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“Wishing Holy Conference!”

By Pastor EunYoung Ko

Greetings in Jesus Christ, I hope and pray that God always be on your side no matter what circumstances you face now.

It is hard to believe that my second year of being a pastor at FUMC of Tucson is almost done, and I will begin my third year here on July 1st. For the last two years, I have learned a lot about Tucson, AZ, and our church (mostly our congregation). I am thrilled to participate in the Annual Conference of the Desert Southwest Conference fully in person this year and am planning to transfer my membership from the Northern Illinois Conference to this Conference.

I only served churches in Illinois before I moved to Tucson, which means that I used to have only a narrow viewpoint to look at the church and people even though some of you might not agree with me. It is true that some people have broader perspectives even if they have only lived in one area during their lifetime. However, the older I get, the more I explore different regions or countries, and I realize that I have become humble and flexible enough to adapt to new environments while minimizing the damage of those changes.

I am ready to explore the more diverse cultures and the church here in Arizona and even beyond Arizona, which will include the Western Jurisdiction of the United Methodist Church. Even as I, one clergy serving two different Conferences, see the difference, what about our God? God is a creator, omnipotent, overseeing, and our providence. We are all in God's hands every moment and in every place.

People have plans during the summer, taking time off from the choir, going on vacation, returning to their homes, and other plans. I also plan to visit South Korea in July to visit my parents, especially spending time with them. As you know, my father had a stroke last December and we found out that he has had dementia even before the stroke. He lost his eyesight and is immobile. My mother is a caregiver for him 24/7 at home. Even though I have heard many regrets from my friends who lost their parents, I never prepared for this moment and I am still in the process of accepting this change in my parent's dynamics and situation. Pray for my parents and my travels in July.

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Wishing Holy Conference! cont.

In the meantime, I am so grateful for the new ministry we launched this past Sunday. We named it Heaven's Touch. Its purpose is to provide free haircut services at The Loving Church for those who are in need. We are focusing on homeless or low-income brothers and sisters at this time. I was so inspired and touched by their worship service and our time over there. I will share more pictures of it in the following pages. Also, please check out the amazing moments in the church since we published last month. We praise the Lord, who is always with us and calls us to worship our God and love our neighbors, bringing the Good News of Jesus Christ.

If we truly believe that we are always in God's hands, our life goes on, and our ministry will continue with the help of the Holy Spirit.

2 Chronicle 16:9a

⁹ For the eyes of the Lord range throughout the entire earth to strengthen those whose heart is true to him.

역대하 16장 9절 상반절

9 주님께서는 그 눈으로 온 땅을 두루 살피셔서, 전심전력으로 주님께 매달리는 이들을 힘있게 해주십니다.

With gratitude and love,

Pastor Ko

What's Happening at First Church of Tucson!



Left: Byung Kim offered a special offertory song, "Caro mio ben," for the worship service on May 7th.

Right: Pastor Raven Gaston had a family piano concert with her son and sister. Years ago, she lost her two fingers in a lawn mower accident, but she trained and didn't give up playing piano and was able to have an amazing concert.

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Mother's Day



Left: On Mother's Day, Chuck Humphrey wrote and read a letter to his mom, Bea, who is in Heaven.

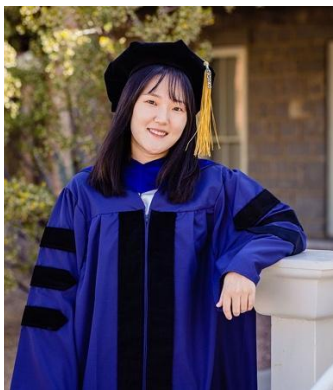
Right: Blaise Lolika (right) had a presentation of his mission trip to Congo. He presented it in the English service and in the Korean service as well. In the Korean service, Danny Park (left) translated it to Korean.

Young Christians' Time



Above: While Dottie Poczulp takes a vacation, Nancy Tomlinson leads Young Christians' time. An, Sam Haney's granddaughter, graduated from preschool and will become a kindergartener this fall.

Congratulations to All the Graduates!



Left: Seojin Park expects to graduate in August from the University of Arizona with a Doctorate of Second Language Acquisition and Teaching.

Middle: Sonan Seth graduated from the University of Arizona with Juris Doctorate.

Right: Sang Ho Park graduated from the University of Arizona with a Bachelor in Biology.

