



First Church Tucson Weekly Digest

“Where Love Lives”

By South District Superintendent Rev. Matt Ashley on October 20th, 2020



Apple is a rescue dog. At ten months old, she was a pregnant and homeless teenager. There was no room in the inn, so she was sent to the Nogales shelter, where she was deemed undesirable (they thought she was a pit bull and would be difficult to place). So Apple was scheduled to be euthanized, her short life almost over before it began.

Then good things began to happen for Apple. A woman who runs a private animal rescue visited the shelter and saw something in Apple, saw that she's a cattle dog with a good heart and a lot to give. And so Apple was taken to a foster home in Hereford, where she gave birth to three puppies, though she was still a puppy herself.

When her little ones were old enough, Apple was ready to be adopted, and was taken one day to an adopt-a-thon at a store in Sierra Vista. I walked into the store looking for a dog to rescue, but it was Apple who chose me. They let me open her crate to say hello; she came out and hugged me, literally leaning hard against me with a desperate yearning to be loved.

And now she is. She became our dog, and we became her family. Apple loves my wife Felida, and she loves me, and she especially loves her adopted puppy brother, a seven year old basset hound named Donald the Great & Terrible.

Apple bears the emotional scars of whatever happened to her before she went to the shelter. She is anxious and sometimes aggressive when she sees other dogs on walks, fearing that the streets are a dangerous place. She views certain men with suspicion, especially if they're holding something like a cane. And she is eager for affection, as if she was once starving for love. We are more than happy to share it with her, and she shares it right back with us. And so she is healing, and she is a happy dog.

She was once judged undesirable, but she is not. Now she's where love lives.

This month, the Western Jurisdiction of the United Methodist Church begins a media campaign called 'Where Love Lives.' For the next year, you'll hear messages about what kind of church we aspire to be – a scripturally based and fully inclusive church. A place where the image of God is recognized and valued in each person. A home for all, and especially for those judged by some to be undesirable.

As United Methodists, we know that the scriptures contain all things necessary for salvation. We know that God's amazing grace is a blessing meant for all people. We're called to be a courageous church – loving like Jesus, acting for justice, united in hope. And we know that we are called to be a church where love lives.

I want to be part of that church, and I hope you do too.

Thanks for listening –

Matt

"You may not control all the events that happen to you,
But you can decide not to be reduced by them."
- Maya Angelou

"When we honestly ask ourselves which person in our lives
means the most to us, we often find that it is those who, instead
of giving advice, solutions, or cures, have chosen rather to
share our pain and touch our wounds with a warm and tender
hand."
- Henry Nouwen



“Dining table turned production factory”

By Young Kim

Young spends her time sewing for *Mending Souls*, a local NPO that sews masks, cushions, pillow covers, and other needs for health service providers and charitable causes.

Find out more @ www.lovemendingsouls.org



On Saturday, October 17, I went to Green Valley to Color Me Mine Store to wish my friend, Dottie Poczulp, Happy Birthday. She convinced me to stay and join the "Paint on Canvas" class. We had a wonderful time with the other ladies there. Everyone's painting was so unique.

-Margo Kahler

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, Caribbean 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

Jessie Hansen (Oct 26)
Carol Nelson (Nov 1)

Chuck and Judi Brandt (October 28)

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

SONG FOR **THOUGHT**
"Bless His Holy Name"
Andraé Crouch

by **Lorena Suarez**

Director of Music Ministries on October 24, 2020

Andraé Edward Crouch (1942 - 2015) was born in San Francisco, California. He was a pastor, gospel singer, pianist, songwriter, arranger, and producer. His father was a minister in the Church of God in Christ in California, so Andraé came in contact with gospel music from a very early age. His input in church music is so important that he has come to be known as "the father of modern gospel music". Among many honors, he won seven Grammy Awards and four GMA Dove Awards.

The song *Bless His Holy Name* was published in 1973 by Lexicon Music, Inc. It was included in Crouch's album called *Just Andraé*. The text was inspired on Psalm 103:1, which reads:

Bless the Lord, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name.

The song is divided in two sections: refrain and verse, each one repeated. The genre is gospel and the tempo is Moderately slow. Enjoy!

Lyrics:

Bless the Lord, O my soul,
And all that is within me,
Bless His holy name.

He has done great things,
He has done great things,
He has done great things,

Bless His holy name.

Suggested recording:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_z2JOZ9h8MU

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

Matthew 22:34-46

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 are no strangers to the greatest commandment. Loving God with all that we are, our hearts, our souls, our strength, and our mind has been central to our faith for thousands of years, longer if you are Jewish. To love our neighbors as ourselves is also familiar but can be misleading. We sometimes simply think this to mean 'do unto others as you would have them do unto you,' or the golden rule. However, we do not want to love others with the expectation, the hopes that we would be loved in return. Such forms of love does not reflect Christ's agape love. Indeed, we need to first love ourselves fully, reflected in the way God loves us, so that we can serve and love others without an underlying need for it to be reciprocated. If you find loving yourself difficult, begin as Jesus did, by first loving God with all that you are. You will find that God's love for you will be affirmed.

But this lesson was never about following the law. It was not intended to summarize the entire commandments into just one thing, so that we can follow it blindly. Indeed, more

important than the lesson of the law is the person, Jesus Christ, who embodies the law. We need to embody Christ in the same way as we love God and love our neighbors, as we learn to love ourselves.

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.



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