



First United Methodist Church
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“More Blessings We Count!”

By Pastor Eun Ko

Greetings in Jesus Christ, I came back to my regular ministry on Monday, Feb 13th. Thanks to your support and prayers, I was able to take some time off from my pastoral responsibilities for a month. Instead, I was able to focus on my Doctorate studies and family issues. I am so grateful for all of your love and care for me.

The more I minister, the more I realize that a pastor can grow in faith surrounded by the congregation which prays, supports, and loves.

When I came back to my regular duties, there were so many amazing things happening in the church. First, the Nomads came and contributed to renewing our church buildings for three weeks. This was the first time I witnessed their dedicated work as a pastor here at FUMC of Tucson. I am amazed by their endless efforts and joyful spirits for the work of God’s kingdom.

They have made improvements to our church campus, which includes repainting the metal fences and stucco walls by the parking lot; stripping and resealing the narthex floor; re-installing the large banners outside; eliminating most of the gaps in our hallway and kitchen flooring; pouring concrete to repair a ramp; and many other projects, big and small.



Left: The Nomads volunteers



Right: Carol Nelson & Juyeon Lee

(cont. page 2)

## More Blessings We Count! *(cont. from page 1)*

Also, without Sam Haney, it wouldn't have been as successful as it was. He spent hours and hours getting the materials for the Nomads for the projects and coordinating their meals and snacks in order and in between. That is an almost full-time duty for the project.

While I was observing his dedication, I was also reminded of all the other laity in the church. The First United Methodist Church of Tucson wouldn't exist without all the laity: liturgists, ushers, Covenant Board members, Foundation Board members, Hospitality and Kitchen Fellowship team, SPRC (Staff Parish Relations Committee), Children and Family Ministry team, Music Ministry team including choir members, trustees, lay leader, lay speaker, lay minister, Praise Team members, Audiovisual Ministry team, Health and Mission Ministry team, Animal Ministry team, and many other dedicated laities. If I forgot to name them, please, let me know so I won't forget to include them next time.

There are no words to express how much I am grateful for and how many blessings I can count as a pastor of the FUMC of Tucson. The twentieth-century theologian Karl Barth stresses that the church is the true church only insofar as Jesus Christ is present and acting in and through its members. Another theologian, Paul Tillich, also addresses the church as a spiritual community on the appearance of the New Being in Jesus as the Christ.

While we journey together toward the celebration of Easter, we need to remember the theological definition of the church. The church wouldn't exist without the work of the Holy Spirit embodied by Jesus Christ through the church members.

Matthew 16:18-19

18 And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. 19 I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

마태복음 16장 18-19절

나도 너에게 말한다. 너는 베드로다. 나는 이 반석 위에다가 내 교회를 세우겠다. 죽음의 문들이 그것을 이기지 못할 것이다. 내가 너에게 하늘 나라의 열쇠를 주겠다. 네가 무엇이든지 땅에서 매면 하늘에서도 매일 것이요, 땅에서 풀면 하늘에서도 풀릴 것이다."

I can't wait to see you and share the testimonies God has prepared for us with you.

With gratitude and love,

Pastor Ko

## Bishop Carlo A. Rapanut's Service of Installation



*You Are Invited*

**BISHOP'S INSTALLATION SERVICE**  
March 11, 2023 | 11:00 AM (MST)  
St. Matthew UMC, 2540 W Baseline Road, Mesa, AZ 85202  
RSVP @ [dscumc.org/installation](https://dscumc.org/installation)

A Celebration of the Assignment of Bishop Carlo A. Rapanut  
to the Desert Southwest Conference

Bishops are the spiritual leaders in the church who provide ministry of servant leadership, general oversight and supervision within The United Methodist Church. They are to lead with a vital and renewing spirit; an enquiring mind and commitment to teaching; with vision and commitment to transform the Church and the world; with a passion for the unity of the church; and with a ministry of administration (§403 of the 2016 United Methodist Book of Discipline).

Bishop Carlo was elected and consecrated in November 2022 at the Western Jurisdictional Conference that took place in Salt Lake City, UT. This installation service is a celebration of Bishop Carlo's assignment to the Desert Southwest Conference as our resident bishop.

To learn more about the role and office of the bishop and to hear Bishop Carlo's call story and intro video, please visit <https://dscumc.org/bishop-carlo/>.

### Upcoming Meetings

**Foundation Board:** Postponed to a later date at the church  
**Covenant Board:** Saturday, March 18th at 10 AM at the church

### Easter Sunday Brunch Potluck

Join us for brunch before the Easter Sunday worship service! If you'd like to bring food to share, please call or email the office with your name, phone number, how many in your group will be attending, and what dish you'll bring. Or, if you join us on Sunday, you can put your information into the signup sheet which is on the Social Hall stage.

# Lenten Spiritual Journey

**Every Thursday at 2PM** - Lectio Divina in the Tea house chapel

Reading, reflecting, responding and resting – this is the basic rhythm of *lectio divina*, or divine reading:

1. **Read** the scripture slowly.
2. **Reflect** on a word or phrase that jumps out at you or promises to have special meaning for you.
3. **Respond** to what you have read. Form a prayer that expresses your response to the idea.
4. **Rest** in God's word.

