



# First Church Tucson Weekly Digest

First United Methodist Church  
915 E 4th St, Tucson, AZ 85719  
[www.firstchurchtucson.org](http://www.firstchurchtucson.org)

3.22.2022

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.

## “When Life is Untidy and Complicated”

By Rev. Matt Ashley, South District Missional Strategist and Superintendent, 3.15.22



March Madness! I've got my brackets printed off, ready to decide which men's and women's college basketball teams I think will win in this year's NCAA Tournaments. My interest is renewed this year with the resurgence of my hometown Arizona Wildcats.

Last year University of Arizona's women's team went all the way to the championship game. This year the men's team is rated #2 in the country and was just awarded the #1 seed in the South Regional. Bear Down, Arizona!

68 teams in the men's NCAA Tournament. 67 games spread over three weeks. 67 teams will lose their final game and be eliminated. One team will win all their games and be the champions – a storybook ending to someone's dream season.

It's so nice and tidy, the NCAA Tournament. 68 teams know their task – win all their games. No doubt, no wondering what the goal is, no lack of clarity – just win.

Don't you wish life was that tidy? But it's not. Life is complicated, and sometimes the objective is not clear. We can't choose the strategies because we don't know the goal. We can't choose a path because we're not sure of the destination. We don't know the answers – in fact, all too often it's not even clear what the questions are.

(cont. pg 2)

## When Life is Untidy and Complicated (cont.)

The mission of the United Methodist Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. It'd be great if doing that was as clear-cut as a team winning all of its games in the Tournament, but what if we don't agree what it means to be disciples and what if we don't have a common vision of transformation? Fulfilling our mission gets pretty complicated.

Don't you wish life was tidy? But it's not. Recently the United Methodist Church announced that General Conference has been postponed yet again due to the challenges of gathering a worldwide body in the age of Covid. And so the Protocol of Reconciliation and Grace will not be decided, the Christmas Covenant will not be decided, our divisions over human sexuality go on without resolution. We cry with the Psalmist, "How long?"

With General Conference's postponement, the Wesley Covenant Association announced the launch of the Global Methodist Church on May 1st, 2022. It will be a new expression of Methodism centered on more conservative views of human sexuality and other issues. Some churches across the country are already making the decision to leave the United Methodist Church and join the GMC. We will offer our love and our prayers for all who depart on that new journey.

I will be among those who will stay and continue to work towards a fully inclusive United Methodist Church that honors Wesleyan theology in its life and practice. A church committed to Wesley's understanding that Scripture is the inspired Word of God that contains all things necessary for salvation. A church that seeks to win hearts and minds by sharing the love and grace of Jesus Christ. A church where we can love alike even if we do not think alike.

A church where we love every person because God loves every person. A church where we seek to love God and to love people with our whole hearts. A church fully committed to love and justice. A courageous church – loving like Jesus, acting for justice, united in hope.

Maybe life isn't so uncertain after all. Within the next few days, I will fill out my NCAA Tournament brackets and I could get it completely wrong. The teams I think will win may lose.

But we are people of faith and recipients of the promise that nothing in this world can separate us from the love of God (Romans 8:38). Nothing is more sure and certain than that!

Thanks for listening –

Matt

P.S. Bear Down!



**Marilyn Dunbar** has been moved to a new care facility and would love visitors and cards. You might not know—Marilyn has 5 sons, was a special education teacher in TUSD, made glazed pottery in beautiful colors, and grew African violets. She also was deeply involved in the Wesley Foundation as a UA college student!

Her new address is: Mountain View Care Center  
1313 W. Magee Rd.  
Tucson, AZ 85704

Phone: (520)797-2600

THIS WEEK'S  
ANNOUNCEMENTS & GATHERINGS

**10AM SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE**

Join us in person, or watch the service Live at  
<https://www.youtube.com/c/TucsonFirstUMC>.

**NOTICE:** Due to the current decline in COVID-19 variant cases in Pima County, our safety guidelines have again been updated:

- For now, wearing a mask in the church building is no longer required, though still encouraged. Social distancing is still in effect (minimum 6 ft between households).
- If you are not yet fully vaccinated or are immuno-compromised, or if you are not feeling well, we ask that you watch the YouTube livestream rather than attend in person.
- Choir members are required to be fully vaccinated in order to sing for the congregation during the service.

*These guidelines are subject to change with Pima County and CDC recommendations. If cases rise again, we will have to return to masking.*

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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](https://bit.ly/fumcYouTube)

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

**WEEKDAY GATHERINGS**

**Women on a Spiritual Quest (WSQ)**

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

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**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](#)

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**Chancel Choir**

-Practice is on Wednesdays at 6:30PM in the Sanctuary.  
-Rehearsal is at 9AM on Sunday before the service.  
-Join the choir for our upcoming Easter Cantata!

