



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

Pastor Ko (847) 345-8070 pastortucsonfirstumc@gmail.com
Office (520) 622-6481 office@firstchurchtucson.org
Office hours: Monday-Thursday 10AM-2PM

“Carrying the Easter Spirit Forward”

By Pastor Eun Ko

Dear Beloved Church Family,

What a rich and grace-filled season we've shared together!

From the reflective depths of Lent to the radiant joy of Easter morning, our journey has been full of meaning. We celebrated the Confirmation of one of our beloved youth, lifted our voices through the beauty of our Easter Choir Cantata, and most recently, honored our graduates as they prepare to step into a new chapter of life. Each of these moments reminds us that resurrection is not a one-day event—it's a way of living.



Group picture: Pastor Ko participated in the Growing Church Conference from April 21 to 23.

Easter may be behind us on the calendar, but its spirit continues to guide us forward. As we send our students out into the world with blessings, and as we return to the rhythm of life after Lent, I encourage us all to carry that same resurrection hope into our everyday lives. Let us continue to live as Easter people—embracing new beginnings, healing where there is brokenness, and walking together with courage and grace.

(continued next page)

Carrying the Easter Spirit Forward cont.

I'm also personally thankful for the time I had to attend the Growing Church Conference. It was a time of learning and growth, sharing stories and wisdom with pastors from many places, and being reminded once again that the Church—when rooted in love and open to the Spirit—can indeed grow in depth, in number, and in impact.

“See, I am making all things new.” – Revelation 21:5 (NRSV)

“보라, 내가 만물을 새롭게 하노라.” – 요한계시록 21:5

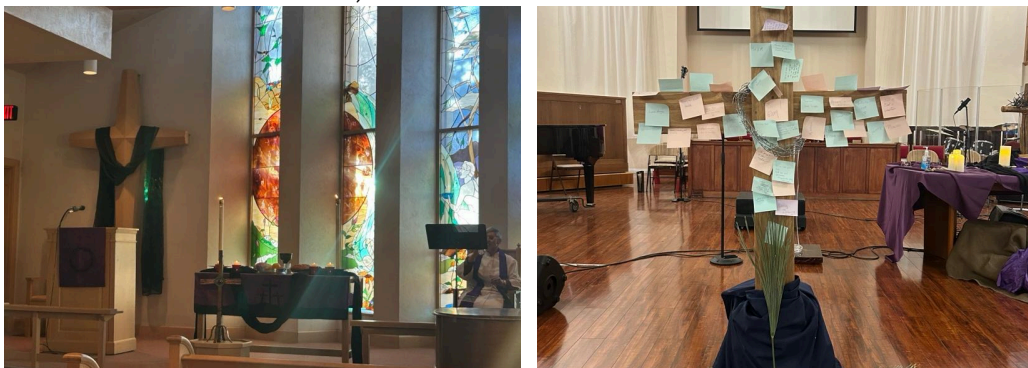
May we continue our journey with fresh eyes, open hearts, and renewed spirits. The road doesn't end at the empty tomb—it begins again, with every step we take in Christ's name.

In gratitude and grace,

Pastor Eun Young Ko

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT FIRST CHURCH OF TUCSON IN APRIL & MAY!

Below left: Maundy Thursday altar decoration at Catalina UMC. Below right: Good Friday cross with prayer notes at FUMC of Tucson)



Below: On Good Friday, a joint choir (FUMC of Tucson & Catalina UMC) had a rehearsal, then praised the Lord during the Good Friday Service at FUMC of Tucson, April 18, 2025.



(continued next page)

Below: A Day of Renewal and Fellowship was held at St. Francis in the Hills UMC on April 12. We had a wonderful time building relationships and growing closer to one another as a faith community.



Below: The life of our beloved sister in faith, Marjorie Task was celebrated on April 5 at 11 AM at FUMC of Tucson. We will miss her dearly. We send our heartfelt condolences and comforting prayers to her husband, Lee Task.



(continued next page)

EASTER CELEBRATION

~ Sunrise Service, Easter Brunch, Confirmation Sunday, Choir Cantata ~

Below, first row: A Sunrise Service was held on Easter at 7:30 AM in the courtyard. Easter brunch was served following the service.



