



# First Church Tucson Weekly Digest

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

1.11.2021

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.



## “The Vaccination We Need”

By Rev. Paul Cho

News of the COVID-19 vaccinations has become a light at the end of a dark tunnel. Most of us are eager to be inoculated even though there are risks of side effects. That is because the resulting protection will be far better than the discomfort it creates. Still, there is a long waiting list. So in the meantime, we will have to do our best to mask up and stay home.

While COVID-19 is clearly a global threat, there is another threat that troubles me more so. How do we move past our national divide? How can we become American first, before we are Republican or Democrat? How do we build up trust after it has been so utterly broken? Is there a vaccine for that?

The difference between flu medicine and flu vaccination is that the former treats the symptoms and the latter reduces the risk of the cause. There may be medicinal equivalent ways for us to rebuild American unity. I trust that the new administration will aim to do so. But I also want to be clear, the vaccine we are searching for will require us to uproot systemic racism. That is the virus. That is the cancer we must remove. There is no future for us so long as racism is our reality. And you can be sure, racism will not be tolerated at First Church Tucson.

THIS WEEK'S  
ANNOUNCEMENTS & GATHERINGS

**SUNDAY MORNING LIVE!**

Find us on Youtube for a live stream of our Sunday morning reflection followed immediately with Zoom fellowship gathering.

Sundays @ 10AM (English), 11:30AM (Korean)  
Visit <https://bit.ly/fumcYouTube> and subscribe to the channel. (Address is case-sensitive.)

First Church Fellowship is on Zoom  
<https://dscumc.zoom.us/j/97274927766?pwd=bVlqNmZjTk84bHFHd0JRS0U5R0c4Zz09>

Meeting ID: 972 7492 7766 Passcode: 6226481

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**한국어 사역**

주일 오전 11:30에 Youtube에서 말씀 묵상 나눔이 있습니다. <https://bit.ly/fumcYouTube>

이어서 Zoom에서 교제에 시간이 있습니다.  
<https://dscumc.zoom.us/j/97274927766?pwd=bVlqNmZjTk84bHFHd0JRS0U5R0c4Zz09>

Meeting ID: 972 7492 7766 Passcode: 6226481

같은 주소에 금요일 오후 7시 소그룹에 초대합니다.

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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

**Exploring Biblical Wisdom (EBW)**

-A Lectio Divina format biblical commentary with small group sharing on Tuesday Mornings at 11AM.

Meeting ID: 981 7986 2680 Passcode: 6226481

**Virtual Choir**

-Sing with us from the comfort and safety of your home on Wednesday Evenings at 5:30PM.

Meeting ID: 929 7830 4567 Passcode: 6226481

**Progressive Book Study (PBS)**

-An open conversation-based book study on Progressive Christian theology on Thursday Afternoons at 2PM.

Meeting ID: 980 1573 8087 Passcode: 6226481

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*Not seeing something of interest?  
Consider starting your own group!  
We are looking for new hosts  
to explore new areas of interest.  
Contact [pastor@firstchurchtucson.org](mailto:pastor@firstchurchtucson.org)*

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**PRAYERS FOR OUR COMMUNITY**

With the rise in COVID-19 cases, we offer our prayers for those in our community who are suffering under its grip, both those who are ill and those caring for them.

Particularly, we lift up Pastor Raven Gaston. Cards for Pastor Raven may be written to: 2607 N. 51st St. Phoenix, AZ 85008.

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We offer our prayers for these sister faith communities:

St. Paul's UMC, Tucson  
San Pedro Valley UMC, Benson  
Trinity UMC, Bisbee

## **SUPPORT FIRST CHURCH TUCSON**

Head to our website, [www.firstchurchtucson.org](http://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.

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### THIS WEEK'S BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Beatrice Humphrey (Jan 11)

Bob Hansen (Jan 17)

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

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## Bishop's **E-LUMINATION**

Dear Members and Friends of the Desert Southwest Conference,

Grace and peace to you in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace!

I write this on the day of Epiphany, the day we celebrate the arrival of the magi to worship Jesus. We celebrate the realization, or the epiphany, that the Messiah has come into the world, a message from God that God's love is a precious gift for all. I write this on a day when the democratic process of electing our leadership is being completed in the state of Georgia and is being challenged in the halls of Congress. I write this on a day when we should be celebrating our history and our legacy as a nation that believes in the peaceful transfer of power as well as the right to free expression.

This is also a day when there is rancor, destruction and violence in the streets of our nation's capital and the Capitol building. There are demonstrations in places in our conference where there is likewise anger, frustration, and distrust. We are called to a time of de-escalation of violence. Christ calls us to temper our anger or frustration with good works to benefit others. God asks us to work to make our communities, our nation, and our world, places where peace is proclaimed.

So much is yet ahead of us: the continuing battle against the COVID-19 pandemic; the availability of the vaccines; the safety of our first-responders, front-line workers, educators and students; the recovery of our fragile economy; and the dismantling and eliminating racism and its lingering harm.

