



First Church Tucson Weekly Digest

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

3.1.2021

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.



“Red Summer of 1919”

By Mountain Sky Conference Bishop Karen Oliveto on 2.28.2021

A global pandemic, economic hardships, racial tensions...no, this post isn't about our contemporary situation but the Red Summer of 1919.

Against the backdrop of the third wave of a pandemic, the end of WW 1, and the return of veterans to a country that had not prepared for an influx of workers, a period of unrest gripped the nation that resulted in one of the bloodiest periods of racial unrest in the US (the term “Red Summer” was coined by poet James Weldon Johnson).

Black veterans, having found themselves fighting side by side with white soldiers for the cause of democracy and freedom, returned from WWI not willing to return to their prior social status that limited those freedoms. In response, the Ku Klux Klan had a resurgence to use whatever means necessary to maintain the old social order (in Pittsburgh, the KKK posted signs throughout black communities that read, “The war is over, negroes. Stay in your place. If you don't, we'll put you there.”). This time, however, Black Americans refused to back down, but built a movement to resist the intimidation and violence perpetrated by Whites.

(cont. pg 4)

THIS WEEK'S
ANNOUNCEMENTS & GATHERINGS

SUNDAY AGAPE GATHERING

Join us on Zoom this Sunday morning at 10am for a shared time of worship, reflection, and sharing in the love feast. Please prepare elements of bread and wine for the service.

[Meeting ID: 972 7492 7766](#) [Passcode: 6226481](#)

Agape Gatherings are held on Zoom every 1st Sunday of the month.

A recording of the message will be available on our Youtube channel. bit.ly/fumcYouTube

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한국어 사역

금 주일 오전 11:30에 Zoom에서 주일 아침 아가페 모임으로 말씀 묵상과 나눔의 시간이 있습니다. 애찬식을 위한 빵과 포도주를 준비하십시오.

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

아가페 모임은 매월 첫 주일마다 Zoom에서 갖습니다. 녹화된 말씀은 후에 Youtube에서 찾아 보실 수 있습니다. bit.ly/fumcYouTube

금요일 오후 7시에 시편 묵상과 나눔의 시간이 위와 같은 Zoom 주소에서 진행되고 있습니다.

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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](#) [Passcode: 6226481](#)

All God's Creation (AGC)

-A time of scripture reading and reflection with a focus on living creatures, on Wednesday Mornings at 10AM.

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

Chancel Choir

-Meet with the choir online from the comfort and safety of your home on Wednesday Evenings at 6:30PM.

- Join the choir in the parking lot on Saturdays at 2pm and sing in an ensemble with directing.

[Meeting ID: 929 7830 4567](#) [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](#) [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.

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We offer our prayers for these sister faith communities:

Sierra Vista UMC, Sierra Vista
Christ Church UMC, Tucson
Menlo Park UMC, Tucson

Nifty Needlecrafts requests donations

Our new sewing ministry would like to get off to a running start with your generous donations of fabric and notions such as zippers, elastic, fusible web, etc. This is a great opportunity to destash and declutter your craft closet! While you're at it, join the ministry--we welcome everyone who loves to learn.

Contact Tripp Gordon at rainbowlavender99@gmail.com for details and to arrange for pick-up/drop-off.

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

Randy Ford (Mar 4)

Marilyn Dunbar (Mar 7)

Jong & Miwon Lee (March 6)

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



Look what is blooming at church! It is aloe arborescens or tree aloe. This photo was taken not far from the corner of Park and Fourth St. We also noticed that the nearby pomegranates were leafing out.

~Nan Rollings

Photo by Tripp Gordon

RED SUMMER OF 1919 (cont.)

Between April and November, 1919, there were 97 recorded lynchings, approximately 25 white-led riots, and a 3 day long massacre in Elaine, Arkansas which left over 200 Black men, women and children dead. In July of 1919, white mobs moved through Washington, DC for four days, vandalizing Black businesses and randomly beating Black people. When the police refused to intervene, the Black community rose up and fought back. At that time, President Woodrow Wilson called in the National Guard to stop the violence. Black men organized against white rioters in Knoxville. The Black community in Chicago organized self-defense units following white violence. While White-controlled media created a narrative that blamed the Black community for these instances of violence, Black leaders and newspapers presented a counter-narrative that highlighted Black agency and self-determination in the face of violence and racial discrimination. Claude McKay's poem "If We Must Die," written in July 1919, reflects this in the last line of his poem: "Like men we'll face the murderous, cowardly pack,/Pressed to the wall, dying, but fighting back!"

The Red Summer of 1919 forever changed how Black America would organize in the face of systemic racism. Community organizing took on new forms as a way to further the social status of Blacks. This is evidenced in the exponential growth of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) which had 9,000 members prior to WWI yet, by the early 1920s, 100,000. A new era in Civil Rights emerged from this bloody period in US history.

This is the last day of Black History Month. Thank you for taking this journey with me as I made learning about Black History a part of my spiritual practice. But the education doesn't end just because we turn the page on the calendar. I hope these snapshots I have provided will awaken within you a curiosity to learn more about other histories that aren't your own. The more we know the histories that the dominating class omitted, the fuller our understanding of one another, the more we can heal one another of intergenerational trauma, and the greater our ability to recognize the face of God in others.

SOUL KITCHEN

Easy Soft Flatbread

<https://www.recipetineats.com/easy-soft-flatbread-yeast/>

Ingredients

2 c (300g) all-purpose flour
+ ¼ for dusting counter
and adjusting dough
½ tsp salt
3 ½ Tbsp (50g) butter
¾ c (185 mL) milk
½ Tbsp oil (for cooking)

Directions

1. Heat butter and milk together until butter is just melted.
2. Combine with salt and 2 c flour.
3. Dust work surface with flour and knead dough for just a few minutes until smooth. Add extra flour if it is too sticky.
4. Wrap with plastic wrap and rest at room temp for 30 mins.
5. Flour work surface again, cut dough into quarters, roll into balls, then roll out each ball into ⅛" thick rounds.
6. Heat olive oil in a non-stick pan over medium heat.
7. Cook one flatbread at a time for 1 to 1 ½ mins, then flip and cook the other side, pressing down if it puffs up. There should be smallish golden brown spots on both sides.
8. Keep the cooked flatbreads warm with a towel. If desired, brush with butter or olive oil before serving.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Mark 8:31-38

Lent is a season for spiritual renewal, a time of self-examination, and resetting our aim, our steps on the perfection of Jesus Christ. It is also a time when we must acknowledge that we do not want to follow Christ in the journey which leads to suffering and death. The gospel story in Mark tells us just this.

To think about Peter, it is unimaginable all that he had witnessed and experienced Jesus doing in his ministry. If anyone could believe in Jesus and stand beside him, it would be Peter. Yet, the fact that Peter does not want to follow Christ to the cross is a reminder that we who have been long time believers of the Christian faith can still be found hesitating, denying, or ignoring the cross we are to bear.

The cross we are called to bear is not self-seeking nor is it for some other gain. It is a choice we make intentionally as we follow in the footsteps of Jesus Christ. Even though the cross may appear like a certain end, we have hope in the Risen Christ and believe that at our time, we shall also rise.

Just as in the case that we find comfort and peace in the presence of others who have journeyed the treacherous valley of death, we can trust that Christ's rod and staff guide us in our steps.

Let us follow Christ, even through the valley, so that we might also be raised with Christ.

Pastor Paul Cho

