

# THE DESERT DISCIPLE

Volume 68 Issue 3

First Christian Church - Tucson, AZ

(520) 624-8695

March 1, 2017

## *Ash Wednesday is March 1*

### **Ashes to Go: 7am-7pm**



On Ash Wednesday, **March 1**, members of First Christian Church will have the opportunity to offer sacred space beyond the wall of our church with Ashes to Go. We will offer ashes on the corner of Euclid and Speedway, by the bus stop and in our parking lot. **You are invited to take part, whether you are available for 30 minutes, 2 hours or longer! If you are interested in participating or have additional questions, please contact Pastor Ailsa or Lori Bryant.**



Last year we offered ashes to over 180 people as they stopped by our parking lot and the bus stop by our building. We encountered a variety of people. Some people had not been to church in years, but found comfort in the ancient faith practice. Some were active members of churches, but would not be able to make it to an Ash Wednesday service. They were grateful for the opportunity to receive ashes in the midst of a busy schedule. Others talked about their struggle with faith, organized religion, and finding a community in which they felt they could engage in that struggle. Ashes to Go was an unintimidating way to connect with their faith after so many years away from the church.



Through Ashes to Go, we affirm God's presence in the everyday business of our lives and that of our neighbors, even in the midst of our humanity, fragility, and need for grace, repentance and forgiveness. Our hope and prayer is to create a space that invites those passing by into a time of prayer, pause, and blessing.

### **Ash Wednesday Service: 7pm**

We will mark the beginning of the Lenten season with our annual intergenerational Ash Wednesday service at 7pm in the chapel/patio area. Come for a time of reflection, prayer, and preparation. All are welcome.



**Sunday Worship  
10:30am**

**Church School  
9:00am**

**Church Office  
(520) 624-8695**

**Pastor**  
Rev. Ailsa Guardiola González  
fccailsa@gmail.com

**Co - Moderators**  
Paul DeArman  
Susan Harris

**Office Manager**  
Jenna Hosler  
TucsonFCC@gmail.com

**The Desert Disciple  
(USPS 154-880)  
March 1, 2017**  
Published monthly by  
FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
740 E. Speedway  
Tucson, AZ 85719  
Periodicals Postage Paid  
at Tucson, Arizona  
**POSTMASTER**  
Send Address Changes To  
The Desert Disciple  
c/o First Christian Church  
740 E. Speedway  
Tucson, AZ 85719

## Wild Dogs at FCC March 5



Wild Dogs Food Cart will be on site **Sunday, March 5<sup>th</sup> following worship.** Wild Dogs has been with us on a couple of occasions, including the Epic Fun Fest last Fall. They will continue to set up at FCC on the first Sunday of each month. Wild Dogs will also donate a portion of their earnings to First Christian.

## FCC Outing & Family Activity

### March 12

Let's go to the Zoo! Youth & children (and all those young at heart) are invited to the zoo on **Sunday, March 12** at the **Reid Park Zoo.** We'll have lunch at church in the fellowship hall after worship and then head out to the zoo to explore all the animal exhibits. This is a great opportunity to enjoy each other's company and the fabulous outdoors. Contact Barbara Marshall or Nancy Green for more information.

## Staff Spotlight: Pastor Ailsa



We have been featuring the work of our excellent staff for several months now in our newsletter. This month we spotlight our Pastor, Rev. Ailsa Guardiola González

In February we celebrated Pastor Ailsa's fourth anniversary of being our minister at First Christian Church, Tucson. We are thankful for the many gifts and talents she brings to this ministry. She continues to support and inspire us in her quiet, loving and persistent way. In worship, she challenges us to think about scripture and experience God in new ways. She encourages us to take risks as we explore together what our mission is as a congregation in this time and place at FCC, in order that we might live in faith as we seek to follow the way of Jesus.

Pastor Ailsa is skilled in helping us discern what it means to be church in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Child and Family Development from the University of Georgia and went on to Duke Divinity School where she received her Master of Divinity. She served as an Associate Pastor at the First Christian Church in Wilmington for seven years where her work focused on spiritual formation for children, youth and adults and outreach. Ailsa also served with Global Ministries as a missionary in Honduras and El Salvador where she met her husband Marco. When she came to Tucson, she shared those experiences which led to the El Salvador Mission Trip in November 2015.

