



First Church Tucson Weekly Digest

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

3.8.2022

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.

“Bishop Grant’s Statement on the Ukraine”

By Bishop Grant J. Hagiya, 3/2/2022



The news keeps coming about the atrocities of war in Ukraine and according to the most recent statement released by Roland Fernandes, General Secretary of Global Ministries, The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), the humanitarian relief arm of Global Ministries, is in communication with partners in the region and actively exploring the coordination of humanitarian response in Ukraine. Support UMCOR's international disaster response efforts by making a gift to Advance #982450.

Our hearts ache as we hear the stories and see no immediate end in sight. We have heard of death, destruction, and aggression on one side and sanctions, diplomacy and waiting on the other. Then there are those of us seeking a just response and sacred end to all manner of war and death brought on by empires and those who seek to impose their will upon those whom they can overpower.

While praying for the people of Ukraine, Europe, and all peoples of the world, I also rely on the witness and call we have as United Methodists to stand against war and war making in all its forms. Our Social Principles state this clearly:

We believe war is incompatible with the teachings and example of Christ. We therefore reject war as an instrument of national foreign policy. We oppose unilateral first/preemptive strike actions and strategies on the part of any government. As disciples of Christ,

(cont. pg 2)

Bishop Grant's Statement on the Ukraine (cont.)

we are called to love our enemies, seek justice, and serve as reconcilers of conflict. We insist that the first moral duty of all nations is to work together to resolve by peaceful means every dispute that arises between or among them. We advocate the extension and strengthening of international treaties and institutions that provide a framework within the rule of law for responding to aggression, terrorism, and genocide. (2016 Book of Discipline, Social Principles ¶165.C)

I realize that the word “incompatible” is one that may be triggering for some and for that I offer an apology. Yet in this case it is the appropriate word because it is true that Christ did not trample on the rights of others, nor did he advocate for one nation dismantling the freedoms and liberties of another. He presented peacemaking and relationship building as hallmarks of a life of faith that increases in the face of doubt, hope that sustains in spaces of despair, and love that prevails when all else fails.

As followers of Jesus, the Christ, may we find ourselves in prayer for faithful, righteous and expedient ends to this atrocity. May we find solace in knowing we serve a God who is not asking us to stake any claim except one that binds us in love and unity. May we find ourselves speaking truths that magnify support for the people who stand to lose life, livelihood, and vitality.

May we openly and clearly make it known to our elected leaders, locally and nationally, that we “reject war as an instrument of national foreign policy”. May we work and pray in ways that lead us to a time when “...they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.” (NRSV, Isaiah 2:4)

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.

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 family groups).
- 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.

* * *

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

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

* * *

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.
-Join the choir for our upcoming Easter Cantata!

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.

* * *

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 or are undergoing surgeries, and for Carol V. who was recently moved to a new care facility. We also pray for Marilyn Dunbar who would enjoy cards and visits at Hacienda de Caring Hands (3624 E Calle del Prado, Tucson, AZ 85716).



We offer our prayers for these sister faith communities:

St. Mark's UMC, Tucson
St. Paul's UMC, Tucson
Willcox UMC

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

UPCOMING

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!)

March Meet'n'Eat

This is a fellowship time to visit with each other and see old and new friends.
All are welcome--everyone is invited!

The next Meet'n'Eat is this Friday (March 11) at 11:30 AM at the Olive Garden on the northeast corner of Oracle/Wetmore ([300 W Wetmore Rd. Tucson, AZ 85705](http://www.olivegarden.com)).

If you're interested in coming, please call Shirley Murray at (520)297-4796 by Wednesday, March 9th so she can reserve enough tables at the restaurant.

