



First United Methodist Church
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“A Pastoral Word of Hope: ‘Until we meet again...’ ”

By Pastor Eun Ko

Dear Beloved Church Family,

As the days pass since our celebration of life for our dear sister Nancy Bell Rollings, I continue to carry her memory in my heart—just as I know many of you do. Nan was not only a faithful member of our congregation, but a light among us: a quiet encourager, a generous spirit, and a steadfast presence of grace.



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A Pastoral Word of Hope: ‘*Until we meet again...*’ cont.

Her absence is deeply felt. And yet, as people of resurrection hope, we do not grieve as those without promise. The Apostle Paul reminds us in **1 Thessalonians 4:13-14**:

“We do not want you to be uninformed... about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died.”

“형제들아 자는 자들에 관하여는 너희가 알지 못함을 우리가 원하지 아니하노니 이는 소망 없는 다른 이와 같이 슬퍼하지 않게 하려 함이라. 우리가 예수께서 죽으셨다가 다시 살아나신 것을 믿을진대 이와 같이 예수 안에서 자는 자들도 하나님이 그와 함께 데리고 오시리라.” (데살로니가전서 **4:13-14**)

We believe in a reunion. We believe in a heavenly home not made with hands, where tears are wiped away, and love endures beyond time. We believe we will see Nan again—whole, radiant, and at peace.

At her celebration of life, more than 300 people filled the sanctuary. I couldn't help but imagine Nan smiling as she looked upon all of us gathered. This church—First United Methodist Church of Tucson—was the center of her spiritual life, and she had long dreamed of this sacred space being filled for the purpose of joy, worship, and connection. That day, her hope was fulfilled. We came together—family, friends, community, and congregation—just as she had prayed we would.

That hope does not erase the ache we feel now, but it transforms it. It gives shape to our sorrow, turning it into longing for the Kingdom. It lifts our eyes from the shadow of death toward the light of eternal life.

Nan's legacy among us—her joy, kindness, and unwavering faith—will not be forgotten. Let us honor her by living with the same quiet courage and deep compassion. Let us serve as she served, love as she loved, and trust as she trusted.

And when we gather around the table of the Lord, may we be reminded that the Communion of Saints surrounds us still—those here and those already in glory. As we partake of the bread and the cup, we are mysteriously united with all who have gone before us, including Nan.

Until that day when faith becomes sight and we are gathered together again, may we carry the hope of resurrection with gentleness, with confidence, and with joy.

With love in Christ,

Rev. Eun Young Ko

First United Methodist Church of Tucson

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT FIRST CHURCH OF TUCSON!

Student Welcome Outreach

From August 19-21, we held a student and family welcome outreach at the corner of 4th Street and Park Ave on our church property. With great help from Rev. Mel Robert and students from the Wesley Foundation, many volunteers and visitors shared in a meaningful time of hospitality and connection.



Tucson 250th Celebration

On August 23, during Tucson's 250th Founders Celebration, we had the opportunity to introduce First UMC Tucson as the **first Protestant church in Southern Arizona, founded in 1879**. Thanks to Jessie Hansen, we were able to share a glimpse of our rich history with the community.

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(Tucson 250th Celebration)



Celebration of Life: Nancy Bell Rollings

We gathered to celebrate the life of **Nancy Bell Rollings (Dec 3, 1952 – July 20, 2025)**. Her faith and love continue to live in the heart of our church. Her legacy will be remembered with gratitude and hope.



Obituary: Nancy Bell Rollings

<https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/tucson/name/nancy-rollings-obituary?id=59046579>



Nan passed away peacefully on July 20, 2025. Survivors include her husband Donald, her children Elizabeth Friman (Doug) and Jim Rollings (Carrie), her grandchildren Cooper and Addison Rollings and her beloved Brittany spaniel, Pal. Nan adored her identical twin sister Barbara de Boinville (Bryan) of Chevy Chase, Maryland and her brother Clay Risk (Erika) of Naples, Florida. Nan will be dearly missed by her family and friends. She was graceful, intelligent, deeply caring, committed to the service of others and a class act. Nan left the world a better place.