Pastor Ailsa continues to be involved with Disciples Regional and National leadership projects such as the Regional Mission Focus team and Congregational Vitality team, the XPLOR program, and serving on the Disciples Seminary Foundation Board. She also participates in local mission and ecumenical programs with shared leadership among other area ministers. And she pursues training to enhance her ministry. One of her strengths is how she works collaboratively to build partnerships with staff, within our congregation and with others in our community so that we can work together. She is able to listen and respond compassionately while encouraging us to use our spiritual gifts to build bridges instead of divisions. We give thanks for Pastor Ailsa, her husband Marco and daughter Krysia and look forward to what our future will be as we strive to "Seek God, Love like Jesus and Serve the World."

## Celebrating the Life of Marilyn Symons on March 12

Please join family and friends of Marilyn Symons in celebrating her life during a memorial service on Sunday, March 12 at Noon in the patio. Reception to follow.

## Congregational Meeting

### March 19

Please stay after worship for a meal & the Congregational Meeting.

## Senior Play Date March 21



Mark your calendars for Thursday, March 21 at 9:30am. We'll meet at FCC and carpool to Patagonia to visit Paton Center for Hummingbirds. Contact

Barbara Marshall for more information.

# All About Lent!

## Lenten Dinner Series:

First Christian will join three other Disciples of Christ and United Church of Christ congregations for a dinner series four Tuesdays of Lent at 6:30pm. Each week we will meet at one of the churches for dinner and be led in reflection and conversation. **We will host the first meal of the series on March 14. Please bring a family favorite dish to share as close to 6:15pm as possible, so we can be ready for our guests.**



**Dinner begins at 6:30pm each evening.**

### - March 14 at First Christian Church

Rev. Randy Mayer, pastor of Church of the Good Shepherd UCC, speaking

### - March 21 at Church of the Painted Hills UCC

Pastor Ailsa speaking

### - March 28 at Desert Dove Christian Church

Rev. Teresa Cowan Jones, Interim Pastor of Church of the Painted Hills, speaking

### - April 4 at The Good Shepherd UCC

Rev. Pedro Ramos Goycolea, pastor of Desert Dove, speaking



## Lenten Sermon Series: “Making Room for God”

Our Lenten series “Making Room for God” begins Sunday, March 5. Lent is a time for reflection, discerning God’s call, and renewal. But how do we experience connection with God as we run from one commitment to another? How do we experience renewal or discern God’s vision for us in the midst of so many potential distractions? This Lent join we will explore pathways for creating space to listen for, experience, and see God’s presence and vision for us.



**March 5:** Finding our Place, Psalm 46 & Matthew 4:1-11

**March 12:** A Little Elbow Room, Colossians 3:12-17 & Acts 11:1-18

**March 19:** Dreams, Jeremiah 29:1-14

**March 26:** God’s Work, Cathy Nichols, guest preacher

**April 2:** Life Gifts, Exodus 1:8-2:10 & Romans 12:1-13

**April 9:** Fork in the Road, Psalm 26 & Matthew 21:1-11

# Ongoing Groups

## Mind Wholeness Ministries – Spiritual Support Group



First Christian is a model for churches on how to be welcoming and supportive of people and families affected by mental health challenges. You have done more than make a statement that you are welcoming and supportive. The church celebrates Mental Health Sundays, church leaders have shared their experience with mental health challenges, Ailsa speaks about mental health in her sermons, and prayers are lifted up every week. You have not only broken the silence around mental health issues, but also have affirmed people affected as elders and deacons. You are a model for other churches.

I have been working with a team of people who give me support, guidance and advice. This group includes: Ailsa Guardiola González, Lori Bryant, Ann Nichols, Rudy Byrd, Susan Harris, Nancy DeArman, and Paul DeArman. I appreciate their wisdom and experience and others like Shirley Gale who are available to help as well.

We have a Spiritual Support Group for people and family affected by mental health challenges meeting twice a month on Monday evenings, and between 5 to 11 people have been attending. Because I am now retired and will be able to focus more energy into the ministry, we are adding two more group times. The following Spiritual Support Groups will meet in March in the Parlor:

1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays 6:00 – 7:30 PM  
2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays 3:00 – 4:30 PM

Also, in late March, Susan Harris and I will be going to a National Benevolent Association retreat at Picture Rocks to learn how to best do this ministry.

We will be looking at more ways to expand this ministry. If you have any ideas, please let me know. Thank you all for your support and prayers! -Rev. Mary Alice Do

## Disciples Women's Ministries \*Note Date Change!



In March, DWM will meet on the **fourth** Tuesday, **March 28** (Note change in date, please!) Cathy Nichols will speak with us about her recent trip to the Holy Land. Everyone is welcome, men as well as women. Ann will serve salads, fruit and bread for a light lunch, so please join us at 11:30 for this event.

In April, we will continue to meet on the second Tuesday of the month, April 11. Watch for more information in the April DD.

