



First Church Tucson Weekly Digest

“Is it enough to be alive?”

By Paul Cho on All Saints Day, 2020

I want to say yes. I want to proclaim that it is enough to simply live another day. Certainly, in light of All Saints Day, we can expect such sentiment to expound from the empty places our saints have left us. That is to say, those who are fighting death would surely agree that living another day is enough. A day to live is a gift and that's why we call it the present.

I appreciate those words. And I want to respect all those who are right now fighting to survive. I pray for God's healing mercies and for Christ-like peace to surround them abundantly. I especially want to honor our saints, especially those in our family of faith who have returned home, into the compassionate arms of God. To this end, I shall not take this day for granted.

What has been eating me inside... is this belief that since Christ died to give me life, I do not live to merely exist. I exist as to testify what I know to be true; that God is love, and that love was made perfect in Christ Jesus.

But if living means to turn my eyes away from harm that is done to the unseen...
 If living means to continue taking advantage of those who are marginalized...
 If living means to stay comfortable in our privileged state while others suffer...
 What is the point in such life? Certainly, the point is no longer Christ.

One thing that has remained with me from hospital chaplaincy was the idea that having life for the sake of life, is not always the goal. Rather, one's quality of life must also be considered. Equally important was that this ultimately subjective measure was best determined by the individual. It is why we have such binding documents such as the Advance Directive.

Perhaps a spiritual advance directive is what we need. This is, at least, what my conscience is asking of me tonight, as I think upon the saints that have passed, including those personal saints like my dear friend Jaime Kim Webster, would want of me.

I do not know what ramifications this holds, but I want to be on record on these two things.

I seek to live, or die fighting, so that all persons might experience the love of God made perfect in Jesus Christ. There are many that come to mind, but in 2020, I am painfully aware that siblings of non-white skin complexion, my non-cisgendered, non-straight, non-binary, complex and beautiful siblings of the lgbtqia+ community, along with the differently abled, and the uniquely eccentric social outcasts are in deep, soul-crushing pits as our community, even the church, falls short of that we seek to be.

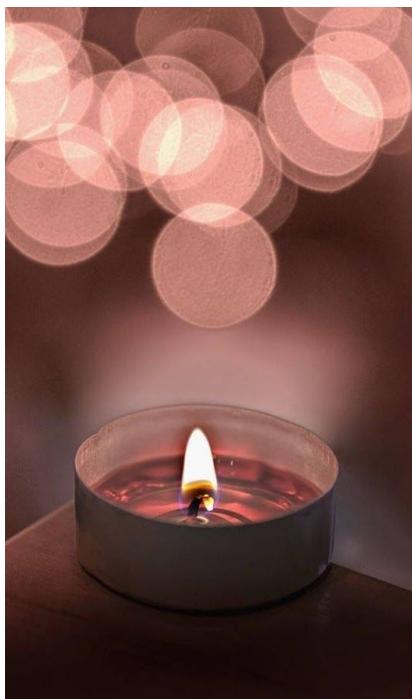
I seek to live, or die fighting, for a democracy where the people's voice is heard and applied with reverence. Standing by the sidelines for the politically engaged to do the work is no longer an option. The church may not speak of politics, but my faith convicts me to not slumber. I surrendered my country of birth and took an oath of allegiance to the United States of America to support and defend the Constitution and the laws, so help me God.

Be it this week, this month, this year, and the seasons to come, let these words remain true as I work out my salvation on trembling knees.

Until Christ Reigns,

Rev. Paul H. Cho

The Desert Southwest Conference Reconciliation Ministry Network presents:



Reconciling Ministries Network presents

Election Prayer Vigil

Seven nights & days | Mon. 11/2 - Sun. 11/8
sign up @ tinyurl.com/RMNprayervigil



Or click here

<https://tinyurl.com/RMNprayervigil>

“Let each citizen remember at the moment he is offering his vote...
that he is executing one of the most solemn trusts in human society for
which he is accountable to God and his country.”

~ Samuel Adams

“Always vote for principle, though you may vote alone, and you
may cherish the sweetest reflection that your vote is never lost.”

~ Abraham Lincoln

THIS WEEK'S
ANNOUNCEMENTS & GATHERINGS

Recruiting Weekly Digest Contributors

Have you come across an inspiring story? Perhaps you were able to capture a fascinating shot. We invite you to submit a story, a photo, or anything you feel would be in the best interest of our church. We will work to add them into our Weekly Digest. Submit your story or picture at <https://bit.ly/fumcsubmit>

Women on a Spiritual Quest

Meet with WSQ for book studies and the best kind of Methodist small group accountability. The current book is "Chasing Vines" by Beth Moore. **Mon @ 4:30PM.**
<https://dscumc.zoom.us/j/92059519248?pwd=ZmN4dTFCcVVCVjlnM3FHUHVVemNFdz09>

ZID: 920 5951 9248
PW: 6226481

Exploring Biblical Wisdom

Gather for group Lectio Divina as we seek spiritual formation through scripture reading, reflecting, and sharing the Spirit that lives in each of us. **Tues @ 11AM.**
<https://dscumc.zoom.us/j/98179862680?pwd=ck15OU5KbWUyY0NwOUNxbzJkOUVBUT09>

ZID: 981 7986 2680
PW: 6226481

Music Workshop - World Music Tour

Join Music Ministry Director Lorena Suarez as she tours the world music scene. This week, music from Colombia and Venezuela! **Wed @ 5:30PM.**
<https://dscumc.zoom.us/j/92978304567?pwd=Mmo4UWZtc012TUxzVS9VYXlpVUliZz09>

ZID: 929 7830 4567
PW: 6226481

Progressive Christianity Book Study

Explore the richness of progressive Christian thought through literature. **Thurs @ 2PM.**

<https://dscumc.zoom.us/j/98015738087?pwd=eGFpVWRCUnZraWxUU1d0anRiU2pFQT09>

ZID: 980 1573 8087

PW: 6226481

Sunday Morning Live!