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**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](#)

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Not seeing something of interest?  
We'd love to hear from you. Let's talk!  
Contact [pastortucsonfirstumc@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://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.



We are praying for Maxwell M., Robert T., and April D. who have recently had surgeries, and for Carol V. and Marilyn D. who have been moved to new care facilities.

*If you have a prayer request you would like to share in the Digest, please contact the church office at [office@firstchurchtucson.org](mailto:office@firstchurchtucson.org) or (520) 622-6481.*

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### UPCOMING

#### **BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES**

Ozzie Nelson (Mar 24)

Peggy Ford (Mar 26)

Don Rollings (Mar 28)

Carol Velzy (Mar 30)

Martha Preston (Mar 31)

Aydrien Chavez-Lokey (Apr 2)

Justin Havins (Apr 2)

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

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### **EASTER FLOWERS**



Celebrate the resurrection of our Lord with flowers! Potted lilies, hyacinths, and tulips will adorn the altar for Easter Sunday. For anyone interested in contributing, order forms will be available as bulletin inserts starting Sunday, March 27th. Please place **both** the order form and your payment (cash or check) in an offering envelope and specify "Easter flowers" on the Special Cause line (and memo line, if paying by check), then place the sealed envelope in the offering box or bring it to the office Monday-Thursday 10AM-2PM.

Contributors may take their flowers home after the service.

## TUESDAY

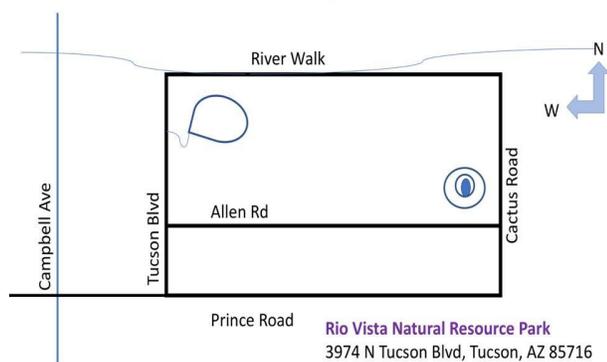
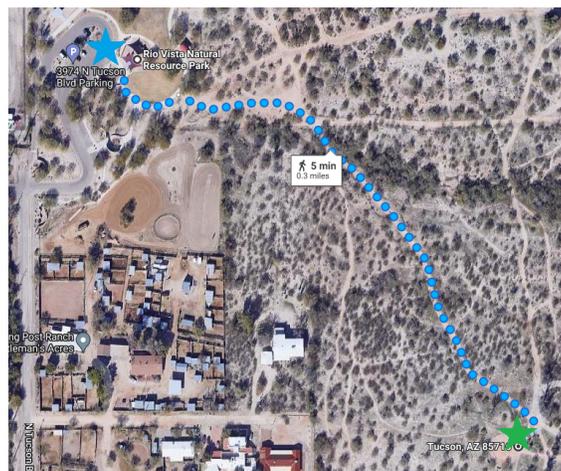
From March 8th through April 12th, Pastor Ko will facilitate a spiritual program with prayer and meditation at Rio Vista Natural Resource Park at 10AM. Carpooling will be available from the church at 9:45AM.

The labyrinth is located at the southeast corner of the park, about a 5 minute walk from the parking lot (marked with a blue star on the map to the right). Candace and Lisa will escort you from the parking lot to the labyrinth (green star).

Driving directions to the parking lot: From Prince Rd, go north on Tucson Blvd until the road ends, then turn right onto a short curving drive that leads to the parking lot.

If you would like to skip the walk, you can instead park outside the entrance on Cactus Blvd.

Driving directions to the entrance near the labyrinth: From Prince Rd, go north on Cactus Blvd a short distance past Allen Rd, then park on the shoulder near the entrance. (Be aware that, as of March 9th, the shoulder is not in very good condition; please use caution when parking.)



## WEDNESDAY

### LENTEN BIBLE READING CHALLENGE

A Bible class at 10AM in the "Tea House" Chapel (tea served) will continue this Wednesday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>, led by Nan Rollings. Pastor Ko will be with us as well.

Wednesday's Bible exploration will include the role of faith in Jesus performing miracles. Might Jesus say to us as he did to his disciples, "How little faith you have!" Come to this casual and encouraging class as we continue reading the Gospels in Lent.

Any questions, call Nan at 520-975-4528.

