



First United Methodist Church
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“Leaning on the Holy Spirit!”

By Pastor Eun Ko

Greetings in Jesus Christ,

I hope and pray that God will continue to walk with you in the year of 2023 with endless love and profound grace in your lives. I have been leading a Bible study in the church with some of the Korean ladies since the last week of November. This week, we studied, “What is the Holy Spirit?” You may assume that I have studied about the Holy Spirit at the seminary and have taught about it at numerous classes and sermons.

I admire how God works through the Holy Spirit to us in our specific situations as well as how the same scriptures touch us differently.

Isaiah 43:1

1Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are mine.

이사야서 43:1 너는 두려워하지 말라 내가 너를 구속하였고 내가 너를 지명하여 불렀나니 너는 내 것이라

Isaiah 41:10-11

10Do not fear, for I am with you; do not be afraid, for I am your God; I will strengthen you; I will help you; I will uphold you with my victorious right hand. 11All who are incensed against you shall be ashamed and disgraced; those who strive against you shall be as nothing and shall perish.

이사야 41:10-11 두려워하지 말라 내가 너와 함께 함이라 놀라지 말라 나는 네 하나님이 됨이라 내가 너를 굳세게 하리라 참으로 너를 도와 주리라 참으로 나의 의로운 오른손으로 너를 붙들리라. 보라 네게 노하던 자들이 수치와 욕을 당할 것이요 너와 다투는 자들이 아무것도 아닌 것 같이 될 것이며 멸망할 것이라

John 14:1 “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me.

요한복음 14:1 너희는 마음에 근심하지 말라 하나님을 믿으니 또 나를 믿으라

I become humble again to enter into the year of 2023. I also hope that God will lead and guide us in the year of 2023, no matter what kinds of hardships you have gone through; no matter with whom you are having a hard time in relationships; no matter what challenges you had to overcome in the year of 2022.

Even if you had unexpected events, meetings, or situations which turned into blessings in your lives, God is still there, being glad with you in your joyful moments, and His heart breaking for you in your dark moments as well. I am sure that God will be with us because God was with us in the year of 2022.

You may know what was going on since last Digest. There was a Christmas Cantata and “The Sights, Smells, and Sounds of Christmas” on Dec 11; the Korean young adult/students winter retreat from Dec 16 to 18; the Christmas Eve Candlelight service on Dec 24, and the Korean Christmas Choir on Dec 25 by the help of the Holy Spirit.

God has a big picture through us, the First United Methodist Church of Tucson—regardless of Covid or post-Covid era, any challenges, and any darkness—and through the campus of the University of Arizona, the city of Tucson, and the world, for the Kingdom of God.

Sincerely,

Pastor Ko

### **SPAM EMAIL WARNING!**

Pastor Ko and church staff have recently received multiple reports that the pastor is being impersonated by someone with an extremely similar email address who is trying to convince members of our congregation to discreetly send them money/gift cards.

We want to remind everyone that the pastor will never ask you to secretly give her money or buy her gift cards, nor will she ask you to keep communication limited to email only.

If you receive an email from the malicious individual trying to steal her identity, please use your email provider’s tools to report it as Phishing/Spam and do NOT engage with this person. Report, Delete, Ignore is the best solution.

### **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR TAKING DOWN THE GREENS**

The holidays are over, and it’s finally time to take down our beautiful Christmas trees and other decorations.

We are asking for volunteers to come help pack everything up, starting at 10:30AM this Saturday (January 7th).

Thank you in advance to everyone who shows up for this yearly task. We appreciate you!



## What's Been Happening at First UMC of Tucson!

- Christmas Choir Cantata (Dec 11 at 10AM)
- Sights, Smells, and Sounds of Christmas: Dec 11 at 4PM)
- Choir Christmas Party (Dec 14 at 6:30PM)
- Korean Young Adults Winter retreat (Dec 16-18)
- Korean Choir on Christmas Day (Dec 25)
- Special singer Dane Carten on New Year's Day (Jan 1, 2023)



Left: Cantata narrators Nancy and Don.



Right: Chancel choir singing.



Left: Chancel choir group photo.



Right: Choir Christmas party on Dec 14.



### The Sights, Smells, and Sounds of Christmas

Left: Gary reading to the youth. Right: Joyce and Susan making Christmas cards.





