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“Embracing Radical Hospitality This Thanksgiving Season!”

By Pastor Eun Ko

Dear families of the FUMC of Tucson,

It’s a time when we gather with loved ones, reflect on our blessings, and express gratitude for the abundance in our lives. This Thanksgiving season, we invite you to embrace the concept of “Radical Hospitality,” a practice that transcends mere tradition and embodies the true spirit of gratitude.

Radical Hospitality goes beyond the surface of inviting family and friends into our homes for a feast. It’s about welcoming not just those we know well, but also those we don’t know, into our lives. It is an extension of the Thanksgiving spirit throughout the year and a commitment to building connections within our community. After I participated in a Special Korean Conference in Chicago, Illinois early in October, I am fully recharged and ready to practice radical hospitality thanks to your support and prayers.



Group picture of the Special Korean Clergy Conference

(cont. pg 2)

## Embracing Radical Hospitality This Thanksgiving Season! cont.



*Korean Clergy group of the Northern Illinois Conference*

The Bible offers valuable guidance on the principle of hospitality. In the book of Hebrews, we find this inspiring verse: “Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it.” (Hebrews 13:2, NIV)

“나그네를 대접하기를 소홀히 하지 마십시오. 어떤 이들은 나그네를 대접하다가, 자기들도 모르는 사이에 천사들을 대접하였습니다. (히브리서 13장 2절, 새번역)”

The origins of Radical Hospitality can be traced back to the earliest Thanksgiving gatherings, where Native Americans shared their knowledge and resources with the Pilgrims. It was an example of open-hearted generosity and selflessness that transcended cultural differences. Today, we can learn from this historical moment and apply it in our own lives by opening our hearts and homes to people of all backgrounds, even those who may be unfamiliar to us.

Here are ways to embrace Radical Hospitality this Thanksgiving: extend invitations beyond your circle, welcoming neighbors and newcomers to your table; volunteer in the community, supporting local events and food drives; foster inclusivity by encouraging diverse and open gatherings; support local businesses by buying from farmers and artisans; and practice daily gratitude to keep the spirit of Thanksgiving alive year-round.

Let us remember that Radical Hospitality is not about grand gestures, but rather small acts of kindness and genuine connection. It's about creating a more inclusive and compassionate community, where everyone feels welcome, loved, and valued.

As we approach this Thanksgiving season, let us commit to embodying Radical Hospitality and living the spirit of gratitude not only on the fourth Thursday in November but every day. In doing so, we will strengthen the bonds within our community and create a world where kindness and generosity are celebrated year-round.

We look forward to celebrating this Thanksgiving with open hearts and a commitment to Radical Hospitality. May our tables be filled with love, diversity, and the true spirit of gratitude.

Wishing you and your loved ones a blessed Thanksgiving season.

With warm regards,

Pastor Ko

## Christmas Poinsettias In Honor or Memory of Your Loved Ones

Advent season is approaching and soon we'll decorate the altar with vibrant red poinsettias!

If you'd like to purchase a poinsettia in memory or honor of a loved one - or just for yourself - please fill out the form found in your Sunday service bulletin or the one below. You can put your form and payment into the offering box before the worship service begins, give it to office staff, or mail it to the office.



Remember a Loved One  
or Honor Family or Friends

Christmas Poinsettias make the altar  
beautiful and we have the opportunity to  
help decorate our sanctuary.

If you would like to purchase a plant in honor or memory of a loved one, please fill out the form below. Put it in the offering bag or turn it in at the church office, along with your payment of \$10.00 per plant.

Names of those honored or remembered will be in the worship bulletin. **All order forms must be in the church office by December 4th.**

***If you would like to donate without purchasing a plant, please make note of that in the form below.***

.....  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

No. Plants Ordered: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

***Donation to Pastor's Discretionary Fund Only***

Amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## Christmas Choir Cantata!

The First Church chancel choir's Christmas cantata is coming up on December 10th at 10AM. You won't want to miss it!



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



Church leaders who participated in the Church Conference on October 7<sup>th</sup>.



Birthday parties! Left: Korean congregation. Right: Max's 95<sup>th</sup> birthday party.



Left: Marilyn Hall joining in our online worship service and her birthday was on Nov 6<sup>th</sup>.  
Right: New Members are welcomed to the Korean Congregation on October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023.



(cont. pg 5)



Laity Sunday on Oct 15<sup>th</sup>. Left: Dottie Poczulp. Right: Ann and Sam Haney.



The Arizona State Museum used the social hall for their presentation on November 4<sup>th</sup>.



Mountain Sky Conference volunteers stayed at our church for their gathering from October 30 to November 3. Our church showed radical hospitality providing their lodgings, three dinners, snacks, and a conference room area.



