



First United Methodist Church
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“Together, We Serve!”

By Pastor Eun Ko



Group picture of the Western Jurisdiction Korean Clergy family retreat @ Mt. Rainier

I am privileged to participate in the West Jurisdiction Korean Clergy Family Retreat at Tacoma, WA from July 3rd to 7th. Believe it or not, it was the first time for Halla and I to visit the Seattle and Tacoma area. As usual, Korean clergy retreat is full of the schedule from 6:00 AM to 9:30 PM, in which I felt tired. It always gives me a refreshment to be away from the ministry site and being recharged in spirit through daily worship services in the morning and at night and in body because we were fed well by the amazing radical hospitality from the Tacoma Korean United Methodist congregation.

(cont. pg 2)



Halla and Pastor Ko @ Sky View Observatory – Columbia Center

It wouldn't be possible without the connectionalism of the United Methodist Church. Connectionalism comes to life through the clergy appointment system and through the outreach United Methodists do together. Connectionalism is a vital web of interactive relationships that binds its members, churches, and conferences together for worship, nurture, and mission in the name of Christ as the essence of the United Methodist Church. United Methodists have also tried to have the connection of structuring and restructuring for the new church with these five principles: "effective program coordination, efficient organizational structure, accountability of denominational agencies, flexibility in deciding the church's missional priorities, and inclusive participation without regard to race or economic class." Connectionalism is related and rooted on various policies and thoughts of United Methodists.

Did you know that I was able to be appointed to the First UMC of Tucson thanks to this Connectionalism between West and North Central Jurisdiction? I began my third year of ministry here in Tucson on July 1st, 2023. We just completed our second time of Heaven's Touch ministry at the Loving Church, which offered a free haircut service for the homeless and low-income brothers and sisters in Christ. Let us continue to dream big in mission for the future. Amen.



Proverbs 16:9

The human mind plans the way, but the Lord directs the steps.

잠언 16장 9절

사람이 마음으로 자기의 길을 계획할지라도 그의 걸음을 인도하시는 이는 여호와시니라

With blessings and prayers,
Pastor Ko

New Music Director Beginning in September, 2023!



Inho Eom

Inho Eom, born in South Korea, is currently a DMA student in choral conducting and voice minor at the University of Arizona Fred Fox School of Music studying with Dr. Elizabeth Schauer and Yunah Lee. During his time at University of Arizona, Inho was one of three conductors selected from among all those who auditioned from a five-state region to participate in a graduate conducting master class held at the Western Region Conference of American Choral Directors Association (ACDA) with Dr. Jo-Michael Scheibe. Until recently he served as the conductor and soloist of Northminster Presbyterian Church in Tucson as an external graduate teaching assistantship. He grew up in the Methodist faith from childhood and has been serving in the choir since he was ten years old. So, choir and faith are his life itself. Inho Eom has a lot of experience and learning both in voice and conducting. His musical skills and previous experiences will be helpful not only to improve the choir, but also to infuse new energy and a sense of color into the worship with praise to God. He always has a passion to teach and lead the choir because he believes praise is not just a performance, but an offering to God, and the motivation inspires him to make the praise authentic and beautiful. He will become a music director who first of all loves and empathizes with the saints and prays for them. Because he believes that the starting point for growth and change is love and empathy.

Education

D.M.A. Choral Conducting, The University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona
M.M. Choral Conducting, Hansei University, Gyeonggi-do, South Korea
P.S Certificate. Voice: Tenor, Manhattan School of Music, New York, NY
M.M. Voice: Tenor, Manhattan School of Music, New York, NY
B.A. Voice: Tenor, Kyung Hee University, Seoul, South Korea

AWARDS

Mayer, Merrylees W. Choral Scholarship - The University of Arizona
Lutheran Brotherhood Bach Scholarship - The University of Arizona
1st Place on American Protégé (voice), New York, NY (Debut in Carnegie Hall)
Golden Medal in Forte International Competition (voice), New York, NY

What's Happening at First Church of Tucson!

