



First Church Tucson Weekly Digest

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

2.8.2022

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.

“A Time of Spiritual Renewal!”

By Pastor Ko



Greetings in the peace of our abundant God,

I hope and pray that you are experiencing God's care and guidance in your daily lives. I came back to the church office officially today (Tuesday). Now, I am ready to resume my pastoral ministry again. I would like to share my wish, which can be quite personal. But, I hope you find your own experiences through my story.

As many of you know, I lost my husband in September 2012. Until he passed, he stayed home to take care of Halla since she was born on October 1st, 2010. Later I learned from my District Superintendent, Rev. Dick Wisdom about “Mr. Mom” in American culture. Thanks to his support, I returned to full-time ministry after my maternity leave.

Since then, I have always longed to be alone and away from the responsibility of taking care of Halla 24/7, which is not normal for Korean parents because they are so sacrificial and never doubt their sacrifice is necessary. Even when I take a vacation, I have to do something for myself, Halla, friends, *and* family. I can never stop from all the duties and to-do lists in my head!

Surprisingly, when I got my test result on Saturday evening, I felt lost on what to do. While I was praying, thinking, and discussing, church leaders and I made a decision at the last minute. However, it worked out great for all (I want to believe so, as I heard good feedback from the congregation).

(cont. pg 2)

A Time of Spiritual Renewal! (cont.)

I felt so relieved after I learned that Halla is eligible to go to school since her test result was negative and she had no symptoms on Monday. I can focus on myself now. And, I remembered that I always longed to stay home at least for a week doing nothing. So, technically, it isn't possible for my situation. But, I realized that God had given this quarantine time only to myself. So, I concluded that this is my spiritual renewal at home.

My spiritual renewal was very profound, supported by our loving congregation through their cards, flower baskets, food, and groceries. I never imagined receiving all those spiritual and material blessings. I can't stop confessing that I am so grateful that God sent me to Tucson to meet all these good people. A pastor is a person who proclaims the Word of God and provides administration, sacraments, and pastoral care for the church. At the same time, a pastor is a person who is with you to struggle, be in pain, grow, and live. I have experienced that you consider and treat me as the second definition of the pastor. This is proof that we are people of God, community of faith, and family of faith.



Flower basket sent by two members of the congregation

Even though Covid put me down, I wasn't kept down. Instead, I am 'lightened up.' I would like to introduce part of the "Prayers to Sophia" today:

"Holy Wisdom, "Lighten up," your graced voice urges, as I dig my way deeper into the paralysis of anxiety.

Immersed in my intensity, bludgeoned with responsibility, I focus on the thousand items shouting at me from their precarious perch while I wheeze with self-pity.

When did I develop the notion that I could do it all? When did I smugly decide I could handle everything without you by my side?

Slowly I become more grateful for your strong, persistent voice nudging me toward the laughter of letting go and the chuckle of neglect.

One who is vigilant on her account will soon be free from care. (Wisdom 6:15)"

(Quoted from the book "Prayers to Sophia: A companion to 'The Star in My Heart', p. 66-67.)

Wisdom is Biblical personification as considered in prayer books and devotions.

Also, please check out the order of worship in this weekly digest since we haven't printed out our bulletin every Sunday. If you have any concerns or suggestions, feel free to contact me at pastortucsonfirstumc@gmail.com.

With God's new plan and blessings,

Pastor Eun Young Ko

THIS WEEK'S
ANNOUNCEMENTS & GATHERINGS

10AM SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE

We will have hybrid worship services on February 13th! Join us in person, or watch the service Live on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/c/TucsonFirstUMC>.

NOTICE: Due to the new COVID-19 variant cases that are emerging, our safety guidelines have been updated. Please see below:

- Masks are required to be worn by everyone 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, or if you are not feeling well, we very strongly recommend that you watch the YouTube livestream rather than attend in person.
- Choir members are required to be fully vaccinated and masked in order to sing for 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

<https://www.youtube.com/c/TucsonFirstUMC>

[Meeting ID: 998 6112 0822](#) [Passcode: 6226481](#)

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WEEKDAY ONLINE GATHERINGS

Women on a Spiritual Quest (WSQ)

-WSQ is back to meeting on Mondays at 4:30PM in the church library. The group's book is "Living a Chocolate Life" by Deb Burma.

