



First Church Tucson Biweekly Digest

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

5.3.2022

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.

“Children of God!”

By Pastor Ko

Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ,

We had a wonderful and amazing Easter Celebration at our church this year. I couldn't be happier. It has been three years since we had an Easter Worship Service at church in person.

It was worth waiting for until this year. Isn't it amazing how God can work through First UMC of Tucson?

Nobody imagined I would be here with you as a lead pastor from Illinois three years ago. Nobody imagined that we could have two young adults baptized (Eunmo Kang and Sanghoon Jeon). Yuhyun Park is one of our young adult students at our Korean worship service. He came to our church in the middle of this past January. And then, he invited Sanghoon Jeon first, and Sanghoon invited Eunmo Kang. None of them were here three years ago. But, God has a very special plan for all of us.



Pastor Ko baptizing Sanghoon

Baptism group photo: (left to right) Margo, Eunmo, Pastor Ko, Sanghoon



(cont. pg 2)

Children of God! (cont.)

As it is written in Exodus 6:7, “I will take you as my people and I will be your God,” both became children of God as God’s people through baptism for believing in the new covenant Jesus Christ established through life, death, and resurrection.

Not only did they take a baptism education, now they also are joining me for the young adult bible study for ten weeks. They have studied many subjects such as “Who is God?”, “Who is human-being?”, “Who is Jesus Christ?”, “Who is the Holy Spirit?”, “What is the Bible?”, “What is prayer?”, “What is the church and worship?”, “How do we have to live in the church?”, and “How do we have to live in the family as a Christian?” This has been a profound and fruitful time for all of us. I am sure that God has a special plan for them in their future journey, planting seeds of faith for others as they have gotten by us.



Above: First Choir with the ensemble

Right: Easter altar decorations and lilies



Also, I am so grateful for all our choir members with our music director Lorena, pianist Young Kim, and two narrators, Arthur and Nancy. We were able to praise our Lord and proclaim, “Jesus Christ is Risen!” with the voice of our choirs and the sound of the ensemble on Easter. Easter is a day for all of us to remember the resurrection of Jesus Christ and to be resurrected in our dead body and spirit as well.

What a great church we are! What an amazing work we have been doing! Praise to the Lord!

“²⁵ Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live,²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.” (John 11:25-26)

“예수께서 이르시되 나는 부활이요 생명이니 나를 믿는 자는 죽어도 살겠고 무릇 살아서 나를 믿는 자는 영원히 죽지 아니하리니.” (요한복음 11장 25-26절)

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

With God’s blessings,

Pastor Eun Young Ko

UPCOMING
WORSHIP SERVICES & EVENTS

Mother's Day Worship 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 includes future (summer) graduates.



New! QR Codes for Online Giving & Livestream Attendance

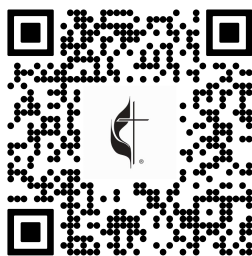
You may have noticed something new and different in last Sunday's worship service slideshow: several squares containing dots in a seemingly random pattern. These are "QR (Quick Response) codes."

Going forward, we will include QR codes in the Digest, Sunday bulletin, and worship slideshow to take attendance (via Google Forms) and to make it easier to give your offerings online.

All you need is a smartphone with either a built-in QR code reader, usually accessed through the camera, or a third-party QR code reader app (many of which are free). Open your QR code reader on your phone and point the camera at the QR code. It will be scanned and a link will pop up directing you to the appropriate webpage.

For our YouTube livestream viewers, we ask that you scan the attendance QR code (or go to <https://forms.gle/B2Yjf37Hkc41kdQW6>) and fill in the Google form. To our in-person worship service attenders, you don't need to worry about checking in; Margo will continue taking care of that herself.

For those of you who want to give an offering on Sunday but don't have either cash or check, you can give online with a credit/debit card or ACH bank transfer. The online giving QR code (below) will take you directly to our secure online giving form.



Weekly Digest New Publishing Schedule

We have published our weekly digest since the pandemic hit because we couldn't meet in person and our church building was shut down in 2020. Thankfully, the pandemic is under control and since last summer we have gathered at church in person and the church building is completely open as usual. All other church gatherings can now meet at church. So our Covenant Board agreed to publish our Digest biweekly rather than weekly beginning this week.

During summer, the schedule will temporarily be changed: in June, July and August, the Digest will only be issued once a month.

