



First Church Tucson Weekly Digest

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

11.9.2021

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 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.

“Won't You Be My Neighbor?”

By Rev. Matt Ashley, South District Missional Strategist & Superintendent, Nov 2, 2021



*It's a beautiful day in this neighborhood
A beautiful day for a neighbor
Would you be mine? Could you be mine?
Won't you be my neighbor?*

As a preschool television viewer in the 1970's, I was a huge fan of 'Sesame Street', but another show I liked was 'Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood'. Generations of American children like me watched Fred Rogers, the affable Presbyterian minister turned television personality, sing the lyrics to the above song as he came through the front door smiling at the camera, hanging his coat in the closet and replacing it with a comfortable sweater, carefully placing aside his dress shoes and putting on slippers.

Rogers taught children about the importance of kindness and compassion, about the inherent worth of each and every person God has created, about the importance of loving your neighbor.

In real life, Fred Rogers was a product of his generation and held some views that many of us cannot agree with, but he also took his commitment to being a good neighbor to groundbreaking lengths. The documentary talked about an occasion in the 1970's when Mr. Rogers shocked and angered many Anglo-American

(cont. pg 2)

Won't You Be My Neighbor? (cont.)

viewers by inviting a Black character on his show to take off his shoes and socks and join him in dipping his feet in a pool of cool water on a hot summer day. This level of close friendship and physical closeness between white and black characters was a powerful subversion of the racial divisions of the day.

In our current era of deep racial and political tensions in America, the documentary hit me hard because, as a country, we seem to have forgotten the gentle lessons about grace, kindness, and neighborliness that a Conservative Republican children's television actor taught us growing up.

I'm reading John Ortberg's book 'The Art of Neighboring' in which he talks about building genuine relationships with people who live and work around you. Ortberg asks, 'What if we took the time to get to know the people next to us and discovered they weren't so menacing after all? Perhaps we'd find that the people on our block are normal people just like us. They go to work, hang out with their kids, and put their pants on one leg at a time. At the end of the day, they long for a place to belong, a place to be accepted and cared for. They want to do something significant with their lives, something that really matters.'

That sounds like the work of the church to me. Are we as United Methodists dedicated to the task of connecting with our neighbors? And not just the neighbors who are like us, but the neighbors who seem very different than us? Are we willing to ask even those whom we might tend to harbor resentments against if we can be good neighbors to them?

I write these words with the understanding that the desire to be a good neighbor has to go beyond kind gestures. I am a person who grew up in a comfortable middle-class home, with opportunities to pursue an education and career, and without facing barriers such as racism, heterosexism, and misogyny that many others do. Part of my call as a Christian and as a good neighbor is to work for the common good, which means doing my part to tear down the barriers that impede the life and liberty of many of my neighbors.

On November 10th, I will join other Desert Southwest Conference staff in a workshop on Cultural Competency. We will be learning to grow in our ability to understand and value other cultures and to be bridge builders between cultures.

This same training will become available to pastors and lay people in the DSC in coming months. I hope you will not only participate in the training when it comes to your area, but that you will embrace it as an opportunity to learn how to better love your neighbors.

It's just too beautiful a day to continue being a divided people. Let's be good neighbors instead.

Thanks for listening -

Matt

THIS WEEK'S
ANNOUNCEMENTS & GATHERINGS

SUNDAY MORNING HYBRID SERVICE

There are two ways for you to participate in our 10AM hybrid online/in-person Sunday Service.

YouTube: Join us Live! on our channel. Visit bit.ly/fumcYouTube

In-Person: For those of you who are well and fully vaccinated, join us in person.

NOTICE: Due to the rise in Delta-variant COVID-19 cases, our safety guidelines have been updated. Please see below:

- Masks are required to be worn inside the church building, and social distancing is still in effect (min. 6 ft between family groups).
- If you are not yet fully vaccinated or are immuno-compromised, it is strongly recommended that you watch the YouTube livestream rather than attend in person.
- Choir members are required to be fully vaccinated in order to sing in front of the congregation during the service.