Join us live on Sunday mornings on Youtube. **Sun @ 10AM**

Visit <https://bit.ly/fumcYouTube> and subscribe to the channel.

(Address is case-sensitive.)

Sunday Morning Fellowship

Join us on Zoom for fellowship immediately following the live stream. **Sun @ 10:30AM**

<https://dscumc.zoom.us/j/97274927766?pwd=bVlqNmZjTk84bHFHd0JRS0U5R0c4Zz09>

ZID: 972 7492 7766

PW: 6226481

Korean Language Ministry

주일 오전 1130 Youtube에서 실시간 방송이 있습니다.

bit.ly/fumcYouTube

방송 직후 Zoom을 통해 교제의 시간에 초대합니다.

<https://dscumc.zoom.us/j/99861120822?pwd=VWlyZ3FrM2ZrNHhrVIRlNHc1NTBLQT09>

ZID: 998 6112 0822

PW: 6226481

또한, 금 오후 7시에 같은 줌 방에서 성경말씀 묵상 나눔이 있습니다.

Support the Ministries at First Church Tucson

Now is the time to give courageously to ministries that matter to you.

Visit this [link](#) or go to www.bit.ly/givetofumc to set up online donation.

You may also send gifts via Paypal to recipient address: finance@firstchurchtucson.org

And as always, you can mail in checks to the church office. Alternatively, have your IRA advisor automatically make payments from your IRA to the FUMC checking account.

THIS WEEK'S
BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Shar Fowlkes (Nov 6)
Marilyn Hall (Nov 6)
Kyoung Hee Kim (Nov 6)
Nancy Tomlinson (Nov 7)

Ian and Bonnie Steel (November 6)

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

SONG FOR THOUGHT

"In His Time"

Diane Ball

by **Lorena Suarez**

Director of Music Ministries on November 1, 2020

Diane Ball (1941) wrote the hymn *In His time* in 1978; it was published by Maranatha! Music that same year.

Ball, a camp director in northern California, wrote this song on a day when nothing went according to her plan. She arrived late to a conference she was supposed to speak at, because of a last-minute problem that didn't allow her to follow her tight schedule. At the end, also her conference started late. She realized that sometimes it doesn't matter how much she could plan; things simply are not all the time under our control. That very day she wrote the song *In His Time*, noticing how *He makes all things beautiful, in His time*.

The song is inspired on Ecclesiastes. 3:11 which reads:

He has made everything beautiful in its time.
He has also set eternity in the human heart;
yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end.

Enjoy!

Lyrics:

In His time, in His time
He makes all things beautiful in His time
Lord, please show me every day as You're teaching me Your way
that You do just what You say in Your time

In Your time, in Your time
You make all things beautiful in Your time
Lord, my life to You I bring may each song I have to sing
be to You a lovely thing in Your time

Suggested recording:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wo-rGzx2OZk>

LECTIO DIVINA PRAYER GUIDE
for Individuals and Families

CENTERING - *Practice Square Breathing*

- Inhale for 4 seconds, hold for 4 seconds,
- Exhale for 4 seconds, hold for 4 seconds.
- Repeat as necessary.

SONG OF PRAISE

Select a song of your choice, or
Refer to this week's Song for Thought

OPENING PRAYER - *Psalms 19:14*

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
be acceptable to you,
O Lord, my rock and my redeemer. Amen.

READING

Revelation 7:9-17

REFLECTING

Take a minute or two in silence.
Allow your thoughts to rest on a word, a phrase, a memory from this passage.
Journal or share your thoughts from this moment of meditation on the passage.

RESPONDING

Respond to the reflection through the guidance from the Holy Spirit.

MINUTE MEMOIR - by Paul Cho

We remember our saints among us who have passed this year. We remember that we, too, are called to be saints. Saints are those who are singularly focused on God, and are clothed in the life of Christ. In remembrance of the care and nurture given to us by our

former saints now resting in God's presence, we seek to model them in our lives.

We choose to live as Saints because we too, seek a world in which all people (and all means all) are joined together where there is no more hunger, nor thirst, but will have our tears wiped away by the compassionate hands of God.

And we cannot do this alone, but must join in with the saint of our past and the saints to come. So let just stand together, not as citizens of a nation, nor as members of a party, but as siblings in Christ, in whom we owe our salvation.

RESTING

Dwell in your reflection and response.

Take time to offer God praise and glory.

Repent and seek forgiveness.

Offer joys and the concerns, adding in your personal prayers.

Lastly, offer a thanksgiving for God's grace and mercy.

CLOSING PRAYER *Wesley Covenant Service Prayer*

I am no longer my own, but yours.

Put me to what you will, rank me with whom you will;

put me to doing, put me to suffering;

let me be employed for you, or laid aside for you,

exalted for you, or brought low for you;

let me be full,

let me be empty,

let me have all things,

let me have nothing:

I freely and wholeheartedly yield all things

to your pleasure and disposal.

And now, glorious and blessed God,

Father, Son and Holy Spirit,

you are mine and I am yours. So be it.

And the covenant now made on earth, let it be ratified in heaven.

Amen.



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

915 E. 4th St., Tucson, AZ 85719

www.firstchurchtucson.org

office@firstchurchtucson.org | pastor@firstchurchtucson.org

(Office) 520-622-6481 | (Pastor Paul) 520-850-4547