Above left: Easter Brunch table. Above center and right: Halla Kang, daughter of Pastor Ko, completed her Confirmation class and celebrated it on Easter Sunday. What a beautiful sign of growing in faith! Below, left to right: Ntsumi Machiana's grandmother Leonor returned to Zimbabwe; Bill Snyder returned to his hometown for the summer; and Andrew, Christiana Ageh's husband, worshiped with us on Easter.



(continued next page)

Below: The Easter Cantata was amazing, led by our music director, Youngeun Kim. First row, center: The narrators, Don Rollings and V. Carole Smith. Second row, right: The guest musician playing the trumpet is Katherine Shindledecker. Other guest musicians were Jing Zhao on the flute and Sudam Song on the keyboard, simulating handbells.



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATES!

Below left: Halla Kang, entering high school at BASIS Oro Valley. Center: Sudam Song, graduating from the University of Arizona with a Bachelor of Science in Pharmaceutical Sciences. Right: Luci Adams, graduating from the University of Arizona, majoring in Criminal Justice and Public Affairs.



(continued next page)

Below left: Landry Moore, graduating from the University of Arizona, majoring in Animal Science with a minor in Veterinary Science. Right: Minhyeok Kim, graduating from the University of Arizona with a Bachelor of Science in Pharmaceutical Sciences.



A Second Inspirational Passage to Share with You

By Pastor Raven Gaston

Each Thursday for several months, a few of us have been meeting online to do a Book Study. The current book is “The Great Spiritual Migration” by Brian D. McLaren. I was moved to copy and send to you this inspiring paragraph from Chapter 6:

Through his life and teachings, in his compassionate interactions with individuals and groups, in his profound non-violence even to the point of enduring a violent death, Jesus reveals a generous God, a God in profound solidarity with all creation, a God whose power is manifest in gentleness, kindness and love. Through his promise that he would rise and be present in and with us, he invites us to experience God as the holy and creative Spirit of justice, joy, and peace, moving through all creation, at work in all human history, present in our personal experience.

Learn More About Daniel Varas, the GBGM Missionary We Support!

Daniel Humberto Contreras Varas is a Global Missionary with the United Methodist General Board of Global Ministries (GBGM). We are supporting his mission with \$100 per month for the next three years (January 2025 through December 2027).

You can find a bulletin, “The Hope,” on the narthex table with Daniel’s interviews and updates if you’d like to learn a little more about him and his experiences.



THIS WEEK'S
ANNOUNCEMENTS & GATHERINGS

10AM SUNDAY SERVICE

Join us in person for our English-language service! Or you can watch it live online at <https://www.youtube.com/c/TucsonFirstUMC>.

한국어 사역

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

WEEKDAY GATHERINGS

Wanderers on a Spiritual Quest (WSQ)

-WSQ meets on Mondays at 4:30PM in the library.

Narcotics Anonymous (Underground)

-NA meets at 7:30PM on Monday evenings in the Arizona room.
-Once a month, Medallion Night is held in the Social Hall.

All God's Creation (AGC)

-AGC meets on Tuesdays at 3PM over Zoom.

[Zoom ID: 994 3610 1655](#) [Passcode: 6226481](#)

Chancel Choir

-Practice on Thursdays at 6:30PM in the Sanctuary.
-A shorter rehearsal on Sundays at 8:50AM.

Progressive Book Study (PBS)

-PBS meets on Thursdays at 3:30PM over Zoom. The current book is "Wrestling with Doubt," by Adam Hamilton.

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

[Zoom ID: 980 1573 8087](#) [Passcode: 6226481](#)

Whose Recipe Is This?

(Hint: It's from one of our church members who loves cats. Find the answer at the end of the Digest.)

EASY MACARONI & CHEESE

Ingredients

1½ cups elbow macaroni, uncooked
2 cups cheddar cheese, shredded

1 can cheddar cheese soup
1¾ cups milk
1 cup crushed potato chips (optional)

Directions

Mix all ingredients together, except the potato chips, in a greased 2 quart casserole. Cover and refrigerate 4-24 hours.
Preheat oven to 350°. Give macaroni mix a good stir, then sprinkle with crushed potato chips. Cover and bake for one hour. Uncover and bake an additional 20 minutes.

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.

