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## “Are We Ready for Thanksgiving?”

By Pastor Eun Ko

Peace be with you.

My heart is aching because I recently learned about two tragedies in Asia last week, in addition to all the other sad news around the world.

There were the deaths of 135 people in the collapse of a cable suspension bridge in India’s western state of Gujarat. The bridge had been repaired and reopened to the public just last week.

There was the death of 156 people in a crowd crush during Halloween festivities in Seoul, South Korea. It happened when crowds surged through a narrow alleyway in a packed nightlife area of Seoul without any guidelines. The War between Russia and Ukraine, injustice in Congo, and much more! Everywhere seems to be a mess! It seems that the world doesn’t want us to be peaceful and thankful this year. Is it true? Well. It may be or maybe not.

In 2005, there was Hurricane Katrina; in 2011, there was an earthquake in Japan. In 2020, there was a pandemic worldwide. In between, you may name many other tragedies to prevent us from being thankful to God. It even happened in the Old Testament time and in Jesus’ time. It even happened in early Christianity and 16th century. Since God created the world with light in the darkness, there has been always light and darkness in many ways.

The most important thing is why we live, what we need, and how God wants us to live and wants us to do in the midst of it. Giving up, creating negative energy, hurting others, and much more are not acceptable to God. Instead, being strong, bringing positive energy, loving others, and much more are welcomed in the arm of God.

(cont. pg 2)

## Are We Ready for Thanksgiving? (cont.)

It is because God provides everything we need. In the face of God's wonderful abundance, we are called to rejoice and celebrate even in the midst of chaos, tragedies, and loss. In our gratitude, Deuteronomy charges us to give back to God from the first fruits of our harvest. On the very first Thanksgiving here in the United States, it wasn't the best situation and conditions that the people faced. Nevertheless, they wanted to give thanks to God for their first harvest and celebrate with others. Since then, Thanksgiving is a time to focus, not on what we have, but on what God has given us even in this troubled world.

I am so thankful for what we have been doing lately. I would like to lift up all the things we are thankful for since the most recent time we published the Digest.



Left: Dottie Poczulp preaching on Laity Sunday. Right: Nan, Pastor Ko, Blaise and Nathalie Lolika.



Left: Church leaders at Church Conference. Right: Rev. Sharon Ragland presiding over the Church Conference.



Left: Prepared meals for the Korean Young adult monthly gathering. Right: Korean Young Adult students.

(cont. pg 3)

## Title (cont.)

I would like us to read and remember bible verses from Colossians 3:15-17 as a reminder of being ready for thanksgiving.

Colossians 3:15-17

15 And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. 16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God.[i] 17 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.

골로새서 3장 15-17절

15 그리스도의 평강이 너희 마음을 주장하게 하라 너희는 평강을 위하여 한 몸으로 부르심을 받았나니 너희는 또한 감사하는 자가 되라

16 그리스도의 말씀이 너희 속에 풍성히 거하여 모든 지혜로 피차 가르치며 권면하고 시와 찬송과 신령한 노래를 부르며 감사하는 마음으로 하나님을 찬양하고

17 또 무엇을 하든지 말에나 일에나 다 주 예수의 이름으로 하고 그를 힘입어 하나님 아버지께 감사하라

If you have any concerns or suggestions, feel free to contact pastor Eun Young Ko  
(pastortucsonfirstumc@gmail.com)

With God's blessings,

Pastor Eun Young Ko

**November 27<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

## **Baptism and New Membership Sunday**

What a special moment we will have! Please pray for this special day and join with us in celebration.



**Welcome**  
to our  
**New Members**

## November 6<sup>TH</sup> - Day of Prayer for Ukraine

by Rev. Mel Munchinsky | Oct 17, 2022 | Conference Newsletter, Featured-News



There is war in Europe – again! The last two World Wars began in Europe and engulfed nations around the world. Both resulted in profound consequences in terms of lost and displaced lives and a change in the world order which we have lived with over the last 77 years. With the aim of ending the frequent and bloody conflicts that culminated in the Second World War, European politicians began the process of building what we know today as the European Union with one purpose and one purpose alone: to create lasting peace. Although Russia or Ukraine are not a part of the European Union, there is a distinct possibility for the present Russian/Ukrainian war to spill over and engage other nations and become a wider conflict. Nations, including individuals, are not immune from such possible engagement.

