



First Church Tucson Weekly Digest

“Look to the Sky”

By Paul Cho for October 19th, 2020



I had the opportunity to visit Mt. Lemmon this past week in my somewhat desperate plan to make fall break feel different for my children who are both in online classes. Their days are fused together with school, rest, and play all happening in the same space. Mondays feel no different from Tuesday. I'm sure many can relate.

The scenery was quite something. First, the ash-stained asphalt and the charred lumber catches your eyes (at least, the driver's eyes). They are eerie reminders of our recent Big Horn fires. Then the mixed palette of evergreens and browned timber. It was as if the forest was baking unevenly in an oven. Finally, the reds and yellows of the aspen's unmistakable autumn prelude. My spirit was frightful (of the fires and the frailty of our environment) and expectantly joyful (of the cool weather) at the same time.

It became interesting to think that the color *amber*, the various shades of brown, can serve as reminders of scary fires and fill us with hopeful anticipation for the coming winter. So which is it? Does the color amber make me happy or sad?

Resting on a hammock with Amber, my daughter, by my side, I debated pointlessly inside, wondering if I should have picked a different name for her, when out of the blue, the sky caught my eye. Oh so blue. So irresistibly, magnificently, amazingly blue. (Remember when all we could see was brownish-grey?)

It occurred to me that under the blue sky, all that is brown will eventually turn to black dust, then be nourishment for new greenery to start that cycle of life once more.

Much like the fires, the pandemic has also disrupted our lives and the patterns we have become so familiar with. And while the timing was unexpected, in some ways perhaps these changes were bound to happen. Like the changing seasons under the blue sky, perhaps the changes we have had to make were a long time coming.

I couldn't decide whether or not the color amber was a positive or negative thought in me. I named her *Amber* after the warming presence of the Holy Spirit (like tongues of fire in Acts 2). And in the end, Amber, my daughter is indeed a warming presence in my life which is more important than what color her name shares meaning with.

The pandemic may or may not be a positive thought in us. No matter. I am simply grateful that we are able to connect in new and old ways. Glad for new technology that enables us to see each other even though we are apart. Glad for (eventual) in-person meetings, now that we don't take it for granted.

Wherever you are, look to the sky and remind your soul of God's ever faithful presence.



Mt. Lemmon, Fall 2020
by Haesook Hong

“Every situation in life is temporary.
So, when life is good, make sure you enjoy and receive it fully.
And when life is not so good,
remember that it will not last forever
and better days are on the way.”
- Jenni Young

“If today gets difficult, remember the smell of coffee,
the way sunlight bounces off a window,
the sound of your favorite person’s laugh,
the feeling when a song you love comes on,
the color of the sky at dusk,
and that we are here to take care of each other.”
- Nanea Hoffman



Olga Guoimar Tafolla
(October 14, 1922 - September 4, 2020)

Olga Guoimar (Gonzalez) Tafolla passed away peacefully surrounded by the loving voices of family in Tucson, Arizona on September 4, 2020. She would have been 98 on October 14, 2020.

She is preceded in death by her parents Eulalio and Adela Gonzalez, her sister Omega De La Zerda, and her husband of 59 years, Lott E. Tafolla.

Olga is survived by her daughters Linda Tafolla of Battle Creek, Michigan, Joyce Garcia of Tucson, Arizona, grandchildren Taffy (Edward) Bowerman of Galveston, Texas, Kim Crider of Houston, Texas, Clarissa Garcia, husband Brian Potter, of Memphis, Tennessee, Joel Garcia of Tucson, great-grandchildren Casey Bowerman, Deborah (Brian) Corral of Houston, Jackson Potter and Ella Potter of Memphis, Tennessee, cousins, nieces and nephews, Olga (Trevino) Garcia, A. Anthony De La Zerda, Yolanda De La Zerda.

Olga was just 19 when she married the love of her life, Lott E. Tafolla. Lott was inducted into the Army to serve in World War II. He went to California for training within days of their marriage and soon shipped out to go overseas. Lott made it home from the war. In gratitude Olga promised our loving Father she would always serve Him.

Olga and Lott were active members at La Trinidad in San Antonio, Texas. There, they brought up their daughters to know God’s love through the nurturing of that faith community. Olga taught kindergarten at the Wesley Community Center in the heart of the inner city in San Antonio. There began her passion for teaching kindergarten children. That

experience deepened her love of children and led her to teach Sunday School kindergarten at every church where she was a member.

Olga loved the Lord, her church, and her family. She loved her children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews. She was often lovingly called “Aunt Olga” by the many children who came into her life.

Olga’s passion for service grew as she became active with United Methodist Women at her church in Battle Creek, Michigan. She went on to be a leader in her annual conference in Michigan. She was invited to be a Director on the National Board for United Methodist Women. In that capacity, she represented the church at home and abroad.