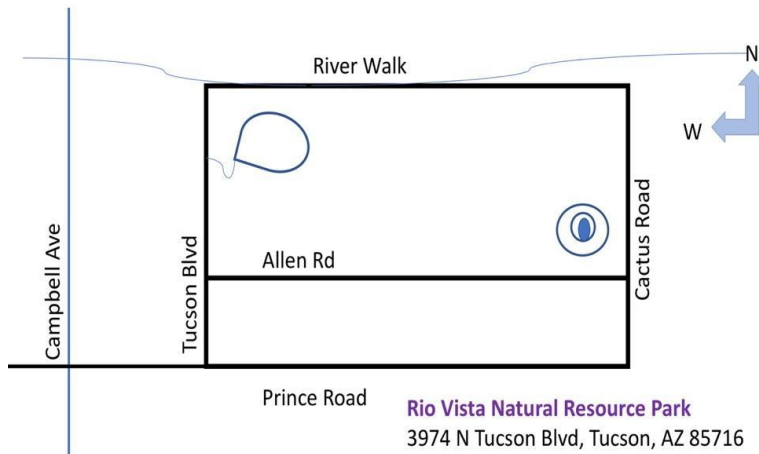
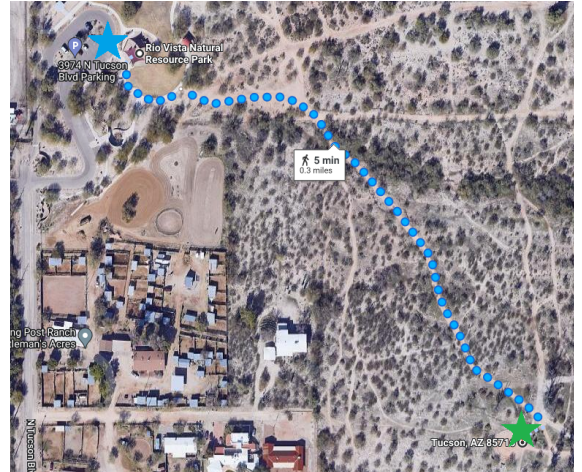
TUESDAY

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.

WEDNESDAY

LENTEN BIBLE READING CHALLENGE

Lent is a time to look at Jesus, to know him better and find direction and peace in our lives. **Look at Jesus** will be the theme for a Bible class Wednesday mornings in Lent, beginning March 9th through April 13th at 10AM-11AM. Nan Rollings will lead us in the Tea House chapel off the hall to the Sanctuary.

If you cannot attend all classes, you are still very welcome. We assume those present are feeling well. Questions? Call Nan at 520-975-4528.

Lenten Bible Reading Challenge 2022

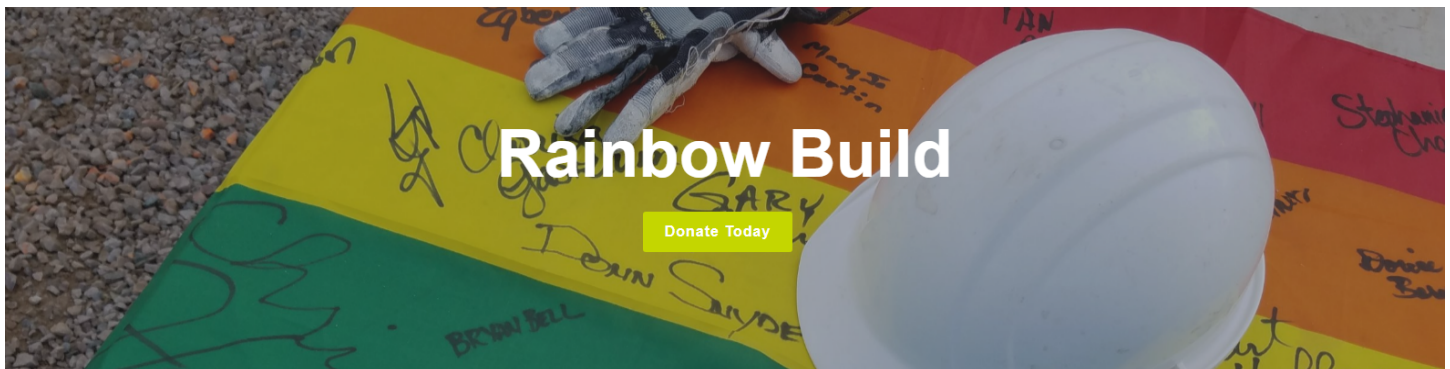
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
Feb 27 Transfiguration Sunday	28	Mar 1	2 Ash Wednesday Matthew 1-2	3 Matthew 3-5	4 Matthew 6-8	5 Matthew 9-10
6 Holy Day First Sunday in Lent	7 Matthew 11-12	8 Matthew 13-15	9 Matthew 16-18	10 Matthew 19-21	11 Matthew 22-23	12 Matthew 24-26
13 Second Sunday in Lent	14 Matthew 27-28	15 Mark 1-2	16 Mark 3-5	17 Mark 6-7	18 Mark 8-9	19 Mark 10-12
20 Third Sunday in Lent	21 Mark 13-14	22 Mark 15-16	23 Luke 1-2	24 Luke 3-5	25 The Annunciation 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