If you have any questions, please contact the church office at office@firstchurchtucson.org or 520.622.6481.

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 사역

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

이번 주 금요일 5월 6일 저녁 7시, 디모테전서
공부가 금요일 저녁 줌으로 시작됩니다.

NOTICE: Due to the current decline in
COVID-19 variant cases in Pima County, our
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 meets on Mondays at 4:30PM in the church library.

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

-Practice this week is on **Thursday** at 6:30PM in the Sanctuary.
-Rehearsal is at 9AM on Sunday before the service.

Progressive Book Study (PBS)

-This 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.

* * *

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:

First UMC, Bisbee
First UMC, Eloy
First UMC, Safford

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 ext 10.

UPCOMING

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Pastor Eun Young Ko (May 9)
Young Kim (May 15)

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

May 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 **Friday, May 13th 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)).

If you're interested in coming, please call Shirley Murray at (520)297-4796 by Wednesday, May 11th so she can reserve enough tables at the restaurant.

LETTER FROM A MISSIONARY FROM THE NATIVE AMERICAN MINISTRY

Dear All Members of the First United Methodist Church in Tucson,

Greetings to you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
This is Young Jin Park serving at Soongopavi Halayki as a missionary.

I recently received the Love Offerings you sent for our church.
On behalf of all our church members,
let me express our deepest gratitude for your love for our church.

Let me introduce our church, Soongopavi Halayki.
It is the latest church in the Hopi reservation, and it was built by SangHyuk Lee,
a missionary of the Korean Methodist Church, in 2003.

But in March 2017, the village leader of Soongopavi sent an official letter to me to close the Soongopavi Halayki church building. So, we have tried to resolve this issue several times since then, but we could not even meet him. And he still is not revoking his order of closing the church building.

After receiving the official letter to close the church building, our church members had gathered at my house to worship until before the Covid-19 pandemic.

And then, one of our church members spoke with her family about building a new church building. And last May 2021, she let me know her decision to build a new church building on her land. So, we are preparing to build a new church building, and your offerings will be used for this purpose.

But, if the village leader knows that we will build a new church building, it may not be possible. So we are proceeding carefully and slowly with this project.

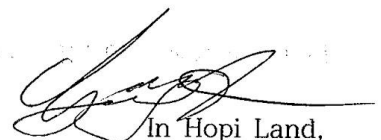
There will be some difficulties carrying out this project, but I'm not scared of them.
It is because I believe that we can go through these situations by God's gracious leading.

If you could pray for our church together, I would really appreciate it.

Once again, deep gratitude for your Love Offerings for our church.

May God's peace and grace be with each and all of you, the members of the First United Methodist Church in Tucson.

Gratefully yours,



In Hopi Land,
Pastor Young Jin Park

Animal Holidays - Two Weeks at a Glance

By Victoria Russell



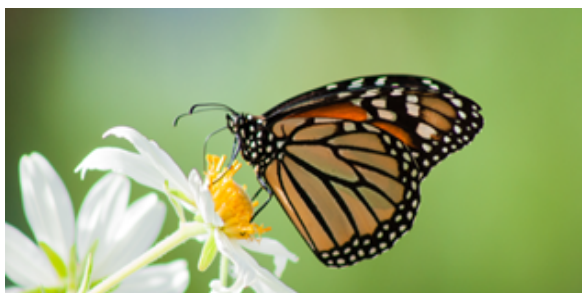
May 3 – National Specially-Abled Pets Day

Sometimes pets, like humans, require some extra help. These pets are often overlooked; but if you have the time and are able to commit to their care, please consider adopting.



May 4 – Bird Day

This day was created in 1894 by Charles Babcock to celebrate all the birds and that it is a moral obligation to increase bird conservation efforts.



May 7 – National Start Seeing Monarchs Day

This day raises awareness to preserve the Monarch butterfly and help protect them through conservation efforts.



May 8 – Mother's Day

Mother's come in all shapes and sizes. The mother instinct is not just based on biological relations. "A mother's love knows no boundaries".



May 8 – National Animal Disaster Preparedness Day

Disaster can strike at any moment. There are steps to keep your family safe. Your pet relies on you to keep them safe. Please make sure they are included in your safety plan.



May 13 – Fintastic Friday: Giving Sharks a Voice

This day was created by WhaleTimes, Inc. to help raise awareness and conservation of all Sharks, Skates, and Rays (Elasmobranchs). They believe children will lead future conservation efforts.

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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