Nan was born at Columbia Presbyterian Hospital in New York City on December 3, 1952. Nan was the daughter of Sharon Clay Risk and Louise Risk. During her childhood, she moved with her family to Maryland. Nan had many happy memories of her childhood home on Sunset Lane in Kenwood (Chevy Chase, MD) and at Nuits, the historic home of her maternal grandparents in Ardsley-on-the-Hudson, New York. After graduating from Walt Whitman High School in 1970, Nan attended Princeton University, graduating in 1974. She was in the second class of women who were admitted to Princeton and Nan and her sister, Barbara, were the first female twins admitted to Princeton. Her undergraduate degree was in English as was her master's degree at the University of Arizona.

Nan and Donald were married at Fourth Presbyterian Church on December 21, 1974 in Bethesda, Maryland. They celebrated their 50th anniversary last year. Nan and Donald were a remarkable couple. Nan was Donald's partner and sidekick. He often referred to her as his Bride and Nana-bear. In September 1975, Nan and Donald returned to Tucson from the East Coast. They never imagined that they would still be in the Old Pueblo fifty years later.

Nan was a busy lady while living in Tucson. She had many interests. Nan worked as an editorial assistant for the Arizona Historical Society. She later served as the editor of KIVA, a publication in the archaeology, anthropology, and history of the American Southwest. Nan also worked with various non-profit organizations. She served as a "promotora" at St. Elizabeth's of Hungary Clinic and when working for Amistades Inc., Nan worked on projects related to youth drug prevention. Nan enjoyed serving as a volunteer with Clínica Amistad and the University of Arizona Poetry Center. Nan was devoted to her church, First United Methodist Church (Tucson, AZ). In more recent years, Nan committed herself to The Inn Project, which offered temporary housing to documented immigrants passing through Tucson. She served with her head and her heart. Nan was committed to making Tucson a better place for everyone.

If you wish to make a donation in her memory, please consider the University of Arizona Poetry Center (University of Arizona Foundation/Poetry Center P.O. Box 210150, Tucson AZ 85721), Clínica Amistad (P.O. Box 27284 Tucson, AZ, 85726) or The Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona (3003 S. Country Club Rd., Tucson, AZ 85713).

Flourish

The APIDA Fund Celebration

Thursday, October 16 | 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM | CSFA Campus



Celebrating growth, resilience, and a thriving future for the APIDA community.

Celebrate the official public launch of the Asian Pacific Islander Desi American (APIDA) Fund, held at the Community Foundation for Southern Arizona. This special evening brings together community leaders, advocates, and friends to honor resilience, culture, and connection.

Enjoy cultural performances, inspiring speakers, and stories that reflect the strength and diversity of the APIDA community in Southern Arizona. Guests are encouraged to wear cultural attire to celebrate the beauty of APIDA traditions.

Let's come together to honor our roots and celebrate a thriving future.



RSVP at cfsaz.org/flourish

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.
기도와 참여 부탁드립니다.

SPECIAL UPCOMING EVENTS

September 28th - Annual Corn Roast

- The feast will begin immediately after the 10AM worship service.
- First Church will supply the juicy corn, and we ask you to bring your favorite pie to share! Signup sheet on the Social Hall stage.
- Whether you're bringing pie or not, please put down the number of attendees coming with you, so that we can order the correct amount of corn.

WEEKDAY GATHERINGS

Wanderers on a Spiritual Quest (WSQ)

-WSQ meets on Mondays at 4:30PM in the library.

Narcotics Anonymous (Underground)

- NA meets at 7:30PM on Monday evenings.
- On the last Monday of the month, there is Medallion Night in the Social Hall.

All God's Creation (AGC)

- AGC meets on Tuesdays at 3PM over Zoom.
- [Zoom ID: 994 3610 1655](#) [Passcode: 6226481](#)

Chancel Choir

- It's a great time to join the choir!
- Practice on Thursdays at 6:30 PM
- Rehearsals on Sunday at 9 AM before the worship service

Progressive Book Study (PBS)

- PBS has resumed meeting on Thursdays at 3:30PM over Zoom.
- The current book is "The Fourth Gospel: Tales of a Jewish Mystic" by John Shelby Spong.

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

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

September 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 **Friday the 12th at 11:30 AM** at the Olive Garden on the northeast corner of Oracle/Wetmore ([300 W Wetmore Rd, Tucson, AZ 85705](#)). If you're interested in coming, please notify the church office by Wednesday the 10th so enough seating can be reserved at the restaurant.

Blessing of the Animals - October 12th

During the 10 AM service, Pastor Ko will bless all the animals and pets of our church friends and family. There will also be a slideshow showing all the animals, so please email your favorite photo of your pet to the church office along with its name and yours for inclusion in the slideshow. If you already submitted your pets' photos in previous years, then just remind the office which pets should be included this year.