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 are no longer required to be worn, but are still recommended.
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.

Lunch will be served after the 11:30AM Korean worship service.



Hi all,

We are proud to announce that Habitat is hosting its 7th Rainbow Build this April 2nd, 2022!

The Rainbow Build is a day of community, solidarity, and advocacy in which we invite the LGBTQ+ community and allies to come together to build at the construction site. We hope to build community together by inviting the LGBTQ community from all across Tucson to work, laugh, and have good conversations! We also hope to raise awareness about how Habitat's mission of providing affordable housing intersects with issues that affect the LGBTQ community, such as housing discrimination. By working together to build homes, community and hope, we can show our support for each other and spread knowledge and resources so all of us can have a decent, safe place to live!

We are proud to partner with the [Outlaw Project](#), a local organization dedicated to raising funds and recruiting volunteers to build a tiny home community for Trans Women of Color. Our partnership enables us each to forward our shared mission of providing affordable housing for the Tucson community.

The day will also feature a poem read by TC Tolbert, the poet laureate of Tucson, and free pizza from [Ciao Down Tucson](#) at the conclusion of the day to show our appreciation for all our wonderful volunteers!!

To sign up for the Rainbow Build, please follow this link: <https://cerv.is/0255gYhb7bv>

As always, no construction experience is required and we will teach you everything you need to know! A packet with updated information about what to expect will be sent out to those signed up closer to the day of the event.

Thank you,

Maddie



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

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 Diane Russell

March 8 – International Akita Day



The Akita originated in the mountains of Northern Japan as hunting dogs or used to guard royalty. In 1931 the Japanese government made the Akita a “national treasure.” Today they are mostly considered to be pets. According to the American kennel Club they rank 48th in popularity. Ways to celebrate include learning about the breed and the famous loyal Hachiko and his owner Professor Ueno.

March 11 – Key Deer Awareness Day

This day is to bring awareness to the plight of the endangered Key Deer located in the Florida Keys. They are a subspecies of the White-Tailed Deer and have been endangered since 1967 due to habitat loss, car accidents, and poaching. The creation of the National Key Deer refuge in 1957 has helped with their protection and recovery.



March 13 – K9 Veterans Day



Dogs have been used in military battles for centuries. During WWI it is estimated that one million dogs were killed in action performing heroic actions. On March 13, 1942 the United States created the K9 Corps to include them in military ranks during WWII. Prior to 2000, there were no protections in place to ensure a safe life after their military service. K9 Veterans served honorably and should be remembered for their sacrifice for this country.

March 14 – Save a Spider Day

This day is to celebrate the spider and recognize the importance that spiders do in the ecosystem. Spiders help eradicate many dangerous pests in your home or in the environment. There are over 40,000 different species of spiders around the world, with about 30 of them considered dangerous. Ways to celebrate include: respecting spiders, and if you find one in your house do a catch and release.



March 14 – Learn About Butterflies Day



This day was created to learn about butterflies. They are one the most beautiful creatures in the world. They help pollinate plants. There are more than 20,000 types of butterflies worldwide. Some species such as the Monarch are endangered and need our help with protection due to habitat loss and pesticides. Ways to help include planting flowers and plants such as milkweed.

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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