



First Church Tucson Weekly Digest 9.6.2022

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“Young Adults with Energetic Spirituality!”



By Pastor Eun Young Ko

Greetings in Jesus Christ,

I pray that you are experiencing a new day every day, filled with the Holy Spirit, whether you recently began your new school year or live with a daily routine.

July 1st, 2022, was my first day to begin my second year in ministry at First UMC of Tucson. It has been a very challenging but grateful year for me. After one and a half years of closing the church building, I had to start everything like new, from scratch. However, God wanted me to surrender to God, not depend on the people or material resources. I have learned a new culture and people here in Tucson, AZ, which gave me an opportunity to extend my understanding of the nature, culture, ethnicity, and essence of the church.

I can do it with all of you who have prayed, encouraged, helped, and guided me to serve our God. Praise to the Lord! Please, continue to journey with me for the glory of God.

As you know, our Korean young adult group is growing up amazingly. It was possible through the sacrificial love of our congregation and the grace of God. Believe it or not, our Korean young adult group went to the retreat to Mt. Lemmon Aug 5-6. Cooking competition, traditional Korean dessert (Red-bean ice cake), Spiritual survey, praise songs, seeing the stars, walking the trail, and more! It was short and not all of them could make it. But, it was worth it to dream about the future of our church and be motivated for the mission of the church.

(cont. pg 2)

Young Adults with Energetic Spirituality! (cont.)



Above left: Students cooking. **Right:** Byung and Young Kim, who served the Korean dessert.



Clockwise from middle left: Students singing praise songs; hiking the trail at Mt. Lemmon; Min and students at one of the trail viewpoints; singing for the offertory song.



Young Adults with Energetic Spirituality! (cont.)

We also had a great time welcoming our new students and family to the campus of the University of Arizona from Tuesday, Aug 16 to Thursday, Aug 18. It was boiling hot outside. However, we were able to serve our community, especially new students of the University, with cold water and snacks. Nothing more is needed! They really appreciate our love for the community on the hot summer day in Tucson, AZ. Thanks to those who donated cash, water, prayer, and service, we could do it in the name of the First United Methodist Church of Tucson and Jesus Christ. We could do even better next year. It was a good year to resume life after the pandemic! Here we go! The First UMC of Tucson is coming to the community of Tucson to spread out the love and word of Jesus Christ. It means that we become the true witness of Jesus Christ here and now. Amen.



Above from left: Church members who served the students and their families: Margo, Bob, Victoria; Margo again, Kate.
Below, from left: Anita, Jessie, Don; Margo, Bob, Jessie, Nan, Victoria, Diane



As Acts 1:8 says, **“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth,”** we begin to be witnesses of Jesus in Tucson, AZ first and it will go out to the world.

사도 행전 1장 8절에 기록되었듯이, “오직 성령이 너희에게 임하시면 너희가 권능을 받고 예루살렘과 온 유대와 사마리아와 땅 끝까지 이르러 내 증인이 되리라 하시니라. (사도행전 1장 8절)” 우리는 이 투산 지역에서 먼저 예수님의 증인이 된 이후에 세상을 품을 것입니다. 아멘.

If you have any concerns or suggestions, feel free to contact me at pastortucsonfirstumc@gmail.com.

With God's blessings,

Pastor Eun Young Ko

A big thank you, First Church Family, for supporting The Inn ministry

Through Coin Sunday on July 31st and in response to the artwork done by children at the Inn, you donated \$1,681. Our foundation matched this amount, bringing the **total to \$3,362** to aid those traveling to the site of their asylum hearings after release by government agencies. Families receive hospitality with kindness over a stay of one or two nights at a site designed to protect them during this pandemic.

Since The Inn began in 2016 with support of The Desert Southwest Conference, First Church ministers and congregation have been involved in many ways. Hear wonderful stories from our members including Gretchen Lopez, Director of The Inn (theinnprojecttucson@gmail.com); Hannah Bonner, Joyce Garcia, Cindy Rinehart, Ian and Bonnie Steel, Lana and Steven Yoo, Melanie Wallendorf, Nan Rollings and others. The website for this nonprofit is www.theinnofsa.org.



WANTED: A compassionate person to continue Lee Scott's ministry with Anthony.

It's not easy being poor. Anthony is 63, rides a bicycle, has bad knees, no car, computer or any kind of bank account. He gets disability checks and food stamps, but needs a ride to pay his rent and occasionally some moral support. When Lee passed away, we stepped in. Bruce played chess with Anthony every week and Judith drove him to get groceries and to doctor's appointments. We have had to cut back on our activities with Anthony as each new health issue hit us. Now is the time for someone else to help Anthony.

If this is a blessing you feel called to bestow, please call Judith or Bruce at **520-319-9431**. Thanks.

