



First United Methodist Church
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“The Season of Fruitfulness: Celebrating the Discipline of Rejoicing!”

By Pastor Eun Ko



Left: South District Clergy Gathering.



Right: Halla performing at the concert.

Greetings in the grace of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ,

As we enter this season of abundant blessings and growth, I am truly grateful for the recent opportunities we’ve had at FUMC of Tucson. We hosted the South District Clergy Gathering on Sep 6th, and on Sep 22nd, Halla participated in a remarkable event with the marching band. There are more events and moments of thanksgiving on the horizon, and I am excited for what lies ahead.

The timeless teachings of the Bible provide us with valuable guidance on how to cultivate a spirit of joy and celebration, not only in times of ease but especially when we face trials and tribulations.

(cont. pg 2)

## The Season of Fruitfulness: Celebrating the Discipline of Rejoicing! cont.

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To fully embrace the discipline of rejoicing, we must nurture a heart filled with gratitude. Colossians 3:15-17 reminds us: “And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.”

In this season of growth and abundance, our calling is to bear fruit for the Kingdom of God. Just as a tree bears fruit when its roots are firmly grounded and nourished, our lives can produce the fruits of joy, love, and hope when we anchor ourselves in faith and gratitude.

Therefore, let us embrace this season of fruitfulness by rejoicing in the Lord always, offering our prayers with thanksgiving, and trusting in His unwavering love. May our lives serve as a testament to the joy and hope that dwell within us, drawing others nearer to the source of all blessings and celebration—our loving Creator.

I am currently in Chicago, Illinois, participating in the Special Korean Clergy Association this week. I am filled with anticipation as I look forward to reuniting with our brothers and sisters of the Korean Clergy nationwide under the theme, “Reclaim, Revive, and Renew.” I am eager to share the excitement and fruitfulness that come from celebrating the discipline of rejoicing.

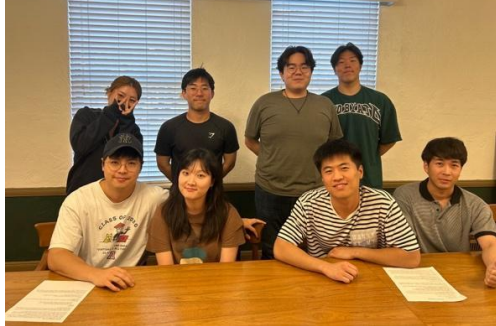
In Christ's abounding grace and joy,

Pastor Ko



## What's Happening at First Church of Tucson!

- Korean Young Adults gathered for worship and fellowship on Sep 16, 2023. After the worship service, they were treated to In-N-Out burgers by Steve and Lana Yoo. Then they enjoyed the Sabino Canyon moonlight tour during a beautiful sunset.



**Left:** Korean Young Adult group gathering **Right:** Sabino Canyon moonlight tour



*Lana and Steve Yoo with the young adult group, sponsoring the dinner for the group.*

- There was the 101<sup>st</sup> Corn Roast in the social hall after Sunday worship at 11AM. The Korean congregation joined this special fellowship once a year, moving their Korean worship time to 12:30PM instead of 11:30AM.



**Left:** Jessie



**Center:** Joyce G., Carol



**Right:** Margo, Tripp

*(cont. pg 4)*





**Left:** Ozzie, Cindy, Joyce H., Chuck **Right:** Group picture after preparing the ears of corn



**Left:** Food at the Corn Roast

**Right:** People enjoying the Corn Roast

- There was a time of welcoming new members in the Korean Worship Service on Oct 1st.



**Left:** New Membership Liturgy.

**Right:** Deullaee Min, Junkil Ahn, Min Suh Choi, Kate Park-Havins

## Upcoming South District-level Events

- **Orientation to Ministry**
  - Oct 5, 2023 @ 12 pm
  - <https://dscumc.org/event/orientation-to-ministry-3/>
  - O2M is mandatory for anyone wanting to become a certified candidate for ordained or licensed ministry, but is open to anyone simply exploring a call to ministry.
- **LSM Discipleship Begins with Relationship: Creating A Spiritual Growth Plan to See All The People**
  - Oct 6, 2023 @ 6 pm
  - Oct 7, 2023 @ 9 am
  - <https://dscumc.org/event/lsm-discipleship-begins-with-relationship-creating-a-spiritual-growth-plan-to-see-all-the-people/2023-10-06/>
  - This is an advanced course for Lay Servant Ministries. This course helps lay servant leaders understand and adopt an intentional discipleship plan for their church.
- **Women's RESToration Retreat at Mingus Mountain Camp**
  - October 9 - October 12
  - <https://mingusmountaincamp.org/events/womens-retreat/>
  - Join us to be filled with rest and to gain strength and perspective for the future! The cost for this event is \$525 (financial assistance available), covering meals, lodging, and programming led by experienced professionals: guided meditation and conversations, art therapy, equine experiences, therapy tools, and more!
- **C&LLD Leadership Talk: Learning Leaders – A Leadership Model**
  - October 9 @ 7 pm - 8:30 pm MST
  - <https://dscumc.org/event/clld-leadership-talk-learning-leaders-a-leadership-model/>
  - Presented by the Desert Southwest Conference Clergy and Lay Leadership Development team, featuring Nicholas Grainger, Pastor at Hope UMC in Bullhead City. His Leadership Talk is "Learning Leaders: A Leadership Model" inspired by the book "Learning as a Way of Leading: Lessons from the Struggle for Social Justice" by Preskill and Brookfield.
- **UMC Fall Family Camp Weekends at Mingus Mountain Camp**
  - October 13 - October 15
  - <https://mingusmountaincamp.org/events/fall-family-camp/>
  - In the last couple of years, we've noticed your church congregations love to enjoy Mingus Mountain together, especially during the fall! As such, we've designed this special opportunity just for our United Methodist Churches.
- **LSM Dancing With Words (Tell Stories) at St. Paul's UMC in Tucson**
  - Saturday, Oct 14, from 9 am – 3 pm and Saturday, Oct 21, from 9 am – 3:30 pm
  - <https://dscumc.org/event/lsm-dancing-with-words-tell-stories/2023-10-14/>
  - Participants will learn what constitutes a good story, discover storytelling styles, learn the techniques of effective storytelling, and practice creating stories from their experiences. The text: Dancing with Words by Ray Buckley is required reading for this program.

