



First Church Tucson Weekly Digest

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

8.31.2021

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 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.

“We Will Remember You, Helen, Forever!”

By Pastor Ko

May God continue to shine a light on you every day!

Our beloved church member Mary Helen Asay passed away on August 6th, 2021. Her memorial service was held on Saturday, August 28, 2021 in First Church's sanctuary. Even though the Delta variant is surging, we wanted to be hospitable and respect her family's decision to have a memorial service at church. It was because our church meant a lot to Helen, so they wanted to invite our church members to celebrate her life and for the last time, say “Goodbye,” to her.

I was honored and privileged to preside over Helen's memorial service as my first funeral/memorial service here at First Church. The more I learn about her life, the more I admire her faithfulness, generosity, humor, and love.

What a true warrior of prayer, love, and faith she was, is, and will be in our hearts!



(Left: sanctuary altar. Right: the family of Helen with her photos)

As you know, our church building has been closed for more than a year and a half since the pandemic hit last year. We needed to work hard to have this memorial service. Thanks to our church members, we cleaned the kitchen so it would be usable, and

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We will remember you, Helen, forever! (cont.)

served Helen's family and guests for the reception following the service. We were mindful of social distancing and wore masks.



(Left: Jessie, Margo & Carol in the kitchen. Right: Serving the congregation during the reception)

Facing the death of a loved one is always bittersweet. It's lovely in the memories we will always treasure, the laughter in the stories shared by those who have gathered, and in the prayers and kind words of friends and family. She leaves us a model of a life of love. She leaves us a sure sign that God works for good in all things, for she has brought us together and made us more confident than ever that God will never let us go. So let us remember Helen and her life in faith to see her in the Promised Land again! Thank you and Goodbye to Helen!

Psalm 23 is one of the scriptures we read in her memorial service.

Psalm 23

¹The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want. ² He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters; ³ he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake. ⁴ Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff—they comfort me. ⁵ You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. ⁶ Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD my whole life long.

시편 23편

1여호와와 나의 목자시니 내게 부족함이 없으리로다. 2그가 나를 푸른 풀밭에 누이시며 쉼 만한 물가로 인도하시느도다. 3내 영혼을 소생시키시고 자기 이름을 위하여 의의 길로 인도하시느도다. 4내가 사망의 음침한 골짜기로 다닐지라도 해를 두려워하지 않을 것은 주께서 나와 함께 하심이라 주의 지팡이와 막대기가 나를 안위하시나이다. 5주께서 내 원수의 목전에서 내게 상을 차려 주시고 기름을 내 머리에 부으셨으니 내 잔이 넘치나이다. 6내 평생에 선하심과 인자하심이 반드시 나를 따르리니 내가 여호와와의 집에 영원히 살리로다

Also, please check out the order of worship in this weekly digest since we haven't printed out our bulletin every Sunday. If you have any concerns or suggestions, feel free to contact pastor Eun Young Ko (pastortucsonfirstumc@gmail.com)

With blessings and prayers,

Pastor Eun Young Ko

THIS WEEK'S
ANNOUNCEMENTS & GATHERINGS

SUNDAY MORNING HYBRID SERVICE

There are two ways for you to participate in our 10AM hybrid online/in-person Sunday Service.

YouTube: Join us Live! on our channel. Visit bit.ly/fumcYouTube

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

NOTICE: Due to the rise in Delta-variant COVID-19 cases, our safety guidelines have been updated. Please see below:

- Masks are required to be worn inside the church building, and social distancing is still in effect (min. 6 ft between family groups).
- If you are not yet fully vaccinated or are immuno-compromised, it is strongly recommended that you watch the YouTube livestream rather than attend in person.
- Choir members are required to be fully vaccinated in order to sing in front of the congregation during the service.

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한국어 사역

주일 오전 11시 30분에 한국어 예배가
현장예배와 온라인예배로 진행됩니다.
기도와 참여 부탁드립니다.
금요일 저녁 7시에 성경공부 모임이 줌으로
진행됩니다.

Youtube 주소는 bit.ly/fumcYouTube
Meeting ID: 998 6112 0822 Passcode: 6226481

* * *

WEEKDAY ONLINE GATHERINGS

Women on a Spiritual Quest (WSQ)

-A classic UM Bible study group with accountability and fellowship; now meeting in the church library on Monday afternoons at 4:30PM.

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All God's Creation (AGC)

-A time of scripture reading and reflection with a focus on living creatures, now on Tuesday afternoons at 3PM.

Meeting ID: 994 3610 1655 Passcode: 6226481

* * *

Chancel Choir

-Practice is held in-person in the Sanctuary on Wednesday evenings at 6:30PM.
-There will be a rehearsal on Sunday morning at 9AM before the service.

