



**First United Methodist Church**  
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## “A New Season of the Year and Church Calendar!”

By Pastor Ko

Greetings in Jesus Christ,

I hear frustrations, hatred, and pain from the society that is ruined by gun violence. It is true that it is frustrating, suffering, and painful. However, we can't live in it forever. We are pioneers who have to get out of it and bring peace and hope in the middle of the dark valley because God hears us and understands us.

Darkness cannot prevail over light and love. So, we continue to be grateful, hopeful, loving, and joyful even in the midst of this world. I am so grateful for our church and our congregation. Thanks to your prayers and support, five young adults completed a discipleship study with me every Monday for ten weeks. We had a simple celebration party in the outdoor area in my apartment unit eating pork belly which is a very famous Korean meat dish, on May 22nd. Although, believe it or not, the temperature was over 90 degrees around 7 pm, we survived having dinner outside. Lots of food, love, and laughter!



*Korean young adults who participated in the May 22<sup>nd</sup> celebration dinner*



*Korean young adults and congregation members who brought food to serve them*

## A New Season of the Year and Church Calendar! (cont.)

As you know, the U of A campus has changed from being busy at the end of the school year to now being slow. It means that the school calendar year is closed and transitioning into the summer break. Another school calendar year will begin in the fall. Time comes and goes. Halla graduated from Sunrise elementary school this year. As you can assume, I am growing up to be a better mom for her and learning a lot about American school systems, terminology, and culture.

The other day, I wondered why the school didn't inform me about her graduation ceremony. And, the day before the promotion, I learned that we call the graduation ceremony the promotion. And she will graduate in 2029 so they call her the class of 2029. She has just been promoted to the next level of study, which is middle school.



*Pastor Ko and Halla Kang at Halla's promotion ceremony*

Bishop Robert Schnase introduced the fruitful living with John 15:5, 8. *"Jesus taught a way of life and invited people into a relationship with God that was vibrant, dynamic, and fruitful. He said, "I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit ... My father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."*

How can we cultivate a life that is abundant, fruitful, purposeful, and deep?

How can we be used as instruments of God to transform the world with the grace of God?

Our biological children and spiritual children can grow to cultivate their lives for abundance, fruits, purpose, and depth by themselves. But, they truly need our care, prayer, guidance, and love. Not only them, but all of us need one another to do it. I hope and pray that you remember this truth every day to remind each other.

I will be out of town participating in the Annual Conference and taking a vacation for four weeks. Even though I can't be here with a physical presence, I am always here with you with my spiritual presence. I am now an Arizonan and Tucsonan pastor. I love you all in the name of Jesus Christ.

If you have any concerns or suggestions, feel free to contact me at [pastortucsonfirstumc@gmail.com](mailto:pastortucsonfirstumc@gmail.com).

With God's blessings,

Pastor Eun Young Ko

## NEWS FROM THE INN OF SOUTHERN ARIZONA



Dear Volunteers, Donors, and Friends,

**Attention!** We are experiencing larger numbers of guests on a daily basis. In March 462 guests and in April 505 guests were served. As we anticipate the repeal of Title 42 we are expecting the number of guests to increase. If you can spend a few hours providing hospitality on a shift, please help fill those empty shifts. Each shift has room for two persons, so bring a friend!!! It's always more fun with two! AND **we really need you!!**

**A GREAT BIG THANK YOU** goes out to all who **have** signed up to help with hospitality shifts and/or driving. Your work is invaluable and is what keeps the Inn's doors open to welcoming our guests. For those who have not yet filled out a volunteer form and have any extra time for a hospitality shift, to help with meal prep and delivery, to help with fundraising, or to drive guests to the (Inn) hotel, bus station or the airport, we need and would greatly appreciate your assistance! Providing hospitality, with guidance from the Inn staff, is rewarding and satisfying, whether delivering support onsite or helping with transportation. Guests have been screened and are Covid-19 negative before proceeding to our hotel site. In addition, we follow all Covid protocol while transporting and on premises. **Please consider volunteering!**

As a new volunteer, or if you have never registered, the first step is to fill out some information at [www.theinnofsa.org](http://www.theinnofsa.org) under the Volunteer tab. After completing the registration form, Gretchen, the Inn director, will send a link to Signup Genius so you can see the various on-site and driving shifts and sign up for any that suit your schedule.

Signup Genius tabs include:

- Hospitality shifts to help on site from **8 AM-1 PM, 1 PM-5 PM, 5 PM-9 PM** and overnight from **9 PM-8 AM** daily, including weekends.
- Driving guests to the Inn (hotel) from Casa Alitas Welcome Center, about 20 minutes away
- Driving guests to the airport or bus station.

Those interested in other areas of volunteer work off-site will be contacted by the person overseeing your area of interest.

