



First Church Tucson Weekly Digest

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

4.5.2022

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.

"Our Proud History at First Church of Tucson!"

By Pastor Ko

Our church members voted to stand up for equal dignity and respect for all persons, regardless of age, ethnic origin, sexual orientation, or gender identity, welcoming all into full participation in 2010. As a result, we became a Reconciling church in 2010, which brought us to be a part of the Reconciling Ministries Network (RMN).

"RMN began as a faith-based response to institutionalized homophobia braided into the fabric of The United Methodist Church. Now, over 30 years later, the Reconciling movement spans four continents, 1,000+ churches, and 40,000+ individuals. And we're still growing. Love is still growing."

(<https://rmnetwork.org/about/who-we-are/>)



Bruce and Judith Billings



Our rainbow sculpture

"Each year on March 31, the Human Rights Campaign honors International Transgender Day of Visibility, a time to celebrate transgender and non-binary people around the globe and acknowledge the courage it takes to live openly and authentically."

(<https://www.hrc.org/resources/international-transgender-day-of-visibility>)

I have always dreamed of serving a Reconciling Church in my appointments, which means my dream came true. However, my study and knowledge of it are very light and I am still learning about the new cultures, terminologies, pains, and hearts in RMN.

(cont. pg 2)

Our Proud History at First Church of Tucson! (cont.)

Even though I was not deeply involved in RMN in the past, I was sure that we as Christians have to commit to love all people, without any condition or prejudice.

Last week, I visited Bruce and Judith Billings' house. I had planned to visit them for a while but it finally worked out fine under the condition of low Omicron cases. Since I have come to the First church, I have heard about Bruce a lot because he is part of the history of the First Church. He came to Tucson as a college student and joined our church, and then became a faculty member at the U of A (University of Arizona). Since then, he has been involved in so many of our ministries that I can't even count them all. One of them was the reconciling ministry, and Bruce and Judith initiated the rainbow sculpture near the narthex doors. It was beautifully built and many visitors can notice our church's identity related to LGBTQ+ and equality. Bruce was one of our pioneers.



Winona



Robert, Terri, and Nan

There are many more people who have a long history with our church. Winona Powell became a member in 1975 and she is 94 years old. She recently had pacemaker surgery and came back to church every Sunday. Nan Rollings became a member in 1978 as a newly wedded woman. Last month she visited Robert and Terri; Robert was about to head to the medical center for his surgery in March.

The more I learn about our church and congregation, the more I fall in love with you and our church. I don't know how big a picture our God has for our church but it isn't important. Rather, we need to pray that we are used as a vessel of God with our gifts and talents. We are here because of your presence, dedication, support, and prayers. We are dreaming of our next thirty years with your presence, dedication, support, and prayers as well, even though we are not sure who will come and worship here at First Church of Tucson in 2052. God has a plan.

¹⁶“You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name.” (John 15:16)

“너희가 나를 택한 것이 아니라, 내가 너희를 택하여 세운 것이다. 그것은 너희가 가서 열매를 맺어, 그 열매가 언제나 남아 있게 하려는 것이다. 그리하여 너희가 내 이름으로 아버지께 구하는 것은 무엇이든지 다 받게 하려는 것이다.” (요한복음 15장 16절)

If you have any concerns or suggestions, feel free to contact me at pastortucsonfirstumc@gmail.com.

With God's new plan and blessings,

Pastor Eun Young Ko

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 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.

한국어 사역

주일 오전 11시 30분에 한국어 예배가 현장예배와 온라인예배로 진행됩니다. 기도와 참여 부탁드립니다.

금요일 오전 8시, Beyond Bread에서 성경공부 요한복음 마침 기념 모임이 진행됩니다.

Beyond Bread at 421 W Ina Rd, Tucson, AZ 85704

5월 6일 저녁 7시, 디모데전서 공부다시 금요일 저녁 줌으로 시작됩니다.

WEEKDAY GATHERINGS

Women on a Spiritual Quest (WSQ)

-WSQ meets on Mondays at 4:30PM in the church library. The group's current 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."

Zoom ID: 994 3610 1655 Passcode: 6226481

Chancel Choir

-No practice on Wednesday this week; it will instead be on Saturday, April 9th from 9-11AM.
-Rehearsal is at 9AM on Sunday before the service.
-The choir is preparing for the upcoming Easter Cantata!

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 Rev. Gaston at (520) 323-1611

Zoom 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.

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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 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

Beth Walkup (Apr 7)
Denise Grzywacz (Apr 9)
Kelly Lee (Apr 16)

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

April Meet'n'Eat

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

The next Meet'n'Eat is **this Friday, April 8th 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/locations/tucson)).

If you're interested in coming, please call Shirley Murray at (520)297-4796 by Wednesday, April 6th so she can reserve enough tables at the restaurant.

TUESDAY

SPIRITUAL PROGRAM

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 9:40AM.

The labyrinth is located at the southeast corner of the park, about a 5 minute walk from the parking lot. Candace and Lisa will escort you from the parking lot to the labyrinth, unless you would prefer to park near the alternate entrance on Cactus Rd. (Be cautious when parking on the shoulder, as it is not in good condition.)