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."

[Meeting ID: 994 3610 1655](#) [Passcode: 6226481](#)

Chancel Choir

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

-Rehearsal is at 9AM on Sunday before the service.

-New requirement: Choir members must remain masked while singing during practices, rehearsals, and the Sunday service anthem.

Progressive Book Study (PBS)

-If you like challenging your understanding of the meaning of life, join our book study on Thursdays at 2:30PM. We are reading "The God You Didn't Know You Could Believe In" by Dr. Jeffrey Frantz. We will continue to meet online for a while, hoping to eventually meet in person. Questions? Call Rev. Gaston at (520) 323-1611

[Meeting ID: 980 1573 8087](#) [Passcode: 6226481](#)

Not seeing something of interest?
We'd love to hear from you. Let's talk!
Contact pastortucsonfirstumc@gmail.com

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.

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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 for those caring for them.

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We offer our prayers for these sister faith communities:

Catalina UMC, Tucson
First UMC, Tucson
Sanctuary UMC, Tucson

UPCOMING

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Cindy Turnbull (Feb 8)
Tripp Gordon (Feb 11)
Barbara Jones (Feb 12)

Abby Turnbull-Frontroth (Feb 13)
Kay Jackson (Feb 17)

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

UPCOMING MEETINGS

February 15 at 7PM - Covenant Board meeting via Zoom

February 16 at 3PM - Board of FUMC Foundation in the church's Carillon Room

INTRODUCTION TO LAY SERVANT MINISTRY - THE BASIC CLASS

The purpose of Lay Servant Ministries is to encourage and empower you, the laity, to serve in active ministries in support of your church and community. As a lay servant you may never be called upon to speak in public. Lay Servants offer their gifts in the areas of Caring, Leading and Communicating. The authors of the Basic Course book discuss processes to help you discern and respond to God's particular call in your life. They encourage each person to recognize and employ his or her spiritual gifts for the Church. The book presents numerous types of ministries in which Lay Servants may assume roles.

Saturday, March 12, 2022

9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

and

Saturday, March 19, 2022

9:00 AM - 3:30 PM

(Must attend both days)

**St John's UMC Tucson
60 W Veterans Blvd Tucson AZ 85713**

Cost: \$15 for Basic class

Class size is limited to 15 people

Register at: <https://dscumc.org/lay-servant-ministries-training-sessions/>

MUST ORDER OWN BOOK

You must purchase your own book: "Lay Servant Ministries Basic Course Participant's Book" by Sandy Zeigler Jackson & Brian Jackson for \$11 ([Cokesbury](#)), or \$11 ([Amazon](#)) - Kindle also available.

For more information or a paper application, please contact Gretchen Lofgren at glofgren22@gmail.com or (520) 404-2268.

Note from First Church office: The office can make a bulk book order through Cokesbury to reduce your individual shipping costs. Please contact the office assistant with your book order at (520)622-6481 ext 10 or email office@firstchurchtucson.org.

Want to take the class but can't afford the full amount for the book and class? Thanks to an anonymous friend in the church, you can ask for financial assistance. For more information, call Margo Kahler at 520-401-6393.

QUEER VOICES

A RESPONSE TO TWO ANTI-LGBTQ BILLS IN THE ARIZONA LEGISLATURE

By Rev. Michael Patzloff, Chair of the Welcome & Reconciling Ministries Committee, 1.18.2022

<https://dscumc.org/blog/2022/01/18/a-response-to-two-anti-lgbtq-bills-in-the-arizona-legislature/>

John Wesley summarized God's desire for our lives in his "Three Simple Rules." Wesley said that if we could "Do No Harm, Do Good, and Attend to the Ordinances of God (or, more simply, Stay in Love with God)," we would be following God's plan for our lives. If we are honest, our ability to uphold these three "simple" rules is difficult, to say the least, but it gives us a starting point and must be seen as more than aspirational.

The problem that arises when talking about doing no harm is whose definition of harm do we embrace. Human sexuality and gender identity have caused confusion and strong feelings in many. While this is not unusual for United Methodists on many topics, gender identity and transgender persons have not eased the conversations.