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Fundraising Event for the Heaven's Touch Ministry

This took place May 6th from 10 AM till 4 PM in the salon in the social hall.



Left: Susan Williams and Kay Kaiser.

Center: Two hair designers, Kay Kaiser and Kate Park.

Right: Full shot of the salon.



Saying Thank You and Farewell

On May 28th, our music director, Mirae Lee, finished her duties here at First Church and will move on to a new chapter of her life. We give thanks for her dedication and excellence and pray for God's blessings in her future. In the picture, Joyce Garcia, the choir coordinator was thanking Mirae for her time here during the worship service.



Left: Jae Hammond is recovering at home after her trip to California to stay with her daughter due to bad back pain. **Right:** John Proch is at Veteran Hospital while his caregiver, Patty, is taking her vacation. He is in good spirits.

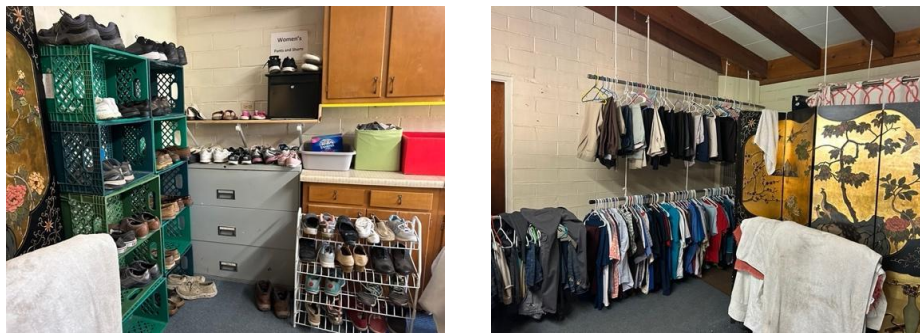
June 4th - Heaven's Touch at The Loving Church!

The Loving Church has been offering Homeless ministry for more than 10 years in Tucson. There is a shower room for the homeless people to sign up and use for 15 minutes to take a shower. The church has staff who wash their dirty clothes and reuse their clean clothes, including shoes, when they or others come back to the church.

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Above: Kay and Kate are offering haircut services for these two sisters.



Above: Pictures of the shower room at the Loving Church.



Above: Every Sunday, the Loving Church worships at 3:00 PM, and after the service, they serve hot meals to the homeless people. Our young adults helped them to distribute the food while the Heaven's Touch ministry is in process.

Annual Conference June 15-17, 2023

Grace and peace to you in the name of Jesus Christ!

With this letter, I hereby call the regular session of the Desert Southwest Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church to meet on June 15-17, 2023, in a hybrid format: in person at the Mesa Convention Center or online. Information is now available



at <https://dscumc.org/annual-conference>. I especially call your attention to the due dates for registration and other submissions and invite you to please abide by these to aid in the continuing work of planning the conference and prevent undue stress on our staff and volunteers. I trust you will do this as beloved members of our covenant community.

Our theme this year is **#WeAre: Wrestling, Engaging, Rising**, based on the story of Jacob in Genesis 32 and 33, and the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus in Luke 22-24. To say that the past year was difficult is an understatement, for we have been in an extended, extremely challenging season that spans more than three years.

- The COVID-19 pandemic continues to be with us, and while we are slowly coming out of it, we are certainly grappling with its long-term effects in multiple facets of our personal and communal lives.
- Systemic racism and white supremacy continue to plague our society and our church and harm our BIPOC siblings.
- While scheduled for May 2024 after numerous postponements, the continued delay in holding the 2020 General Conference continues to bring harm to our LGBTQIA+ siblings.
- The disaffiliation of churches from our ranks and the misinformation and disinformation that has accompanied some of these conversations has adversely affected our connection and our witness.

As a result of these and other concerns, our church is splintering, and our relationships are frayed and falling apart. Many are feeling isolated, disconnected, and alone. Trust towards each other is low.

And so, our theme is a prayer and a declaration that **we are**, as a covenant community of faith, coming together to continue **wrestling** with our current realities and concerns in order to begin **engaging** in conversations that will lead to healing and wholeness so that we may together be on a path towards **rising** to face the new day that God invites us all to with hope and joy!

As representatives of our church, Dottie Poczulp and Margo Kahler will participate in the Annual Conference as laity. Pastor Ko will participate as a pastor. Please, pray for all of them representing our body of Church.

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.

매주 목요일 저녁 7시, 성경공부가 줌으로 진행됩니다.

