



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.



“Constellation Seasons”

By Rev. Paul Cho

Growing up in AZ gave me delightful opportunities to gaze into the night sky. As a fan of the constellation Orion which is only visible during winter, the changing of constellations as seasons change was always fascinating to witness. The changes elude you on a daily basis, but indeed, they come. On certain nights, those changes catch up and feel instant.

Yesterday felt something like it. As news about this coming change of appointment from First Church Tucson to Tempe First was shared, I felt the impact of a sudden change while also being reminded of the slow and steady journey of following God's call on my life.

Considering all the ways a pastor's appointment can end, I feel very blessed. First Church Tucson has been so supportive of me and my family. My so-called disciples became teachers and have taught me much about servant leadership, faithfulness, and humility. I feel I can honor you best by striving to serve every faith community here on forth with the kind of love and care you have shown me. I thank you for entrusting me with this gift.

Let us be joined together in prayer as God leads all of us anew this coming season.

(cont. LETTER FROM DS pg 5)

RECONCILING MINISTRIES NETWORK

TIHAN Needs Our Help

What is TIHAN? It is the Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network. RMN has partnered with TIHAN to further their goals of HIV education and support.

MISSION: TIHAN provides community resources and caring support so that people with HIV can live well. Through education, we work to encourage everyone to get tested, get involved, and reduce the stigma of HIV.

VISION: Creating a community where everyone knows their HIV status, and where every person - regardless of status - is supported and affirmed to live as well as possible and stay healthy and engaged in the community.

The statistics are saddening: In Pima County alone, there are approximately 3,000 people living with HIV. 38% of new HIV infections here occur in those under 30 years old, and 47% occur in people of color. Furthermore, 67% of people living with HIV that TIHAN serves nationally met the 2019 US poverty guidelines. 1 in 7 Americans with HIV do not even know they have the virus.

What We Can Do To Help:

TIHAN is asking for donations, either monetary or in-kind, to supply their office and clients. Their wishlist can be found on the flyer accompanying this digest, as well as on www.tihan.org under Donate > More Donation Options > Wish List. [Click here](#) for a direct link to their Amazon wishlist page.

QUEER VOICES

INTRODUCTIONS

By Tripp Gordon

Greetings to all our readers! This is a new monthly segment focusing on the experiences and points of view of members of the LGBTQIA+ community, starting with those in our own congregation.

For those who do not know me well, my chosen name is Tripp. I was baptized a member of First Church in June of 2019. I am also part of the queer community.

I grew up in a religion that demonized any identity that wasn't cisgender and heterosexual. I hid who I was and how I felt until I moved away for college, but even then I encountered so much pushback for trying to live authentically that I went back into the closet for nearly a decade.

In 2018 I began attending this church with the goal of making new friends. Obviously I was very apprehensive of how I'd be treated if anyone found out I was queer, but I have been so amazed and so thankful that people here are welcoming, affirming, and truly kind. I can finally be myself.

Thank you for being my church family. I look forward to many more years of worshipping with all of you.

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

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

Annie Beguhl (Mar 9)

Madelyn Moulden (Mar 12)

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

SOUL KITCHEN

Garden Quiche

<https://www.mrfood.com/Vegetables/Garden-Quiche-6323>

Ingredients

1 tsp olive oil
6 cups fresh spinach
2 eggs
1 cup half-and-half
1 cup Monterey Jack cheese,
shredded
1 cup Swiss cheese,
shredded
1 tsp onion powder
½ tsp salt
¼ tsp black pepper
1 (9 inch) ready-to-bake
deep-dish pie crust
1 cup cherry tomatoes,
sliced

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 350°F.
2. In a large skillet, heat oil over medium heat. Add spinach and cook 1 minute, just until spinach starts to wilt.
3. In a large bowl, beat eggs and half-and-half until well combined. Add cheeses, onion powder, salt, and pepper; mix well. Stir in spinach and tomatoes and pour into pie crust.
4. Bake 40 to 45 minutes or until firm. Let sit 5 minutes, then cut into wedges and serve.

LETTER FROM DS (cont.)

March 1, 2021

Grace and peace to you in the name of our risen Lord and Savior!

Rev. Paul Cho has served diligently and faithfully since being appointed to First United Methodist Church and continues to be a witness to the grace and power of God in his work.

It is the intention of Bishop Robert Hoshibata to appoint Rev. Cho to First United Methodist Church, Tempe, AZ, effective July 1, 2021. The Appointive Cabinet has discerned that Rev. Cho's gifts and graces for ministry are needed in this new setting. We will be in conversation with the Staff-Parish Relations Committee at First United Methodist Church of Tucson about the pastoral needs of your congregation and the appointment of a new senior pastor to lead your church.

I pray for you as you take time to honor Rev. Cho for his ministry.

In Christ,

Rev. Matt Ashley
Missional Strategist and Superintendent
Desert Southwest Conference
The United Methodist Church

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

John 2:13-22

The story we find in the Gospel of John is famous because of the emotions we find Jesus displaying. Contrary to the gentle, kind, meek, compassionate, loving image of the good shepherd, we see frustration, anger, and a whole lot that is left to interpretation based on his actions. It is so unlike Jesus' character, it almost leaves us with a sense of awe. What was Jesus so angry about?

The problem was not in the money changers or the marketplace that had been set there. These were necessary functions in order for the passover requirements to be met. The problem was two fold. First, those who were in power (sellers, exchangers, or the temple representatives) were taking advantage of the vulnerable, those who had traveled long and hard, those who were non-natives, those who were required to make an offering, but had no power as to set the rates of exchange nor the cost of the animals. Second, those who participated were forgetting their original purpose of responding to God's mercy but were more focused on what was convenient or how the market value was.

Perhaps, we are due for a temple cleansing of our own. To lay ruin to the function of a soulless ritual and return to the heart of worship for God in thanksgiving for God's love and grace made known in and through Jesus Christ.

Pastor Paul Cho



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