

THE DESERT DISCIPLE

Volume 68 Issue 4

First Christian Church - Tucson, AZ

(520) 624-8695

April 1, 2017

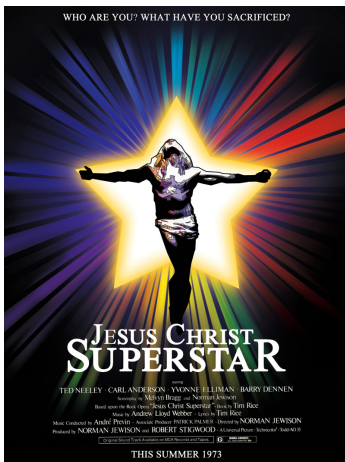
Holy Week & Easter at FCC

Invite a friend to experience the stories of Holy Week through our worship opportunities:

Palm Sunday, April 9, 10:30am: Join our processional with palms and singing! We will gather in the patio and enter the sanctuary together as we remember Jesus' entry into Jerusalem.

Maundy Thursday Meal & Service, April 13, 6:30pm: Witness the story of Jesus' last supper and the events that follow through our intergenerational meal and service in the chapel.

Easter Sunday Service, April 16, 10:30am: Celebrate the promise of New Life! Easter egg hunt for children and appetizers for all, following worship.



Jesus Christ Superstar & Sandwich Bar on Sunday, April 2

Enjoy an indoor picnic and the world-renowned musical, Jesus Christ Superstar, on Sunday, April 2 following worship. Lunch will be a potluck sandwich bar. We will eat and watch the show in the fellowship hall. Chairs will be set up for viewing and you are also invited to bring blankets to put on the floor.



Easter Open House - April 15

First Christian friends and members are invited to an open house at the home of Pastor Ailsa, Marco, and Krysia González, 4:00pm-7:00pm on Saturday, April 15.



**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

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Pastor's Note

This month we end our journey through Lent. As we do so, we accompany Jesus to Jerusalem, stand with the crowds, and share a meal. We make our way to the cross and death where the Ways of God's Reign clash with all that stands against it—where we wait...

in silence...in stillness...

until...

the gift of new life comes to rush over us once again.

Holy Spirit take us down the road. Show us what we have refused to see. Speak what we need to hear. Touch us where we need courage. Lead us in the way.

Special Easter Offering

Your gift to the Easter Offering helps bring life, love, and learning at the local level through the General Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Ministries that receive funding from the Easter Offering to which First Christian has recently had connections include:

National Benevolent Association (NBA): NBA runs the XPLO program for young adults and provides resourcing for ministries like FCC's Mind Wholeness Ministries, which recently received a grant and training. www.nbacares.org.

Disciples Church Extension Fund: The travel and work of the consultant guiding our building assessment is possible at no cost to us thanks to gifts to the Easter Offering.

Center for Faith and Giving: Resources from the center are helping us better understand how our dollars transform into ministry. This year we hope to show this in a new & improved presentation of our budget.

Global Ministries: In the last year we have had four missionaries/Global Mission Interns share with us their work in India and the Dominican Republic. In addition, our church mission trip to El Salvador was through a Global Ministries partner there. Gifts to the Easter offering enable missionaries and other volunteers to serve and work alongside partners and touch people's lives all around the world. www.globalministries.org

You can find a list of all the ministries enhanced by the Easter offering at <http://disciplesmissionfund.org/special-offerings/easter-special-offering/> We will receive this offering April 9 & 16. Our goal is \$1,000.

General Assembly

Now is the time to register for the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Those from our church have a **unique housing opportunity** thanks to Cathy Nichols, who is offering her home as a place to stay!

Worship that lifts your soul.

Stories that touch your heart.

Educational resources to assist your congregation in ministry.

Conversations that stretch your mind.

Messages that call you to action.

Connections that remind you that God's family is bigger than a local congregation.

All this and more in five short days!

And 2017 will feature historic events – the election of a new General Minister and President as well as hearing the results of the Mission First! pilot project. Learn more at ga.discipes.org

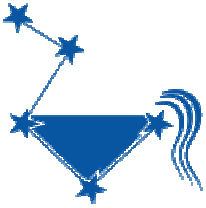


Final Lenten Dinner



What a wonderful experience it has been to gather with friends from Church of the Painted Hills (UCC), Desert Dove (DOC), and Good Shepherd (UCC) this Lenten season. The final Lenten dinner will be at **Good Shepherd United Church of Christ in Sahuarita Tuesday, April 4 at 6:30pm.** Our own Pastor Ailsa will lead the devotional.

Humane Borders Blessing of the Fleet



Humane Borders will host an interfaith blessing for its work along the border on **Sunday, April 9 at 4:00 pm at their offices, 243 West 33rd Street, Tucson, AZ 85713.** Pastor Ailsa will participate in this event. All are welcome and encouraged to attend and show support for this life-saving ministry. For more information about Humane Borders, visit www.humaneborders.org.

Children's Activity



Senior Play Date



5th Sunday Service Day

Mark your calendar for our next 5th Sunday Service Day. Stay tuned to weekly emails for details.