## Lay Servant Ministries

There are three types of Lay Servant: lay speakers, lay ministers and lay servants. All three take coursework, often 6 hr classes toward their continuing education. The courses start with the Lay Servant Basic Course. This course is foundational for all servants. It encourages spiritual growth, development of leaders, Methodist foundation and practices while being deeply rooted in spirituality. The next Basic Class is coming up. If you have questions you can contact Dottie Poczulp at [missdottiep@outlook.com](mailto:missdottiep@outlook.com) or the conference mail to [laity@UMCdiscipleship.org](mailto:laity@UMCdiscipleship.org)

**Registration for all classes <https://dscumc.org/lay-servant-ministries-training-sessions>**

The Introduction to Lay Ministries, The Basic Course.

WHEN: Friday, November 17 from 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Saturday, November 18 from 9:00 am – 4:30 pm

WHERE: Trinity United Methodist Church

3104 W Glendale Ave, Phoenix, AZ 85051

This course is foundational for all courses in Lay Servant Ministries. Participants are encouraged to discover and employ personal spiritual gifts as God intended and to consider the importance of exercising servant leadership, developing future leaders, remaining rooted in consistent spiritual practices, and being part of a group that holds members accountable in their discipleship.

The participants text *The Introduction to Lay Ministry: The BASIC Course* by Sandy Zeigler Jackson and Brian Jackson is required reading for this program. You are required to have read the text prior to the course starting.

The cost for this course is \$15 and is payable upon registration. You can register and pay online. If paying by cash or check, bring it to the class and give it to the instructor.

Once you register for this course, you will receive a confirmation email with a link to the book and other information.

—Dottie Poczulp, Certified Lay Minister, is available if you have questions at [missdottiep@outlook.com](mailto:missdottiep@outlook.com).

### Advent Book Study Classes

Starting on the 27th, Advent Bible Study will be led by Pastor Ko on Mondays at 4:30 pm in person, and online on Thursdays at 7 pm. The book will be “Faithful” by Rev. Adam Hamilton. If you’d like to sign up for either class, please put your name down on the signup sheet on the Social Hall stage.

## News from Subuiga Methodist Church in Kenya

Brother Daniel is very grateful for our fundraising efforts to help his church buy a truck to help with their ministry combating the spread of HIV/AIDS. Below are excerpts from his letter to First Church:

[...]

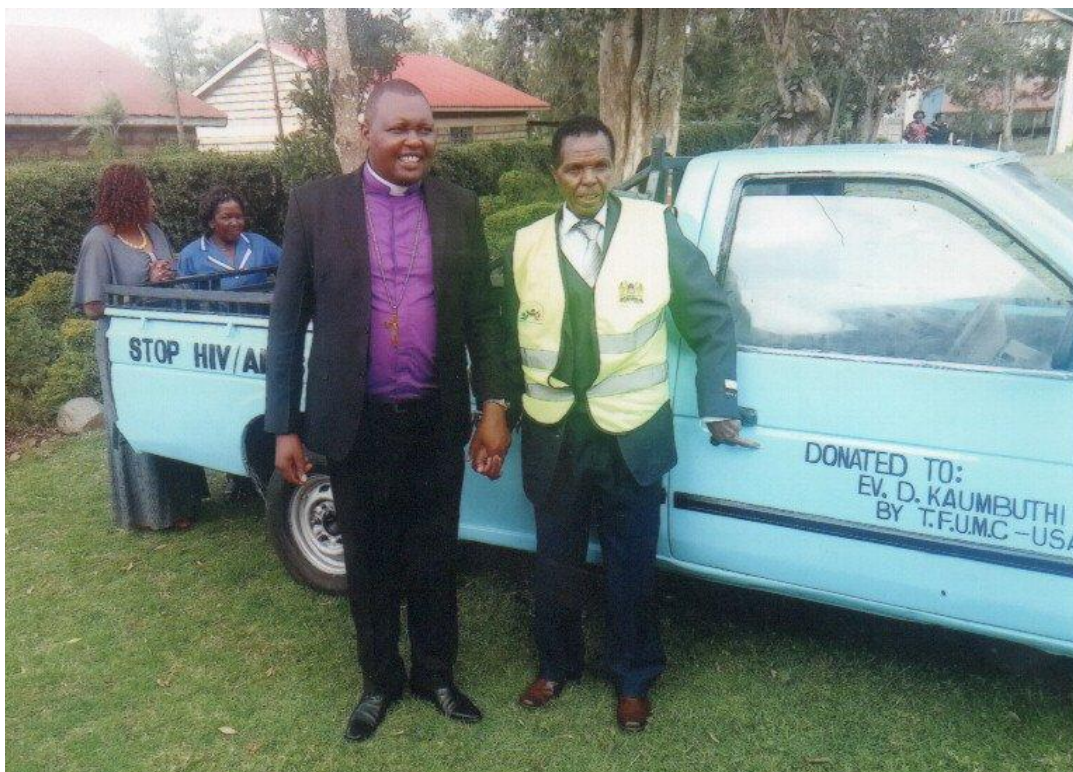
*My heart is full of unlimited gratitude toward your compassion support to me and my HIV/AIDS, TB and SGBV ministry in my Circuit. After receiving the funds, I purchased the photographed pick up which is being dedicated for God's work by our loving Bishop Rev. Dr Nicholas Mutwiri of Kaaga Synod. He thanked you for the support and also keep supporting me in this ministry where we manage vulnerable children together.*

[...]

