



First United Methodist Church
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“Celebrating Our Ministry and Looking Ahead with Faith”

By Pastor Eun Ko

Dear Church Family,

I greet you with deep gratitude as we reflect on and celebrate the ministry we have shared this past year. On October 1st, we gathered for our Church Conference, a time to remember how God has worked through us and to look forward to what He has in store for the future.



That day held special significance for me personally as well—it was Halla’s birthday. Although I couldn’t be with her for dinner due to the conference, we had a wonderful breakfast together before she went to school. It was a reminder of the balancing act many of us experience between family, ministry, and the call to serve. Yet, in every season, God provides moments of grace and connection that sustain us.

This past year has been a testament to God’s faithfulness in our church’s life. From our worship services to Bible studies, outreach ministries, and moments of fellowship, we have been blessed to experience growth in faith and love. We have come together as a family of believers, serving one another and our community with dedication and compassion.

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## Celebrating Our Ministry and Looking Ahead with Faith cont.

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At the Church Conference, we took time to celebrate the work we've done and cast a vision for the year ahead. We are excited to continue building on the foundations we've set, with a focus on deepening our faith, expanding our outreach, and strengthening the bonds of fellowship. Next year, we will explore new opportunities to grow as disciples of Christ, share God's love, and make a positive impact in our community.

As we look to the future, I encourage each of you to join me in prayer, seeking God's guidance and wisdom. Let us remain open to the leading of the Holy Spirit, ready to embrace the new paths God is calling us to walk together.

Thank you for your continued faithfulness, love, and support. I am so grateful to be on this journey with you. Let us keep celebrating the ministry we share and look forward to what God will do in and through us in the coming year.

**"Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and he will establish your plans." (Proverbs 16:3)**

**“너의 행사를 여호와께 맡기라 그리하면 네가 경영하는 것이 이루어라.” (잠언 16:3)**

With joy and gratitude,

Pastor Eun Young Ko

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## WHAT'S HAPPENING AT FIRST CHURCH OF TUCSON!



*Left: Pastor Ko's friends, Rev. Jinsan Kim and Shinae Kim, visited and stayed at her house on Sep 2nd on their journey from Los Angeles, CA to Wisconsin for their new ministry appointment. Pastor Ko always loves to make a sacred space for guests as part of her ministry.*

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Below: There was an Emotional Intelligence Training for South District clergy in St. Paul UMC on Sep 12th. Pastor Ko participated in and learned about it as continuing education.



Below: There was a Meet'n'Eat at Olive Garden on Sep 13th at 11:30 AM. They have met at Olive Garden on the second Friday of the month for years. It was delightful to be together. Shirley Murray is the usual coordinator of this event but this time Jessie Hansen took over because Shirley needed to be at a funeral service. Olive Garden offers a free dessert for a birthday person. Margo Kahler was the one on that day. Happy Birthday to Margo, again!



Left: Shirley Murray had a 90th birthday party on Sep 14th which was secretly planned by her spiritual daughter, April DuBoce. (Unfortunately, we have no pictures of the party, but Shirley wore two Leis to church the Sunday after.)

Right: A fun Young Christians' Time, even if we didn't have a child on that Sunday. It continues....



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Above and left: Our Annual Corn Roast was on Sep 22nd. On Saturday the 21st, we gathered in the kitchen to shuck the juicy ears of corn in preparation for the Roast. We shucked a total of 144 ears!



Above: Charge Conference 2024 was held on October 1st at 7PM in the church social hall. We celebrated our ministry together, hoping that we may continue to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ next year.

Right: District Superintendent Rev. Matt Ashley at the Charge Conference.



## MEET OUR NEW MUSIC DIRECTOR!



Hello, my name is Youngeun Kim from South Korea, and I am the new music director at the First United Methodist Church of Tucson! I was born into a Christian family, and since I was 5, I have always been part of church choirs. I love singing in a choir, and shortly after I began my conducting journey, I had the opportunity to become the music director for a young adult service at Go-cheok Church in South Korea. I'll never forget the first time I conducted a church choir and praised God with them. I felt truly blessed to lead the choir in worship! Later, I came to the U.S. for my master's degree and served as an accompanist for services at Korea Saehan Church in Louisville, Kentucky, since my church didn't have a choir. Now, I'm incredibly grateful to be the music director at First United Methodist Church, where I get to work with such passionate choir members. I'm looking forward to creating beautiful music together with the voices God has given us!