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Progressive Book Study (PBS)

-On Tuesday Sept 7, 2:30PM, we will begin our Fall session of study. Please note all following meetings will be on Thursdays (at 2:30PM).
Book title: "God's Politics—Why the Right Gets It Wrong and the Left Doesn't Get It" by Jim Wallis, theologian, preacher, author, faith-based activist.

Questions? Call Rev. Gaston at (520)323-1611

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 pastortucsonfirstumc@gmail.com

MUSICAL INVITATION

Join our music groups at First United Methodist Church!
You are welcome to participate, whether you can read music or not.

FUMC Choir Our rehearsals are on Wednesdays at 6:30PM and Sundays at 9AM in the Sanctuary.

FUMC Ensemble If you play keyboard, drums, guitar, bass, woodwind, brass, or strings; or if you sing, contact us and join this ensemble for worship services and special occasions.

FUMC Handbell Choir We will prepare music for the Christmas Season!

Contact information:

Lorena Suárez (218) 409-3783 / suarezmolina@email.arizona.edu
First Church Office (520) 622-6481 / office@firstchurchtucson.org

September Meet'n'Eat

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

The next Meet'n'Eat is on **September 10 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, please let **Shirley Murray** know ahead of time by calling her at **(520)297-4796** so she can reserve enough tables at the restaurant.



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:

Sanctuary UMC, Tucson
Santa Cruz Valley UMC, Sahuarita
St. John's UMC, Tucson

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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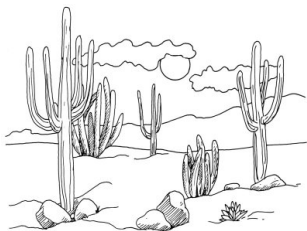
UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Juyeon Lee (Sept 1)
Diane Russell (Sept 3)
Leonard Santos (Sept 5)

John Hughes (Sept 7)
Alice Woo (Sept 10)

Gretchen & Pedro Lopez (September 1)
Randy & Peggy Ford (September 2)

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



See your photo in the weekly digest!

Email it to office@firstchurchtucson.org
or text it to Tripp, the office assistant, at
520.428.4680 with a short description,
including who took the photo.



SOUL KITCHEN

Chinese Casserole
Shared by Margo Kahler

Ingredients

1 lb bulk sausage
½ green pepper
½ c uncooked rice
½ c slivered almonds
1 large onion
1 ½ c celery
2 pkgs Lipton noodle soup
4 c boiling water
Chow mein noodles

Directions

Brown sausage and drain. Saute onions, pepper and celery in sausage drippings. Add boiling water to soup and rice, then mix. Mix all ingredients together. Bake 1 hr at 350°F. Stir a few times. Add Chinese noodles on top

QUEER VOICES

Proud Asian Mother of a Transgender Son

By Marsha Aizumi | PFLAG National

Published May 20, 2021 in the Opinion section of OpenlyNews.com (<https://bit.ly/3kEUli7>)

The families of Asian American and Pacific Islander LGBTQ+ people benefit from support from within their communities and in their primary languages

Marsha Aizumi is the co-author of [Two Spirits, One Heart](#) with her son, Aiden. She serves on the [PFLAG National Board of Directors](#) and is a supporter of the [Family Acceptance Project's](#) resources in Asian languages

I saw my baby girl for the first time in a photo that came from Japan. Three months later, on Labor Day 1988, I held her in my arms. She was all I dreamed she would be and, although she didn't come out of my body, that day she was born out of my heart. I loved her completely, imagining the life that we would share together.

However, what I have discovered on my journey is our children come to us with their own roadmap. And so my life became a series of moments that were both frightening and empowering, challenging and celebratory.

My little girl never felt like a girl. She was a happy, social, joyful tomboy. But a dark cloud covered her middle school years, as she struggled with her gender identity. Coming out as lesbian in high school did not change the darkness that surrounded her. Instead, it brought a larger shroud of blackness filled with cruelty and abuse. Suicidal thoughts entered her life.

Five years later, she found a tiny flicker of hope. It was one word: transgender. That hope became her guiding light and transition became a word that offered her a way to finally feel whole.

But, as my child struggled, I struggled as her mother. At each coming out, I was thrown into my own despair. I felt ashamed of being a bad mother and I feared for my child's life. But I listened to my heart and listened to my child Aiden. Then, I looked for places that would provide answers.

I first discovered [PFLAG](#), a U.S. organization that supports, educates and advocates for families of LGBTQ+ people, like mine. It showed me what could be possible and gave me resources to dispel my fear. Then the Family Acceptance Project (FAP) gave me research-based information on creating a positive and supportive environment for my child.

Today I am no longer a quiet, Asian mother, but a fierce advocate for the Asian LGBTQ+ community. I co-founded the first [PFLAG Chapter](#) supporting the Asian Pacific Islander community. I started a Japanese and Japanese American LGBTQ+ group, [Okaeri](#), which means "welcome home" in Japanese. At Okaeri, Aiden says the intersection of his Japanese and trans identities are seen and valued. He truly feels welcomed home.

