

THE DESERT DISCIPLE

Volume 68 Issue 2

First Christian Church - Tucson, AZ

(520) 624-8695

February 1, 2017

BURSTS OF LIFE



Bursts of Life sermon series continues in February as we hear Jesus' teachings from the Sermon on the Mount.

February 5 – Matthew 5:13-20

February 12 – Matthew 5:21-37

February 19 – Matthew 5:38-48

Wild Dogs

Wild Dogs Food Cart will be on site **Sunday, February 5th following worship**. Wild Dogs has been with us on a couple of occasions, including the Epic Fun Fest last Fall. They will donate a portion of their earnings to First Christian.



FCC Outing: UA Women's Basketball Game!



Join FCC members and friends for a fun afternoon at the U of A Women's Basketball Game on Sunday Feb 26 at 2:00pm. Please RSVP by February 12, so we can buy tickets ahead of time. Parking in the Cherry Street Garage is free on Sunday. Tickets will be \$5-\$10. Please contact Barbara Marshall for more information. Bear Down!

Week of Compassion: February 19-26

Join us on **Sunday, February 26th** as we wrap up the Week of Compassion (WoC) with a special Luncheon following worship! FCC will provide the meat and you are invited to bring a side or dessert to share. It's a great time for church fellowship and opportunity to support the Week of Compassion!



Dear Church,

It is a common, perhaps daily, experience for many of us, as we live in our technology driven age: a pin drops on a GPS map, marking a current location or indicating a destination, orienting us in space. These map pins represent where we are and where we hope to go.

The scriptures for the special offering this year (Matthew 25:35-40) provide a similar point of reference, an orientation for our lives-- God is near; love one another in truth and action; feed those who are hungry, clothe those who are naked, welcome those who are strangers. These texts help us position ourselves in relation to God and to one another by reminding us of our call to be here for one another, loving one another as God has loved us. Our destination, where our map pin sits, is near to the heart of God, is alongside our neighbors who are suffering. This offering season, our theme is "You are here."

By this simple statement, we glorify God's faithful presence, affirm that Christ is uniquely present in those whom we serve, and celebrate how you are here for your neighbors in their times of need. For



Sunday Worship
10:30am

Church School
9:00am

Church Office
(520) 624-8695

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over seven decades, Week of Compassion has been able to be present for people near and far in moments of crisis because of your partnership and generosity. We have been present, so you also have been present.

You are here—in Rowlett, TX, where tornado survivors have been able to return to their homes, because volunteer teams were present to help rebuild and repair houses.

You are here—in Tanzania, where lower income women are taking proactive steps for their reproductive health with screenings and treatment for cervical cancer provided by our partners.

You are here—in Morocco, Jordan, Serbia, the United States, and elsewhere around the world, where refugees are receiving food, water, and medicine with dignity, as our partners offer aid and accompaniment.

Often we receive notes from those who have experienced disasters, expressing thanks because “Week of Compassion was here.” In times of loss or struggle, after a fire or flood, when a child is unable to attend school because she has to search for clean water, or when a mother has fled home to keep her children safe, the church is present through the work of Week of Compassion. Through your gifts, you are here.

In grateful partnership, we offer again our thanks and rejoice in the good work of the gospel. As we continue to walk in mutuality, seeking wholeness and healing for all, let us be strengthened by the Spirit of God, here with us

Grace and Peace, Your Week of Compassion Staff,
Rev. Vy Nguyen, Executive Director;
Rev. Caroline Hamilton-Arnold, Associate Director;
Rev. David Owen, Director of Fund Development



Pastor’s Note



I recently had a conversation with a dear friend who was going through some challenging situations. It was difficult and heartbreaking to hear all she was facing. I mostly listened as I tried to offer some encouragement and a sense that she was not alone—that she could feel free to express her anger, cry, vent, or sit in silence. As we ended the conversation, she closed with a positive outlook and saying that the hymn “How Can I Keep from Singing” kept going through her mind and had been a great help. Ever since, this hauntingly beautiful song has been playing in my internal soundtrack as well. I share it with you today. In days filled with challenge and uncertainty, may it give encouragement to those in need of it, strength to those who lack it, and courage to all of us called to walk alongside friends, family members, neighbors, and strangers who are struggling, suffering, or living in fear. May it inspire us to always be light in the world as we live in the ways of God’s Reign that bring love, healing, and wholeness to all.