The Book of Discipline (BOD) is used to guide and unite us in our actions in an ever-changing world. In ¶161, Section G, states "we affirm that sexuality is God's good gift to all persons" and "we call everyone to responsible stewardship of this sacred gift." The confusion arises when sexuality and gender identity are seen as the same thing. While there is the affirmation that persons "regardless of age, gender, marital status, or sexual orientation are entitled to have their human and civil rights ensured and protected against violence," the question remains: what do we mean to be "protected from violence," to do no harm?

Two anti-LGBTQ bills have been assigned to committees in the legislature. This normally implies the signers on the bill will try to get these items passed quickly. They are as follows:

- SB 1138 (Sponsor: Senator Warren Petersen): This bill bars physicians and providers from providing gender transition surgery to anyone under 18 years old. Assigned to the Senate Health and Human Services Committee.
- HB 2011 (Sponsor: Representative John Kavanaugh): This bill requires written permission by parents for students to join clubs or groups involving gender identity or sexuality. Assigned to House Education Committee

The first bill speaks of sex reassignment or affirmation surgery, which involves a procedure affirming the person's gender identity and body. It is common practice not to have the surgery until after 18 years old. The law appears to be a moot point but opens the door for other legislative action limiting medical professionals to do what they think is in the best interest of the persons they serve. This legislation limits the parental decision in conjunction with that of the physical.

The second bill is of great concern. The limitation of club membership based on parental permission limits the ability for the young person to make decisions regarding their understanding of their worth and the worth of others. All clubs and groups (one may assume the use of the word students implies such groups and clubs to be associated with a school), are overseen by a faculty advisor and must conform to the set objectives by the school administration. The crux of the matter lies in a difference of opinion between the parent(s) and their child. If a student wants to join a sanctioned group and the parents do not agree with the group/club's stance or purpose, parent(s) can refuse to sign the necessary permission form, disallowing their child from living out their social witness. This is more than just regarding gender

and sexuality. The door is opened to political affiliation, religious/spiritual groups, environmental groups, etc. The youth/child's choice is entirely given over to the parent(s).

Health is a condition of physical, mental, social, and spiritual wellbeing. (BOD ¶161, Sec V) The limitations placed on a child/youth and the parent(s) by the bills listed above could have a devastating impact. We, as United Methodists, must work diligently to ensure that we open the possibilities of our world instead of limiting them by legislative decree.

For further reading on the two bills, please see the links below.

SB 1138 Full Text (Introduced Version) from *Arizona State Legislature*
<https://www.azleg.gov/legtext/55leg/2R/bills/SB1138P.pdf>

HB 2011 Full Text (Introduced Version) from *Arizona State Legislature*
<https://www.azleg.gov/legtext/55leg/2R/bills/HB2011P.pdf>

“Republicans seek to criminalize and outlaw gender-affirming care for trans kids” from *AZ Mirror*
<https://www.azmirror.com/2022/01/27/republicans-seek-to-criminalize-and-outlaw-gender-affirming-care-for-trans-kids/>

“What to Expect from the 2022 Legislative Session” from *Equality Arizona*
<https://equalityarizona.substack.com/p/what-to-expect-from-the-2022-legislative>

“Arizona's Far-Right Lawmakers Push 'Culture War' Bills, Alarming Civil Rights Advocates” from *Phoenix New Times*
<https://www.phoenixnewtimes.com/news/wave-of-far-right-legislation-from-arizona-lawmakers-alarms-civil-rights-groups-12793881>

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SUNDAY COFFEE/SOCIAL TIME

We will again have fellowship time with coffee and snacks after the 10AM worship service. Please observe the following rules, which are in place to help minimize the spread of COVID-19:

1. Masks must be worn when not eating or drinking—**please stay masked while chatting.**
2. Tables have been set up with **only 5** chairs and **must** remain this way.
3. Food will be limited to finger foods like cookies, crackers, and chips. Utensils must be used to pick up food from serving trays, please **do not** use your fingers.
4. Coffee and water will be the beverages for now.

We are counting on people taking this very seriously after having the church closed again for 2 weeks.

