



First Church Tucson Weekly Digest

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

4.26.2021

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.



"Why AAPI?"

By Rev. Paul Cho

Post Traumatic Stress Disorder: A psychiatric disorder that may occur in people who have experienced or witnessed a traumatic event.

The Asian American & Pacific Islanders have been living in a PTSD reality. Senior Asian citizens are beaten by strangers in public, AAPI women are victims of gun violence, even my children, N and A are being cursed at in the playgrounds of our new apartment. I consider it an ounce of grace that my kids were still too young to even understand the hateful words thrown at them. All for what? For being yellow?

This is not just a recent episode, but a re-living of events centuries in the making.

In the 19th century, the entire Asian populations were persecuted by Western Imperialists who thought Asians were less human but still a threat that needed to be neutralized. By mid 20th century, following Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor, Japanese Americans were forcefully taken into internment camps because they were considered spies, despite lacking any evidence. Over 1,800 died in those camps. In the 90's, when video evidence of police brutality against Rodney King led to riots that broke out in Los Angeles, the police abandoned the Korean-owned shops in Koreatown. Sixty-three people died during that time.

(cont. pg 7)

QUEER VOICES

Write & Call Against Anti-Trans Legislation

By Reconciling Ministries Network, published April 26, 2021

<https://rmnetwork.org/2021/04/26/write-call-against-anti-trans-legislation/>



Across the United States, anti-trans legislation is threatening God's beloved children. A wave of cruel legislation is threatening trans existence by seeking to remove healthcare access, full inclusion in schools, use of public facilities, and more. This rash of legislation exists because fearful Christians are using trans people as a political and religious scapegoat.

Trans people already face heightened levels of discrimination and violence. **As Reconciling United Methodists – people of faith committed to the affirmation and inclusion of God's LGBTQ children – we have a spiritual obligation to speak out.**

On this page [at the link above], **we've included example language for:**

1. Calling your state legislators' offices
2. A letter to the editor for your local newspapers
3. An op-ed for your local newspapers [sic]

You'll see that some language is repeated in these three pieces.

Please feel free to use this language or to adapt it for your use. This language exists to help you, but we encourage you to make it your own if you'd prefer that.

Engage your Reconciling Church or Community to call in or write in with you! **Our power is in our numbers, our voices, and our prayers.**

To learn about anti-trans legislation in your state, [click here](https://freedomforallamericans.org/legislative-tracker/anti-transgender-legislation/).
(<https://freedomforallamericans.org/legislative-tracker/anti-transgender-legislation/>)

Note from Tripp Gordon, the Weekly Digest co-editor:

(Trigger warning: Mention of self-harm and suicidal feelings)

One of Arizona's anti-trans bills is SB1511. Under Sec. 2, it proposes to amend Section 13-3623 of Arizona's Revised Statutes to add a hatefully thorough prohibition against ANY gender-affirming care for transgender youth and vulnerable adults, including puberty blockers, surgeries, and hormone therapy, all of which are literally life-saving treatments for transgender people in distress. A doctor providing any of these treatments would be charged with a felony.

Let me briefly share my own experience of being a trans teen. I felt very deeply that I should've been born a boy. I was horrified by puberty and all the unwelcome changes it wrought on my body. I became extremely uncomfortable in my own skin. I was so miserable that I began self-harming to distract myself with the pain, and I frequently wished I was dead instead of living as a girl. My parents made it worse by pressuring me to dress and act more feminine, because their religion has strict gender roles and my "tomboyishness" reflected badly on them.

If my parents had been affirming of my feelings and taken me to a psychiatrist who could've prescribed me puberty blockers, I would have suffered so much less mental anguish. I would not have been suicidal to the degree I was as a teen and young adult. I truly believe I would have been significantly more confident and successful in my adult life if only I'd been able to feel at ease in my body. Instead, I spent roughly 18 years of my life feeling awful and awkward, and trying to make myself invisible because how I felt on the inside did not at all match how I looked on the outside.

If this anti-trans bill becomes law, it will only result in more suicidal and dead trans youth than ever before. It will make my experience the norm. We **cannot** let that happen. God's children deserve so much better. Please take one of the actions listed above or find another way to protest this abhorrent bill, and the other three also being considered (HB2725, SB1482, and SB1637).



The silky blossoms on a fairy duster bush (*Calliandra eriophylla* or *californica*) are bursting with color this spring. These shrubs are drought-tolerant and attract hummingbirds.

Located at the SW corner of the church building, next to the stairs.

Photo by Tripp Gordon

THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS & GATHERINGS

SUNDAY MORNING LIVE!

Join us this Sunday morning at 10am on ZOOM for our Agape Gathering. Prepare elements for the love feast and join the meeting at the link below.