## 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.

## 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.

## Sunday Book Study Group

The Book Group will continue discussing *Wearing God: Clothing, Laughter, Fire, and Other Overlooked Ways of Meeting God* by Lauren Winner through the end of March and will begin a new book in April, title to be determined. Join us each Sunday in the Parlor at 4:00pm.



## Groups Using FCC Building:

### Chi Rho/CYF Spring Retreat

The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Arizona Region will hold the Chi Rho/CYF Spring Retreat at First Christian Church March 4-5. About 25 youth will spend their weekend discussing themes and relating them to current events in their life and their communities. Not only will FCC be providing the building as a place for the retreat, we are also providing our Cum Panis Ministry Team who will cook and serve the meals to the students. It's a great way to Serve the World!

### PaperWorks art workshops

FCC will continue to host art workshops by PaperWorks in 2017. The next workshop of 2017 will be March 9-11. The group will be in Fellowship Hall Thursday, 2pm - 7pm, Friday & Saturday, 9am - 5pm.

### BorderLinks Group

First Christian continues the partnership with BorderLinks to help house groups for whom they are unable to provide accommodations. In March, FCC will host 2 groups. The first will be March 5-11, and the second will be March 12-18.

### XPLOR Host Team Orientation

The XPLOR Host team will host an orientation for the 2017-2018 team at FCC on Friday, March 17 6-9pm, and Saturday, March 18, 8am-12pm.

## Community Event:

**Social Justice through Music Concert**  
**Saturday, March 4 at 7:00pm**  
**St. Mark's Presbyterian Church**

This 2nd-annual choir festival will feature the renowned choral musician Steven Zielke returning to Arizona as guest conductor. This collaborative event will respond to the pressing social justice issues of our time and brings together a network of choral singers, music directors, religious leaders and community members. Participants will represent church choirs and community ensembles that share a passion for social justice and the transformative power of choral music.

Repertoire and discussions will include topics of peace, race relations, LGBT issues, religious tolerance, gender equity, and finding common ground with those of differing viewpoints.

Please consider singing in the festival choir or attending this unique and important concert event!

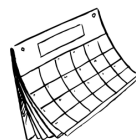
Rehearsals – 9:00-12:00, 3:30-5:00;  
 Catered dinner for participants – 5:00;  
 Festival Concert – 7:00

For more information: For more information or to register for the festival, please contact Mike Scionti, 520.395.6551 or [celticchoir@gmail.com](mailto:celticchoir@gmail.com).



## *“News from the Pews”*

- ♥ Welcome to associate members, Richard & Violet Bierce! The Bierce's are members of Springfield Christian Church in Springfield, Virginia where they live and are spending increasingly more time in Tucson. We are so glad to be your Tucson church family!
- ♥ **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.



## March: At a Glance

**Ashes to Go** – Wednesday, March 1, 7am-7pm

**Ash Wednesday Service** – Wed., March 1 at 7:00pm

**Elders Meeting** – Thursday, March 2 at 6:00pm

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

**Dinner Group** – Saturday, March 4 at 6:00pm

**ChiRho/CYF Spring Retreat**—Sat. & Sun., March 4-5

**Worship Leader Training** – Sun., March 5 after worship

**Wild Dogs** —Sunday, March 5 after worship

**Mind Wholeness Spiritual Support Group**—1st & 3rd Mondays at 6:00pm (3/6 & 3/20) and 2nd & 4th Wednesdays at 3:00pm (3/8 & 3/22)

**Children/Youth Activity**—Sun., March 12 after worship

**Marilyn Symons Memorial Service**—Sun., March 12 following worship

**Board Meeting** — Wed., March 15 at 6:30pm

**Congregational Meeting**—Sun., March 19 after worship

**DWM Lunch & Learning** — Tuesday, March 28 at 11:30am (Cathy Nichols)

**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



# 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...

**March 5:** Don Westra, Honduras

**March 12:** Kahala Cannon, South Korea

**March 19:** Teresa Henry, India

**March 26:** Monica Liddle, East Timor



VISIT OUR WEBSITE:



[firstchristianchurchtucson.org](http://firstchristianchurchtucson.org)

CALL OUR OFFICE: (520) 624-8695

## NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Articles for the April *Desert Disciple* should be received in the office no later than **Monday, March 20.**

For more information regarding our missionaries, overseas partners, or how you can make a difference, visit: [www.globalministries.org](http://www.globalministries.org)

Periodicals  
Postage  
PAID at  
Tucson, AZ

**The Desert Disciple**  
First Christian Church  
740 East Speedway  
Tucson, AZ 85719