



First Church Tucson Weekly Digest

First United Methodist Church
915 E. 4th St., Tucson, AZ 85719
www.firstchurchtucson.org

1.25.2021

First Church Tucson is an inclusive multi-ethnic faith community, 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 and disability, and sexual orientation.

We welcome you to join in our journey of faith through worship, prayer, Bible study, and service for social justice and ministries of compassion.

At First Church Tucson,
you have a home.
At First Church Tucson,
You have a family of faith.
At First Church Tucson,
you belong.



Protesters hold signs that say “Filipinx for Black Lives” in Los Angeles on June 5. Jay L. Clendenin/Los Angeles Times/Getty Images

“Solidarity”

By Rev. Paul Cho

Last week, I wrote to you about the lie I had been taught. America has yet to eradicate the prejudices that allowed for slavery to exist here. We are not yet equals. We are not yet free. We are, with this past election, moving forward, but we want to take leaps and bounds, not more baby steps. It's time.

In order to do so, I must confront an ugly truth, one that I have personally benefited from, but can no longer be ignorant about. It is to confront the Model Minority stereotype. To be clear, allow me to loosely define the Model Minority stereotype as a person of color who has found success in America, be that in one's financial success, academic success, or however the context defines itself.

As a young man, I thought that being told or compared as a Model Minority was a compliment. What I had not realized was with whom I was being compared to. It was always to other persons of color. I mean, when's the last time a white person complimented another white person by saying, “Your English is quite good”? (cont. on page 3)

THIS WEEK'S
ANNOUNCEMENTS & GATHERINGS

SUNDAY MORNING LIVE!

Find us on Youtube for a live stream of our Sunday morning reflection followed immediately with Zoom fellowship gathering.

Sundays @ 10AM (English), 11:30AM (Korean)
Visit <https://bit.ly/fumcYouTube> and subscribe to the channel. (Address is case-sensitive.)

First Church Fellowship is on Zoom.

[Meeting ID: 972 7492 7766](https://bit.ly/fumcYouTube) Passcode: 6226481

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한국어 사역

주일 오전 11:30에 Youtube에서 말씀 묵상 나눔이 있습니다. <https://bit.ly/fumcYouTube>

이어서 Zoom에서 교제에 시간이 있습니다.

[Meeting ID: 972 7492 7766](https://bit.ly/fumcYouTube) Passcode: 6226481

같은 주소에 금요일 오후 7시 소그룹에 초대합니다.

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WEEKDAY ONLINE GATHERINGS

Women on a Spiritual Quest (WSQ)

-A classic UM small group accountability and fellowship on Monday Evenings at 4:30PM.

[Meeting ID: 920 5951 9248](https://bit.ly/fumcYouTube) Passcode: 6226481

Exploring Biblical Wisdom (EBW)

-A Lectio Divina format biblical commentary with small group sharing on Tuesday Mornings at 11AM.

[Meeting ID: 981 7986 2680](https://bit.ly/fumcYouTube) Passcode: 6226481

Virtual Choir

-Sing with us from the comfort and safety of your home on Wednesday Evenings at 6:30PM.

[Meeting ID: 929 7830 4567](https://bit.ly/fumcYouTube) Passcode: 6226481

Progressive Book Study (PBS)

-An open conversation-based book study on Progressive Christian theology on Thursday Afternoons at 2PM.

[Meeting ID: 980 1573 8087](https://bit.ly/fumcYouTube) Passcode: 6226481

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*Not seeing something of interest?
Consider starting your own group!
We are looking for new hosts
to explore new areas of interest.
Contact pastor@firstchurchtucson.org*

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PRAYERS FOR OUR COMMUNITY

With the rise in COVID-19 cases, we offer our prayers for those in our community who are suffering under its grip, both those who are ill and those caring for them. We also pray for those burdened with other illnesses and health complications.

Particularly, we raise up Chuck and Beatrice Humphrey, Christina Ageh, and Mabel Warnock.

* * *

We offer our prayers for these sister faith communities:

St. Paul's UMC, Tucson
San Pedro Valley UMC, Benson
Trinity UMC, Bisbee

SUPPORT FIRST CHURCH TUCSON

Head to our website, www.firstchurchtucson.org, 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.
We thank you for your commitment to making a difference in our community.

THIS WEEK'S BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Jim Goff (Jan 26)

Bok & Jounghwa Namgung (January 28)

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

“While we might feel small, separate, and all alone, our people have never been more tightly tethered. The question’s not if we will weather this unknown, but how we will weather the unknown together.”

- Amanda Gorman in “The Miracle of Morning”



A Double Rainbow

By Lana Yoo at the Tucson International Airport on January 24th.