*My family, I and Subuiga brethren we are well and pray God to give you long life and strength. Also, TFUMC congregation may the God of heaven open doors of blessing, the love and compassion continue. [...]*

*Yours in Christ service,*

*Bro Daniel.*



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 EVENTS**

**November 23<sup>rd</sup> - Thanksgiving Day:** We will share a feast together at noon in the Social Hall. Bring your favorite side or dessert, if you'd like.

**December 2<sup>nd</sup> - The Hanging of the Greens:** Time to decorate for Advent season! Help us set up and decorate Christmas trees to brighten up the Sanctuary, narthex, and Social Hall. We'll meet at 10:30AM, and after we're done we will enjoy pizza together.

**November 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 this **Friday, November 10<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](#)).

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](#) [Passcode: 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](#) [Passcode: 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.

\* \* \*

## **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:

UMC of the Good Shepherd, Kearny  
UMC of Green Valley  
Willcox 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)

Marjorie Task (Nov 12)

Joonkil Ahn 안준길 (Nov 29)

Marilyn Hall (Nov 6)

Charlotte Baker (Nov 14)

Patricia Murphy (Nov 29)

Kyoung Hee Kim (Nov 6)

Lori Medcoff (Nov 14)

Hae Sook Hong (Nov 30)

Nancy Tomlinson (Nov 7)

Megan Dominguez (Nov 23)

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

# Animal & Environmental Holidays for November 2023

By Diane & Victoria Russell



## Nov 1st – Nov 30 - National Gratitude Month

Gratitude is more than simply saying “Thank You”. Having Gratitude has been proven to generate a positive impact on psychological, physical, and your overall wellbeing. Some ways to show gratitude include saying Thank You, giving compliments, smiling, or volunteering.



## November 11, 2023 – Veterans Day

First celebrated as Armistice Day in 1918 to recognize the fallen heroes of WWI. In 1954 Armistice Day became Veterans Day to celebrate and honor all the men and women who have served the country in all wars or in peacetime.



## November 12, 2023 – World Animal Enrichment Day

All animals need enrichment for their mental and physical stimulation to allow them to reveal their natural behaviors. Some ideas for enrichment include physical exercise, solving puzzles, toys, games, social enrichment, and sensory enrichment with sights, smells, and sounds.



## November 13th - World Kindness Day

Created in 1998 by the World Kindness Movement to promote kindness throughout the world. The goal of this day was to “highlight good deeds in the community by focusing on the positive power and the common thread of kindness which binds us all”.



## November 15th – Steve Irwin Day

Created in 2007 by the Australia Zoo to honor and celebrate his life and legacy after his death from a sting ray on Sept 4, 2006. Steve was fondly known as “The Crocodile Hunter”, an Australian zookeeper, conservationist, tv personality, wildlife educator, and environmentalist.



## November 15th – National Recycling Day

The 26th 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, and glass/plastic bottles.



**November 22nd – Oceans of Plastic**

It is a global campaign and awareness initiative to help the issues of the growing plastic pollution in our oceans. Ways to help include refusing single use plastics. Choose instead reuseable products such as cloth bags, reuseable water bottles, & straws.



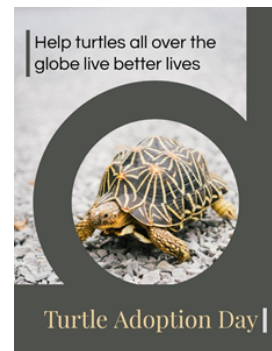
**November 23rd - Thanksgiving**

Thanksgiving is a day all about food, family and being thankful. Pets are family and cannot eat the same things as people. Avoid - Turkey bones, skin, gravy, stuffing, casseroles, mashed potatoes, chocolate, sweets (no xylitol), onions, garlic, no spices, butter, raisins, and alcohol.



**November 25th – Fur Free Friday**

Created in 1985 by activist groups Trans-Species Unlimited (TSU) and the Coalition to Abolish Fur Trade (CAFT). This day is to denounce the cruelty involved in the name of fashion to fur-bearing animals and to campaign for animal rights and protection.



**November 27th – Turtle Adoption Day**

Created by Christine Shaw in 2011 when she made a blog post about the need for turtle welfare. Since then, it has become a day of action for the protection of endangered reptiles and turtles. Turtles can make wonderful pets but always consider it a long-term commitment.



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.