Over this stark reality, Jesus comes to us and says, “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not be afraid.” (John 14:27) Most of us interpret this in an individualistic way, but violence and war also were never a part of Jesus’ plan when it comes to international affairs or engagement. Nations are made up of individuals, and individuals determine paths of reconciliation and solutions to establish a lasting peace.

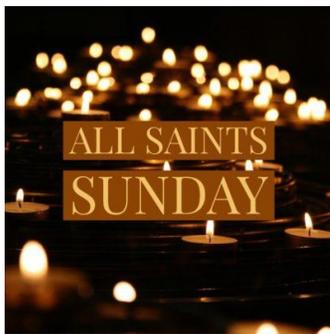
Since February 24, 2022, thousands of individuals have thrust themselves into a different kind of warfare, wrestling and constantly praying for God’s intervention in the Russian/Ukrainian war. Grandparents, mothers, fathers, and children have been asking God to intervene in this conflict through prayer. Prayer is the great conversational mystery that interplays because of human involvement and God, and no one really knows how it works, but it does!

When asked if Ukrainian United Methodists have felt the prayers of God’s people, the resounding answer is “Yes!” How do they know? Perhaps the answer lies in “The Ministry of Presence.” Although this is often expressed by being physically present in ministry with another, it can also refer to others knowing they have not been forgotten, abandoned, or alone even when separated by great distances because of prayer. Knowing that you will stand with people in the midst of anxiety and fear provides encouragement and inner strength for those who might be going through the valley of death so that they might not fear any evil for it is God’s rod and staff comforts them.

So, what can you do to help be part of the Ministry of Presence to help Ukrainian refugees and United Methodists in the country and those scattered all over Europe? Here are some suggestions:

- Mourn with those who mourn; identify yourself with refugees who are not only displaced but may have lost everything except their lives.
- Pray for both justice and peace. Pray for those who are suffering. Pray for those who need to make crucial decisions about basic life choices after losing everything. Pray without ceasing.
- Continue to be informed about current events or developments so you can pray for specific things, asking for our Lord's intervention.
- Look for practical ways to advocate for refugees with government representatives.
- Think about extending hospitality to refugees in your home if an opportunity arises or perhaps assisting people to get settled through a resettlement agency.
- Donate to refugee relief, if possible. Monetary gifts provide flexibility for what is needed rather than sending in-kind gifts, which might not be needed at all! The Ukrainian Advance number is **14053A**; the link is <https://umcmmission.org/advance-project/14053a/>

Our Annual Conference is targeting November 6th as a Day of Prayer for Ukraine. You are welcome to select another date if that works better. Most importantly, continue praying, for this will bring you closer to those who need it the most!



## **All Saints Sunday**

**November 6th at 10AM and 11:30AM**

We will remember those who became saints and separated from us here on Earth. If you have lost your loved one in the last ten years (since 2013), we would love to remember them. Please send their pictures to the office by Wednesday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>, including their name, relationship with you, and the dates of birth and death. If you want us to use last year's photo, please let the office know.

### **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

## A Successful Flute Choir Concert!

October 29th, 2022



The Tucson Flute Club performed a fall concert for the community while wearing Halloween costumes. The general theme of the music was spooky and moody; “Night on Bald Mountain” was a particularly well-played piece.

They had a variety of different kinds of flutes: piccolo (the highest pitched instrument), the concert flute, the alto flute, the bass and contrabass flutes. (You can see the triangular end of the contrabasses in the photos above, at the back.)

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### Upcoming Events:

**November 20th** - Testimony on Thanksgiving Sunday

**November 27th** - Baptism & New Membership Sunday, and the Hanging of the Greens

**December 18th** - Christmas Cantata at 10AM (joint service)

**December 24th** - Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 7PM

**December 25th** - Christmas Day Worship Service at 11AM (joint service)

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

**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/Underground 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.