Halla participated in the youth program at the Annual Conference of the Desert Southwest Annual Conference. The youth had a presentation on the last day of the Annual Conference.



Left: Halla Kang.

Right: Bishop Carlo A. Rapanut is preaching.



Former campus minister at the U of A, Rev. Dee Dee, and Pastor Ko

Goodbye to our sister in faith, Winona Powell!

Sadly, we announce that Winona Powell will move back to Missouri where her hometown is. She has lived in her current home for the last 50 years in Tucson and now she would like to move back to her hometown to wrap up her life journey until God calls her. July 16 will be the last Sunday for her to present at the First UMC of Tucson. We will pray for God's continuing blessings on her new chapter of her life. We love you, Winona!



Left: Joyce, Jae, Winona, and Pastor Ko.



Right: Esther, Winona, and Sumin Lee.

Goodbye to our sister in faith, Seojin Park!



Pastor Ko and Seojin Park

Seojin Park joined our church in January, 2022 and completed one of the Bible Studies with Pastor Ko. She completed her doctorate study for Second Language Acquisition and Teaching. She will move to California for her new chapter as a professor at University of Southern California.

Goodbye to our friend in faith, Kyungsuk Jang!



Kyungsuk Jang

Kyungsuk Jang has been at our church as a visitor. He finished his postdoctoral program this summer at University of Arizona and will move to New York for his new program at NYC (New York State University) in July.

After summer vacation and an illness, Dottie Poczulp came back to the worship service with Young Christian time on June 25th. We are glad that she is back.



Our choir has had time off from June 4th through July 22nd. They begin their summer schedule on July 23rd with practice at 9AM on Sundays before the worship service (no weekday evening rehearsals). The summer schedule runs until Wednesday, August 9th, at which point the regular choir schedule will take effect, with practices on Wednesday evenings at 6:30PM in addition to the Sunday morning rehearsals.

(cont. pg 6)



Korean Young adult students still stay at Tucson during their summer break. So, they had a worship, lunch, and have a movie day for their fellowship on July 1st. Thanks to Byung Kim and Young Kim who prepared a gourmet meal for the students, the love of Jesus Christ was spread out to them.

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Welcome to Students & Families During Move-in Week!

Student move-in days are just next month. We will be sharing water and snacks with the new students and their families on **Wednesday through Friday, August 16th-18th from 9am-12pm.**

We would greatly appreciate your water & cash donations, as well as prayers for this outreach. We also need some volunteers to pass out the water and snacks during those times. If you'd like to volunteer, please put your name down on the sign-up sheet on the Social Hall stage.

July & August Meet'n'Eats

This is a fellowship time to visit with each other and see old and new friends.
All are welcome, everyone is invited!

The next two Meet'n'Eats are at 11:30AM on **Friday, July 14th**, and on **Friday, August 11th**. We meet at the Olive Garden on the northeast corner of Oracle/Wetmore ([300 W Wetmore Rd, Tucson, AZ 85705](http://www.300w.com)).

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

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.

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

- **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)

-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

-The choir has time off through July 22nd.

-On July 23rd, the summer choir schedule will take effect, with rehearsal on Sunday mornings at 9AM.

-Come meet our new music director, Inho Eom!

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 7:30PM 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:

July

New Hope UMC, Tucson
Grace UMC, Douglas
Sierra Vista UMC

Camping Program, South District

August

Patagonia Community UMC
Sanctuary UMC, Tucson
Santa Cruz Valley UMC, Sahuarita
St. Francis in the Foothills UMC, 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

Judi Brandt (July 3)
Judy Longenbaugh (July 6)
Ron Longenbaugh (July 6)
Chuck Humphrey (July 8)
Kathryn Sovie (July 12)

Jack Wen (July 13)
Tae Hyeong Kim (July 15)
Judith Billings (July 20)
Anita Lange (July 21)
Bill Warnock (July 29)

