



First Church Tucson Weekly Digest

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

4.19.2022

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.

“The Gardener”

By Javier, 4.4.2022

<https://dscumc.org/blog/2022/04/04/the-gardener/>



When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?” Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.” Jesus said to her, “Mary!” She turned and said to him in Hebrew, “Rabbouni!” (which means Teacher). ~ John 20:14-16

As I travel to Yuma, Fort Yuma, and Buckeye; I can see the endless fields of broccoli, lettuce, asparagus, and other greens. You can also see brown fields waiting to be harvest or planted. When you're in San Luis, Arizona in the afternoon, you can see hundreds of farm workers returning to Mexico after a long day in the fields. Women protecting their faces with a cloth you can only see their eyes. Men with large hats trying to hide every inch of their skin from the scorching sun. These farmers rise very early when it is still dark and make their way to the buses which take them out to the fields. They have to work fast with their hands and feet, bending to handpick the majority of fruit and vegetable crops.

After a hard day's work, back to the bus and then home to take a shower, prepare dinner and lunch for the next day. These souls

(cont. pg 2)

The Gardener (cont.)

are the ones who grow the plants we eat, the fruit we savor, and the flowers that embellish our homes.

It is intriguing that John presents Jesus as a Gardener and Mary doesn't recognize him. There are other communities where they do recognize Jesus as a Gardener. For example, an artist from the community of Solentiname, Nicaragua, paints the risen Christ as a gardener in the middle of a vast orchard, filled with tropical flowers, trees full of fruits and lush plants. (*The Gospel in Art by the Peasants of Solentiname* by Philip and Sally Scharper).

To see the risen Christ requires for us to slow down from the distractions of life or ministry, to look closer, to look beyond the covered faces, the large hats, and calloused hands hardened by the soil and fruits of their labor.

Jesus seeks us in the orchards, in the tombs, in our pain and grief, and in the celebration of our communities.

Jesus could appear to us as a gardener. You never know! We should take more care of our gardeners, not only because they work with the resurrection of our nature, but because in any of them could be coming to us the same Jesus.

Javier



Coral Pink

These gorgeous Red Yucca (*Hesperaloe parviflora*) flowers are located in the parking lot of my apartment. It's always a joy to see the blooms as I get out of the car; the color reminds me of our beautiful and intensely-hued Arizona sunsets.

Photo by Tripp Gordon

UPCOMING
WORSHIP SERVICES & EVENTS

Mother's Day Service

May 8th at 10AM

We are so grateful for mothers in every way! Please join us in celebrating all mothers together.



FLUTE CHOIR CONCERT

Sunday, May 8th at 3PM



You are invited to attend **"A Spring Celebration"** presented by the Southern Arizona Flute Orchestra and conducted by Lorena Suarez, which will take place on Mother's Day at 3PM at First Church.

Bring your friends and family! This is a free event open to everyone (donations appreciated).

You are encouraged to wear a mask during this event.

For more information, please visit www.tucsonfluteclub.org.

Graduation Sunday Service

May 15th at 10AM

We are going to celebrate all the graduates among us. If you have any graduates in your family, please let the office know so we can congratulate them!



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>.

* * *

한국어 예배는 4월 24일, 오는 주일부터 다시
11시 30분에 시작됩니다.

금요 성경공부 모임은 5월 6일 디모데전서
공부가 시작됩니다.

NOTICE: Due to the current decline in COVID-19 variant cases in Pima County, our current safety guidelines are as follows:

- 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.

WEEKDAY GATHERINGS

Women on a Spiritual Quest (WSQ)

-WSQ is temporarily on pause after finishing their book. Stay tuned!

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

-Thank you to everyone who was part of the Easter Cantata!
-Practice is on Wednesdays at 6:30PM in the Sanctuary.
-Rehearsal is at 9AM on Sundays before the service.

Progressive Book Study (PBS)

-Please note there will be no meetings during the month of April. On Thursday, May 5th, at 3PM, we will resume our study and discussion of the book, "The God You Didn't Know You Could Believe In" by Dr. Jeffrey Frantz. We will be beginning Part III: "God and the Bible".

Questions? Call Pastor Raven at (520) 323-1611.

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 offer our prayers for these sister faith communities:

Christ Church UMC, Tucson
Community UMC, Bowie
Campus Ministry, U of A, Tucson

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

Jae Hammond (Apr 19)

Nancy Vorres (Apr 20)

Miwon Lee (Apr 27)

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

Pastor Eun Ko will participate in PIM (Partner in Ministry) of the Western Jurisdiction Korean Association April 18th-21st, and the Young Clergy Retreat April 22nd-24th. She will be out of the office until Monday, April 25th.

For emergencies, please contact either the church office or Pastor Raven Gaston at (520) 323-1611.

Animal Holidays - A Week at a Glance

By Victoria Russell

April 21 - National Bulldogs are Beautiful Day

Bulldogs are an adored breed of dog. There are nine types of bulldogs. Ways to celebrate include posting pictures of bulldogs, spoiling your bulldog, and researching if they could be a good fit for you to adopt.



April 22 - Earth Day

Earth is the planet we call home for now. We need to do a better job of keeping her healthy if we are to remain here. The theme this year is "Invest In Our Planet". Some ways to celebrate include cleaning up littered areas, reusing/recycling products, planting a tree, and conserving water use.

April 22 - National Beagle Day

Beagles are another adored breed of dog, and known for their loud howling and hunting skills. Ways to celebrate include posting pictures/videos of beagles or researching if they could be a good fit to adopt.



April 23 - National Lost Dog Awareness Day

Sadly, every day beloved pets can leave the safety of their home and get lost. This day is to spread awareness of ways to help prevent this tragedy from happening. Remember to tag/microchip your pet, keep up to date records, and make sure your yard is secure.

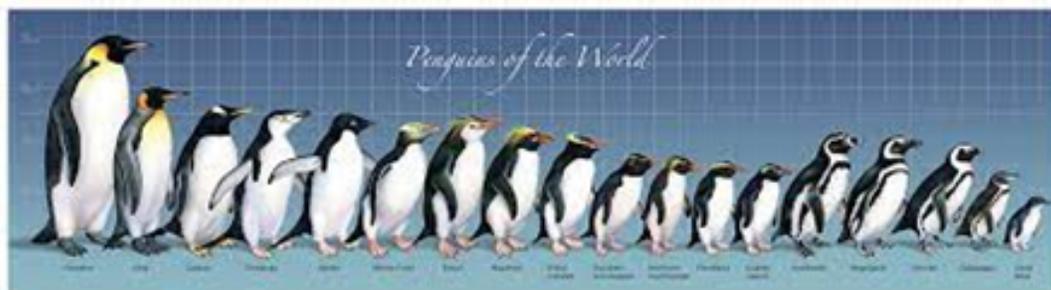
April 24 - World Day for Animals in Laboratories

Animals are tragically used in laboratories as test subjects. These tests are inhumane and need to stop! According to Do Something.org, over 100 million animals are suffering this abuse in laboratories. There are non-animal alternatives available - it is time to only use those methods. Our laws need to protect all animals from suffering.



April 25 - World Penguin Day

Penguins are beloved flightless birds. There are roughly 18 species of penguins. Ways to celebrate include learning about penguins and their plight, or visiting an aquarium.



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



www.firstchurchtucson.org

Pastor Ko 847-345-8070 pastortucsonfirstumc@gmail.com

Office 520-622-6481 office@firstchurchtucson.org