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Animal Holidays - A Week at a Glance

By Diane Russell

February - National Pet Dental Health Month

Take some time this month and check out your pets' teeth. Since they can't brush their own teeth, they may need some added help. Often if they have red gums, stinky breath, or yellow/brown teeth, this could lead to oral disease. Animals with clean teeth can actually live longer. Ways to help include brushing their teeth, using treats designed for teeth care, or visiting a vet to see if they need a cleaning.

February is Pet Dental Health Month!



February - Adopt a Rescued Rabbit Month

If you are planning on getting a companion animal, consider adopting a rescued rabbit. They are the third most popular pet in the U.S. Some things to consider when adopting a rabbit - they can live 12+ years, they can be litter trained, they require plenty of space to move around, they like to chew and dig, need to be spayed/neutered, and they require special diets.

February 14 - Pet Theft Awareness Day

This day was created in 1988 by the Last Chance for Animals Organization, to bring awareness to pet owners to help them keep their pets safe from thieves. About two million pets are stolen annually. Ways to protect your pet include ID tags, microchipping, and tattooing.



February 14 - Valentine's Day

Valentine's Day is a special day to show love to that special person or pet. Pets are part of our lives and should be included. Ways to celebrate include: visiting a pet café, going for a hike, spending the day at the spa, going to a park, or spending some special bonding time watching your favorite animal themed movie together.

Picture of the Day

Hot Red-Billed Oxpeckers on Cape Buffalo as seen on Safari Live.



SOUL KITCHEN

Chicken and Vegetable Souvlaki with Barley Pilaf and Tzatziki

<https://www.eatingwell.com/recipe/264601/chicken-and-vegetable-souvlaki-with-barley-pilaf-and-tzatziki/>

Ingredients

½ c lemon juice
¼ c snipped fresh Italian parsley
¼ c olive oil
6 cloves garlic, minced
1 tsp salt, divided
¼ tsp black pepper
1 lb skinless, boneless chicken breast halves, cut into 1-inch pieces
2 c cherry tomatoes
1 c water
½ c regular pearled barley (see Tip)
2 Tbsp snipped fresh basil
½ c coarsely shredded English cucumber
1 (5.3 ounce) container plain low-fat Greek yogurt
¼ c snipped fresh dill
2 medium zucchinis, halved lengthwise and sliced ¼ inch thick
2 medium red, yellow and/or orange sweet peppers, cut into 1-inch pieces
1 small red onion, cut into 8 wedges
Lemon wedges

Directions

1. In a large shallow dish combine lemon juice, parsley, oil, garlic, ½ teaspoon of the salt and black pepper. Add chicken, turning to coat. Cover and marinate in refrigerator for 30 minutes to 2 hours.
2. Meanwhile, to prepare the pilaf: Cut 1 cup of the tomatoes in half. In a small saucepan combine halved tomatoes, the water, barley, basil and ¼ teaspoon of the salt. Bring to boiling; reduce heat. Simmer, covered, 45 minutes or until barley is tender and water is absorbed.
3. To prepare the sauce: Press cucumber through a sieve to remove as much liquid as possible. In a small serving bowl combine cucumber, yogurt, dill and remaining ¼ teaspoon salt. If desired, top with additional cucumber and dill.
4. Drain chicken, discarding marinade. On eight 14-inch skewers, thread chicken, remaining 1 cup whole tomatoes, the zucchini, sweet peppers and onion, leaving ¼ inch between pieces.
5. Grill chicken skewers, covered, over medium 10 to 12 minutes or until chicken is no longer pink and vegetables are tender, turning once. (See Tip)
6. Transfer pilaf to a serving bowl and, if desired, top with additional basil. Serve chicken skewers with pilaf, sauce and lemon wedges.

Tips

You can substitute quick-cooking barley for the pearled barley. Simply reduce the cooking time to 10-12 minutes.

If using wooden skewers, soak in water for 30 minutes.

Variation: To broil chicken skewers, place them on the unheated rack of a broiler pan. Broil 4-5 inches from heat 10-12 minutes, turning once. Or to cook on top of the stove, heat a grill pan over medium. Place skewers in pan and cook 10-12 minutes, turning once.

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
성만찬
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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