-The Billings

SAVE THE DATE: September 25th Corn Roast at First Church

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 difficult to answer.)

The corn roast is now 102 years old, but due to the pandemic over the last two years we've had to place the roast on hold. So, this year will be our 100th 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 25th after the 10AM service. And, if you are inclined to bring one of your favorite pies, please plan to do so. Everything else will be furnished. If you're not a pie maker, not to worry, there will be plenty to go around.

We don't sell tickets, but we do accept donations. Just let your faith be your guide.



Blessing of the Animals October 9th, 2022



Please join us for a special Blessing of the Animals in honor of Saint Francis of Assisi, the Patron Saint of Animals and the environment. He expressed his devotion to God through his love for all of God's creations. Pastor Ko will be performing the

Blessing of the Animals Service. All blessings will be done from pictures provided by the animal owners.

Please submit your pictures of all the animals you would like to be blessed during the service to the church office—care of Diane or Victoria Russell—either by mailing them to 915 E 4th St, Tucson, AZ 85719 or emailing them to office@firstchurchtucson.org.

- Please include the animal's name on the back of the picture along with your name.
- Please send or bring in all pictures by October 4, 2022 in order to make the picture board!

For questions and concerns, please contact Diane or Victoria at (562) 708-3942.

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>.

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 increase in COVID-19 variant cases in Pima County and across the United States, our safety guidelines have been updated again:

- **We are recommending a return to wearing masks inside the building.** 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 masked and 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.

Narcotics Anonymous

-NA/Underground 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

-Practice is on Wednesdays at 6:30PM in the Sanctuary.

-Rehearsal is at 9AM on Sundays.

- Come meet our new Music Director, Mirae Lee!

Progressive Book Study (PBS)

-PBS meets on Thursdays at 3PM. The new book, starting this week, will be "The Naked Now" by Richard Rohr.

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 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:

Santa Cruz Valley UMC, Sahuarita
St. John's UMC, Tucson
Trinity UMC, Bisbee

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 (Sept 1)
Diane Russell (Sept 3)
Leonard Santos (Sept 5)

Pedro & Gretchen Lopez (Sept 1)

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

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 9th 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, September 7th so she can reserve enough space at the restaurant.

Animal Holidays at a Glance

By Diane & Victoria Russell



September - National Save a Tiger Month

The World Wildlife Fund created this day in 2015. The goals of this day are to spread awareness of the conservation efforts needed to keep the tiger from going extinct in their natural environment. Ways to celebrate include going to a tiger sanctuary, donating, and sharing this info on social media.

September 1 – Ginger Cat Appreciation Day

In 2014, American software developer Chris Roy created this day to honor his beloved rescued ginger cat named Doobert who passed after 17 years. Roy also launched an online app called “Doobert” that connects volunteers and animal rescue centers.



September 1 – Save Japan’s Dolphins Day

Created in 2004 by the International Marine Mammal Project (IMMP) to campaign the end of the cruel drive hunts in Taiji each year. The Academy Award–winning documentary “The Cove” depicts Earth Island Institute’s campaign to stop the hunts.

September 3 – International Vulture Awareness Day

The Birds of Prey Programme in South Africa and the Hawk Conservatory Trust in England created this day on September 5, 2009. This day was created to bring awareness of the important role they play in the ecosystem and to raise awareness of all 23 species of vultures worldwide



September 3 - National Hummingbird Day

Celebrate the smallest birds in the world. There are 360 species of hummingbird, with 15 living in North America. Ways to celebrate these pollinators include creating awareness, building a hummingbird feeder, and going into nature to see them.

September 4 – National Wildlife Day

Animal Behaviorist Colleen Paige created this day in 2005. The goal is to bring awareness of endangered animals locally and around the world and the conservation efforts to protect them. This day encourages wildlife lovers to become a voice for the voiceless.





September 8 – National Dog Walker Appreciation Day

The dog walking company “Wag!” started this celebration in 2016. Dog walkers help out pet parents by walking and caring for their dog when the parent cannot. Take time to appreciate your dog walker – tips also help!

September 8 - National Iguana Awareness Day

Iguanas are native to South/Central America and are the largest lizard in America. Iguanas can make amazing pets. There are 35 species of iguana worldwide. The most common Iguana Pet is the Green Iguana.



September 11 – National Pet Memorial Day

Pets are a part of the family and it is so painful to lose a member. Take time today to remember your pet companions. Ways to honor them include cremation, getting their paw prints stamped, hanging pictures, and reaching out to someone who recently lost a pet.

September 11 – National Hug Your Hound Day

Ami Moore the “Dog Whisperer of Chicago” created this day, to bring awareness of the importance of having a long and lasting bond with your pet. Start by giving them some love/affection and letting them know they are your best friend. Hugs can cause stress in dogs.



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.