Sunday, April 30th

Ongoing Groups

Mind Wholeness Ministries – Spiritual Support Group



For people & family members affected by mental health challenges

1st & 3rd Monday

April 3 and April 17

6:00 – 7:30 PM

2nd & 4th Wednesday

April 12 and April 26

3:00 – 4:30 PM

For more info, contact Mary Alice Do, 520-440-3276, maryalicedo@gmail.com

Sunday Book Study Group - 4pm-6pm

The book study will finish the book, *Wearing God* by Laurel Winner through April 2. Beginning April 9, we will spend four Sundays (4/9, 4/23, 4/30, 5/21) on a project we have only undertaken once before -- reading the as-yet unpublished book of a church member. Last time it was Mary Alice Do's book, and our denominational publisher will soon have it in print! This time the book is by Claudia Ellquist, and is tentatively titled "Keeping His Ashes: a memoir of love and dying." It is Claudia's story about her journey through grief after the death of her late husband, Scotti Steenbergh, and was originally written around the time she joined First Christian Church, 25 years ago. Because this is an unpublished book, copies must be made before we start the review. Please let the church office know by April 2, if you would like to join us for this 4 week session. All are welcome to join us! Please note that the book group will not meet on Easter Sunday (4/16) and the first two Sundays in May (5/7 & 5/14).

Disciples Women's Ministries



Our April 11 meeting will feature Linda Williams, who will show us how to make a simple home altar for devotions. We will meet at 11:30am.

Spring Fair will be Saturday, April 29, 9:30am—3:00pm at First Christian Church in Mesa. Registration is due by April 15. You can get your form on the website: www.azdisciples.org or from the Church Office.

Wild Dogs Food Cart—First Sunday of Every Month starts in May



Wild Dogs is in the process of building a new food cart and will be back with us the first Sunday of May. Wild Dogs gives a percentage of their profit to FCC each time they are here. We look forward to the new cart and yummy Sonoran dogs!

What are the Monthly Dinner Groups?

I have attended two dinner groups this year, and it was nice to be able to include my husband. He's not much of a church-goer, so this was a fun way to include him in a church-related activity. Of course the wide variety of foods make the gathering worthwhile, but more important has been the opportunity to visit with church family on a more informal and personal way. Our membership in a Disciples congregation may be only one common thread we have. When we get together outside church we can share about everything from pets to politics and places we have traveled. It's fun to see others' homes and share sunsets from a different patio or porch. After our last gathering at the DeArman's, my husband asked, "Can we invite those folks over to our place?" That connection meant a lot to me personally. Thanks for inviting! Dinner Groups represent our philosophy of outrageous hospitality, and if you haven't come or hosted yet, I hope you will soon! Truly yours, Kelly Strachan.

The next dinner group will be in May. The González family is hosting an open house April 15 in place of the April dinner group. Please contact Pastor Ailsa if you are interested in hosting a group in the future.



Opportunities to Serve the World:

Feed the Hungry

"Feed the hungry," Jesus said. His word are clear. The command succinct. And so we listen and do.

Donations for the Community Food Bank are received each week at the shelves in the Welcome Area. Our goal this year is 2,017 pounds. So far we have brought in 228 pounds.

You can follow Jesus. You can make a difference. You can help your neighbors in their greatest time of need.

Childcare Collective

Would you like to support families and individuals most affected by immigration policies? The immigrant protection networks in Tucson have expressed that one of their greatest needs is for childcare during their meetings to plan, pray, and support one another. The Southern Arizona Sanctuary Coalition is organizing this effort.

Please contact Pastor Ailsa, if you are willing to be on this list of volunteers. Most meetings take place in the evenings at Southside Presbyterian Church.

A Request from the Personnel Team:

We have an excellent staff of childcare workers, but sometimes there is an emergency situation that arises or a Sunday morning when we have more children of varying ages in the nursery area than expected and we need another person to assist them. We would like to have a list of childcare helpers we can call on in those situations.

If you would be willing to help out on an occasional Sunday morning between 10:30 -11:45 am, please let Janis Sherick know, 577-8304. Thank you!



"News from the Pews"

- ♥ **Welcome to New Members**, Rosemary Bolza and Burl Dunn!
- ♥ **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.



April At a Glance

NO Elders Meeting in April

Jesus Christ Superstar & Sandwich Bar—Sunday, April 2 following 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)

Last Lenten Dinner—Tuesday, April 4 at 6:30pm, The Good Shepherd in Sahuarita. Pastor Ailsa speaking

Primavera Meal – Friday, April 7 at 6:00pm (Contact Sharon Sorensen if you'd like to help!)

Senior Play Date—Saturday, April 8 at 1:00pm. Meet at FCC to Carpool.

Palm Sunday—Sunday, April 9, worship at 10:30am

Humane Borders Blessing of the Fleet—Sunday, April 9 at 4:00pm. Humane Borders Office

DWM Lunch & Learning — Tuesday, April 11 at 11:30am (Linda Williams)

Maunder Thursday – Thursday, April 13 at 6:30pm

Good Friday, Church Office Closed—Fri., April 14

Open House at González Home—Saturday, April 15 from 4:00pm—7:00pm

Easter Sunday—Sunday, April 16, worship at 10:30am

Children/Youth Activity—Sun., April 16 after worship

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 (Not 4/16)



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 *



VISIT OUR WEBSITE:

firstchristianchurchtucson.org

CALL OUR OFFICE: (520) 624-8695



NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Articles for the May *Desert Disciple* should be received in the office no later than **Wednesday, April 19.**

Praying For Our Missionaries!



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

During the week of...

April 2: Nia Sullivan, South Africa

April 9: Loren McGrail, Israel/Palestine

April 16: Jeffrey Mensendiek, Japan

April 23: Magyolene Rodriguez, Nicaragua

April 30: Mark Behle, Lesotho

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

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