Youngeun Kim, a native of South Korea, is a second-year doctoral student in choral conducting at the University of Arizona. As part of her role as a graduate teaching assistant, she is currently the assistant conductor of the University Community Chorus. Additionally, she serves as assistant conductor at Tucson Masterworks Chorale. Youngeun completed a Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance from Ewha Woman's University in South Korea, where she also earned a Master of Music in Choral Conducting. Subsequently, she achieved a second master's degree in Choral Conducting at the University of Louisville.

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## BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS



Please join us for a special Blessing of the Animals on **October 13th** in honor of Saint Francis of Assisi, the Patron Saint of Animals and the Environment. Performing the Blessing of the Animals Service will be Pastor Ko. Please submit your pictures of all the animals you would like to have blessed during the service to the church office.

- Please include the animal's name on the back of the picture along with your name.
- Please send or bring in all pictures by **October 9th** in order to make the picture board!
- If you want last year's photos used in this year's slideshow, please let office staff know as soon as possible.

## **TRUE CONCORD VOICES & ORCHESTRA**

Season 2024-25

Celebrate! Tucson's 250th Anniversary

GRAMMY-nominated True Concord invites you to experience our 2024-25 season with the very best singers and instrumentalists from across the region and nation, coming together to move, enrich and inspire with glorious music.

### **OCTOBER**

#### **French Masters & the Spirit of Collaboration**

True Concord opens its 21st Season with an exciting collaboration of two GRAMMY Award-honored ensembles, True Concord and the Phoenix Chorale featuring the music of Maurice Duruflé, Frank Martin, Gabriel Fauré.

**Friday, October 11, 2024 / 3 pm**

Catalina United Methodist Church

Green Valley bus service available for October 11th performance

**Saturday, October 12, 2024 / 7 pm**

Catalina United Methodist Church

### **NOVEMBER**

#### **Frankenstein, Brahms and the Search for Love**

True Concord is proud to present Co-Composer-In-Residence Timothy C. Takach and choreographer Penny Freeh's Unfashioned Creature inspired by Mary Shelley's masterpiece novel and continues with Brahms's second collection of love songs.

**Friday, November 22, 2024 / 4 pm**

Sahuarita H.S. Auditorium / Sahuarita

**Saturday, November 2024 / 7 pm**

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church

**Sunday, November 24, 2024 / 3 pm**

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church

### **Lay Servant Classes**

There are a number of Lay Servant classes being offered this fall, including the Introduction to Lay Ministry Basic Course on November 2nd and 9th at St. John's UMC here in Tucson. For more information, please visit <https://dscumc.org/lay-servant-ministries-training-sessions/>

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 SUNDAYS**

**October 6th: World Communion Sunday**

**October 13th: Blessing of the Animals**

**October 20th: Laity Sunday**

**WEEKDAY GATHERINGS**

**Wanderers on a Spiritual Quest (WSQ)**

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

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**Narcotics Anonymous (Underground)**

-NA meets at 7:30PM on Monday evenings in the Arizona room.

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**All God's Creation (AGC)**

-AGC meets on Tuesdays at 3PM over Zoom.

[Zoom ID: 994 3610 1655](https://www.zoom.us/j/99436101655) Passcode: 6226481

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**Chancel Choir**

-Practice on Thursdays at 6:30PM in the Sanctuary.

-A shorter rehearsal on Sundays at 8:50AM.

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**Progressive Book Study (PBS)**

-PBS meets on Thursdays at 3:30PM over Zoom. The new book is "Wrestling with Doubt," by Adam Hamilton.

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

[Zoom ID: 980 1573 8087](https://www.zoom.us/j/98015738087) Passcode: 6226481

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**Cocaine Anonymous (CA)**

-This support group meets at 7:30PM on Friday evenings in the Arizona room.