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

Visit our Youtube channel. bit.ly/fumcYouTube

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한국어 사역

주일 오전 11:30에 Zoom에서 말씀 묵상, 나눔과 교제의 시간이 있습니다. 애찬식을 위한 떡과 물을 준비하시고 아래 링크를 사용하십시오.

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

Youtube 주소는 bit.ly/fumcYouTube

금요일 오후 7시에 시편 묵상과 나눔의 시간은 아래 주소에서 진행되고 있습니다.

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

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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](#)

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Not seeing something of interest?
We'd love to hear from you. Let's talk.
Contact pastor@firstchurchtucson.org

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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 those caring for them.

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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 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.

*Notice: We are switching from Vanco to Breeze Online Payments. If you have recurring donations set up through Vanco, you should cancel those as soon as possible and set them up through Breeze instead.

Find the new donation site here: <https://firstchurchtucson.org/give>

THIS WEEK'S BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Miwon Lee (Apr 27)

Frank Lindsey (May 1)

Ozzie & Carol Nelson (May 2)

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

SOUL KITCHEN

Larb Gai (Thai Chicken Salad)

<https://www.tasteofhome.com/recipes/larb-gai/>

Ingredients

1 lb ground chicken
2 Tbsp canola oil
2 green or red fresh chiles,
seeded and chopped
2 shallots, thinly sliced
2 garlic cloves, minced
2 Tbsp lime juice
3 Tbsp fish sauce
1 Tbsp sweet chili sauce
2 tsp brown sugar
1 to 2 tsp Sriracha chili
sauce
¼ c fresh cilantro leaves
2 Tbsp minced fresh mint
Hot cooked sticky rice
Boston lettuce leaves,
optional

Directions

1. In a large skillet, cook chicken over medium heat until no longer pink, 8-10 minutes, breaking into crumbles; drain.
2. In the same skillet, heat oil over medium heat. Add shallots and chiles; cook and stir until tender, 3-4 minutes. Add garlic; cook 1 minute longer.
3. Stir in the cooked chicken, lime juice, fish sauce, chili sauce, brown sugar and Sriracha. Cook and stir until heated through. Stir in cilantro and mint.
4. Serve with rice and, if desired, lettuce leaves.

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

By Diane Russell



April 26 - National Help a Horse Day

It is a day to create awareness and promote the protection of neglected and abused horses. Horses are considered both a pet and a working farm animal.

April 27 - International Hyena day

Hyenas are social animals that have a well-defined female leadership hierarchy. There are four extant species of hyena which include: brown, spotted, striped, and aardwolf.



April 27 - World Tapir Day

Tapirs are large herbivorous mammals, with a short prehensile nose trunk. They inhabit jungle forest regions with four different species.

April 28 - International Guide Dog Day

They provide help for the visually impaired person so they can gain greater independence out in the world.



April 30 - National Therapy Animal Day

To recognize and honor therapy animals for the role they perform in helping humans in their everyday lives.

May 1 - Save the Rhino Day

There are five species of rhinos. All of them are considered endangered due to poaching due to the illegal trade demand of the rhino horn.



May 2 - World Tuna Day

It is a day to raise awareness about the importance of tuna and to promote more sustainable fishing practices. Due to overfishing some types of tuna are now endangered.

WHY AAPI? (cont.)

While I cannot speak for all Asian American and Pacific Islanders, I can speak for myself. I have seen violence done unto people like myself without reason or cause other than the difference of our skin color. I have endured hateful speech, both intentional and unintentional. I have been victim to microaggression (being cut in lines without remorse) to explicit racism (drinks thrown at me while being called racial slurs).

As I have said before, one way I have survived this kind of society was to not make fuss, not call out or raise issues when racism was experienced or perceived. I did my best to make my Asian-ness be as minimal as possible. While this may have provided me with some level of comfort in the past, I fear it has not led to any Christ-like transformation in our world.

My call to you and reason for supporting AAPI is essentially this. Our work to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world requires first, a transformation of ourselves as disciples of Christ to see our Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders not as other and certainly not as Yellow Peril, so that together, we can show this world that we are more than what or how we appear, more than what we have been able to accomplish. Only together, can we prove that our identity in Christ is of far greater importance than any class, status, or privilege this world has to offer and therefore work toward equality and equity of all people.

It is not enough for just the interested few to advocate for this. We need allies. We need everyone in Christ Jesus to join together in rooting out evil in the form of racism. This coming month of May, we are coordinating our focus on how this affects the AAPI, and what you can do to help transform our world.

**Support the AAPI, so as to create a future where people,
especially children of all races can live in safety and peace.**

Visit <https://dscumc.org/religion-and-race/dsc-race/>



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