



First Church Tucson Weekly Digest

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

3.15.2021

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.

“A Season of Waiting”

By Rev. Matt Ashley, South District Superintendent

“So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up. So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all, and especially for those of the family of faith.” ~Galatians 6:10~

On Monday, March 1, the Arizona Wildcat men's basketball program played its last game of the season. No March Madness this year as the UofA serves a self-imposed penalty for alleged NCAA violations, a real letdown for a proud fanbase that's used to watching its team contend for championships at this time of year.

And yet there is always goodness. Coach Adia Barnes has led the U of A women's basketball team to a Top Ten ranking and a likely high seed in the postseason, and star point guard Aari McDonald has been named the Pac-12 Player of the Year. These Wildcats play with passion and joy and great teamwork, and Arizona fans can watch their team travel down the road that leads to the Final Four after all.

After that comes my least favorite time of year – the five long months between the end of college basketball and the beginning of college football. More waiting for Wildcat and Cornhusker fans like me. (I wish college football would start in July and college basketball would last into May, so I'd just have six weeks off for vacation travel. My wife is a big Wildcat fan too but thinks this is a crazy plan.)

Last week the United Methodist Council of Bishops released a newly revised schedule of connectional gatherings for our denomination. The postponed 2020 General Conference has been postponed a second time and will now meet in the fall of 2022. In the meantime, a special session of General Conference will gather online in May of this year to conduct essential business only, with delegates casting their votes on paper ballots that will be submitted by mail.

(cont. pg 6)

ASSISTANCE FOR THE COMMUNITY

GAP ministries, a Christian non-profit, is addressing hunger during this pandemic. Imagine the blessing of 40,000 food boxes distributed from the Community Impact Warehouse since June 2020. GAP has worked with First Church in the past to reach out.

Each box contains a variety of perishable and nonperishable foods and is enough for a week for a family of two. They are distributed Tuesdays 12PM to 3PM on a first-come, first-serve basis.

GAP does not turn anyone away, nor does it require proof that you are in need of help.

You can call the office at **520-877-8077** before driving to the warehouse at **2861 N Flowing Wells Road #121** to make sure that food is available. You can also call ahead to reserve a quantity of boxes for a group; contact Jerry at 520-704-4666.

Want to get involved?

GAP is actively seeking volunteers to restock shelves and prepare food boxes. Additional opportunities can be found on their website at <https://gapmin.com/get-involved/>. Even if you can only spare a few hours a week, the ministry will be grateful: "Tell us how much time you have to give and we'll find a place for you that blesses those we serve, and blesses you!"

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NEWS OF THE INN

From Diane Everhart

Dear Members of First United Methodist Church,

At last, the Inn has reopened. For several reasons, we are no longer able to house immigrants at First United Methodist Church, the most pressing being that congregant settings are not safe for guests or volunteers. As we search for a new permanent location, we are very fortunate to have found a local hotel that is welcoming and committed to our mission. Following all CDC Covid guidelines, we hosted 56 guests in February, each family in their own room and provided with all hygiene necessities, clothing, meals, and assistance with travel arrangements. Guests have tested negative for Covid before arriving and are ready to continue to their families/sponsors. Hotel lodging is costing about \$48.00 a night per family with most families staying 1-2 nights.

Our new model of operation is working well, but taking much coordination, communication and flexibility with our program director, Gretchen, and all volunteers. At this time, we are looking for people who would like to help with:

- The 5-9 shift every day of the week.
- We are also looking for volunteers who can help with the 8-12 **noon** or 12(noon)-5 pm shifts on the weekends.
- Driving guests from Casa Alitas Welcome Center, after being Covid tested, to the hotel.
- Driving guests to the airport or bus station.
 - For airport transportation, we need Spanish-speaking drivers to translate and assist with TSA protocols and accompany guests to gates.
- Volunteers to help sort clothing for the guests.

If you are interested in volunteering for shifts or driving, please call or text Gretchen at 520-330-8146 and leave a message with your name and phone number.

If you are interested in helping with clothing, please call Diane at 520-272-4341.

We also have a few unique needs:

- Bookkeeper
- Grant writer
- Someone to maintain our website.

At this time, we could use donations of:

- Coloring books and crayons
- Chapter books in Spanish (we have lots of picture books)
- Decks of playing cards
- Small spiral notebooks and pens
- New reusable water bottles
- Travel-sized (3 ounce or less) deodorant, shampoo, conditioner, **hand sanitizer**, etc.

For donations, please call Diane at 520-272-4341 to find a location to drop off materials.

Please note that, at this time, we are only accepting new clothing, which we need and will gladly accept. Contact Nancy Garcia at 520-331-6669 with questions, requests, ideas, suggestions, pick-up...

