



# First Church Tucson Weekly Digest

First United Methodist Church  
915 E. 4th St., Tucson, AZ 85719  
[www.firstchurchtucson.org](http://www.firstchurchtucson.org)

5.17.2021

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.

## "Male or female? Genetics do not give a simple answer"

Tripp Gordon

You were likely taught in school at some point that "XY chromosomes = male, and XX = female." Transphobes like to proclaim this factoid as if it is the be-all, end-all to the debate over trans rights. However, that statement is factually inaccurate because genetics are not starkly black and white.

See the explanation below, posted to Facebook by Zoe Ellen Brain on May 1:

In 1890, the X and Y chromosomes were discovered. It was found that the men who were tested had 46 chromosomes, including an X and a Y, while women who were tested also had 46 chromosomes, including 2 X chromosomes.

So obviously the conclusion was that the Y chromosome defined masculinity. A reasonable conclusion.

Fast forward 50 years... and it was found that some men had 47 chromosomes, including 2 X's and a Y, while some women had 45, including only one X. Still no problem with the "Y chromosome defines masculinity" idea.

Then... it was found that fully 1 in 300 men weren't 46,XY. Some women were.

Oops.

After DNA was discovered in the 50s, it was found that the SrY gene, usually found on the Y chromosome, sometimes was missing. And sometimes had been translocated to another chromosome, hence 46,XX men and 46,XY women. So SrY defined masculinity.

(cont. pg 2)

Then.. it was found out that some men didn't have an SRY chromosome, not anywhere. Some women did. Other genes were involved. Worse, other factors, such as Androgen Insensitivity made 46,XY people female, and Congenital Adrenal Hyperplasia masculinised 46,XX people.

Then in the 70s, other syndromes, such as 5alpha-reductase-2 deficiency were identified, which caused babies to look like one sex at birth, then the other at puberty. Worse, in some places 1 in 50 infants had this natural sex change, it was no rare there.

Science 1974 Dec 27; 186 (4170): 1213-5

In an isolated village of the southwestern Dominican Republic, 2% of the live births were in the 1970's, guevedoces....These children appeared to be girls at birth, but at puberty these 'girls' sprout muscles, testes, and a penis. For the rest of their lives they are men in nearly all respects.

In the 90s, it was found that hormonal hiccups in the womb caused some parts of the body to develop as one sex, othersbas [*sic*] the other, regardless of genetics.

Male-to-female transsexuals have female neuron numbers in a limbic nucleus. Kruiver et al J Clin Endocrinol Metab (2000) 85:2034-2041

The present findings of somatostatin neuronal sex differences in the BSTc and its sex reversal in the transsexual brain clearly support the paradigm that in transsexuals sexual differentiation of the brain and genitals may go into opposite directions.

It's a matter of timing during foetal development. Sometimes a boy is born looking like a girl, sometimes a girl is born looking like a boy, regardless of chromosomes.

This is complex stuff. We don't teach the Theory of General Relativity in grade school, Newtonian physics or at most Special Relativity (far simpler) is enough. Similarly [*sic*], "XX is female, XY is male" is good enough unless you do medicine or biology in college.

It's only really relevant when talking about Trans or Intersex people, just as Relativistic effects only become relevant in the domain of the very big, very small, or very very fast, close to 186,000 miles a second.

People do \*not\* need psychiatric help when they think that things get heavier, more massive, as they go faster... while lengths contract. People do \*not\* need help when they think their sex is something different from their genetics.

Intersex people exist. Trans people exist. They are unusual, so trying to apply the usual approximations is as silly as trying to apply Newtonian physics to things moving close to or at light speed. Legislating such things is as insane as legally ruling that  $\pi=3$ ... as has been done in the past.

I hope this helps explain.

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If you want to learn more, **Scientific American** has an excellent blog article titled "[Stop Using Phony Science to Justify Transphobia](https://bit.ly/3tTp9OP)" (<https://bit.ly/3tTp9OP>) which delves further into the interplay between genetics, neurobiology, and endocrinology.