My life flows on in endless song;
above earth’s lamentation,
I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn
that hails a new creation.

Refrain:
No storm can shake my inmost calm
while to that Rock I’m clinging.
Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth,
how can I keep from singing?

2 Through all the tumult and the strife,
I hear that music ringing.
It finds an echo in my soul.
How can I keep from singing? [Refrain]

3 What though my joys and comforts die?
I know my Savior liveth.
What though the darkness gather round?
Songs in the night he giveth. [Refrain]

4 The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart,
a fountain ever springing!
All things are mine since I am his!
How can I keep from singing? [Refrain]

Staying Connected...

Mind Wholeness Ministries – Spiritual Support Group



Seeking wholeness in our fragmented world, First Christian continues our mental health ministry. Mind Wholeness Ministries Spiritual Support Group is for individuals and families facing mental health challenges, because you are not alone. The group meets the **1st and 3rd Monday of each month at 6:00 p.m. in the parlor.** Please share this opportunity with family and friends. Please also continue praying for the group facilitator, Mary Alice Do, as she leads us in this ministry to **Serve the World.**

Thursday Small Group Bible Study

All are welcome to attend the Thursday small group. Currently the group is focusing on spiritual formation using *A Spiritual Formation Workbook* by James Bryan Smith. You do not need the book to attend. If you would like to participate and need childcare, please contact the church office so that arrangements can be made.

Disciples Women's Ministries



Sister Anita from the Benedictine Convent will lead DWM in a time of contemplative prayer at our meeting on February 14 at Noon. All are welcome to come and experience this meaningful way of praying. Bring a bag lunch to share at 11:30am before our time with Sister Anita.

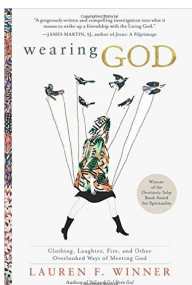
Tuesday Prayer in Chapel



The chapel continues to be open every Tuesday at 11:00am-Noon for members of the community and our congregation to pray. You are invited to come for 5 minutes, 20 minutes, or the whole hour. Enjoy a moment of silence in the midst of a busy world.

Sunday Evening Book Study

Meets each Sunday at 4:00pm in the parlor.



Sunday, February 5 — Complete the study of *In the Sanctuary of Women*

Sunday, February 12— Begin study on *Wearing God: Clothing, Laughter, Fire, and Other Overlooked Ways of Meeting God* by Lauren Winner

Staff Spotlight: Sean Gale



We have been featuring the work of our excellent staff for several months now in our newsletter. This month we spotlight our Guitar Accompanist, Sean Gale.

We have been blessed for the past four years to have Sean Gale as part of our music ensemble that accompanies us during worship. In his quiet, easy-going way, Sean adds a new dimension to music during worship whether he is playing the acoustical guitar, French horn or electric guitar. He works with Music Director David Gale in developing arrangements of traditional and non-traditional hymn tunes. He also shares his own jazz and classical arrangements and compositions. He sings tenor in the choir, too! Sean is a senior at the University of Arizona where he is majoring in music, specializing in jazz studies, and is completing a degree in music education. As part of his studies, he plays with the UA Jazz Ensemble. He is kept quite busy with his school work and church accompaniment responsibilities, but he also finds time to teach at a private school and play in various bands around town. We have been so fortunate to have Sean share his many talents that enrich our worship experience. Please thank him for his many contributions to our congregation, and listen carefully to what he is playing—it might be your favorite song!

PaperWorks art workshops

First Christian Church will continue to host art workshops by PaperWorks in 2017. The first workshop of 2017 will be February 9-11. The group will be in Fellowship Hall Thursday, 2pm - 6pm, Friday & Saturday, 9am - 5pm.

BorderLinks Group from Boston College

FCC will be hosting the second group from BorderLinks, February 23 & 24. This group is from Sinclair Community College in Dayton, OH.

Looking Ahead to March...



Ash Wednesday, March 1:

Ashes to Go: We will offer ashes in the parking lot and bus stop throughout the day. Helpers are needed. Please consider and pray about participating in this ministry to our community.

Ash Wednesday Service: In the evening we will gather for a special service to begin the Lenten season together.

