



First United Methodist Church
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“Well Done! Let Us Be Prepared!”

By Pastor Eun Ko

Greetings in Jesus Christ,

Two Sundays of Advent are already over. Time goes fast. It is very hard for us to calm down and find peace in our hearts in the midst of this crazily-busy season of the year. However, I would give you my compliments “Well done! Great job! I couldn’t be happier. I couldn’t be prouder of you.”

As we have been living in the pandemic era with COVID more than two years now, we can’t ignore the new-normal in our lives including in the church setting. Despite all the changes and new circumstances, we didn’t give up. Instead, we have done our best to accomplish what we can. It means that you have been faithful for more than 100 years consistent with the spirit of our mission.

I am so grateful for reading all your “Thank you notes” you submitted on Thanksgiving Sunday this year. So many things and various categories you lifted up for being thankful!

In Isaiah 40:1, it is written, “Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.”
이사야서 40장 1절 - 너희의 하나님이 이르시되 너희는 위로하라 내 백성을 위로하라

In Isaiah 49:15, it is written, “Even these may forget, yet I will not forget you.”
이사야서 49장 15절 - 그들은 혹시 잊을지라도 나는 너를 잊지 아니할 것이라

I hope and pray that we all remember the message of the prophet Isaiah giving us hope, comfort, and consistent love for all. If we do, we will be able to wrap up this year, 2022 to be grateful, peaceful, joyful, and loving. If we do, we will grow and sprout with blessings from living through God’s word, which comes to us in the child of Christmas with a promising mission. If we do, we will see it unfold and we will rejoice for all the blessings Jesus Christ brings for our lives and the life of the whole world!

Isn’t this an amazing moment? Let us continue and finish the journey of Advent with this spirit of the Holy Spirit.

Pastor Ko

The Season of Advent & Christmas Day

Christmas Cantata
December 11 at 10 am

Sights, Smells, and Sounds of Christmas
December 11 from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm

Korean Young adult Retreat
Flagstaff, AZ
Dec 16 through 18

Advent Book Study (English)
The Characters of Christmas
Every Monday at 4:30 pm

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
December 24 at 7:00 pm

Book Study (Korean)
새신자반
Every Tuesday at 10:00 am

Christmas Day Service
December 25 at 10 am



Two Mission Projects This Season

If you've come to First Church recently, you may have noticed the two large gift-wrapped boxes in the Fellowship Hall near the stage. These boxes are there courtesy of Jessie Hansen, who is spearheading the collection efforts.

One box is for children's school supplies. The other is for various items that would benefit our homeless friends, such as hygiene supplies, blankets, and gently-used clothing. Socks and underclothes (new, please) are especially needed, particularly for women and children.

The deadline to donate is Tuesday, December 20th. If you would like to make a monetary donation instead, you can mail it to the office.

I Am Thankful For...

On Thanksgiving Sunday (Nov. 20th) we asked our church family to write down on a card some of the things they were thankful for this year. The responses were varied and heartfelt:

- My family and friends (old and new) and my jobs
- Church family, Lions Club family, my business, and my siblings
- Health or Teachers or great country
- Faith, Jesus, the church, church group (WSQ and choir), and Pastor
- Creature, plants and animals, house, food, income, good books, library, and sunshine
- My memory is better/ I can do more
- Love of family and friends
- Everything that happened this year
- Thank you for allowing my spirit to dwell in God
- Everything; just day to day and living with passion
- To spread awareness about nature, and animals and environment
- Not getting hit by a car
- Supportive and loving partner
- My parents and brothers or sisters
- All the amazing opportunities I have been provided by the university to help me through my studies
- My wonderful family and friends. They have always been there for me at my good and bad times.
- For the Lord to bring me up the way I am and the presence of the way I do every day.
- Thankful for you to deliver me out of the evil.
- Dear friends now and those still unmet
- Great country
- I am thankful to have had parents who loved each other and God deeply. They brought us up in that love at the family church.
- Work at the clubhouse downtown
- I am grateful to be clean.
- For my sponsor helping me with 12 steps in Al-Anon
- For spiritual growth for accepting my weakness
- The many friends that we have in this community of God that we joined 47 years ago
- My life, the lives of others, and for my time here with everyone around me. God never forgets to bless me, guide me, and lead me but I tend to forget that He does. On this day, I want to tell Him how thankful I am for all that He has done and will do. Without Him my life is completely without meaning, color, and love. But with Him, I have more than I need.
- Peace, love, and healing
- Thankful for love and support of friends and church
- Lord give me strength to keep peace in my heart and strength to heal in love and comfort
- Difficult times/ The joy of music / My colleagues
- Thanks be to God Almighty.
- God's blessing of health, happiness, family and friends
- I can't thank God enough for the countless blessings that he blessed me with this year! I want to lift up my family, friends and all the good people that God placed in my life that they will be blessed and see the light of God. I pray that I will never stop thanking God and that I will be used to serve God's people and bless others. In Jesus name, I pray. Amen.