Shinhye Park (July 30)
Sejong Kim (August 1)
Sumin Lee (August 5)
Sang Ho Park (August 11)

Steven & Lana Yoo (July 12)
Christopher & Stephanie Kang (August 7)
Byung & Young Kim (July 15)

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

Animal & Environmental Holidays for July & August 2023

By Diane & Victoria Russell



July is National Lost Pet Prevention Month

Created by PetHub in 2014 to help pet owners protect their pets from being lost. July 5th is the busiest day of the year for lost pets. Ways to help protect your pet include Collar ID tag, micro-chips, train come/stay commands, secure your yard, keep pets on a leash, and pay attention.



Plastic Free July

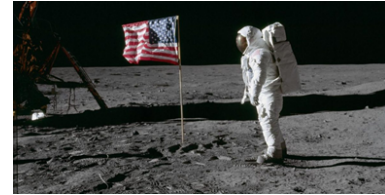
Today millions of people worldwide are participating in the solution of plastic pollution by giving up single use plastic for July. Plastic waste ends up polluting the oceans and kills millions of marine animals and seabirds. Ways to participate include reduce/refuse: plastic bags, plastic water bottles, straws, plates, stirrers, cutlery, food containers, and cups.



July 11th – World Population Day

Established by the UN in 1989 to raise awareness of the world's population issues. There are currently 8 billion people in the world. The UN 2023 theme is "Unleashing the power of gender

equality: Uplifting the voices of women and girls to unlock our world's infinite possibilities".



July 20th – National Moon Day

Celebrates the historic lunar landing of Apollo 11 on July 20, 1969, when America is the first to put a flag on the moon. Also, the famous words uttered by Neil Armstrong when he first stepped on the moon - "That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind".



July 23rd – World Whale and Dolphin Day

Created in 1986 by the International Whaling Commission (IWC) to put an end to the indiscriminate killing of whales and dolphins. Also, the dangers for their existence by catching them and other marine species to be held in marine parks and oceanariums.



July 28th – World Nature Conservation Day

It is an annual event to raise awareness to help preserve and protect our environment and natural resources. Protecting plants, animals and the environment that are threatened for future generations. Ways to help include reducing plastic use, reducing e-waste, and saving water.



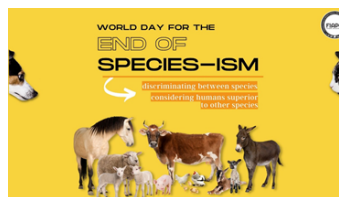
August 2nd – Ecological Debt Day – Earth Overshoot Day

Earth Overshoot Day is organized and calculated by the Global Footprint Network which is a yearly campaign to raise awareness about the Earth's limited resources. This year's day lands on August 2. This is when the world's demand for resources and services exceeds what the Earth can produce or renew in that year. Hence, from 8/2 to 12/31 - we are living off our future generation resources.



August 26th – World African Wild dog Day

Today we celebrate the African Wild dog which is also known as the African Painted Dog, Cape Hunting Dog, or African Painted Wolf. They are a wild canine which is native to sub-Saharan Africa. They are excellent pack hunters and have an 80% success rate. They are listed as endangered on the IUCN Red List with about 3,000 – 5,000 remaining in the world.



August 26th – World Day for the End of Speciesism - WoDES

The 9th World Day for the End of Speciesism which is discrimination against non-human animals. This term refers to the human belief that animal species are inferior and are often exploited to meet human wants and needs. Animals are sentient creatures – they too feel pain, love, joy, and fear.



August 28th – Rainbow Bridge Remembrance Day

Created in 2015 by Deborah Barnes, author and blogger of Zee & Zoey's Cat Chronicles in honor of her Ragdoll Cat, Mr. Jazz who passed in 2013. This day was created to remember the pets that are no longer with us. Although they are gone, they are not forgotten by the memories of the past.

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.