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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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.



We offer our prayers for these sister faith communities:

St. James UMC, Tucson

St. John's UMC, Tucson

St. Mark's UMC, Tucson

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)

Leonard Santos (Sep 5)

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)

Gretchen & Pedro Lopez (Sep 1 - 7 yrs)

Tripp & Phillip Cahill-Gordon (Sep 8 - 2 yrs)

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

By Diane & Victoria Russell

**Not Joining the Family?
It Might Be Pain.**

A black and white photograph showing a close-up of a tabby cat on the left, leaning its head over the head of a white dog on the right. The cat's mouth is slightly open, and it appears to be sniffing or nuzzling the dog's ear area. The dog is lying down, looking towards the left. The background is dark and out of focus.

difficulty standing, whimpering, or acting different. If your pet is experiencing pain symptoms, a trip to the vet is advised.

The United Nations declared this day in 2012 to honor Mother Teresa for her tireless dedication to serving the



poor and marginalized. The 2025 theme is “Call the world to act with solidarity and compassion”. Ways to celebrate this day include donating or volunteering to your favorite charity.

A collage of eight photographs of hummingbirds. The top-left image shows a small hummingbird with a red throat perched on a branch. The top-right image is a large, vibrant photo of a hummingbird with a red throat and iridescent green wings in flight against a warm, orange background. The middle-left image shows a hummingbird with a red throat perched on a green branch. The middle-right image shows a hummingbird with a red throat perched on a green branch. The bottom-left image shows a hummingbird with a red throat perched on a green branch. The bottom-middle image shows a hummingbird with a red throat perched on a green branch. The bottom-right image shows a hummingbird with a red throat perched on a green branch.

this day by setting up a hummingbird feeder or visiting a local pollinator garden.

This day was established by Sea Shepherd in memory of the 1,428 Atlantic white-sided dolphins that were eliminated in the Faroe



Islands on September 12, 2021 - the largest dolphin hunt in recorded history. The day serves as a reminder to protect dolphins and raise awareness about the threats they face.

HAPPY INTERNATIONAL MICROORGANISM DAY!

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Big impacts come from teeny tiny packages!

From the hydrothermal vents, to the permafrost,

IT'S INTERNATIONAL MICROORGANISM DAY!

UNSUNG HEROES

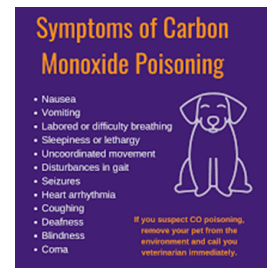
UNSEEN VILLAINS

IT'S INTERNATIONAL MICROORGANISM DAY!

This day was created in 2017 to honor the work of Dutch scientist Antonie Van Leeuwenhoek discovery of

microorganisms in 1674. Microorganisms or microbes are defined as organisms that are too small to be seen with the naked eye - which include bacteria, viruses, fungi, and protozoa.

Carbon monoxide (CO) is a gas called the “silent killer” that can have fatal consequences for you and your pets. It is colorless, odorless, tasteless and



non-irritating. CO poisoning can affect animals at a rate twice that of people. Honor this day by learning the signs of CO poisoning, installing a CO detector, or changing the batteries.

September 22nd – World Car Free Day



Car Free Day encourages motorists around the world to give up their vehicles for a day. The

goal is to raise awareness about the impact of cars have on the environment such as air pollution and global warming

September 24th – Blue Bird of Happiness Day

There are three living species of bluebirds in North America: The Eastern, the Western, and the Mountain Blue



bird that are associated with the “Bluebird of happiness” folklore. The “bluebird of happiness” symbolizes, joy, hope, optimism and happiness. Let’s celebrate these wonderful birds.

September 27th – National Public Lands Day



Created in 1994 by the National Environmental Education Foundation (NEEF) to promote the improvement of public lands. It is the nation’s largest single-day volunteer event for public

land. On 9/27 there is free admission to all US National Parks for National Public Lands Day.

September 27th – National Crush A Can Day

It is a day to get your crush on and help care for the environment. Often crushing aluminum and steel cans will make them more efficient for recycling. Recycling reduces carbon emissions, saves money, and cuts down on waste. Check your local recycling facility if they prefer cans crushed or uncrushed.



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 continue to work towards building a loving and faithful community in Tucson, and welcome all of you to be part of it.