I call upon you to join me in prayer for our nation and the world. I call upon you to join me in prayer for our democracy. I call upon you to pray for peace, for reconciliation, and for hope. As faithful United Methodists, we have a responsibility to share the good news that through Christ, we have the assurance that God is always with us. So, with the words of Paul:

“ . . . we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. . . So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.” (2 Corinthians 4: 16,18, NIV)

Will you join me in praying this prayer:

Eternal God, our Creator, we give heartfelt thanks for the world in which you have placed us. We turn to you as we watch our nation wrought by deep divide over the process of election that draws to a close. Endow our nation with a spirit of reconciliation and peace, that we might emerge from these difficult, contentious moments, into a spirit of light and love made known to us in your son, Jesus Christ.

We ask you to visit us with patience, to quiet our souls. Deliver us from the threatening violence in our streets, wipe away the malice of suspicion of others in our hearts, keep our eyes focused on the vision you give us of the Kin-dom where lion and lamb live together.

As Bishop Ruben P. Job has encouraged us to do no harm, to do good, and to stay in love with you, may we also determine every day that our lives will always be invested in the effort to bring healing instead of hurt; wholeness instead of division; and harmony with the ways of Jesus rather than with the ways of the world.[i]

As we proclaim our faith in you and our love for Christ, let your Spirit reside in our hearts and grant us peace for this time, we pray, in the name of our Shepherd, Jesus, AMEN.

In Christ's love,  
Bishop Bob

## SOUL KITCHEN

### Two-Ingredient Pineapple Angel Food Cake

From Anita Lange

<https://www.bettycrocker.com/recipes/two-ingredient-pineapple-angel-food-cake/334f7a77-4252-4302-9716-09c764975d95>

#### Ingredients

1 box Betty Crocker™ white angel food cake mix  
1 20oz can crushed pineapple in juice

#### Directions

1. Preheat your oven to 350°F.
2. In a large mixing bowl, beat the dry cake mix and the crushed pineapple (juice and all) on low speed for 30 seconds, then on medium speed for 1 minute.
3. Pour into an ungreased 10” Bundt® or tube pan.
4. Bake 40-45 mins or until deep golden-brown.
5. Cool for 2 hours, then run a knife around the edges before turning the cake out onto a serving plate. Cut into slices with a serrated knife.
6. To store, cover and refrigerate.

# SONG FOR THOUGHT

“Awesome God” - Rich Mullins

Richard Wayne Mullins (1955 - 1997) was an American contemporary Christian singer and songwriter. Mullins wrote and recorded in 1988 the worship song *Awesome God* for his album *Winds of Heaven, Stuff of Earth*. Because of its popularity, *Awesome God* became Mullins' signature song. It has been performed and recorded by many artists and in a variety of styles, like swing, ska, heavy metal, and rock, besides the more traditional worship style.

Although the song has gained popularity, the text has brought some controversy. It has been critiqued as having an awkward text, and some say that it was Mullins' eccentric personality reflected in the lyrics. Enjoy!

by **Lorena Suarez**  
Director of Music Ministries

## Lyrics:

When He rolls up His sleeves  
He ain't just putting on the ritz  
There's thunder in His footsteps  
And lightning in His fists  
And the Lord wasn't joking  
When He kicked 'em out of Eden  
It wasn't for no reason  
That He shed His blood  
His return is very close  
And so you better be believing that  
Our God is an awesome God.

And when the sky was starless  
In the void of the night  
He spoke into the darkness  
And created the light  
Judgement and wrath He poured out on Sodom  
Mercy and grace He gave us at the cross  
I hope that we have not  
Too quickly forgotten that  
Our God is an awesome God

*Our God is an awesome God  
He reigns from heaven above  
With wisdom, power, and love  
Our God is an awesome God.*

## Suggested recording:

Version by Michael W. Smith

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VK0p-5jGxu8>

# FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Acts 19:1-7

Epiphany is the day on which we recognize that Jesus, the person, is indeed Christ, the Messiah, our Lord. To recognize this Truth in the midst of the ordinary and unspectacular is the divine encounter we have with God, one that we commemorate and proclaim to the world through our baptism.

Baptism marks the beginning of our faith journey and the vows we take at our baptism should remain front and foremost in our daily discernments and actions. It is not a ritual we do once and set aside. It is not an experience we cherish because of where, how, and by whom we were baptized. The true mark of baptism is in receiving the Holy Spirit, as the Apostle Paul rightly asks these disciples.

In the same ways that our work as citizens is not finished just because we voted or because those votes elected someone or because we pay our taxes. Our Christian service is not finished just because we have been baptized or because we have joined the church or because we give our offering. God is still calling us through what may seem just ordinary and unspectacular. The Holy Spirit is moving in our midst, leading us to divine encounters where Christ is recognized and lives are transformed. Be open to the call and receive the Holy Spirit. May we remember our baptismal vows.

On behalf of the church I ask you:

Do you renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness, reject the evil powers of this world, and repent of your sin?

Do you accept the freedom and power God gives you to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves?

Do you confess Jesus Christ as your Savior, put your whole trust in his grace, and promise to serve him as your Lord, in union with the Church which Christ has opened to people of all ages, nations, and races?

Amen. May it be So.

by Rev. Paul Cho



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