- CJN / GNN/ Meeting good people
- Making some progress in my research
- Getting accepted to two conferences
- Hiking mountains more often again
- The Lord's grace and mercy everyday
- Visiting from Southern California
- I am thankful for all the good and the bad days. The good days motivate me and the bad days help me to pray more.

- Thanks for all of my life/ School life
- I thank the Lord for all the wonderful things in my life. My health and the health of all who touch my life. I thank the Lord for all the opportunities that he has provided my family, friends, and acquaintances. This has been a truly wonderful year and Jesus has been my guiding light. Thanks be to God!

좋은 사람들과 좋은 시간을 보낼 수 있어서 감사합니다. 공부할 수 있는 기회를 주셔서 감사합니다. 다시 몸이 건강해지고 많은 정신으로 생활할 수 있게 해 주셔서 감사합니다. 나를 사랑해 주는 가족을 주셔서 감사합니다.

올 한 해 주님께서 허락하신 건강과 가족들의 평안함으로 무사히 잘 지내게 하심을 감사드리며 순간순간 성령님의 도움으로 항상 인도하심을 믿고 의지하게 하심을 감사드립니다. 어머님의 90세 생신, Allison 1년 생일과 Hannah의 3세 생일도 잘 지내게 하심도 감사드리며, 모든 것과 하는 일과 계획이 주님의 인도하심으로 이루어 지심에 감사함으로 기도하며 앞으로의 삶에 기대하면서 주님께 찬양과 경배 드립니다.

1. 이번 년도 우리 가족 모두 건강한 것에 감사드립니다.
2. 무사히 학교 다니는 것에 감사드립니다.
3. 입을 옷, 먹을 음식, 쉴 수 있는 집을 주셔서 감사드립니다.
4. 매일 매일 주님 안에 살 수 있게 허락해 주신 것에 감사드립니다.

이 시간 호흡을 하며 예배하며 주님께 경배하니 감사합니다. 날마다 햇빛과 같이 따스한 주님의 손길이 나와 함께 하심을 감사드립니다. 마음에 향긋한 기운이 훈훈하게 차고 넘치는 주님의 사랑을 느낌을 감사합니다. 어디서나 생명이 꿈틀대며 새 생명을 새롭게 하심을 감사합니다. 감사합니다. 찬양합니다. 두 손들어 주님을 높입니다. 감사합니다. 주님. 주님께 드립니다.

사역의 장을 허락하신 하나님께 감사합니다. 흔들리지 않고, 함께 교회를 세우고 사역해 주시는 교우분들을 허락하심에 감사드립니다. 신앙을 놓치지 않고 열심히 신앙의 여정을 걸어가는 청년들. 가족을 허락하신 하나님께 감사를 드립니다.

미국에서 원하던 공부를 계속할 수 있게 되어 감사합니다. 미국에 오기까지 도와주신 교수님께 감사를 드립니다.

가족이 투산으로 모여 이사함. 교회 성도들께서 모두 합심하여 도움. 한인회의 일이 많은 착오 없이 한 해를 일하였음. 나에게 찾아왔던 Covid도 별 이상없이 지나감. Covid가 아내는 피해감에 감사드립니다.

대학생활을 처음 시작하고 적응하는 기간에 좋은 인연 많이 만난 것에 감사드립니다. 항상 당연시 여겼던 것들을 누리게 해 주셔서 감사드립니다.

00 언니와 00를 통해서 다시 하나님께 제 시선을 돌릴 수 있게 하심에 감사합니다. 또 남편의 행동들을 뒤돌아 보게 하시고 그 안에서 하나님의 깊은 사랑하심을 느끼게 하셔서 감사합니다. 또 성경의 맥락을 알 수 있게 저의 시선을 돌려주심에 감사합니다. 기도를 통하여 제 주위를 돌아보게 하시고 사랑하는 마음을 갖게 하여 주심에 감사합니다.

건강, 공부, 일, 사람, 믿음에 감사합니다.

What's Happening at First UMC of Tucson!

Thanksgiving Meal – November 24th, 2022 at 12PM

Anita Lange and Jessie Hansen coordinated to make this Thanksgiving meal.



Left: Potluck dinner table. **Right:** Sue Smith, our bookkeeper, and her friend Don B.



Left: Nancy T., Winona P., and Tina T. **Right:** Rev. Sharon Ragland – presiding over the Church Conference.