Meeting ID: 998 6112 0822 Passcode: 6226481

NOTICE: Due to the low numbers of new COVID cases in Pima County, our safety guidelines have been updated once more:

- **We are relaxing our mask recommendation for the time being;** however, please feel free to continue masking if you want to.
- 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 library.

Narcotics Anonymous (Underground)

-This support group 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 using the book, "All God's Creatures: Daily Devotions for Animal Lovers 2021."

Zoom ID: 994 3610 1655 Passcode: 6226481

Chancel Choir

-The choir has time off until July 23rd.
-No practices or rehearsals until then.

Progressive Book Study (PBS)

-If you would like to join, PBS still meets online on Zoom on Thursdays at 3PM. The new book is "Amending the Christian Story" by Ron Rude.

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.

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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:

Bishop & Staff of the Desert Southwest Conference
Staff & Churches of the: East District, North District, and West District

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

Rev. Howard Velzy (June 3)
Pearl Zimmerman (June 4)
Christopher Kang (June 8)
Victoria Russell (June 9)
Ann Goff (June 12)

Edna Rosenberger (June 14) - 107 years old!
Gretchen Lopez (June 18)
Joy Ageh (June 19)
Art Turnbull (June 28)

Duk & Hae Sook Hong (June 5)
Bob & Jessie Hansen (June 7)
Rev. Howard & Carol Velzy (June 10)

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

June 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 **this Friday, June 9th at 11:30 AM** at the Olive Garden on the northeast corner of Oracle/Wetmore ([300 W Wetmore Rd. Tucson, AZ 85705](http://300WetmoreRd.Tucson.AZ.85705)).

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

Animal & Environmental Holidays for June 2023

By Diane & Victoria Russell



June 7th - World Food Safety Day

Created in 2019 by the World Health Org (WHO) to raise awareness and help prevent foodborne risks to food security. Each year thousands of people become ill or die because of foodborne illness. Food safety saves lives. The 2023 theme is "Food Standards Save Lives."

WORLD PET MEMORIAL DAY



June 13th - World Pet Memorial Day

A time to remember all the wonderful pets that have been part of your life and have passed away. Pets are family members and when they pass it is often difficult. Some of the ways to honor your beloved pet include creating a memorial stone, planting a tree in their honor, or creating a photo album.



June 15th - Nature Photography

Being in nature can be very relaxing and have beautiful sights to behold. One way to share what you see is to snap a picture. These pictures can be of animals, insects, plants, landmarks, or anything else you find in the natural world. Take time today and snap a few nature pictures to share!



June 16th - World Sea Turtle Day

Sea turtles are amazing creatures. There are seven species of sea turtles and six are classified as threatened or endangered. Sadly, they are threatened due to humans; plastic dumping, coastal encroachment, marine pollutants, fishing gear, and the meat trade. Let's help protect them.



June 16th - World Refill Day

This is a worldwide campaign to end single use plastics. By reusing bottles, you will help eliminate waste and help protect our earth. Ways to celebrate include getting a reusable water bottle, spreading awareness, and supporting businesses who are taking this challenge.



June 18th - Father's Day

Fathers can come in all shapes and sizes. This day we celebrate all human and animal Fathers of the world. Some fathers even stay and raise their babies.



June 19th – June 25th - Animal Rights Awareness Week

This week was founded in 1991 by “In Defense of Animals” to promote education about animal welfare goals to protect animals and their habitats. This week includes pets, farm animals, testing/research animals, and wildlife. This week focuses on animal cruelty, puppy mills, and animal testing.



June 22nd – World Rainforest Day

Created by the Rainforest Partnership in 2017 to raise awareness about the problems of deforestation with the goal of helping to preserve and restore the rainforest. About 50% of the world’s plants and animals live in the rainforests. The 2023 theme is: “Conserve. Restore. Regenerate.”



June 24th - Upcycling Day

Upcycling means to repurpose items that are no longer being used. It helps give the item a new purpose and second life. This way they do not go to waste and end up in a landfill. There are many ways to upcycle things- look online for inspiration!



June 24th – World Day Against the Abandonment of Domestic Animals

Created by the French group *Solidarite Animal* in 2019 to raise awareness that many pets are abandoned during the summer holidays. Animal Abandonment Is a crime if a person intentionally, purposely, knowingly, recklessly, or with criminal negligence leaves a domestic animal at a location permanently/temporarily without providing for the animal’s continued care.



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.