Lenten Dinner Series: First Christian will join with Desert Dove Christian Church, Church of the Good Shepherd United Church of Christ, and Church of the Painted Hills United Church of Christ for a four-week series (Tuesdays March 14, 21, 28 & April 4). Each week we will meet at one of the churches for dinner and be lead in reflection and conversation.



Chi Rho & CYF Retreat: First Christian Church will be the host church for this retreat March 4 & 5. Youth registration forms are due to FCC Church Office by February 20th.

Raising Up New Leaders



In January we installed and blessed those who have committed to lead our congregation this year. We are grateful for each one, but also know that the ministries of our church move forward only when all who gather for worship, spiritual formation, and fellowship work together in love. If you ever have thoughts or ideas related to an area of ministry, you are encouraged to share those with the ministry leader of that area. We hope you keep in mind, however, that Sunday mornings as we gather and celebrate in worship may not be the best time for these important conversation. Please consider contacting leaders at a different time or through phone calls or email messages. Leaders are listed below and will also be listed in the new directory coming out soon.

Co-Moderators:

Paul DeArman
Susan Harris

Treasurer/

Financial Secretary:
Debbie Stadle

Secretary:

Kelly Strachan

Historian:

Ann Nichols

Elder Chair:

Ann Nichols

Deacon Chair:

Kelly Strachan

Ministry Team Leaders:

Education:

Ann Nichols

Membership/Evangelism:

Barbara Marshall

Property:

Marco González

Outreach:

Susan Harris

Stewardship:

Colin Green

Worship:

Lori Bryant

Elders (Class of 2019):

Claudia Ellquist, Ann Nichols, Janis Sherick

Deacons (Class of 2019):

Lori Gale, Colin Green, Nancy Green, Deb Munhall

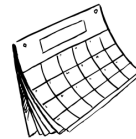
Trustees (Class of 2019):

Janis Sherick, Dr. Rudy Byrd (c/o 2017)



“News from the Pews”

- ♥ Prayers for Matt DeFer, the N.A. Groups that meet in our church, and others struggling with addiction.
- ♥ Prayers for The Mind Wholeness Ministries
- ♥ Prayers for people with mental health challenges and their families.
- ♥ Continued prayers for: Peggy Brady, Lily Foster, Grace Judson, Bea Kimberlin, Ron & Patti Lemke, and Jody Vanderkolk.



February: At a Glance

Elders Meeting – Thursday, February 2 at 6:00pm

Primavera Meal – Friday, February 3 at 6:00pm
(Contact Sharon Sorensen if you’d like to help!)

Mind Wholeness Spiritual Support Group—1st & 3rd
Mondays at 6:00pm (2/6 & 2/20)

Board Meeting — Tuesday, 7 at 6:30pm (Both old & new leaders invited to attend)

DWM Lunch & Learning — Tuesday, February 14 at 11:30am (lunch) and 12:00pm (Sister Anita)

Worship Team Meeting—Thursday, Feb. 16 at 6pm

Week of Compassion Lunch—Sunday, February 26 after worship

FCC Outing: UA Women’s Basketball Game—Sunday, February 26 at 2:00pm. RSVP to Barbara Marshall

Prayer Time in the Chapel – Tuesdays at 11:00am

Small Group Bible Study – Thursdays at 11:00am

Book Study – Sundays at 4:00pm in the parlor

Seek * Love * Serve
SEEK GOD, LOVE LIKE JESUS, SERVE THE WORLD



Sunday Schedule

9:00 am	Adult Education—Parlor*
9:00 am	Children/Youth Education—Room 107 & 110 *
9:00 am	St. Michael's ECC - Chapel
9:45 am	Children's Music *
10:30 am	Morning Worship - Sanctuary *
4:00 pm	Book Study *

Praying For Our Missionaries!



Please be in prayer for our missionaries serving through Global Ministries.

During the week of...

February 5: Stewart Barker, Swaziland

February 12: Cara McKinney, Ecuador

February 19: Toni Reynolds, Dominican Republic

February 26: Kristin Wolf, Thailand

For more information regarding our missionaries, overseas partners, or how you can make a difference, visit: www.globalministries.org



VISIT OUR WEBSITE:



firstchristianchurchtucson.org

CALL OUR OFFICE: (520) 624-8695

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Articles for the January *Desert Disciple* should be received in the office no later than **Friday, February 17th.**

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