**Shout out to Donors and Potential Donors.** We also want to thank those who donated to The Inn. Due to Covid restrictions regarding congregant sheltering, we have been serving guests from a hotel well-suited to our needs. A donation of \$50 provides an entire family a clean, comfortable room and meals for a night. Please give a night's stay for one family or a gift of more nights if you are able. The Inn's costs are at least \$600 a day for shelter alone. We are especially grateful for those who sustain giving every month; this helps greatly in planning for the future.

(cont. pg 4)

To give online, please go to <https://dscumc.org/secure/ip-donation/>.

If writing a check is easier or more convenient, please mail to:

The Inn of Southern Arizona, Inc.  
P.O. Box 43332  
Tucson, Arizona 85719

Thank you to all those amazing people who donated to The Inn this past month of July! We are grateful for all the supplies that have made our guests feel welcome and have the clothing and supplies needed for the next leg of their travel!

**At this time, we could use donations of:**

- Underwear for men (small & medium), women (Small) and children, both boys and girls (all sizes (2T to size 16)
- Men's pants, especially joggers, sweatpants, jeans, and shorts.
- Children's clothing, all sizes (especially 2T-size 5) both boys and girls
- Leggings for Women: small, medium, and large.
- Backpacks and/or larger reusable shopping bags
- Boxes of Fruit Loops or Cornflakes (or non-name brand cereal of the same type).
- Juice boxes, Capri Sun, squeezable yogurt, healthy, kid-friendly, prepackaged snacks, granola bars, individually packaged chips, Goldfish, Cheese-its, animal crackers
- Carseats

Please call Diane at 520-272-4341 to schedule a time and location to drop off donations.

Please note that, at this time, we **are** accepting clean clothing in good repair, especially those items noted above.

Our new website is: <http://www.theinnofsa.org>. When you have a chance, please check it out. We recommend the excellent video about *The Inn: What We Do and Who We Serve*. The donate button makes it easy to give to The Inn or to access the Amazon wish list for The Inn.







## Arms Open Wide for New Summer Choir Members

Singing in our church choir only requires ONE thing: Wanting to make a Joyful Noise in Worship. Director Lorena Suarez and current choir members welcome everyone. Past experience in a choir, or any musical education is not required.

In addition to Lorena, the choir enjoys the wonderful expertise of pianist/organist Young Kim with substitute help by Pastor Raven Gaston.

Choir this summer might be the perfect time for you to step forward, particularly if you enjoy hymns. Please let us know your favorites. Travel plans mean that the choir will naturally vary in size during summer.

**Summer Choir kicks off June 12<sup>th</sup> with rehearsal ONLY at 9AM every Sunday.** Choir will sing during the 10AM service. The last day of the Summer Choir schedule will be Sunday, July 31<sup>st</sup>.

Please contact Music Director Lorena Suarez by phone, email or in person.

Email: [suarezmolina@email.arizona.edu](mailto:suarezmolina@email.arizona.edu)

Cell phone: 218-409-3783.

In August, the choir will resume weeknight rehearsals in addition to rehearsing at 9AM on Sundays.

**Reminder:** *You need to be fully vaccinated to sing in the choir.*

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## Invitation to a Practical Music Theory Course

FUMC Music Ministry would like to invite you to our Practical Music Theory Course that will take place on Wednesdays from 6:30PM to 7:30PM, for some weeks of the summer.

The first meeting will be this Wednesday, June 8th, in the Carillon Room.

In the course we will learn/review how to read: Treble and Bass Clef, note values, rests, time signatures, and other music fundamentals. No experience with music is required.

Please contact Music Director Lorena Suarez at [suarezmolina@email.arizona.edu](mailto:suarezmolina@email.arizona.edu) or (218)409-3783, or the First Church office for more information.

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 금요일 저녁 7시, 성경공부가 줌으로  
진행됩니다.

Meeting ID: 998 6112 0822      Passcode: 6226481

**NOTICE:** Due to the current decline in  
COVID-19 variant cases in Pima County, our  
safety guidelines have been updated:

- For now, wearing a mask in the church building is no longer required, though still encouraged. Social distancing is still 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. If cases rise again, we will have to return to masking.*

**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**

-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 Wednesday at 6:30PM in the Sanctuary.

-Rehearsal is at 9AM on Sunday.

**-Please see the announcement on the previous page for the upcoming schedule change.**

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**Progressive Book Study (PBS)**

-PBS meets on Thursdays at 3PM. The current book is, "The God You Didn't Know You Could Believe In" by Dr. Jeffrey Frantz.

Questions? Call Rev. Gaston at (520) 323-1611

Zoom ID: 980 1573 8087      Passcode: 6226481

## 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:

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

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

Christopher Kang (June 8)

Victoria Russell (June 9)

Ann Goff (June 12)

Edna Rosenberger (June 14)

Gretchen Lopez (June 18)

Joy Ageh (June 19)

Arthur Turnbull (June 28)

Judi Brandt (July 3)

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

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## 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 **Friday, June 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://300WetmoreRd.Tucson.AZ.85705)).

