



First Church Tucson Weekly Digest

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

7.6.2021

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.



“Greetings in Jesus Christ”

I am Pastor Ko who is appointed to be your pastor beginning on July 1st, 2021 here in Tucson. I would like to share my previous ministry background. I was pastoring at Grace UMC in Maple Park, IL for six years, at Glenbrook Korean in Northbrook, IL for three years, and Faith Evangelical UMC in Elmhurst, IL for the last two years. Before then, I studied at Garrett- Evangelical Theological Seminary in Evanston, IL after being admitted to seminary in Sept., 2006. Before I came to the United States, I graduated from Methodist Theological University in Seoul and had worked at Far East Broadcasting Company (FEBC) (극동방송), C3TV (Christian Television Broadcasting), and as a freelancer for the Korean Christian Broadcasting System (CBS) for seven years.

During my previous professional career time, I was able to experience the grace and love of God through so many good Christians in whom Jesus Christ lives whether they were pastors or lay people. I always give a testimony that I couldn't be here without the grace and help of God. Since my newborn experience in my high school year, I love to serve God and God's people to build the Kingdom of God.

(cont. pg 8)

The 37th Desert Southwest Annual Conference

June 11-13, 2021, lay leader Nan Rollings and SPRC chair Margo Kahler zoomed to attend the Conference from the comfort of home. We used an improved system over last year to vote on some 29 different measures. Pastor Paul and Pastor Raven also participated. We were guided and inspired by outgoing Bishop Robert Hoshibata. Please visit www.dscumc.org and check out the link on the home page labeled Annual Conference. Highlights included:

- Guidance in helping those grieving in our midst. Grief reflects loss in many areas of life, not just death, explained speaker Gina Pollard, a candidate for ministry and trauma survivor. Grief is not linear (as in stages) but more like a tangled ball of yarn! In mourning, memories entwine us unexpectedly. www.ginapollard.com
- Rev. Dottie Escobedo-Frank and a team tasked with “dreaming” shared ideas about what the church of the future might look like. Central ideas were to increase support for the uniqueness of every congregation and to make the appointment process more collaborative.
- Passing the Resolution of The Conference Commission on Religion and Race (CCORR) by a 90.8% vote. After July of 2022, anticipate training resources here at First Church that can equip us to act more justly as individuals and a society.
- Passing the Resolution to Address Conference Culture. Those working on this included Rev. Anthony Tang, Rev. Beth Rambikur, Rev. Khalif A Smith, Sr., and Rev. Amy Barron-Gafford. Courage to face a problem was reflected in this vote. (A Feb. 2021 survey of 153 clergy revealed 42% had answered anonymously “yes” to the question “Have you ever remained silent about harm against you or others because you feared some form of reprisal or punitive response?”)

To sum up, Annual Conference brought moments of joy and reflection, challenges to address wrongs and a chance to celebrate ministries. Let’s live out our wonderful opportunity to be a loving multicultural church! Together we will support Pastor Ko and each other in the new season ahead.

Nan and Margo



Petrified Forest National Park

This fascinating area, located east of Holbrook, AZ, is chock-full of petrified trees and fossils. The shattered log pictured here was about 16” in diameter, and there were quite a few pieces further down the trail that were 30” across or even larger!

Photo by Tripp Gordon

NEWS FROM THE INN



The Beginning

Ordinary people responded to an extraordinary need in December 2016. Thousands of asylum seekers at the Arizona border had no safe place after release from government detention. The Desert Southwest Conference of The United Methodist Church stepped in to help. A courageous church opened its doors, volunteers pitched in, and The Inn began. Unlike the experience of Mary and Joseph who had been turned away at an inn, those needing rest and understanding would be welcome here.

The Inn receives families who have gone through U.S. Customs and Border Protection (C.B.P.), or Immigration Customs Enforcement (I.C.E.), and are released to continue the immigration process. We provide temporary shelter, hospitality, food, clothing, showers, and compassion for these vulnerable families, giving them a safe place to stay while they transition to the next part of their journey. Since its beginnings in December of 2016, The Inn has served more than 14,081 people. In 2019, on average each month we sheltered 234 people, served 11,423 meals, and prepared 581 meals to-go. We rely on volunteers to help with every step of the process.

In the spring of 2020 COVID-19 impacted border policy with the result that U.S. agencies no longer brought families to The Inn for shelter. In the spring of 2021 we reopened and again serve our sisters and brothers seeking help. To keep our guests and volunteers as safe as possible we moved to a “hotel” model where our guests are housed at a local hotel instead of at a church. **The hotel model is much more expensive and our help is needed!**

The Inn Sponsorship Program 2021

Become an integral part of The Inn, providing sponsorship at a level that works for you. If you have given in the past, please consider increasing your support. If you are a new donor, we welcome you at the sponsorship level that suits you best. Your gift ensures that The Inn can provide the necessary support of asylum-seeking families. Your donation helps provide a bed, clothing, and food in a safe, loving, Christian environment.