Left: John Proch at Casa Adobes Rehab Center. **Right:** Volunteers for the Hanging of the Greens.



Left and right: Baptism and New Membership—Josh and Susan Williams



Left: The Korean choir rehearsing for Christmas Day. **Right:** At the Celebration of Life for Bea Humphrey.

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

Our New Bishop Beginning on Jan 1, 2023

This article is written by Kristen Caldwell and Selby Ewing and revised in the format of the digest.



The Rev. Carlo A. Rapanut, assistant to the bishop in the Greater Northwest Episcopal Area, has been elected a bishop by The United Methodist Church's Western Jurisdiction. He is the first Filipino American bishop in The United Methodist Church, and the first U.S. bishop who was ordained in a central conference — a United Methodist region outside the U.S.

"I stand here today on the shoulders of Filipinos all across the globe," Rapanut said in his first remarks after being elected. "I stand on the shoulders of those who had a vision that even, maybe, a Filipino can be bishop in the United States. I honor them today. I honor that vision today."

He was appointed to the Desert Southwest Annual Conference beginning on Jan. 1, 2023.

Rapanut, an elder in the Pacific Northwest Conference, has served as assistant to Bishop Elaine JW Stanovsky in the Greater Northwest Area since 2021. The area encompasses the Alaska, Pacific Northwest and Oregon-Idaho conferences. As assistant to the bishop, he takes on various projects in ministry leadership.

Since 2014 until May this year, he also served as co-dean of the Greater Northwest Area bishop's cabinet and conference superintendent of the Alaska United Methodist Conference. As superintendent, he supervised clergy over Alaska's vast geographical area and helped envision the conference's transition into a mission district in a decolonized and values-driven way. He also was the Alaska Conference's director of connectional ministries from 2014 until becoming assistant to the bishop.

In the early days of the pandemic, he led the Greater Northwest Area's COVID Response Team, which helped provide online worship resources and aided churches in securing federal Paycheck Protection Program loans.

He previously served as pastor of United Methodist Church of Chugiak, Chugiak, Alaska.

Rapanut grew up in Baguio City, Philippines. He has a bachelor's degree in mathematics and a master's degree in management from the University of the Philippines. He also has a Master of Divinity from Wesley Divinity School in Cabanatuan City, Philippines. Before moving to the U.S., he was senior pastor of Baguio City First United Methodist Church and later assistant to now-retired Bishop Benjamin A. Justo.

[...]

Rapanut, joined by his wife Radie and son Titus (son Caleb is en route from college), thanked the delegates for reading about him, listening to him on Zoom calls and ultimately, voting for him. He described himself as a work in progress and is excited for where the spirit will lead.

"Let us pray that the road ahead would give us beautiful surprises of how God can work among us," Rapanut said.

Caldwell is the communications manager for the Oregon-Idaho Conference, and Ewing is the director of communications of the California-Nevada Conference.

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>.

한국어 사역

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

매주 목요일 저녁 7시, 성경공부가 줌으로
매주 화요일 오전 10시 10분 캐롤라인 룸에서
있습니다.

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.

Narcotics Anonymous (Underground)

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

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

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!

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

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 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:

Chaplains & Counselors in the South District
The Inn of Southern Arizona, Tucson
TMM Family Services - people served and staff, Tucson

If you have a prayer request you would like to share in the Digest, please contact the church office at office@firstchurchtucson.org or (520) 622-6481.

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Nan Rollings (Dec 3)
Bruce Billings (Dec 5)
Luna Lopez (Dec 5)
Adam Lange (Dec 9)

Kate Park-Havins (Dec 11)
Jim Rollings (Dec 19)
Deanne Kelly (Dec 23)

Don & Nan Rollings (Dec 21)

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

December 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, December 9th 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 December 2022

By Diane & Victoria Russell



December 9 – National Llama Day

Llamas are a domesticated Camelid from South America often used as pack animals, guarding livestock, and their wool is used for clothing. Ways to celebrate this day include visiting a petting zoo or buying some llama themed clothes or home goods.



December 14 – International Monkey Day

This day was created out of a prank in 2000 by Art Students Casey Sorrow and Eric Millikin. This Day celebrates monkeys, and other non-human primates such as apes, lemurs, and tarsiers. There are more than 260 different types of monkeys in the world.



December 16 – National Cat Herder's Day

This day was invented by Wellcat. This day is to honor all the people who have jobs or tasks that are difficult and hard to accomplish. Some jobs may seem simple enough, but looks can be deceiving. This day celebrates the people that can handle any difficult situation that arises.



December 27 – Visit the Zoo Day

The word “zoo” is short for zoological park or garden. It is important to remember to go to accredited zoos and not privately run zoos. This is to protect the animals from exploitation.



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.