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Proud Asian Mother of a Transgender Son (cont.)

Meanwhile, this month, the Family Acceptance Project is releasing Asian language versions of one of their [groundbreaking resources](#). For a parent to have access to information in their first or primary language, particularly in Asian communities where it is rare or non-existent, will be invaluable.

But our work is far from over. At the moment, there are 34 states trying to legislate how trans children can participate in sports and 22 states where gender-affirming medical care for minors could be banned or restricted, according to [Freedom For All Americans](#).

Not being able to play sports in the gender they identify with or have access to medical treatment that they so desperately need, will affect trans youth already disproportionately plagued by depression and suicidal thoughts.

In addition, Asian Americans are being targeted and so I worry about Aiden now being attacked for being both trans and Asian.

When I mentioned this to him, he responded, “But mom they are hurting people like you: women and older people.” Now, not only does he have to be vigilant for himself, he also must be concerned about me.

So, what can one person do to change the trajectory of all that is happening in communities of color or in the transgender community? We can call and write to our legislators. We can support organizations who are speaking up for us. And we can educate ourselves, so we can educate others.

My son is alive today, not just because I stood beside him, but because those who did not know him stood up for him.

I don't want others to judge him because he is trans, adopted, or Asian. I want people to look into his beautiful, amazing heart and say, “This is a person who is making the world a better place.”

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Bea Humphrey wants to hear from you!

Our dear Bea is 97 years old, and she would enjoy receiving cards from the congregation.

Please send yours to:

Bea Humphrey
c/o Mountain View Care Center
1313 W Magee Rd, Tucson, AZ 85704

She is an ongoing inspiration!

Photos shared by her son, Chuck Humphrey





YOU can be UMCOR!

Early Response Teams bring a caring, Christian presence to the survivors of hurricanes, floods, tornados, fires and other natural disasters.

Teams assists survivors by:

- Listening to their Stories
- Preparing the home for a rebuild
- Salvaging everything possible
- Tarping to prevent further damage
- Minimizing mold growth

EARLY RESPONSE TEAMS

Teams are United Methodists and friends who are called to mission to devastated communities, growing spiritually together when serving others in a time of need.

Team members, all 18 and older, are trained by certified UMCOR trainers, complete a background check online, badged, and then are invited to respond to disasters throughout the US and some outlying territories. Their primary objective is to be a caring, Christian and to help survivors take the next steps toward recovery.



Disaster Response Coordinators and Trainers

Polly Turner pollyjt@outlook.com

Tom Mattick tmattick@me.com

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

By Diane Russell



September 1 – Ginger Cat Appreciation Day

This day is a celebration of the ginger cat. Ginger cats come in five different varieties: the classic swirl pattern, the striped “mackerel” pattern, the spotted pattern, the patched or ticked pattern. This day is celebrated best with your own ginger cat or your own unique wonderful feline.

September 1 – Save Japan’s Dolphins Day

In 2004, The International Marine Mammal Project (IMMP) initiated this special day to bring awareness to the cruel yearly drive hunts in Taiji where dolphins are killed. The Academy award winning documentary “The Cove” tells the story.

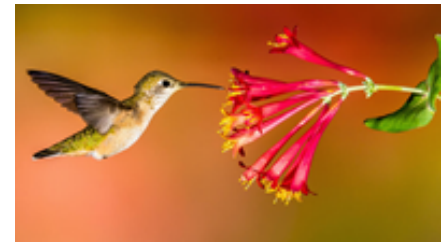


September 4 - International Vulture Awareness Day (IVAD)

This day was started in 2009 to bring awareness of their dwindling numbers and to celebrate them for the vital role they provide in the food chain by keeping the environment clean.

September 4 – National Hummingbird Day

This is a day to celebrate the wonderful hummingbird. There are about 325 species of hummingbirds with as many as twenty- four that can be seen in the United States. Ways to celebrate them include attending a special event, starting a garden, putting up a feeder, or finding a place to view them.



September 4 – National Wildlife Day (NWD)

This day was founded in 2005 by Colleen Page to bring awareness of endangered animals nationally and worldwide that need to be preserved and rescued. This day is to also educate people about conservation. Especially good for children, who will be our animal’s future caretakers and conservationists.

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
Holy Communion
Sharing joys and concerns
Prayers of the People
Offertory Prayer
Closing Song
Benediction
Postlude
Passing of the Peace

한국어 예배 오전 11시 30분

환 영 및 인사
조용한 기도
예배의 부름
찬양
여는 기도
성경봉독
설 교
응답찬송
성만찬
알리는 말씀 (광고)
목회기도
봉헌기도
결단찬송
축 도
후 주

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.

New 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



www.firstchurchtucson.org

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