**Every Friday at 10AM** - The labyrinth prayer walk at Rio Vista Resource Park.

The park's address is 3974 N Tucson Blvd. Getting to the labyrinth is quickest if you approach from the other side of the park, parking on the west shoulder of Cactus Blvd a short distance north of Allen Rd.

**April 7th at 7PM** - Good Friday Service

**April 9th at 7:30PM** - Easter Sunrise Service in the Courtyard

**April 9th at 8:15AM-9:45AM** - Easter Brunch

Pancakes, sausage, coffee, and juice will be provided. Bring your favorite brunch dish, a donation or just yourself. Please RSVP on the sign-up sheet in the Social Hall.

**April 9th at 10AM** - Easter Celebration

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## Remember a Loved One or Honor Family or Friends On Easter Sunday



We place flowers in the sanctuary at Easter to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ and hope of life everlasting.

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 April 2nd. Please make checks payable to FUMC. If you would like to donate without purchasing a plant, please make note of that in the form below.

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Your name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

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

# of plants ordered: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

**Donation to Pastor's Discretionary Fund Only** - Amount enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

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 불학기에는  
쉽니다.

Meeting ID: 998 6112 0822      Passcode: 6226481

매주 화요일 오전 10시 10분에 “새신자반”  
성경공부가 캐롤라인 룸에서 진행됩니다.  
3월 28일 모든 과정을 마치게 됩니다.

**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 recommend wearing masks inside the building for the time being.** 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.

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**Progressive Book Study (PBS)**

-PBS meets on Thursdays at 3PM.

-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.

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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:

El Mesias UMC, Nogales  
First UMC, Bisbee  
First UMC, Eloy

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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## MARCH BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Marilyn Dunbar (March 7)  
Annie Beguhl (March 9)  
Susan William (March 13)  
Hyeonah Kang (March 14)  
Joe Kimbro (March 15)

Stephanie Kang (March 16)  
Esther Lee (March 20)  
Janet Ageh (March 21)  
Ozzie Nelson (March 24)

Peggy Ford (March 26)  
Don Rollings (March 28)  
Carol Velzy (March 30)  
Martha Preston (March 31)

Jong & Miwon Lee (March 6)  
Art & Cindy Turnbull (March 7)

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

### **March 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, March 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](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 Wednesday March 8th so she can reserve enough tables at the restaurant.



# Animal & Environmental Holidays for January 2023

By Diane & Victoria Russell



## March – Seagrass Awareness Month

In May 2022, the UN General Assembly proclaimed this day as World Seagrass Day to raise awareness that helps promote conservation and restoration. There are 26 species in U.S. waters. Sadly, many manatees have died off in Florida due to the decline of seagrasses.



## March 13th – K-9 Veterans Day

Created in honor of the Army K9 Corps founded on March 13, 1942, by Joe White a Vietnam War Veteran. It is a day to honor and commemorate the service of our brave K-9's that have served and sacrificed throughout history in the military, law enforcement, service, and support dogs.



## March 14th – Save a Spider Day

Spiders are important to our ecosystem. Spiders help eradicate many dangerous pests in your home or in the environment. Remember to help protect them – if you find one in your house – do a catch and release.



## March 15th – International Day of Action Against Seal Slaughter

Every year there is a cruel and unnecessary seal hunt. They hunt and kill primarily baby harp seals for their fur. Adult seals are also targeted. There is a call to action to stop this inhumane act. Some ways to get involved include signing petitions to stop seal hunting and to boycott seal products; like fur, etc.



## March 18th – Global Recycling Day

Created in 2018 to celebrate the 70th birthday of the Bureau of International Recycling (BIR). It is a day to help preserve the natural resources of our planet by recycling and reusing items to have resources for the future. A day for the world to come together and put the planet first.



## March 18th – Save the Panther Day

Panthers are included in the Endangered Species List- and it is illegal to hunt or bother them. As of 2023, there are estimated to be about 120-230 adult panthers left. Florida's governor will officially proclaim this day and the state's efforts in saving their panthers.



**March 20th – World Sparrow Day**

Sparrows have adapted to life next to humans for thousands of years. Sadly, their population size is decreasing. Possible reasons are destruction of habitat, lack of food, and cellular tower outputs. This year's theme is "I LOVE Sparrows".



**March 21st – International Day of Forests -**

Created by the United Nations General Assembly in 2012, to celebrate and raise awareness of the importance and need for forests for the welfare of people, animals, and plants to thrive. These precious ecosystems need to be protected. The 2023 theme is "Forests and Health".



**March 21st – National Renewable Energy Day**

Every day people make an impact in the world. Sometimes it is good and sometimes for bad impact. The goal of this day is to bring awareness of the dangers of our overusing fossil fuels. There are natural alternatives such as hydroelectric power, solar/sunlight, wind, and rain.



**March 23rd - International Bear Day**

There are about 8 species of bears. Six species are considered threatened or vulnerable on the IUCN Red List. Humans put them in danger by encroaching, the illegal wildlife trade, and "medicinal" practices. In North America we have variations of brown and black bears.



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.