As always, we are truly grateful for cash donations. Donations can be made at: <http://www.theinnumc.org> or by mailing a check to:

The Inn of Southern Arizona
P.O. Box 43332
Tucson, Arizona 85719

SOUL KITCHEN

Fried Egg Rolls

Submitted by Carol Nelson

<https://lilluna.com/fried-eggrolls-recipe/>

Ingredients

1 pkg egg roll wrappers
3 chicken breasts, cooked and shredded
1 package cole slaw salad mix
Salt & pepper
3 Tbsp olive oil
Oil for frying

Directions

1. Saute cole slaw in a pan with a little olive oil until it is limp.
2. Add shredded chicken breast for a few minutes until all mixed. Season with salt & pepper.
3. Add slaw and chicken mixture to the middle of your egg roll wrapper. Fold up the sides one at a time and for the last fold add a little water so it sticks.
4. Fry your egg rolls until golden brown. Serve warm and with dipping sauce like Sweet and Sour sauce.

THIS WEEK'S
ANNOUNCEMENTS & GATHERINGS

SUNDAY MORNING LIVE!

Join us this Sunday morning at 10am on Youtube for our Sunday reflection. It is followed by a time of sharing and fellowship on Zoom. Join the meeting at the link below.

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

Visit our Youtube channel. bit.ly/fumcYouTube

한국어 사역

주일 오전 11:30에 Youtube에서 말씀 묵상의 시간이 있고, 이후에 Zoom에서 나눔과 교제의 시간이 있습니다. 아래 링크를 사용하십시오.

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

Youtube 주소는 bit.ly/fumcYouTube

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

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](#)

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

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.

We offer our prayers for these sister faith communities:

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

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

Duk Hong (Mar 15)
Joe Kimbro (Mar 15)
Stephanie Kang (Mar 16)

Min Hahn (Mar 20)
Esther Lee (Mar 20)
Janet Ageh (Mar 21)

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

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

By Diane Russell



March 15 - Buzzards Day

It is celebrated for the return from their migration every spring to their nesting grounds.

March 15 - International Day of Action for Seals

A time when the international community comes together to stop the unnecessary cruelty for the sake of fashion.

March 16 - National Panda Day

A day to bring awareness about one of the world's most endangered and adored animals that belong to China.

March 19 - Swallows Return to San Juan Capistrano

Mission San Juan Capistrano is famous for the annual return of swallows every year.

March 20 - World Sparrow Day

A day to celebrate and to raise awareness of the house sparrow and other common birds.

March 20, 2021 - World Frog Day

Frogs are amphibians with more than 6,000 species worldwide.

March 20 - Save the Florida Panther Day

Help save the Florida Panther from extinction.

A Season of Waiting (cont.)

Why all the delays? Ensuring that delegates from all parts of the globe could gather safely in Minneapolis this fall proved too difficult and too uncertain in the midst of the pandemic. And doing the full conference online also presented many challenges with time differences and internet access and other things. Because delegates in all parts of the globe deserve to be heard and deserve a vote, the Church is waiting until it is safe and feasible to come together again.

We are in a season of waiting. Waiting for General Conference. Waiting for the pandemic to fade. Waiting for vaccines to become available. Waiting to gather in praise and worship and fellowship. Waiting for a denomination that is struggling to discern a way forward together.

We are in a season of waiting. Maybe God is teaching us patience as we learn to be thankful for what is rather than lamenting what is not. There is goodness to be experienced, and there is good to do. Our churches are gathering in new and different ways, and servant leaders across our district and the Desert Southwest Conference continue to share the light and love of Jesus Christ with the world.

Let us wait upon the Lord, the One who renews our strength. There is much good to do, so let us keep working for the good of all.

Thanks for listening –

Matt

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Ephesians 2:1-10

Ephesians 2 is known for its well articulated theology of grace. By grace, we have been saved, rather than our works. While Paul's argument was aimed at ending christian legalists who insisted that upholding the laws of the Hebrew bible was the path for salvation, many others, then and now, have argued that Paul's theology justifies the lifestyles they have. Mainly, that there is no need to do good since it does not result in any merit toward their salvation.

For one, salvation is not simply what we enter into once we die, but to live in the midst of God right now. Hardly possible if our aim is to harm others. Two, the true gift we have is not in being careless with our works, but rather, we can work without fear of failure. Our salvation is secured in Christ Jesus. To know that our merit is not based on us, our works, how well we love or how well we serve others, liberates us from failure. We are then, free to love, free to serve, free to offer grace, without worry or fear that this will mark our end. Rather, it provides room for us to grow with each opportunity. May we lean into the blessings of Christ Jesus who sets us free to do good works.

Pastor Paul Cho



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