over the top of everything. Cover with aluminum foil.
5. Mix the bread crumbs with the melted butter and set aside.
6. Baking time will depend on how thick you cut your chicken pieces. Bake for at least 30 minutes, then check the chicken and vegetables for doneness. Once the chicken is no longer pink in the center and the most dense veggies are tender, then remove the foil, top with the buttered crumbs, and bake uncovered for another 5 mins or until crumbs are golden.
7. Serve hot over rice or noodles.

THIS WEEK'S
ANNOUNCEMENTS & GATHERINGS

SUNDAY MORNING HYBRID SERVICE

We are providing 3 ways for you to participate in our Hybrid Service on Sunday at 10am.

YouTube: For those without cameras or those in public spaces, join us Live! on our channel. Visit bit.ly/fumcYouTube

Zoom: For those in private spaces with access to a camera and microphone, join us in this meeting room ([ID: 972 7492 7766](#) [Code: 6226481](#)) and step virtually into our sanctuary.

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

Please observe the following 3 rules:

1. Masks shall be worn at all times.
2. Keep Social Distance and follow the usher's directions for seating.
3. There will be no eating or sharing food or drinks.

All guests must pass the health inventory and be checked in before you are seated.

Please arrive earlier than our service to ensure timely seating.

An offering collection box will be available in the narthex.

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한국어 사역

주일 오전 11:30에 Youtube에서 말씀 묵상과 이후 Zoom에서 나눔과 교제의 시간이 있습니다.

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

Youtube 주소는 bit.ly/fumcYouTube

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

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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.

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

Progressive Book Study (PBS)

-On break through June. July's book will be "God's Politics: Why the Right Gets It Wrong and the Left Doesn't Get It" by Jim Wallis.

[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

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:

Bishop & Staff of the Desert Southwest Conference
Staff and Churches of the East, North, and West Districts

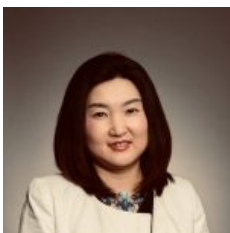
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SUPPORT FIRST CHURCH TUCSON

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.
We thank you for your commitment to making a difference in our community.

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Reminder: Pastor Eun Young Ko, outgoing pastor of Faith Evangelical UMC of Elmhurst, IL, will become our new pastor on July 1 and will be preaching in our hybrid in-person/online service on July 4th. She is accompanied by her 10 year old daughter, Halla. We look forward to getting to know them both!

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Lower Falls of Yellowstone River

This was one of the waterfalls I saw while on my recent vacation at Yellowstone National Park. If you look very closely at the right side of the photo, just about halfway down, you can see the observation deck with people on it.

Photo by Tripp Gordon

Animal **Holidays** - A Week at a Glance

By Victoria and Diane Russell

June 21 - World Giraffe Day

Created by the Giraffe Conservation Foundation to honor and spread awareness of their plights. There are different types of giraffe patterns. This year is committed to “Saving the last West African Giraffe!”



June 21 - National Dachshund Day

Dachshunds rank #10 on the American Kennel Club's annual list of popular dog breeds. There are several types of Dachshund features. Their coats can be smooth, longhaired, or wirehaired. Their coloring can also range from black/tan, red/tan, brindle, and dapple to name a few.



June 21 - National Take Your Cat to Work Day

Cat lovers- this is a day to celebrate and bring your cat to work with you. Prepare for one cute work day! Just make sure it is okay with your place of employment before bringing your cat.

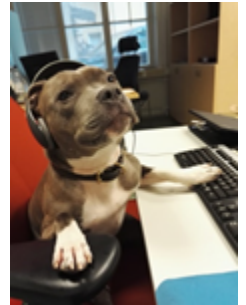
June 25 - National Take Your Dog to Work Day

The hardest part for dog owners is leaving each day for work. Today is the day that you can take them with you. Prepare for a cute day where you might be distracted from your duties. Just make sure it is okay with your place of employment before bringing your dog.



June 25 - National Catfish Day

Catfish are named for their distinguishing barbels which look like cat whiskers. They live in rivers and streams. There are 3,000 species of catfish all over the world except in Antarctica. Some types are overfished and are endangered.



Lorena in Ecuador!

During her recent trip home, our Director of Music enjoyed herself in this uniquely-shaped swing located near the jungle.

Photo by Lorena Suarez



Every Child is a Precious Gift (cont.)

have sacrificed everything to work with each child as a precious gift, working hard to identify each child's strengths and areas of growth. This past 15 months has been especially difficult on teachers, and they have stepped up to the challenge.

Even with the fact that teachers are to be commended for what they do each and every day, we cannot ignore that what Kendi has written about concerning the inequities in our educational system are difficult realities. We all have heard news reports about the challenges families in some areas have had in accessing computer equipment and the internet. We have been confronted with the reality that the areas experiencing the most difficulty tend to be communities of color, communities with lower income. We have seen the news reports and I find myself asking, "what if this were my child?" We can no longer close our eyes to the realities. We must confront the racism and the inequities that we have allowed to create such realities.

Romans 12:5 has these words for us: In the same way, though there are many of us, we are one body in Christ, and individually we belong to each other.

I read the words of the CHALLENGE on All In Education's website and I began to wonder what would happen if we developed a partnership? How could we, as people who believe the words in Romans 12:5, work together to impact our educational system? How could we develop relationships with parents, teachers, and school administrators in a way that actually brings about transformation?

In my last blog I shared an invitation to discuss how we might create a Neighboring Movement in our ministry areas. Today I want to invite you into a discussion about how we might create a movement that benefits children and families.

If you are interested in learning more about this second transformational movement let me know. I would love to get a group of us together to see what we might be able to accomplish.

The words of Romans 12:5 are true. We are the body of Christ as we belong to each other. God is calling us to make a difference. Will you join me?

Your Sister on the Journey,

Susan

¹<https://allineducation.org/about/>



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