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“Are We Recharged and Filled with the Holy Spirit?”

By Pastor Eun Ko



Left: Pastor Ko with her mom and Halla. Right: Halla with her uncle and cousin

It has been two months since the church published the last Digest. You might wonder what is going on with the church and with me as your pastor. As you expected, I took some summer vacation to visit South Korea to see and spend some time with my family, especially with my dad. I used to live in Chicagoland where there were nonstop flights from Chicago to South Korea for fourteen years. However, since I have moved to Tucson, I need to stop in either San Francisco or Los Angeles before flying to South Korea. Amazingly, this inconvenience in the flight schedule became a fortunate opportunity to see my brother’s family in San Francisco. While waiting for the transit to the next flight, we were able to see and have dinner with my brother’s family. Halla and I had a good time.

Also, even though I had some plans in South Korea, especially in Jeju Island where my parents reside, one of my sisters and both of my parents got Covid while I was there. Thankfully, I gave lots of rides to or from the airport or doctor’s office whenever anybody in the family felt sick while providing three meals for the Covid patients at home in their quarantine. After they finished their voluntary quarantine, I got Covid until I departed South Korea, which led me to quarantine voluntarily. What a journey I have made, not along with my own plan! How many of you have experienced this case that your life goes along more than your original plan? I became humble again knowing how powerless and vulnerable we are when things don’t go along with our own plans.

(cont. pg 2)

“Are We Recharged and Filled with the Holy Spirit?” cont.

However, I fully trust in the providence of God in the midst of unexpected life situations, and in ministry settings as well. When I was in South Korea, I learned that our dear sister in faith, Anita Lange, passed away suddenly and unexpectedly. Right after I came back, I have tried to comfort our family in faith from the loss of our loved one, Anita, in her celebration of her life and other occasions. I am still grieving, and it is hard to believe as many of you do. Even when we face those difficult moments of our lives, the only thing we need to and can do is to trust in the providence of God and ask for God’s comfort.

In the meantime, there was an amazing moment for us to welcome a new family member, Ella Scott Wegner, six months old in faith, who was dedicated and committed to raise her in faith by Ashley and Graham Wegner.

I am so grateful, recharged, and filled with the Holy Spirit through all those joyful and sorrowful moments I have been through this summer. I hope and pray that all of you do the same in faith because God is here and is aching, crying, comforting, and pleased by our actions and commitments of faith. Amen.



Anita Lange’s Celebration of Life on August 8th, 2023

(cont. pg 3)

“Are We Recharged and Filled with the Holy Spirit?” cont.



Left: Nan, Pastor Ko, Ella and her parents.



Right: Pastor Ko baptizing Ella.



Left: Ella with flowers and a gift from the church.



Right: Ella's family.

Philippians 4:6-7

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

빌립보서 4장 6-7절

아무 것도 염려하지 말고 다만 모든 일에 기도와 간구로, 너희 구할 것을 감사함으로 하나님께 아뢰라. 그리하면 모든 지각에 뛰어난 하나님의 평강이 그리스도 예수 안에서 너희 마음과 생각을 지키시리라

With blessings and prayers,

Pastor Ko

What's Happening at First Church of Tucson!

Heaven's Touch continues the first Sunday of the month. It was held on Sep 3rd at the Loving Church on Roger Rd near Stone Ave. We are planning to serve one of the meals for the rest of this year for those homeless brothers and sisters at the Loving Church. Please pray for this awesome ministry.

What's Happening at First Church of Tucson! cont.



Taking out some staples from the homeless brother's head.



Special Offertory Song was dedicated by Ahn, Jungil and his daughter, Seoyeon on Sep 3rd during the Korean service.

Our sister in faith, Winona Powell finally moved and settled in Harrisonville, Missouri. Her new mailing address is below. Please, show your love for her with a card or a letter.

Winona Powell
2906 Easton Street
Harrisonville, MO 64701



We'd like to thank all of those who prayed, donated money and water, and our volunteers who helped pass out the water, snacks, and eegees (slushies) to the new students on August 16-18. We passed out 210 items in total. Our misting fan sure came in handy on those hot days.



An Upcoming Event You Won't Want to Miss!

I have a question for all of you! What happens almost every year on the last Sunday in September? Answer: The First Church Annual Corn Roast! (I know it wasn't too hard to answer.)



The corn roast is now 103 years old, but due to the pandemic, we had to place the roast on hold for a while. So, this year will be our 101st celebration.

Who'd have thought that when the Nichols family hosted the first corn roast on their farm in 1920, that it would still be going strong today? Keeping with tradition, our menu is almost the same as it was way back then: corn, salad, rolls, coffee, and apple pies. The menu has been tweaked a bit over the years by adding lemonade and any type of pie.



This year's roast will be held at the church on September 24th after the 10 AM service. If you would like to bring one of your favorite pies, please do so. Everything else will be provided. If you're not a pie maker, not to worry, there will be plenty to go around.

Tickets will not be sold, but we will be accepting any monetary donations that the spirit moves you to give.

A Resounding "Thank You" to Our Faithful Church Caretaker

Every Sunday morning by 8 a.m., Tina can be seen in the parking lot clearing away the debris left behind by passersby during their weekend celebrations. She makes sure that the entire outside area is trimmed and attractive before worshippers arrive.