**We Need Your Help in the Kitchen!**

We would greatly appreciate having a few more volunteers in the kitchen for food prep before the 10AM worship service and for clean-up after Fellowship hour. The work is not difficult at all, but it can be time-consuming with so few people doing it.

Thank you to everyone who has helped out so far! Everyone at First Church appreciates your gifts of time, effort, food, and monetary contributions.

## **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](http://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. Paul's UMC, Tucson  
Trinity UMC, Bisbee  
Vista de la Montana 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](mailto:office@firstchurchtucson.org) or (520) 622-6481.

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## **BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES**

Halla Kang (Oct 1)  
Insook Bae (Oct 7)  
V. Carole Smith (Oct 10)  
Bill Snyder (Oct 10)

John Oh (Oct 14)  
Tina Todd (Oct 15)  
Joyce Holloway (Oct 16)  
Dottie Poczulp (Oct 19)  
Gail Snyder (Oct 19)

Maxwell Musgrove (Oct 20)  
Suzanne Van Ort (Oct 21)  
Jeanne Jensen (Oct 24)  
Jessie Hansen (Oct 26)

Blaise & Nathalie Lolika (Oct 5)  
Joonkil Ahn & Deullae Min (Oct 24)

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

### **October 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, October 11th at 11:30 AM** at the Olive Garden on the northeast corner of Oracle/Wetmore ([300 W Wetmore Rd, Tucson, AZ 85705](http://www.olivegarden.com)).

If you're interested in coming, please notify the church office or Shirley Murray at (520) 297-4796 by Wednesday so she can reserve enough seats at the restaurant.



# Animal & Environmental Holidays for October 2024

By Diane & Victoria Russell



## October – National Pet Wellness Month

The American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) created this month in 2004. The goal of this month is to promote pet health and wellness to keep them healthy with a focus on preventative care to keep them healthy all year long.



## October 4th – World Animal Day/World Animal Welfare Day

The first world animal day was held in Germany in 1925 by Heinrich Zimmermann. Today it is a worldwide mission to improve the welfare standards for animals around the world and to make the world a better place for all animals. The 2024 theme is “The world is their home too.”



## October 6th – Change a Light Day

Created by the state of Kentucky in 2005 to help the environment by switching from the traditional incandescent light bulbs to LEDs. Some features of LED bulbs include: they consume less energy, have a longer life expectancy, and are better for the environment compared to regular light bulbs.



## October 7th – World Habitat Day

The United Nations established this day in 1985 with the goal that everyone has the basic right to have adequate shelter in our towns and cities. The 2024 theme is “Engaging youth to create a better urban future.”



## October 12th – International African Penguin Awareness Day

In 2010, the African Penguin was placed on the US Endangered Species lists as their populations have continued to decline. This special day is to raise awareness of the plight of these amazing flightless birds which includes climate change, oil spills, overfishing, and habitat destruction.



## October 14th – International E-Waste Day

Created in 2018 by the Waste from Electronic (WEEE) Forum to raise awareness about electrical and electronic equipment waste and to encourage people to recycle. The 2024 theme is “Join the E-Waste Hunt – Retrieve, Recycle, and Revive!”



**October 16th – World Food Day**

Created by the United Nations General Assembly to celebrate the creation of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). The goal of this day is to raise awareness about people suffering from hunger in the world. The 2024 theme is “Right to foods for a better life and a better future.”



**October 16th – National Fossil Day**

The 15th anniversary of National Fossil Day. It is a day to celebrate the scientific and educational principles of paleontology and learn about preserving fossils for future generations. Ways to celebrate this day include visiting your local museum, learning about fossils, and attending special events.



**October 22nd – International Wombat Day**

Created in 2005 by Chris Mabe to raise awareness about these amazing marsupials. There are three species of wombats native to Australia and all are protected. The Northern Hairy-Nosed and Southern Hairy Nosed Wombats are Endangered and the common wombat is of Least Concern.



**October 25th – World Lemur Day**

Let’s celebrate and protect these amazing and endangered primates. There are 112 different species of lemur that are all native to Madagascar. They are endangered due to environmental issues, hunting, climate change, and the pet trade industry



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.