As a sponsor you will fulfill the call Christ spoke about in Matthew 25:40 when he said, “Just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.” As a sponsor, you will join in partnership with the staff and volunteers who provide for the day to day needs of our guests. You will receive periodic newsletters, invitations to special gatherings and activities in addition to the knowledge that your donation is changing lives. **Please become a sponsor of The Inn.**

Sign up here: <https://tinyurl.com/3stjppek> or scan the QR code below.

Choose your level of support:*

Type of Sponsor	Monthly	Yearly
Wise Ones	\$1,000	\$12,000
Inn Keepers	\$100	\$1,200
Angels	\$50	\$600
Shepherds	\$25	\$300



We also welcome **one-time gifts**. Please donate at: <https://theinnofsa.org/donate>

**Donations are tax-deductible*

Volunteers are also needed, volunteer at <https://theinnofsa.org/volunteer>

Contact us: theinnprojectucson@gmail.com or (520) 330-8146

Plan for Episcopal Coverage

July 5, 2021

Dear Members and Friends of the Desert Southwest Conference,

Grace and peace to you in the name and spirit of Jesus Christ!

As a result of [my decision to request retirement](#) under ¶ 408.2a of the 2016 *Book of Discipline*, the office of resident bishop for the Desert Southwest Conference becomes open. As prescribed in the *Book of Discipline*, the Council of Bishops has the responsibility of determining, who will serve as the episcopal leader for the Desert Southwest Conference until a new bishop is elected at a regular Jurisdictional Conference.

On July 2, 2021, the Council of Bishops of The United Methodist Church [announced](#) that the Council has voted to approve the recommendations from the Western Jurisdiction College of Bishops for the episcopal coverage for the Desert Southwest Conference, Phoenix Episcopal area.

Following proper procedure, the Council of Bishops announced that Bishop Grant J. Hagiya, resident bishop of the California-Pacific Conference, will serve as your bishop for this interim time. Please be assured that this is not in any way a step toward merger of the two conferences, but simply a plan for episcopal coverage for the Desert Southwest Conference. Details about any welcome events will be announced soon. In the meantime, a transition team has been constituted and plans for a smooth transition are being developed.



I know Bishop Hagiya as a cherished colleague and friend, so I ask you to please welcome him with open arms and warm hearts!

For those who are interested in more details about the role and election of bishops in The United Methodist Church, [click here](#).

If you have any questions, please feel free to [email](#) my office.

In Christ,
Bishop Bob

WILLKOMMEN स्वागत
欢迎 BIENVENIDA
WELCOME
BIENVENUE ようこそ
добро пожаловать
ترحيب BEM-VINDO

THIS WEEK'S
ANNOUNCEMENTS & GATHERINGS

SUNDAY MORNING HYBRID SERVICE

We are providing 3 ways for you to participate in our Hybrid Online/In-person Agape Gathering on Sunday at 10AM.

YouTube: For those without cameras or those in public spaces, join us Live! on our channel. Visit bit.ly/fumcYouTube

Zoom: For those in private spaces with access to a camera and microphone, join us in this meeting room ([ID: 972 7492 7766](https://umcfirstchurch.tucson.az.us/join/97274927766) Code: 6226481) and step virtually into our sanctuary.

In-Person: For those of you who are well and vaccinated, join us in person.

Please observe the following 3 rules:

1. Masks shall be worn at all times.
2. Keep Social Distance and follow the usher's directions for seating.
3. There will be no eating or sharing of food or drinks.

All guests must pass the health inventory and be checked in before you are seated.

Please arrive earlier than our service to ensure timely seating.

An offering collection box will be available in the narthex.

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한국어 사역

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

Youtube 주소는 bit.ly/fumcYouTube

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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](https://umcfirstchurch.tucson.az.us/join/92059519248) 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](https://umcfirstchurch.tucson.az.us/join/99436101655) Passcode: 6226481

Chancel Choir

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

- There will be a rehearsal on Sunday at 9:30AM before the service.

[Meeting ID: 929 7830 4567](https://umcfirstchurch.tucson.az.us/join/92978304567) 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 current book is "Kitchen Table Wisdom" by Rachel Naomi Remen, MD.

[Meeting ID: 980 1573 8087](https://umcfirstchurch.tucson.az.us/join/98015738087) Passcode: 6226481

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

El Mesias UMC, Nogales
Grace UMC, Douglas
Camping Program, South District

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SUPPORT FIRST CHURCH TUCSON

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.
We thank you for your commitment to making a difference in our community.