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.

**UPCOMING SPECIAL SUNDAYS**

**October 8<sup>th</sup> - Blessing of the Animals:** Send photos of your pets to the church office by October 3rd for inclusion in a blessing slideshow.

**October 15<sup>th</sup> - Laity Sunday:** We will recognize all our lay leaders in our church.

**UPCOMING MEETINGS**

**October 7<sup>th</sup> - Church Conference** at 10AM. (SPRC meets with D.S. Matt Ashley at 9AM.)

**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 **Friday, October 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/locations/300-W-Wetmore-Rd-Tucson-AZ-85705)).

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

**WEEKDAY GATHERINGS**

**Women 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. The group is using the book, "All God's Creatures: Daily Devotions for Animal Lovers 2021."

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

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**Chancel Choir**

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

-A shorter rehearsal starts at 9AM on Sundays.

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**Progressive Book Study (PBS)**

-PBS meets on Thursdays at 3PM. The new book is "Jesus: Uncovering the Life, Teachings, and Relevance of a Religious Revolutionary" by Marcus J. Borg.

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

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

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**Cocaine Anonymous (CA)**

-This support group meets at 8:30PM on Friday evenings 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.

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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)  
Bill Snyder (Oct 10)  
John Oh 오진석 (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 (October 5)  
Chuck & Judi Brandt (October 28)

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

# Animal & Environmental Holidays for October 2023

By Diane & Victoria Russell



## October 1st–31st – Energy Awareness Month

As of September 29, 2023, President Joseph R. Biden Jr made a Proclamation that October is "National Clean Energy Action Month". Calling on Americans to recognize this month by investing in clean energy in their homes, using tax credits, electric vehicles, etc. This is to help address the climate crisis for a healthier environment for all.



## October 4th – World Animal Day

Created in Berlin, Germany by Henrich Zimmermann in 1925 to promote awareness and improve animal welfare and treatments for animals in the wild and on farms. The 2023 theme for World Animal Day is "Great or Small, Love Them All."



## October 6th – World Smile Day

This is the 25th celebration of World Smile Day. Graphic designer Harvey Ball created this day. He designed the yellow smiley icon in 1963 as a morale booster whose original message was lost by being over-used. This year's theme is "Do an act of kindness. Help one person smile."



## October 8th – World Octopus Day

It is a day to celebrate this strange and unique animal. Most of the 300 (±) species have six arms and two legs with suction cups on the bottom side. They are intelligent, have nine brains, three hearts, and can even change colors and texture to blend in for safety.

14 OCTOBER 2023

## International E-Waste Day

You can recycle anything with a plug, battery or cable!



## October 14th – International E-Waste Day

Created in 2018 by the WEEE Forum to raise awareness about electrical and electronic equipment waste; and to encourage people to recycle. The 2023 theme is "You can recycle anything with a plug, battery or cable!"

## October 18 World Okapi Day



## October 18th – World Okapi Day

Created in 2016 by the Okapi Conservation Project to raise awareness of this amazing, endangered animal. They are related to giraffes and are also known as the "forest giraffe". They are native to the rainforests of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).





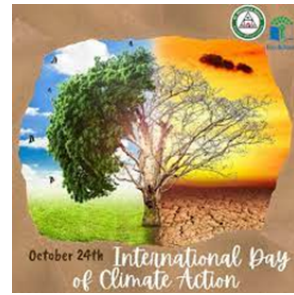
### October 19th – International Shakeout Day

This is an annual opportunity for people to practice what they should do during an earthquake and to improve their preparedness. This year's Shake Out Drill in Arizona is scheduled for 10:19 on October 19, 2023. So, wherever you are at 10:19 – you should Drop, Cover, and Hold On for at least 60 seconds.



### October 20th – International Sloth Day

Created in 2010 by the AIUNAU Foundation, an animal group from Colombia to raise awareness about this amazing slow-moving animal. There are six species of sloths where two are considered endangered. Check out Gwen, the two-toed sloth at Reid Park Zoo.



### October 24th – International Day of Climate Action

It is a worldwide movement by people concerned about climate change. The goal of this day is to raise awareness about the effects that humans are having on global warming. Some effects include storms, droughts, heatwaves, rising sea levels, warming of oceans, and habitat loss.



### October 31st – Halloween

Pets can safely join in on this spooky day. Make sure pets have collars, and ID tags on. No candy or candy wrappers, keep pets calm and inside, pumpkins are fire hazards, make sure your pets costume fits and is comfortable, and never force a costume. Enjoy this fun spooky day!



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.