Left: Sights, Smells, and Sounds of Christmas.  
Right: Korean young adults winter retreat – Visiting a historical church



Korean young adults winter retreat  
Left: Making s'mores. Right: Invited inside by Rev. Court.



Left: Korean Choir on Christmas Day. Right: Dane Carten singing on New Year's Day

## Learn How Your Prayers Were Answered in The Congo

After a blessing by Pastor Ko, this November Blaise and Natalie Lolika journeyed to Democratic Republic of Congo seeking to help women and children suffering from abuse. Rape by soldiers leaves many women deeply scarred and in need of help rebuilding their lives.

God strengthened them on their first day as they learned of the sudden death of one of Natalie's brothers. He had planned to welcome her at the airport.

The photos capture how warmly they were received. During the trip Natalie showed courage in flying to remote villages. Both of them were determined to make every minute count. The organization they are creating is called Global Assistance for Women and Children. Blaise's career includes years as a nurse in obstetrics here in Tucson. Natalie is experienced caring for people with physical handicaps. They would love to tell you more about how God is using them. Blaise and Natalie have four children of their own who attended Sunday School at FUMC!



## A Sincere "Thank You!" from Equine Voices Rescue and Sanctuary

We recently received a thank-you card from this non-profit organization in response to the \$644.20 we raised during one of our 2022 Coin Sunday special collections. Below is their message:

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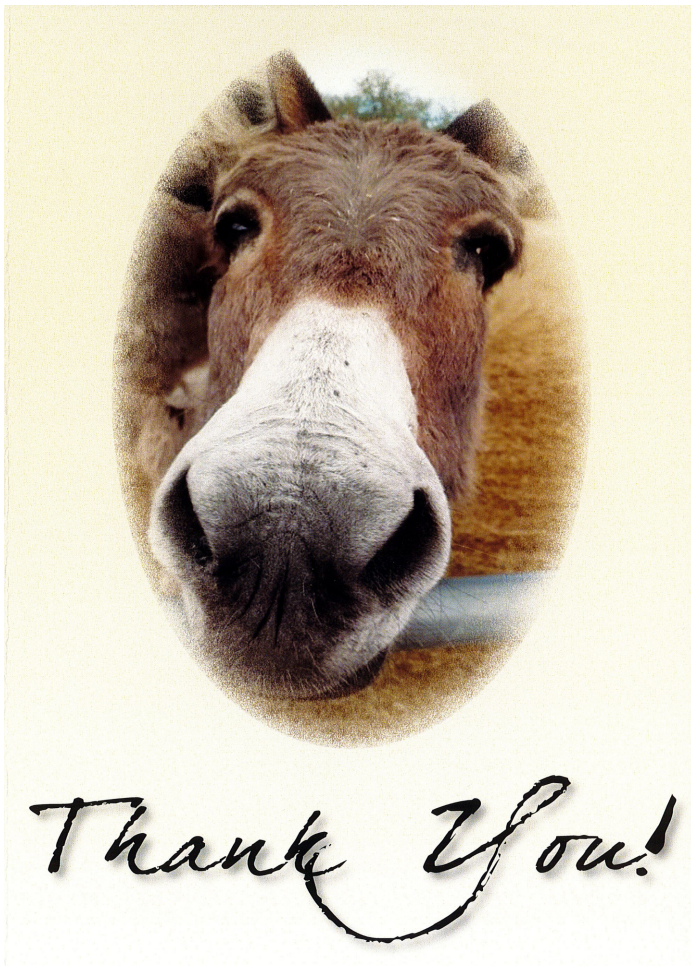
Dear Margo,


We send a huge thank-you to all of you at First United Methodist Church. What a wonderful group and what a kind thing to do! Please accept our love and Gratitude. Your gift will be used toward hay, feed and special supplements for our senior horses.

If any of you would like to see the ranch, see your donations in action, we would be happy to schedule a tour, have you meet the horses and burros.

With gratitude,

Karen and the herd



Dear Margo,  
We send a huge thank-you to all of you at First United Methodist Church. What a wonderful group and what a kind thing to do! Please accept our love & Gratitude. Your gift will be used toward hay, feed and special supplements for our senior horses.  
If any of you would like to see the ranch, see your donation in action, we would be happy to schedule a tour, have you meet the horses & burros.   
With gratitude,  
Karen and the herd

## An Invitation from Rev. Jerry Haas to Tour Nogales, Mexico

For the last ten years, Border Community Alliance has been offering Cross Border Tours to provide an opportunity for people to get a more comprehensive picture of our neighbor to the South. We've discovered that many people who live in Southern Arizona have never been to "the other side" (i.e. Nogales, MX) or if they have, only to visit a pharmacy or a dentist. Participants on the tour are often amazed to discover a vibrant city beyond the border of some 400,000 people, with inspiring nonprofit organizations and surprisingly effective leaders.