While in Tucson, Arizona, Olga developed a relationship between First Church Tucson and the sister church in Agua Prieta, Sonora, Mexico. One year, Olga asked the congregation at First Church if they would like to collect shoes for the children in Agua Prieta as a mission project for Christmas. The request was met with great enthusiasm and became a tradition at First Church for many years.

Olga worked closely with church leaders on border and Hispanic issues. The Michigan Annual Conference elected her as their delegate to the General Conference, the governing body for the denomination worldwide. As a member of the National Hispanic Latino Caucus, she was chosen to address the conference advocating for Hispanic issues. She worked tirelessly to bring attention to the many concerns of her Hispanic community.

Olga’s life was one of service to her home church and other churches in Latin America and the Caribbean. She often said she had hoped to serve as a missionary. Indeed, Olga Tafolla was a missionary. Her efforts were a part of positive changes in the life of the church. She responded to the Lord’s call saying: “Here am I, send me.” (Isaiah 6:8 KJV)

“Let brotherly love continue. Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.” Hebrew 13:1-2 (KJV)

Due to COVID-19, Services will be held at a future date to be announced by email, social media, the church website.

Memorial contributions may be made by mail to:

La Trinidad United Methodist Church
300 San Fernando Street
San Antonio, Texas 78207

OR Online at:

<http://latrinidadchurch.com/giving-ofrendas/>

Designate donations as indicated below:

The Tafolla Scholarship for Youth Camp/Spiritual Growth

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THIS WEEK'S
ANNOUNCEMENTS & GATHERINGS

21 Day of Racial Equality Habit Building Challenge

Follow us on [Facebook.com/FirstChurchTucson](https://www.facebook.com/FirstChurchTucson) each day to watch, listen, and read about racial equality and join in the challenge.

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, Brazilian music! **Wed @ 5:30PM.**

<https://dscumc.zoom.us/j/92978304567?pwd=Mmo4UWZtc012TUxzVS9VYXlpVU1iZz09>

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=VWlyZ3FrM2ZrNHhrVIRINHc1NTBLQT09>

ZID: 998 6112 0822

PW: 6226481

또한, 금 오후 7시에 (기존 토요일 새벽 기도회 대신) 온라인 모임을 위에 표시된 Zoom 가상 공간에서 갖고, 일요일 오후 1시에는 한어권 청년들의 모임이 따로 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

Gail Snyder (Oct 19)
Maxwell Musgrove (Oct 20)
Ian Steel (Oct 20)
Suzanne Van Ort (Oct 21)
Jounghwa Namgung (Oct 23)
Jeanne Jensen (Oct 24)
Caroline Fish (Oct 25)

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

SONG FOR **THOUGHT** "The Gift of Love" **Hal Hopson**

by **Lorena Suarez**

Director of Music Ministries on October 17, 2020

Composer and arranger Hal Hopson was born in Texas in 1933. Among his 1300 works, he has written hymns, psalm arrangements, choral pieces, instrumental music, and congregational songs.

The Gift of Love was published in 1972 by Hope Publishing Company. This hymn paraphrases the beautiful words of I Corinthians 13. The melody is an adaptation of the English folk tune "O Waly, Waly."

This hymn was born as a simple melodic line with keyboard accompaniment, and later as a two-part choral arrangement. Now, due to its great popularity, it has been included in many hymnals and it has become a standard hymn in the church repertoire. Enjoy!

Lyrics:

Though I may speak with bravest fire,
And have the gift to all inspire,
And have not love, my words are vain,
As sounding brass, and hopeless gain.

Though I may give all I possess,
And striving so my love profess,
But not be given by love within,
The profit soon turns strangely thin.

Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control,
Our spirits long to be made whole.
Let inward love guide every deed;
By this we worship, and are freed.

Suggested recording:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jZza7fUXIP4>

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 - *Psalm 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

Matthew 22:15-22

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

Being stuck between a rock and a hard place is painful, both literally and figuratively. The pharisees attempt at trapping Jesus with the inquiry about paying taxes is of no use. Pay your taxes, Jesus summarizes. But more importantly, give to God what is God's. What is God's and how do we give something back to God?

Being created in the image of God, we all belong to God. And indeed, all of creation belongs to God. Giving back to God what rightfully belongs to God is multifaceted. Be good stewards of what belongs to God. Take good care of and do not abuse what belongs to God. Recognize, acknowledge, and give thanks for what belongs to God, our relationships, our resources, our time, and all that we are.

Most importantly, when you feel stuck between a rock and a hard place, remember whose you are. You belong to God, and God will see you through. Thanks be to God.

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