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한국어 사역

주일 오전 11시 30분에 한국어 예배가 현장예배와 온라인예배로 진행됩니다.

기도와 참여 부탁드립니다.

금요일 저녁 7시에 성경공부 모임이 줌으로 진행됩니다.

Youtube 주소는 bit.ly/fumcYouTube

Meeting ID: 998 6112 0822 Passcode: 6226481

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WEEKDAY ONLINE GATHERINGS

Women on a Spiritual Quest (WSQ)

-A classic UM Bible study group with accountability and fellowship, in the church library on Monday afternoons at 4:30PM.

All God's Creation (AGC)

-A time of scripture reading and reflection with a focus on living creatures, on Tuesday afternoons at 3PM.

Meeting ID: 994 3610 1655 Passcode: 6226481

Chancel Choir

-Practice is held in-person in the Sanctuary on Wednesday evenings at 6:30PM.

-There will be rehearsal on Sunday mornings at 9AM before the service.

Note: Due to Thanksgiving, practice on Nov 24 is rescheduled for Monday, Nov 22.

Progressive Book Study (PBS)

-Meets on Thursdays at 2:30PM. Book title:

“God’s Politics—Why the Right Gets It Wrong and the Left Doesn’t Get It” by Jim Wallis.

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

Meeting ID: 980 1573 8087 Passcode: 6226481

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Not seeing something of interest?

We’d love to hear from you. Let’s talk.

Contact pastortucsonfirststumc@gmail.com



PRAYERS FOR OUR COMMUNITY

We offer our prayers for those in our community who are suffering, who are physically, mentally, & emotionally unwell, and those caring for them.

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We offer our prayers for these sister faith communities:

First UMC, Bisbee
First UMC, Eloy
First UMC, Tucson

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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.

UPCOMING

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Grace Lee (Nov 10)
Linda Hughes (Nov 12)
Marjorie Task (Nov 12)

Charlotte Baker (Nov 14)
Lori Medcoff (Nov 14)
Chuck Brandt (Nov 19)

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

SUNDAY COFFEE/SOCIAL TIME

We have fellowship time with coffee and snacks after the English worship service. Please observe the following rules:

1. Masks are to be worn when not seated at a table.
2. Tables have been set up with **only 5** chairs to ensure there is social distancing and **must** remain this way.
3. Food will be limited to finger foods like cookies, doughnuts and crackers or chips. Utensils must be used to pick up food from the trays, **DO NOT** use your fingers.
4. Coffee and bottled water will be the beverages for now.

If these rules are observed, we will continue until COVID conditions change and we must reconsider the circumstances. Welcome back to social time and enjoy responsibly.

November Meet'n'Eat

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

The next Meet'n'Eat is **this Friday (Nov 12) 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, please let Shirley Murray know ahead of time by calling (520)297-4796 so she can reserve enough space at the restaurant.

Joint Thanksgiving Sunday Service Nov 21st at 10AM

There will be a joint English/Korean service the Sunday prior to Thanksgiving Day. Don't miss it!

Thanksgiving Day Potluck Feast Nov 25th at 12PM



We will celebrate Thanksgiving Day together in First Church's Fellowship Hall at noon. **Everyone** is welcome!

In the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, there will be sign-up sheets for bringing food. Turkey & gravy will be provided. We need a minimum of 25 people bringing side dishes to have a successful potluck.

For more information, please contact Anita Lange at tsnaz2011@aol.com or Jessie Hansen at xphilern13@yahoo.com.

Christmas Cantata Dec 12th at 10AM

Christmas
CANTATA



2021 CROP HUNGER WALK RECAP

By Tripp Gordon

This past Sunday (Nov 7th) we had a successful CROP Hunger Walk!