We call this the "come and see" tour. I'm writing to extend a special invitation to you, the Methodists of Southern Arizona.

Our first stop will be at the Mexican Methodist church where we'll meet Pastor Francisco and learn about his ministry. Next, we'll visit Casa de la Misericordia, a shelter for asylum seekers, resourced by our Methodist organization, AZ-JFON (Justice for Our Neighbors). We'll meet asylees and learn about JFON's outstanding work with this population. Before lunch, we'll stop at ARSOBO, a nonprofit dedicated to empowering people with disabilities with assistive devices (wheelchairs, prosthetics and hearing aids). After lunch, we finish the day with a driving tour of the newer section of Nogales, followed by coffee and flan at La Roca and a conversation with US Consul General Laura Biedebach or one of her staff persons.

The full price of the tour is \$95, but we offer the member rate of \$75 for Methodists on this tour. The fee pays for the cost of the rental van in Mexico (with a professional driver), expert guidance from my Mexican colleague, Alma Cota de Yanez, lunch, tips and the stop at La Roca. **Passports are required.** The tour is limited to eleven participants, so register using the link below soon. Tours typically begin with an orientation in Tubac at 8:30 am and end as we cross back into the US around 4:30 pm (NOTE: crossing times vary).

I'm happy to answer any questions you might have. Feel free to email me or give me a call.

Rev. Jerry Haas, retired Elder  
520-449-0327

<https://bca.app.neoncrm.com/eventReg.jsp?event=1603&>

### **WANTED: A compassionate person to continue Lee Scott's ministry with Anthony.**

It's not easy being poor. Anthony is 63, rides a bicycle, has bad knees, no car, computer or any kind of bank account. He gets disability checks and food stamps, but needs a ride to pay his rent and occasionally some moral support. When Lee passed away, we stepped in. Bruce played chess with Anthony every week and Judith drove him to get groceries and to doctor's appointments. We have had to cut back on our activities with Anthony as each new health issue hit us. Now is the time for someone else to help Anthony.

If this is a blessing you feel called to bestow, please call Judith or Bruce at **520-319-9431**. Thanks.

-The Billings

THIS WEEK'S  
ANNOUNCEMENTS & GATHERINGS

**10AM SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE**

Join us in person, or watch the service Live at  
<https://www.youtube.com/c/TucsonFirstUMC>.

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한국어 사역

주일 오전 11시 30분에 한국어 예배가  
현장예배와 온라인예배로 진행됩니다.  
기도와 참여 부탁드립니다.

매주 목요일 저녁 7시, 성경공부가 줌으로  
진행됩니다.

Meeting ID: 998 6112 0822      Passcode: 6226481

**NOTICE:** Due to the recent increase in  
COVID-19 variant cases in Pima County and  
across the United States, our safety guidelines  
have been updated:

- **We are recommending a return to wearing masks inside the building for the next few weeks.** Social distancing is also in effect (minimum 6 ft between households).
- If you are not yet fully vaccinated or are immuno-compromised, or if you are not feeling well, we ask that you watch the YouTube livestream rather than attend in person.
- Choir members are required to be fully vaccinated in order to sing for the congregation during the service.

*These guidelines are subject to change with  
Pima County and CDC recommendations.*

**WEEKDAY GATHERINGS**

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

-WSQ meets on Mondays at 4:30PM in the  
church 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. The  
group is reusing last year's book, "All God's  
Creatures: Daily Devotions for Animal Lovers  
2021."

Zoom ID: 994 3610 1655      Passcode: 6226481

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**Chancel Choir**

-Practice is on Wednesdays at 6:30PM in the  
Sanctuary.  
-Rehearsal is at 9AM on Sundays.  
-The Christmas Cantata is coming up—don't miss  
it!

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**Progressive Book Study (PBS)**

-PBS meets on Thursdays at 3PM. The current  
book is "The Naked Now" by Richard Rohr.

