



# First Church Tucson Weekly Digest

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

4.19.2021

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.



## “New To Follow”

By South District Lay Leader Maritza Velazquez

In daily living we strive for many things, some study to fulfill a professional dream, others work in simply to survive, others are invested in their family; these things are very good and important, carrying these things to God in prayer is good. The problem arises when these things take first place to God in our hearts. Because when something competes with God in our hearts, it becomes an idol that is enthroned.

Day by day is not easy in our time, people immigrating, separated from their own land, governments acting against their people causing inequality among the citizens causing war in their hearts. I regret from the depths of my heart this loss: we give up our power and we do not find contentment, we do not know who we follow, as believers we arrive at times when we feel lost.

We Live in a world where things get more difficult every day, however instead of getting closer to God, we exert our own independence and day by day we realize that we are wearing down without the help of our God, and not only exhausts us, it stresses us out as we strive but do not obtain the results that we want.

(cont. pg 5)

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

By Victoria Russell



## **April 19 - National Cat Lady Day**

This is a day dedicated to debunking stereotypes of being a “crazy cat lady”. The goal is to modernize the term “cat lady” to be more positive.

## **April 21 - National Bulldogs are Beautiful Day**

This is a day for the bulldog lovers to showcase their beautiful dogs. Bulldogs are known to be loving, dependable, and courageous for their families. There are nine breeds of bulldogs.



## **April 22 - Earth Day**

This is a day to honor and promote ways to protect Mother Earth. This year’s theme is “Restore Our Earth”.

## **April 23 - National Lost Dog Awareness Day**

This is a day to teach others about dogs who are missing and to celebrate the reunited families. Take the time to learn how you as a pet parent can help prevent this from happening.



## **April 24 - Save the Frogs Day**

This is a day to teach and learn about these amphibians and their conservation needs. There are around 2,000 species of frogs and toads.

## **April 24 - World Veterinary Day**

This is a day to honor and celebrate veterinarians. This year’s theme is “Veterinarian Response to the COVID-19 Crisis”.



## **April 25 - World Penguin Day**

This day honors the penguin’s annual migration to the north that takes place around this time.



## **A splash of color in the road**

The prickly pear cacti are blooming again!  
This beautiful tangle is located in the roundabout at Highland Ave and Lester St.

It’s only a matter of time now until the cacti are bowing under the weight of the fruit, and then those fruits will be collected and transformed into delicious jelly.

*Photo by Tripp Gordon*

THIS WEEK'S  
ANNOUNCEMENTS & GATHERINGS

**SUNDAY MORNING LIVE!**

Join us this Sunday morning at 10am on Youtube followed by a time of fellowship on ZOOM at the link below.

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

Visit our Youtube channel. [bit.ly/fumcYouTube](http://bit.ly/fumcYouTube)

\* \* \*

**한국어 사역**

주일 오전 11:30에 Youtube에서 말씀 묵상과 이후 Zoom에서 나눔과 교제의 시간이 있습니다.

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

Youtube 주소는 [bit.ly/fumcYouTube](http://bit.ly/fumcYouTube)

금요일 오후 7시에 시편 묵상과 나눔의 시간은 위에 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 2:30PM. 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](mailto: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:

St. Mark's UMC, Tucson  
Catalina UMC, Tucson  
Campus Ministry, U of A, Tucson

## **SUPPORT FIRST CHURCH TUCSON**

Head to our website [www.firstchurchtucson.org](http://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

Jae Hammond (Apr 19)  
Nancy Vorres (Apr 20)  
Brooklyn Dominguez (Apr 25)

Mike Sigette (Apr 25)  
Casey Wyman (Apr 25)

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

.....

## SOUL KITCHEN

### **Creamy Herbed Easter Ham and Pea Pasta Salad**

<https://www.foodnetwork.com/recipes/food-network-kitchen/creamy-herbed-easter-ham-and-pea-pasta-salad-5496921>

#### **Ingredients**

1/3 c mayonnaise  
1/4 c chopped fresh flat-leaf parsley  
3 Tbsp sour cream  
2 Tbsp finely chopped fresh chives  
2 Tbsp chopped fresh mint  
1 1/2 Tbsp fresh lemon juice  
Kosher salt and freshly ground pepper  
8 oz dried penne or pennette pasta  
1 1/2 c frozen peas, thawed  
1 c diced ham

#### **Directions**

1. Bring a large pot of salted water to a boil.
2. Whisk together the mayonnaise, parsley, sour cream, chives, mint, lemon juice, 1/2 tsp salt and a few grinds of pepper in a large bowl.
3. Add the pasta to the boiling water and cook according to the package directions. Three minutes before the pasta is done, add the peas to the pot. Drain and rinse under cold water to cool; add to the bowl with the dressing.
4. Add the ham to the bowl and toss to combine. Season with salt and pepper. The pasta salad is best if served right away.

## NEW TO FOLLOW (cont.)

This reminds me of the Good News: a woman in the bible offers a very expensive perfume to the head and the feet of Jesus, she offers sincere repentance, humility, service, forgiveness, love and she receives salvation.

She bares her soul before Jesus. I think of myself in the morning as I use my own perfume, put it on my finger and touch my neck or I soak my body and clothes with perfume. Maybe you do not use perfume but imagine and think for a moment, how do you (or would you) put on perfume?

Imagine that Jesus is the glass jar and the perfume represents the holy spirit, how would you use this perfume?

I Invite you to bathe in this perfume of reconciliation with God, let us leave the war in our hearts and seek the new thing that God is doing with us. Rise tomorrow and sprinkle yourself with the perfume of God and the holy spirit, the smell of God....

I invite you to stop worrying about everything for nothing and look for Jesus to meet you and let him embrace you with love, this absolutely will bring back peace day by day!

