



First Church Tucson Weekly Digest

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

2.1.2021

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.



“Learn the Nuances”

By Rev. Paul Cho

When I was young, I did not know the difference between Chicago and New York styles of pizza. On one occasion, some college students at church wanted to treat the youth group to a pizza party but they started arguing about which pizza was better. To me, cheese pizza was cheese pizza. Or so I thought...

I'm embarrassed to admit for a long time, I knew no difference between African Americans and Blacks. I thought they were referring to the same people. In fact, in my early 20s, I stopped using the word “black” when referring to people out of the (naive) idea that I was helping to stop discrimination by not associating people with a color. I shuddered the day I found out I was committing a grave injustice by doing so. My intentions were good, but I was ill-informed.

I learned through the grace of my dear friend Bill Thomas that African Americans does indeed refer to all persons from Africa. But just as Syrians, Russians, and Koreans are all considered “Asians” (as in, from the continent of Asia), “Africans” also refers to diverse ethnicities. Look no further than Elon Musk, an African American who clearly does not resemble what most have in mind when we say African.

More importantly, “Blacks” refer to those specific persons who were forced into slavery, whose language and cultures were stripped away. Descendents of slaves can no longer trace their lineage back to Africa. So, “African-American,” though it may

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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

All God's Creation (AGC)

-A reflection of creatures in the bible with scripture, sharing, and prayer on Wednesday Morning at 10AM.

[Meeting ID: 994 3610 1655](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)

- Would you like to be part of a book study? If you'd enjoy reading with us, join Progressive Christian theology on Thursday Afternoons at 2PM. The new book is titled: "Eternal Life - A New Vision" by John Shelby Spong.

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

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*Not seeing something of interest?
We'd love to hear from you. Let's talk.
Contact pastor@firstchurchtucson.org*

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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.

In particular, we raise up Chuck and Beatrice Humphrey.

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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

Winona Powell (Feb 1)
Vera Wyman (Feb 4)
Cindy Rinehart (Feb 5)

Yvonne Windham (Feb 6)
Howard Jones (Feb 7)

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

*“Underneath my outside face
There’s a face that none can see
A little less smiley,
A little less sure,
But a whole lot more like me.”*

- Shel Silverstein, American poet, cartoonist, songwriter, children’s author, 1930-1999
- Uncovered by Nan Rollings for the 2021 All Church Celebration

SOUL KITCHEN

3-Ingredient Mug Nutella Brownie

<https://www.biggerbolderbaking.com/microwave-mug-nutella-brownie/>

Ingredients

¼ cup + 1 Tbsp (90g) nutella
1 large egg, gently whisked
2 Tbsp all-purpose flour

Directions

1. In a large microwave-safe mug, whisk the nutella and egg together.
2. Add the flour and mix into a smooth batter.
3. Microwave for roughly 45-60 sec, keeping a close eye on it so it doesn’t overflow or overcook. When the brownie is set and firm on top, it is done.
4. Let cool a few minutes before eating.

LEARN THE NUANCES *(cont.)*

seem to be more politically correct or culturally sensitive, it is not. In fact, it is more harmful because it then also robs our Black siblings from their heritage. Again, since the arrival of their ancestors, the only remaining heritage they can claim as their own is to be Blacks in America. The best I think we can do is to honor them by naming them as such. If calling someone Black makes you cringe, if it makes you uncomfortable, let us use that discomfort and unease to root out racism and discrimination. Let us share what we know as to enlighten others. Let us not simply change the word without having been challenged nor having done the hard work to eradicate the injustice that is at its core.

If Chicago deep dish pizzas and New York thin crust pizzas can have their own standing in our minds as valid and distinct dishes, then surely we must learn the differences and nuances that take hold of our sibling's identities. I challenge you to learn the nuances and enjoy the grand beauty of the diversity in God's creation.

[An important side note: For similar reasons, we refer to the natives in America who we killed, took away their children and their land as Indians. Native Americans (whom the Indians are a part of) refers to all natives in all of the Americas.]

FROM THE DESK OF THE PASTOR

There is much in the Bible that speaks about prayer. But the verse that touches me especially at this time is James 5:13-14.

“Is any one among you suffering? Let him pray. Is any cheerful? Let him sing praise. Is any among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him...”

I have received many cards and messages during my experience of Covid-19 that let me know that is exactly what you have been doing for me. And so this is a note of thanksgiving and praise.

THANK YOU First Church for every prayer that you have spoken or thought!

I know that your prayers have been key to my recovery.

Love and blessings,
Pastor Raven



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