The clean-up continues to the inside of the building. She now wields her trusty vacuum--her "new" vacuum. On a recent Sunday morning she proudly displayed her newly acquired Dyson, no less! She found it secondhand for a fraction of the price of a new one.

Congratulations on your new find and may it make your work light. Thank you so much Tina, for your loving care of First United Methodist Church.



September 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, September 8th 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.

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.

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](https://www.zoom.us/j/99436101655) [Passcode: 6226481](https://www.zoom.us/j/99436101655)

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 over Zoom.
The next book is "A Return to Love: Reflections

on the Principles of 'A Course in Miracles'" by Marianne Williamson.

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

[Zoom ID: 980 1573 8087](https://www.zoom.us/j/98015738087) [Passcode: 6226481](https://www.zoom.us/j/98015738087)

Cocaine Anonymous (CA)

-This support group meets at 7:30PM on Friday evenings in the Arizona room.

UPCOMING SPECIAL SUNDAYS

September 24th - Corn Roast (immediately after the 10AM worship service)

October 1st - World Communion Sunday

October 8th - Blessing of the Animals - Send photos of your pets to the church office by October 3rd for inclusion in a blessing slideshow.

October 15th - Laity Sunday - We will recognize all our lay leaders in our church.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

September 30th - Covenant Board Meeting at 10:00 am

October 7th - Church Conference at 10:00 am (SPRC meets with D.S. Matt Ashley at 9AM.)

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:

St. James UMC, Tucson
St. John's UMC, Tucson
St. Mark's UMC, Tucson

We need your prayers for the victims affected by the wildfires in Maui, Hawaii. It will be a long process of recovery and restoration. As a church, we are collecting a special offering in support of Maui through UMCOR. Please pray about it and if you want to be part of it, please make a special donation with "Maui wildfire" in the memo line. We can make a difference as a faith community.

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

Juyeon Lee (Sep 1)
Diane Russell (Sep 3)
Leonard Santos (Sep 5)
Shirley Murray (Sep 14)
Elizabeth Rollings-Friman (Sep 15)

Carole Koo (Sep 19)
Grace Ageh (Sep 22)
Margo Kahler (Sep 25)
Diana Gertz (Sep 26)
Trang Phan-Haney (Sep 27)

Pedro & Gretchen Lopez (Sep 1)

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

Animal & Environmental Holidays for September 2023

By Diane & Victoria Russell



September 7th – International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies

Created in 2019 by the United Nations General Assembly to raise awareness and emphasize the need to improve air quality to protect human health. This year's theme is "Together for Clean Air". According to WHO, about 99% of the global population breathes polluted air.



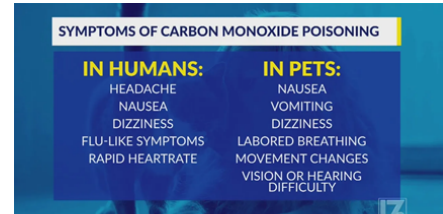
September 16th – National Cleanup Day and Month

It has been held annually in the USA and globally around the world since 2017. It is a day to join your local community and help clean up urban landscapes, local parks, trails, beaches, water ways, mountains, and other open areas. There are local Tucson sites to volunteer at.



September 17th – Puppy Mills Awareness Day

Started by Last Chance for Animals in 2004 to spread awareness about the commercial dog breeding facilities. Dogs are often kept in cramped filthy living conditions, without adequate food, water and medical care. Don't support these puppy mills. Always adopt, don't shop.



September 17th – National Pet Carbon Monoxide (CO) Safety Day

In 2020, Kidde created this day to raise awareness about the dangers of carbon monoxide poisoning. According to the (CDC), research found that CO poisoning kills animals at a rate twice that of humans. Protect both human and pet lives by installing a CO monitor.



September 21st – Zero Emissions Day

Created by activist Ken Wallace in 2008 in Nova Scotia, Canada with the slogan "Giving our Planet a day off a year." It has grown into a global movement to raise awareness to stop using fossil fuels for one day. It encourages the use of renewable energy.



September 22nd – World Rhino Day

Created in 2010 by World Wildlife South Africa to celebrate the five species of rhino: Black, white, greater one-horned, Sumatran, and Javan rhino. This year's theme is "Poaching of Rhinos. Illegal horn trade. Low population density." Let's protect this amazing animal.



September 22nd – Remember Me Thursday

This is an annual worldwide event to raise awareness of pet adoption by shining a light on all orphan pets waiting for their forever home in shelters and rescues and to remember those animals whose time ran out. The idea is to “light up the world for pet orphans.”



September 24th – World Gorilla Day

Created in 2017 to help celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Dian Fossey’s Gorilla Fund at the Karisoke Research Center. It is a day to celebrate them and for global conservation efforts to help protect them. There are 2 species of gorillas - the Western & Eastern, with 4 subspecies.



September 26th – World Environmental Health Day

Created in 2011 by the Int. Federation of Environmental Health (IFEH) to raise awareness of the impact of current environmental concerns on human health. The 2023 theme is “Global environmental public health: Standing up to protect everyone’s health each and every day”.



September 29th – International Awareness of Food Loss and Waste

Reducing food loss and waste can play a key role when people are affected by hunger. According to the FAO, in 2022 over 690 million people in the world face hunger. Sadly, about 13% of the world’s food is lost in the supply chain and about 17% in homes, food services and retail.



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.