SOLIDARITY *(cont.)*

What is more troubling than the inherent racism that lies within the compliment was that the Model Minority, specifically, the Asian Model Minority was used as a way to shame other persons of color. Directly and indirectly, the stereotype suggested the following thoughts: “Why are these black and brown folks not successful? It certainly cannot be because of race. Those Asians are colored and doing just fine. It must be something inherently lacking in them.” This idea is atrocious, insensitive, and simply wrong.

We need to first step back and allow people to define their own success. This is because different cultures have differences in values. Different personality traits have differences in personal needs. We cannot define what success looks like for another person, only, and at best, it is for ourselves.

Most troubling is the fact that the Asian Model Minority stereotype, the one used to suggest that other persons of color are somehow inferior, was made up. Asians are not more successful than other persons of color. Rather, you will find that most “successful” Asians, were people who were already “successful” before they immigrated. Physicians were already physicians when they came to the US. Business owners were already successful business owners when they came to the US. Academics were already academics before they came. Just ask our own Korean siblings at First Church. You will find they were already doctors, engineers, successful business owners before they arrived. The US specifically welcomed these already well-to-do immigrant hopefuls by wording policies and providing visas in their favor. Asians were not forcefully taken from their homes, their cultures, their languages, their values removed from them. They were not subject to systemic oppression evident in education, in criminal justice, and in the larger social schemes. It is not fair to make such comparison, nor is it accurate to say one ethnic minority does better than another. Truly, the Asian Model Minority was manufactured. Intentionally or not, it has always been used to wedge persons of color apart.

I should add that despite the “advantage” Asian immigrants may have had, it certainly does not mean their immigration journey was a pleasant or easy one. One of the leading reasons why immigrant communities, such as the one at First Church Tucson, form is because of the shared grief and hardship they experience as such. If the welcomed immigrants had it so rough, I cannot imagine how much harder for those immigrants who are not “welcomed” and even for those who were forced here, and are now deemed “unwanted.”

There is so much work to be done for racism to end. There are many challenges that still lie ahead. Yet, there is one thing that is clear. It is to end the myth that is the Model Minority. It is to own up to the areas in which we were wrong. It is to reconcile from those broken places with a hope of a brighter future, a future transformed by the power and the truth of Christ Jesus that commands us to love God and our neighbors as ourselves. To that end, I stand in solidarity with my black siblings and hope you will join me this coming month of February as we celebrate black history month.

SOUL KITCHEN

Heavenly Hash Cake

Created by Carol Nelson

Ingredients

The cake

1 box chocolate cake mix
1 bag mini marshmallows

Frosting

1 box confectioners' sugar
(powdered sugar)
2-4 Tbsp Hershey's cocoa
powder
4-6 Tbsp milk

Directions

1. Prepare a 9x13 pan, either butter & flour or a cooking spray.
2. Prepare and bake cake mix following directions on the box.
3. Once cake is done, let cool for about 10 minutes. Leave it in the pan!
4. Spread marshmallows over the top.
5. At this point mix the confectioners' sugar and cocoa together. Add milk until you can pour it.
6. Slowly pour over the marshmallows until completely covered.
7. Let sit for a few hours. Then dig in.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Mark 1:14-20

The gospel of Mark is a fascinating one. First of all, it is considered the first written gospel. More importantly, it is also the shortest gospel which provides a fast paced experience. You could read the entire gospel in under an hour. Due to its brevity, we need to play close attention to details when they are provided.

In our reading, we find Jesus proclaiming the Good News of God. What is exceptional is that this Good News is proclaimed after John was arrested. This seems to be a most discouraging time for Jesus. His own cousin and perhaps the only other person who understood him was now captured. Yet, the Good News was still good. The Good News of God does not waiver to the circumstances we find ourselves in. The Good News of God is truly good for us no matter what we face. Whatever you may be facing, no matter how challenging, may you hear and accept the Good News of God for you.

One other aspect I want to note is that Jesus calls two pairs of brothers, back to back. Four fishermen were called in succession. Without knowing how much time there had been in between these two groups, I can only conclude that these four were called together. Why is that? Because when God calls us, God intends for us to be in community. We are not called to serve by our own selves. Instead, we are called to serve with others of similar or complimentary gifts. We are called to serve with our siblings. Afterall, fishing was a team effort, not a solo task.

I hope that this news brings you goodness. God has made a way for all of us to be with another when we answer God's call. We do not need to be alone or feel isolated. I pray that all you who feel alone and or isolated may hear God calling to you, and that you would answer with certainty, to find strength and fellowship in that response.

by Rev. Paul Cho



www.firstchurchtucson.org
office@firstchurchtucson.org | pastor@firstchurchtucson.org
(Office) 520-622-6481 | (Pastor Paul) 520-850-4547