First Church's group consisted of myself (Tripp Gordon) as Team Captain, Phillip Cahill, Shirley Murray, Nan Rollings, Halla Kang, and Pastor Ko. Together, we raised just over \$1300 via cash, checks, and online donations! Thank you to everyone who donated, a little or a lot--we appreciate you all so much!



From left: Phillip, Tripp, Nan, Shirley, Pastor Ko, & Halla

Before the Walk started, we heard from Robert Ojeda from The Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona, Jay Deskins from Interfaith Community Services, and Brian Flagg from Casa Maria Soup Kitchen. They all reinforced how vital it is to address world and community hunger not only by distributing food, but also by tackling the root causes of hunger, such as economic inequality, homelessness, and lack of transportation. Raising funds for Church World Service's (CWS) mission of ["just and sustainable responses to hunger, poverty, displacement and disaster"](#) by holding Hunger Walks is one way to support hunger-fighting efforts. 75% of the funds raised goes to CWS's global mission, while 25% is returned to Tucson and distributed to the three above-mentioned organizations, among others.



The walk itself began at Trinity Presbyterian on the corner of 4th Ave and University Blvd. We headed for the U of A's main gate, where we then doubled back. Some of us carried umbrellas or signs communicating our purpose for walking (e.g. "I walk because no child should go hungry"). Some drivers passing by honked in solidarity with us. When we returned to Trinity, we were treated to Eegee's slushies (strawberry and piña colada) to cool off.

Although the day was quite warm and nearly cloudless, I was grateful and happy to be part of a movement that works to solve some of the world's woes to benefit our fellow human beings. Because, truly, no one should be going hungry in this modern world of ours.

Animal **Holidays** - A Week at a Glance

By Diane Russell



November 11 – Veterans Day (for animals)

This day pays tribute to all American Veterans (men, women, and animals) who served their country honorably during war or peacetime. Some of the animals include: horses, donkeys, mules, camels, pigeons, cats, dogs, elephants, pigs, seals, and more.

November 12 – AFRMA Fancy Rat and Mouse Day

This day is to promote and bring awareness to breeding and raising fancy mice and rats as pet companions. Rats and mice have gotten a bad rap and are often feared by some people. Fancy rats and mice have been kept as pets for years and are clean and gentle animals.



November 12 – World Animal Enrichment Day

This day was created by Sarah-Jane White (Animal Behaviorist) to help raise awareness that animals need both mental and physical stimulation to help enhance their well-being and allow them to use their natural instinct.

November 15 – National Philanthropy Day

This day was first declared in 1986 by President Reagan to celebrate the charitable work that people do to make a difference in the community and the world. Ways to celebrate include volunteering, using social media, and donating at your favorite organization.



Picture of the Day

Pangolin from Safari Live in South Africa – One of the most trafficked mammals in the world.

*“Don’t judge each day by the harvest you reap but by the seeds that you plant.”
~ Robert Louis Stevenson*

SUNDAY SERVICE ORDER OF WORSHIP

English Worship Service at 10AM

Welcome & Announcements
Call to Worship
Opening Hymn
Opening Prayer
Scripture Reading
Anthem (Choir)
Message
Song of Response
Sharing joys and concerns
Prayers of the People
Offertory Prayer
Closing Song
Benediction
Postlude
Passing of the Peace

한국어 예배 오전 **11시 30분**

환영 및 인사
조용한 기도
예배의 부름
찬양
여는 기도
성경봉독
설교
응답찬송
알리는 말씀 (광고)
목회기도
봉헌기도
결단찬송
축도
후주

Please contact the church office if you have any questions, need information, or want to submit an article or put an announcement in the weekly digest.

Office Hours: Mon-Thurs 10AM-2PM

Church Staff

Senior Pastor: Rev. Eun Young Ko
Visiting Pastor: Rev. Raven Gaston
Music Director: Lorena Suarez
Worship Video Team: Sumin Lee & Juyeon Lee
Office Assistant: Tripp Gordon
Bookkeeper: Sue Smith



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