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

Zoom ID: 980 1573 8087      Passcode: 6226481

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**Cocaine Anonymous (CA)**

-This support group meets at 8:30PM on  
Fridays in the Arizona room.



## 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.

\* \* \*

## 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:

Catalina UMC, Tucson  
San Pedro Valley UMC, Benson  
Desert Skies 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

Christiana Ageh (Jan 3)  
Eunice Santos (Jan 7)  
Bob Hansen (Jan 17)

Michi Michalsky (Jan 18)  
Steven Yoo (Jan 8)  
Bill Bensema (Jan 23)  
Jim Goff (Jan 26)

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

### **January Meet'n'Eat**

This is a fellowship time to visit with each other and see old and new friends. *All are welcome!*

The next Meet'n'Eat is **Friday, January 13<sup>th</sup> 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 call Shirley Murray at (520)297-4796 by Wednesday so she can reserve enough tables at the restaurant.

# Animal & Environmental Holidays for January 2023

By Diane & Victoria Russel



## January 2nd - National Pet Travel Safety Day/Month

Pets are our companions and are often part of our travel plans. Remember to always kennel or use a safety harness to keep your

pet safe during vehicle rides. Never leave a pet alone in a parked car or allow pets to hang their head out the window in a car while driving.

## January 5th - National Bird Day

Created in 2002 by the Avian Welfare Coalition to raise awareness about birds



and to help end the illegal bird trade. There are more than 10,000 species of birds worldwide. According to the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) there are about 460 species of birds that are endangered.



## January 6th - National Cuddle Up Day

What a perfect day to cuddle up with loved ones.

Cuddling can release oxytocin which is a

hormone which makes you feel good and can reduce pain. It can also reduce heart disease and lower blood pressure, stress and anxiety. For safety always know/learn your pet's boundaries before cuddling.



## January 7th - Old Rock Day

Remembering the history of this amazing planet we all call Earth. This day is dedicated

to all the geologists who have studied its incredible history through the rocks of the earth. It is a day to appreciate old rocks and fossils of the past.

## January 10th - Save the Eagle Day

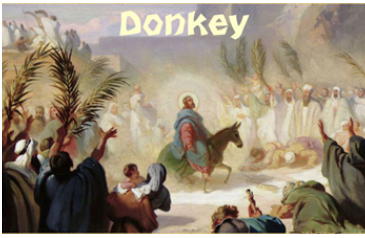
Bald eagles are a symbol of our nation's freedom- but there are over 60 different species of eagles. This is a day to raise awareness of their plight. Eagles suffer from trafficking, pesticides, hunting, and other dangers. Eagles need our help for future protection!



## January 10th - National "Cut Your Energy Cost" Day

Created by the

Canadian Energy Efficiency Alliance (CEEA) to encourage homeowners and businesses to help reduce energy costs. Ways to cut energy costs include; weatherproof your home, solar power, down thermostats, use LEDs lights, carpool/public transportation, turn off lights, and unplug appliances.



**January 14th – Feast of the Donkey**

The donkey that journeyed with the Holy Family is honored today.

There are several

accounts of donkeys in the Bible; Jesus rode one on Palm Sunday when he went to Jerusalem, a donkey is said to be present at Jesus 'birth. Take time to read about the donkeys of the Bible.

**January 20th - Penguin Awareness Day**

Penguins are cute flightless aquatic birds. There are about 20 known species of penguins. They are peaceful but face many dangers from hunter predators such as whales, sharks, seals, and polar bears. They need our help to keep from going extinct. So, cuddle up and watch a cute penguin movie.



**January 21st - Squirrel Appreciation Day**

Squirrels truly are remarkable little creatures. Wildlife rehab specialist Christy Hargrove created

this day to foster kindness toward these cute creatures. Some people see squirrels as a problem to be “taken care of” but this day encourages us to change our misconceptions of these creatures and cherish them.



**January 28th - International Reducing CO2 Emissions Day**

Created by the United

Nations to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The amount of CO2 that is coming from human activity that includes using fossil fuels, agriculture, and transportation needs to be reduced to help battle climate change. Recycling, adjusting your thermostat, & LED bulbs would help.



**January 31st - International Zebra Day**

There are three types of zebras in the wild: Grévy’s zebra, plains zebra, and the mountain zebra. They are known for their black and white stripes. This day is about spreading awareness to help protect zebras. The Red List of Threatened Species lists the Grévy’s zebra as endangered.

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.