WEDNESDAY

BIBLE READING CHALLENGE

Only two more chances to join in this informal Bible class! It takes place on Wednesdays at 10AM in the Tea House Chapel (tea served). It is led by Nan Rollings, and Pastor Ko will be with us as well.

Read the gospels in the translation that is most meaningful to you, then come and share your thoughts. Participants will get to know each other better, as well as the Bible. This week the focus is on the gospel of John, chapters 1-14 (see calendar on next page for schedule).

Any questions, call Nan at 520-975-4528.

HOLY WEEK & EASTER

April 14th, Maundy Thursday

- Spiritual Journey stations from 4PM-6PM

April 15th, Good Friday

- Evening Worship Service at 7PM

April 17th, Easter Sunday

- Sunrise Worship Service at 7:30AM
- Pancake Brunch at 8:15AM
- Easter Celebration Joint Service at 10AM with Cantata titled "Here is Love" accompanied by Ensemble, with Fellowship time after the service



Lenten Bible Reading Challenge 2022

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

Spring Cleaning Day!

Who: Volunteers needed!

What: Spring cleaning of sacristy, kitchen, and Arizona room

When: Wednesday, April 13th, at 11:30AM

REMINDER:

COVENANT BOARD MEETING

This Saturday, April 9th, at 10AM in the Carillon Room

EASTER FLOWERS



Celebrate the resurrection of our Lord with flowers! Potted lilies will adorn the altar for Easter Sunday. For anyone interested in contributing, order forms will be available as bulletin inserts. Please place both the order form and your payment (cash or check) in an offering envelope and specify "Easter flowers" on the Special Cause line (and memo line, if paying by check), then place the sealed envelope in the offering box, give it to the office assistant, Tripp, during social hour, or bring it to the office Monday-Thursday 10AM-2PM.

(You may purchase flowers for yourself; it is not a requirement to fill in the "In honor of" or "In memory of" lines on the order forms. Contributors may take their flowers home after the service.)



The nonprofit The Inn of Southern Arizona is still seeking to love migrant families in the spirit of Christ when they are released by government agencies. About 40 people a day are being cared for by Inn staff and volunteers before traveling to the location of their asylum hearings. The website to learn more is www.theinnofsa.org.

On March 27th, Pastor Ko and several church members heard about The Inn's current wishlist while attending a volunteer event:

- Bags of dry rice
- Cans of black beans
- Boxes of dry spaghetti
- Adult-sized backpacks (used or new)

FUMC has had a helping role since The Inn was begun by United Methodists in 2016, and many of you may remember when guests sheltered at our church. We have been a blessing, and we receive blessings through helping these brothers and sisters who have very little.

To hand off a donation, please contact Inn board member Diane Everhart at 520-272-4341 or ask our church office at 520-622-6481 ext 10. Thank you!!



Marilyn Dunbar's health has improved so that she is back once again at:

Hacienda de Caring Hands
3624 E Calle del Prado
Tucson, AZ 85716

It is near El Con mall, south of 5th Street and just off Dodge.

She benefits from any expression of love and friendship.

Animal Holidays - A Week at a Glance

By Victoria Russell



April 7 – International Beaver Day

The Board of Directors at Beavers: Wetlands & Wildlife chose April 7th to be International Beaver Day to honor beloved “Beaver Woman” Dorothy Richards on her birthday. She studied and wrote books about them. Beavers are well known for their expert dam building skills. Ways to participate include reading about beavers (especially Ms. Richards’ book “Beaversprite: My Years Building an Animal Sanctuary”), hiking to a beaver pond, or going to a beaver exhibit.

April 8 – National Zoo Lovers Day

Zoos are important institutions that educate the public about ways to help endangered animals. They also participate locally and globally to help animals in need. The oldest zoo opened in 1765 and it is the Vienna Zoo. The U.S. has up to 350 zoos, with roughly 175 million visits a year. Ways to participate include visiting a zoo, posting on social media, or sponsoring/adopting an animal at the zoo.



April 8 – National Dog Fighting Awareness Day

The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) created this day to spread awareness about the evils of dog fighting. Their goal is to influence animal lovers to take initiative against this brutal act. Dog fighting is considered a felony in all 50 states, but this does not stop some cruel people from participating. See something, say something.



April 10 – National Farm Animals Day

Farm animals do not always have a good life. This day was created in 2005 by animal advocate Colleen Paige to spread awareness about the poor living conditions these animals face. They are often subjected to inhumane treatment for our society’s benefit of meat and dairy products. They deserve to be respected and live in humane conditions. Some ways to honor this day include learning about farm animals and their history, spreading awareness, and donating to organizations that want to help.



April 10 – ASPCA Day

The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Day (ASPCA) was created on this day in 1866. The ASPCA was founded by Henry Bergh and was the first organization for animal welfare in the North/South America region. The ASPCA is known for working with shelters and other humane societies to help prevent animal cruelty. April is also Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Month (which the ASPCA started).

April 11 – National Pet Day

Pets do not need a special day for themselves. They have all the days in the year to be loved and pampered by their human companions. Animal advocate Colleen Paige created this day in 2006. It's no secret that pets can bring us happiness. But did you know that you can bring happiness to them? Make a shelter pet (who feels unloved) happy by giving them a happy home. The motto is “Don’t shop! Adopt!”

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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