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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  
Friday evenings in the Arizona room.

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

- **We are recommending a return to wearing masks inside the building.** 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.*

## 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:

Desert Skies UMC, Tucson  
Menlo Park UMC, Tucson  
Patagonia Community UMC

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

Carol Nelson (Nov 1)  
Marilyn Hall (Nov 6)  
Kyoung Hee Kim (Nov 6)  
Nancy Tomlinson (Nov 7)

Marjorie Task (Nov 12)  
Charlotte Baker (Nov 14)  
Lori Medcoff (Nov 14)

Chuck Brandt (Nov 19)  
Patricia Murphy (Nov 29)  
Hae Sook Hong (Nov 30)

Leonard & Eunice Santos (November 28)

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

### **November 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, November 18<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)). Please note: We have moved this month's gathering to the **third** Friday due to Veterans' Day on Nov 11<sup>th</sup> falling on the second Friday, which is our usual schedule.

If you're interested in coming, please call Shirley Murray at (520)297-4796 by Wednesday, November 16<sup>th</sup> so she can reserve enough space at the restaurant.

# Top 10 Animal & Environmental Holidays for November 2022

By Diane & Victoria Russell



## Nov 3 - Jellyfish Day

Created by Marine Biologists to bring awareness of these strange and unique creatures of the ocean. There are more than 2,000 different types of jellyfish worldwide. They are simple creatures lacking brains, blood, or hearts but they have a nerve net and are about 95% water.



## Nov 3 - One Health Day

This 7<sup>th</sup> annual event brings global awareness of health threats that include human, domestic & wild animals, plants, and the environment. This involves many disciplines and communities working together to help protect humans, animals, plants, and the environment.



## Nov 5 - National Bison Day

Created in 2012 by Native Americans, conservationists, and other people who cared deeply for the fate of the largest mammal in America. Due to westernization in the early 1900's they were slaughtered mercilessly without

regard. In 2016 it became the National Mammal of the US.



## Nov 5 - World Numbat Day

Created in 2015 to celebrate and raise awareness to Western Australia's animal emblem. It is also known as the banded anteater, or walpurti which is an insectivorous marsupial who loves to eat termites. They are endangered with less than 1,000 left in the wild.



## Nov 12 - Fancy Rat and Mouse Day

In 1983 the American Fancy Rat and Mouse Association (AFRMA) created this day to promote breeding of fancy rats and mice for exhibits/shows and to increase pet ownership. The AFRMA recognizes seven varieties of both fancy rats and mice with different varieties of coat types.



## Nov 15 - America Recycles Day (AKA National Recycling Day)

The 25th Anniversary of America Recycles Day (ARD) is where millions of people across America reduce waste by repurposing and reusing old items. The most common items that are recycled

include: cardboard, paper, food boxes, mail, soda cans, food cans, glass bottles, and jars.



### Nov 24 – Happy Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving is a day all about food, family and being grateful for everything we have. Pets are part of the family and cannot eat the same things as people. Foods to avoid: Turkey bones, skin, gravy, stuffing, casseroles, mashed potatoes, chocolate, sweets (no xylitol), onions, garlic, spices, butter, raisins, and alcohol. For a complete list please do an internet search.



### November 27th – Turtle Adoption Day

Founded in 2011 by Christine Shaw who wrote a blog about conservation and adoption efforts of turtles. It is a day for helping endangered turtles around the globe as well as rescuing turtles locally who need to be adopted as pets.



### November 29th – International Jaguar Day

Created in 2018 to raise awareness of the critical conservation efforts for this Near Threatened largest cat in the Americas. Sadly, mostly eliminated from the United States and populations in Central/South America are down due to trophy hunting, human conflict, and habit loss.



### November 29th – Giving Tuesday

The 10th Annual Giving Tuesday started with the idea that there should be a day that encouraged people around the world to do good things. To help inspire a world where generosity and kindness happens daily. Where any act of generosity is important, and everyone has something to give whether it be through financial donations or volunteering at your favorite charity or just helping a friend in need.



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. We welcome all of you to be part of it.