* * *

PRAYERS FOR OUR COMMUNITY

We offer our prayers for those in our community who are suffering, who are physically, mentally, & emotionally unwell, and for those caring for them.



We offer our prayers for these sister faith communities:

Grace UMC, Douglas
Huachuca UMC, Huachuca
Menlo Park UMC, Tucson

If you have a prayer request you would like to share in the Digest, please contact the church office at office@firstchurchtucson.org or (520) 622-6481.

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Rev. Dr. Eun Young Ko (May 9)
Minsuh (Mike) Choi (May 10)
Dohoon Kim (May 14)

Young Kim (May 15)
Joyce Garcia (May 26)

Lana Yoo (May 27)
Andrew Ageh (May 29)
Sam Haney (May 29)

Ozzie & Carol Nelson (May 2 - 47 years)
Jim & Ann Goff (May 21 - 44 years)

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

May 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 **Friday the 9th at 11:30 AM** at the Olive Garden on the northeast corner of Oracle/Wetmore ([300 W Wetmore Rd, Tucson, AZ 85705](http://www.google.com/maps/place/300+W+Wetmore+Rd,+Tucson,+AZ+85705)).

If you're interested in coming, please notify the church office or Shirley Murray at (520) 297-4796 by Wednesday so she can reserve enough seating at the restaurant.

Animal & Environmental Holidays for May 2025

By Diane & Victoria Russell



May - Gardening for Wildlife Month

This month is to celebrate your local flora and fauna. Create a space where animals, birds, bees, butterflies, and other creatures feel welcomed. Your garden can provide hundreds of ecosystems. Gardening for wildlife can not only help local wildlife survive but thrive in a safe space.



May - Wildfire Awareness Month

Wildfire awareness is crucial in Arizona at any time due to its arid climate and presence of dry vegetation, which can be easily ignited. As Smokey the Bear says "Only You Can Prevent Wildfires." Remember to Get Ready, become fire wise, and prepare your home by removing flammable vegetation.



May - Be Kind to Animals Month

Be Kind to Animals Month is to show compassion to all creatures great or small. Ways to be kind to animals include: never intentionally hurting an animal, buying cruelty-free products with a

bunny logo, buying humanely raised products, speaking up for those that have no voice, and donating to worthy causes.



May 9 - Fintastic Friday: Giving Sharks a Voice

This day was created by Whale Times Org. in 2015 to help raise awareness and conservation efforts of all Sharks, Skates, and Rays (Elasmobranchs). They believe children will lead future conservation efforts by inspiring them to pursue careers in marine science to help protect our ocean's environment.



May 10 - World Binturong Day

Created in 2015 by the ABCConservation to raise awareness and support for the conservation efforts of this unique mammal. They are native to the tropical forests of South and Southeast Asia. They are often called "bearcats," but they are not considered to be a bear or a cat.



May 12 - Mother's Day

Mothers can come in all shapes and sizes. This day is to honor all mothers who share the bonds

of motherhood whether they are human or animal. All mothers share a special bond with their babies. Happy Mother's Day to our human, fur, feather, scale, or fin mothers/parents.



May 16 - National Endangered Species Day

Celebrating the 20th Anniversary of the National Endangered Species Day. It is a day to raise awareness about the plight of endangered species and to also celebrate conservation success stories. According to the IUCN Red List, there are more than 44,000 species of flora and fauna that are at risk of extinction.



May 19 - Plant Something Day

Created in 2012 by the National Initiative for Consumer Horticulture (NICH) to encourage people to appreciate the wonderful world of plants by planting something. There are over

350,00 known plant species on earth to choose from to make your choice unique.



May 22 - Int'l Day for Biological Diversity

Created by the United Nations to raise awareness and understanding of biodiversity issues. The 2025 theme is "Harmony with nature and sustainable development". This day is dedicated to making sure that all creatures and ecosystems on Earth not only survive but will thrive.



May 28 - Whooping Crane Day

Celebrate the endangered whooping crane - the rarest of all the crane species. According to the Crane Trust in 2025, there are over 800 whooping cranes in the world. Their population has been increasing due to conservation efforts which include captive breeding and reintroduction programs.



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/disability, gender identity, and sexual orientation. We continue to work towards building a loving and faithful community in Tucson, and welcome all of you to be part of it.

Whose Recipe Is This? Answer: Margo Kahler