## Lenten Bible Reading Challenge 2022

20 Third Sunday in Lent	21 Mark 13-14	22 Mark 15-16	23 Luke 1-2	24 Luke 3-5	25 Luke 6-7	26 Luke 8-10
27 Fourth Sunday in Lent	28 Luke 11-12	29 Luke 13-15	30 Luke 16-18	31 Luke 19-20	Apr 1 Luke 21-22	2 Luke 23-24
3 Fifth Sunday in Lent	4 John 1-3	5 John 4-5	6 John 6-8	7 John 9-10	8 John 11-12	9 John 13-14
10 Palm Sunday	11 John 15-16	12 John 17	13 John 18-19	14 Maundy Thursday John 20	15 Good Friday John 21	16 Holy Saturday

### Support the humanitarian response in Ukraine

Give Now

<https://umcmission.org/umcor/how-to-assist-the-ukrainian-people/>

March 1, 2022 | ATLANTA

United Methodists and others wishing to provide humanitarian assistance to the Ukrainian people in the wake of the Russian invasion of their country may contribute to Advance #982450, UMCOR International Disaster Response and Recovery. This fund will provide direct assistance to those in Ukraine as well as assistance to Ukrainians fleeing to neighboring countries.

Gifts to support the people of Ukraine can be made in the following ways:



- Online at <https://umcmission.org/advance-project/982450>
- By toll-free telephone: 888-252-6174
- By check made out to Global Ministries/UMCOR with “**Advance #982450-Ukraine**” written on the memo line, either mailed and addressed to Global Ministries/UMCOR, GPO, P.O. Box 9068, New York, NY, 10087-9068 or given at or through any United Methodist church

**One hundred percent of all Advance contributions go to the designated cause.**

The United Methodist community in Ukraine, though quite small, is actively engaged in assisting neighbors in need. Global Ministries is in touch with the church’s leadership as well as with church leaders in countries welcoming those who are fleeing from violence in Ukraine.

***SUNDAY, MARCH 27TH IS UMCOR SUNDAY. We will have a special offering collection that will go towards UMCOR’s relief efforts in Ukraine. On the offering envelope, under Special Cause, please write “Advance #982450-Ukraine”.***



## *Our Story*

Our story continues thanks to all of you. The Inn began in 2016, in a local Methodist Church. Today we operate as a nonprofit, cherish more than 100 volunteers, and have welcomed well over 14,000 guests. Despite changing policy at the border, our focus continues to be the wellbeing of the asylum seekers we serve.

### **RSVP by Calling**

Cindy Rinehart at  
520-465-0399 or  
email [clrmusic@cox.net](mailto:clrmusic@cox.net)

### **OR Click Here:**

<https://theinnofsouthernarizona.breezechms.com/form/178398>

**OR Scan Here using  
smart phone camera:**



**RSVP no later than  
March 22, 2022**

## *You Are Invited*

Please join us for the  
**Donor and Volunteer Appreciation Celebration,**  
hosted by The Inn Board of Directors. A  
wonderful time with friends, live music, and  
sweet treats. Hear what makes our volunteers so  
passionate and learn about exciting updates from  
our Site Director. Art from children at The Inn  
will be displayed and greeting cards made  
available for purchase.

### **This Celebration is in honor of YOU!**

Indoor and outdoor gathering spaces are provided with your  
comfort in mind. Masks recommend, not required.



**We appreciate  
the 'Thyme' you  
share with the  
Inn guests**



**Sunday, March 27, 2022, 2 to 4 pm  
St. Francis in the Foothills Church  
Community Center  
4625 E. River Rd, Tucson, AZ 85718**

# Animal Holidays - A Week at a Glance

By Victoria Russell



## March 22 - International Day of the Seal

Seals belong to a group of animals called pinniped, which in Latin means “fin-footed”. Seals come in different shapes and sizes; with 33 different species. Some common seals include; harbor seals, harp seals, leopard seals, and the elephant seal. Under their skin is a layer of fat called blubber. Blubber is what helps them keep warm. Ways to celebrate include going to a seal exhibit, learning about them through documentaries, or donating to seal organizations.

## March 23 - National Puppy Day

Puppies are cute and make the world a brighter place. Colleen Paige created this day in 2004. Her goal in creating this day is to create awareness about the number of dogs needing rescue. Puppies are often selected because they are cute; but have a high risk of exploitation from the puppy mills. That’s why adopting a puppy or adult dog from the shelter is more important.



## March 23 - Cuddly Kitten Day

Kittens are cute and very cuddly. Cuddling a kitten can help relieve stress. One cuddly behavior is called kneading. They are considered kittens until they reach one year of age. Ways to celebrate include cuddling your kitten, going to a local shelter and cuddling their kittens, sharing photos of cuddling kittens, completing a kitten puzzle, and adopting a black cat or kitten.

## Dolphin Awareness Month

Dolphins are very intelligent marine mammals and are known to be friends to humans. Dolphins come in 42 species and some live in the ocean and some in rivers. The goal of this month is to spread awareness of the danger's dolphins face from their friendly nature. Dolphins are hunted for their meat and blubber. Another hazard they face is pollution. Ways to help during this month include spreading awareness to others, donating, or organizing a day to help clean up our oceans.



## Picture of the Day

A Coati native to South/ Central America and parts of the United States (southwest).

## 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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