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](https://bit.ly/fumcYouTube)

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**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](https://bit.ly/fumcYouTube)

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

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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](#)

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**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](#)

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**Chancel Choir**

-Meet with the choir online from the comfort and safety of your home on Wednesday Evenings at 6:30PM.

[Meeting ID: 929 7830 4567](#) [Passcode: 6226481](#)

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**Nifty Needlecrafts**

-A friendly crafting group for all kinds of fiber arts. Join us this Thursday Afternoon at 1PM for a brief project update.

[Meeting ID: 986 5849 6872](#) [Passcode: 6226481](#)

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**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 "Kitchen Table Wisdom" by Rachel Naomi Remen, MD.

[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](mailto: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/give](http://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.  
We thank you for your commitment to making a difference in our community.

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### THIS WEEK'S BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Rev. Paul Cho (May 21)

Jim & Ann Goff (May 21)

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

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

By Victoria Russell

### **May 20 - World Bee Day**

Bees are very important and we would be lost without them. They are pollinators. Bees have become endangered and we need to save them for our future.



### **May 21 - Endangered Species Day**

There are many species that are endangered. You can help by learning what conserving actions are in place and spreading awareness.

### **May 22 - National Heritage Breeds Day**

This day and week's goal is to spread awareness of the endangered farm heritage breeds.



### **May 22 - International Day for Biological Diversity**

In order to thrive in the world we need our environment to thrive too. This year's theme is, "We're part of the solution."

### **May 23 - World Turtle Day**

Turtles and Tortoises are reptiles but have their differences. This day is to honor and support the thriving of these reptiles all over the world.



## SOUL KITCHEN

### No-Bake Blueberry Cheesecake (Vegan, Gluten-free)

<https://delicious-plants.com/vegan-blueberry-cheesecake/>

#### Ingredients

For the base:

- ½ c raw almonds
- ½ c raw cashews
- 1 c fresh Medjool dates, pitted
- ¼ c coconut oil, melted
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- Pinch of sea salt

For the cheesecake:

- 1 c cashews
- 1 c coconut milk
- ⅓ c maple syrup
- 2 Tbsp lemon juice, freshly squeezed
- 2 Tbsp coconut oil
- ¼ tsp sea salt
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- ⅓ c blueberries, fresh or frozen

#### Directions

1. Soak the cashews in boiling water for 30 mins before starting to make the cheesecake.
2. Line a 6" springform or round cake pan with parchment paper and grease the sides with coconut oil. Set aside.
3. Add the almonds, cashews, pitted dates, coconut oil, vanilla extract and sea salt to a food processor and process until it comes together into a sticky "dough." There should still be small pieces of nuts visible in the mixture and it should stick together if pressed together.
4. Spoon the base "dough" into your prepared springform or cake pan and press the base down as evenly as you can. Cover and place in the freezer to set.
5. To make the cheesecake mixture, add all of the cheesecake ingredients (except the blueberries) to a high-speed blender and blend until the mixture is completely smooth. Reserve half the mixture for later.
6. Pour the other half of the mixture over the base and gently tap the pan around the edges to smooth out the surface. Cover and freeze for at least 2 hours to set.
7. Once the first layer has set, blend the reserved cheesecake mixture with the blueberries until completely smooth and purple. Pour the blueberry layer over the first layer, cover and freeze until completely set (minimum 2 hours or overnight).
8. To remove the cheesecake from the pan, soak a kitchen towel in hot water then wrap it around the pan for 30 seconds. This will melt the outside of the cheesecake and make it very easy to remove.
9. Slice, serve your vegan blueberry cheesecake topped with some fresh blueberries and enjoy!



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[office@firstchurchtucson.org](mailto:office@firstchurchtucson.org) | [pastor@firstchurchtucson.org](mailto:pastor@firstchurchtucson.org)  
(Office) 520-622-6481 | (Pastor Paul) 520-850-4547