THIS WEEK'S BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Jo McVey (Jul 7)
Bruce Baker (Jul 8)

Chuck Humphrey (Jul 8)
April DuBoce (Jul 9)

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



In Bloom

These Texas rangers (*Leucophyllum frutescens*) near the narthex are just bursting with fragrant purple blossoms! This photo was taken just this past Sunday after the service.

Photo by Tripp Gordon

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

By Diane Russell



July 10 - Don't Step on a Bee Day

This day was created to remind people not to go barefoot. You could step on a bee which will harm both the bee and your foot. Bees are the world's largest pollinators and they need to be protected.

July 11 - All American Pet Photo Day

This is a day for pet lovers to take and share photos of their pets. Remember to keep your pets safe and comfortable during the photoshoot. Make sure they do not get stressed or overheated. Their safety is more important than the perfect picture. Dress them up, take them to the park, and enjoy.

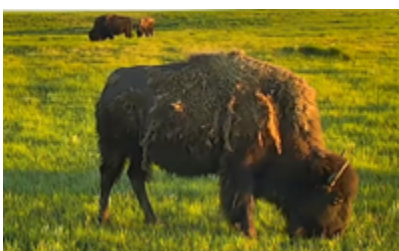
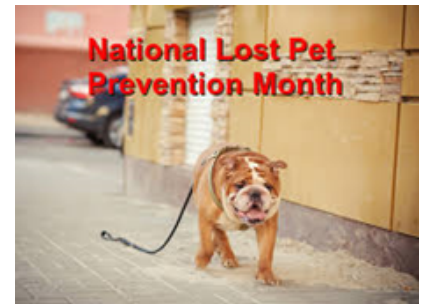


July is Pet Hydration Awareness Month

July is usually the hottest month so there is importance to keeping our pets hydrated. Proper hydration is critical and dehydration has serious health risks for pets. Learn the signs of dehydration: Loss of appetite, dry mouth, diarrhea, excessive panting, decreased skin elasticity, sunken eyes, and lethargy.

July is National Lost Prevention Month

A lost pet is a pet owner's worst nightmare. To help prevent a lost pet-learn important ways to help protect your pets from getting lost and ways to stay safe. Some examples include: Microchipping your pet, ID tags, spay or neuter, secure your yard, and pay attention to their surroundings.



July is National Bison Month

This month is dedicated to celebrating the ecological, cultural and historical contribution that the bison have made. In 2016, the bison became America's National Mammal. Due to conservation efforts; there are herds in all 50 states.

SOUL KITCHEN

Quick-Roasted Broccoli

<https://www.rachaelraymag.com/recipe/quick-roasted-broccoli>

Ingredients

1 head (1 ½ to 2 lbs.)
broccoli, broken into
bite-size pieces
¼ c olive oil
4 cloves garlic, finely
chopped
2 tsp finely grated lemon
zest

Directions

1. Preheat the oven to 450°F. On a rimmed baking sheet, toss the broccoli with the oil until well coated; season with salt and pepper. Roast until just starting to brown in spots, about 10 minutes.
2. Add the garlic to the broccoli and toss to combine. Continue to roast until the broccoli is crisp-tender and browned at the edges, 8 to 12 minutes. Sprinkle with the lemon zest.

Greetings in Jesus Christ (cont.)

My daughter, Halla's name came from the name of the highest mountain, Halla in South Korea. My late husband and my hometown is on Jeju Island where the mountain of Halla is located. Thus, we named her for it. She will turn 11 years old this October. Even though she is shy at first, once she knows you more, she will be very sweet and loving to talk with you.

I had never imagined moving out of Illinois where I was ordained as a clergy member of the United Methodist Church. However, I believe that God sent me to the First United Methodist Church in Tucson, AZ where I need to serve you and other of God's people inside and outside the church boundaries. My parents and most of my relatives live on Jeju Island, in South Korea. My older brother and his family live in San Francisco. Two younger sisters and one younger brother live in South Korea, which means I do have a big family.

Thanks to my extended family, I was able to get along with a large group of friends, family, and neighbors. I am an extraverted person so please don't be hesitant to come to me and greet me when you have a chance. I would love to chat with you, hear your concerns or joys, and pray for you when you are in need.

I would like to explore more places and cultures including food, music, and others. Please, continue to pray for me and Halla so that we are able to settle down in Tucson, get to know you more, and understand you better.

I can't wait to see how God will give us opportunities to cry, laugh, dance, eat, and grow together in the name of First United Methodist Church.



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