If you're interested in coming, please call Shirley Murray at (520)297-4796 by Thursday, June 9<sup>th</sup> so she can reserve enough tables at the restaurant.

# Animal Holidays at a Glance

By Diane & Victoria Russell



## June 8 – National Best Friends Day

Best friends are important! We may look different but the bond that keeps us connected is real. Take this day to celebrate your best friends!



## June 8 – International Day of Action for Elephants in Zoos

This day was created by “In Defense of Animals (IDA)” in 2009 to raise awareness about the plight of elephants in zoos and to end their suffering by sending them to accredited sanctuaries.



## June 12-18 – Animal Rights Awareness Week

This week was founded in 1991 by IDA to promote education about animal welfare and protect animals and their habitats. This week focuses on the humane treatment of animals which includes pets, farm animals, animals used in testing and research, and wildlife.

## World Pet Memorial Day

GONE BUT NEVER FORGOTTEN



## June 14 – World Pet Memorial Day

This day is to remember your wonderful pet companions that have passed. Pets are family members and when they pass it is often difficult and mourning may take months. Ways to honor your beloved pet include creating a memorial stone, planting a tree in their honor, or creating a photo album.



## June 19 – Father's Day

Fathers come in all shapes and sizes. And some fathers even stay home and take care of the babies.



## June 21– World Giraffe Day

The Giraffe Conservation Foundation created this day to honor and spread awareness of the giraffe's strife. The theme this year is “Bringing Giraffes Back to Mozambique!”



## **Statement on Shootings in Buffalo and Laguna Woods**

May 17, 2022

This past weekend brought me to my knees, yet again, as shots rang out in Buffalo, New York, and Laguna Woods, California. In both cases, the lone gunman took the lives of others because of hate for the victim's racial and ethnic identities. None of those killed in those shootings chose when or where they were born, and they did not establish the government's political agenda in the United States or China. The individuals in Buffalo were shopping in the only grocery store in what many identify as a food desert. The choice about where they buy food for their families is limited to very few options. The violent act wrought by one steeped in hate speech, conspiracy theories, and ideologies that divide communities instead of unifying them has rendered that market unsafe. The worshippers in Laguna Woods gathered in a sacred space celebrating without awareness that the actions and relations between the governments of China and Taiwan caused their lives to be in balance.

It is unfathomable to conceive of the thoughts one would have and the gall one would exercise to express their hate and rage on innocent people going about their daily lives trying to buy food or find respite from the cares of the world. The impact of those gunshots reverberates in grocery stores and churches across the country. We especially consider the anxiety and response of our pastor and siblings at Laguna Country United Methodist Church, located very close to Geneva Presbyterian in Laguna Woods. Though no shots were fired in a United Methodist Church, we stand united with our siblings in Christ and all faith communities who abhor violence as much as we do.

As awful as these tragedies are, they can serve as a clarion call for us to step up our action to bring an end to gun violence in our communities and throughout this country. I offer a few suggestions and challenge you, your church leaders, and family members to consider at least two actions from this list:

- Continue in prayer each day for the victims, their families, and their ability to bring peace and calm during their newly found chaos.
- Access resources from the General Board of Church and Society (GBCS) and local activist groups working to change laws and policies in all areas of life that contribute to gun violence.
- Engage local elected officials on strategies to protect our houses of worship, advocate for funding to buy back guns, and provide mental health support when needed.
- Host forums and training on responding to active shooter situations in churches, schools, malls, and other public spaces.
- Schedule times for community members to come together online or in person to discuss ways to support one another and build better relationships across barriers that prevent neighbors from co-mingling.

You may have other ideas and plans that make sense in your context. I encourage you to follow your heart and do what will work best for those where you live and serve.

The grief and anguish of this moment may be more than you care to bear. The thought of doing anything right now may seem overwhelming. I encourage you to find a way to be present with and for others at this time. Find ways to connect with others who want to work toward healing and wholeness for all who suffer. Finally, remember the words of this past week's lectionary that challenges me to continue this path:

*I give you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, so you also must love each other. This is how everyone will know that you are my disciples, when you love each other.*

*(John 13:34-35, Common English Bible)*

That passage reminds me that love is the only thing that can overcome hate. It is also true that love is the one true way we demonstrate our commitment to Jesus and his way of living and being in the world. Many ideologies and leaders seek disciples these days, but Jesus calls us to be his disciples. We show the world who we follow by how we express love for one another.

It is imperative for our church to be a moral force for good in our world. As Jesus taught us, our response can only reflect the Divine grace of love in all we do.

Be the Hope,

Bishop Grant



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.