

# THE DESERT DISCIPLE

Volume 68 Issue 5

First Christian Church - Tucson, AZ

(520) 624-8695

May 1, 2017

## May Sermon Series: "Bountiful Life"

Jesus says he brings life in abundance, and the good news of resurrection confirms this. But when there seems to be so much trouble around us, how do we tap into it? How can we experience it?

May 7: Psalm 23 and John 10:1-10 "Abundance for All"

May 14: Acts 7:55-60 and John 14:1-14 "The Works of Jesus"

May 21: Numbers 27:1-9 Mental Health Sunday

May 28: John 14:15-21 "Where Love Leads Us"



## Mental Health Sunday - May 21

May 21st is Mental Health Sunday, on which we celebrate the abundance of life that is available to people affected by mental health disorders. The Scripture for the day is Numbers 27:1-9, the seldom told story of the daughters of Zelophehad (Mahlah, Noah, Hoglah, Milcah and Tirzah) who advocated for their inheritance and changed their world.



## FCC Outing & Children's Activity Music Under the Stars at Reid Park

We invite you to the FCC Outing on May 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:30pm at the DeMeester Outdoor Performance Center in Reid Park. The Tucson Boys Chorus, of which R.C. and Austin Troike are a part, will be the guest performers. The concert begins at 7:00pm. Please arrive 30 minutes early to connect with our group and set up your chairs or blankets.

**For the children's activity**, we invite families to arrive at 6:00pm for children to have time to play at the park before the music starts.

Please contact Nancy Green or Barbara Marshall for more information.

## Dinner Group for May will be Brunch!

The next dinner group will be a brunch on Saturday, May 27 at 10:00am. Ann Nichols will host this group in her home. To attend, please R.S.V.P. on the sign-up sheet on the greeter stand a few weeks before the meal.



**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

I was recently introduced to a poem by Pablo Neruda (shared below) that reminds me of the balance between stillness and action we are called to as people of faith. It is a balance we see in the life and ministry of Jesus. Why moments of stillness? Because here we sense the spirit come alongside us. Here we see our thoughts and words from a different light. Here we come to understand more deeply. These moments guide and empower action—action that exhibits the love of God and even brings to life God's dream for us all. Living this balance, however, does not occur easily or without intention. Seeking quiet and being still go against our desire to see results. But actions without this accompanied step risk becoming nothing more than a bunch of noise in our world. "Now we will count to twelve and we will all keep still."

Keeping Quiet  
by Pablo Neruda

Now we will count to twelve  
and we will all keep still.

For once on the face of the earth,  
let's not speak in any language;  
let's stop for one second,  
and not move our arms so much.

It would be an exotic moment  
without rush, without engines;  
we would all be together  
in a sudden strangeness.

Fisherman in the cold sea  
would not harm whales  
and the man gathering salt  
would not look at his hurt hands.

Those who prepare green wars,  
wars with gas, wars with fire,  
victories with no survivors,  
would put on clean clothes  
and walk about with their brothers  
in the shade, doing nothing.

What I want should not be confused  
with total inactivity.

Life is what it is about;  
I want no truck with death.

If we were not so single-minded  
about keeping our lives moving,  
and for once could do nothing,  
perhaps a huge silence  
might interrupt this sadness  
of never understanding ourselves  
and of threatening ourselves with death.

Perhaps the earth can teach us  
as when everything seems dead  
and later proves to be alive.

Now I'll count up to twelve  
and you keep quiet and I will go.

## Easter Offering Update

We celebrate the gifts we received for the Special Easter offering! Thank you all for helping to surpass our goal! **\$1,136** will be sent to Disciples Mission Fund for the empowerment of ministry in congregation across the U.S. and Canada.

★ Thank You! ★  
★ THANK YOU! ★

## Arizona Gives Day Update

For Arizona Gives Day (April 4), our members at First Christian Church responded to my Moment for Mission and donated **\$1,140** to the Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona. This is great! I know the Elders dug deep to lead the way.

Remember that we collect food and donations for the Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona all year long. -- claudia

# Ongoing Groups

## Mind Wholeness Ministries – Spiritual Support Group



For people & family members affected by mental health challenges

1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday

May 1 and May 15

6:00 – 7:30 PM

2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday

May 10 and May 24

3:00 – 4:30 PM

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

## Thursday Small Group Bible Study at 11am

Living out our faith entails the study of scripture and prayer in community. It is one of the ways we learn to Love Like Jesus. Come. Connect with others. Seek God. Engage with the scriptures. Be filled by God's spirit. All are welcome.

## Disciples Women's Ministries



The annual Friendship Lunch will be on **Tuesday, May 2 at 11:30am at East Buffet**. East Buffet is located at 75 W. River RD. #181, Tucson AZ 85704. Enjoy the all you can eat Chinese and Japanese buffet and fellowship with friends. This will be the last DWM Meeting until September.

## Sunday Book Study Group at 4pm - May 21 & 28

On May 21, we will begin *Accidental Saints: Finding God in All the Wrong People* by Nadia Bolz-Weber. All are welcome to join us! Please note that the book group will take a break the first two Sundays in May (5/7 & 5/14).

## Tuesday Prayer in Chapel at 11am



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.

## Wild Dogs Food Cart

Wild Dogs continues to make preparations on their new food cart. We look forward to their return once they are finished!



## 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.

### Primavera Meals

On the first Friday of each month, First Christian provides a meal for Primavera. You can help cook and/or help deliver and serve the meal. If you are interested, please contact Sharon Sorensen.

### 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 Week of Compassion:

Throughout the year, Week of Compassion works with some of the communities across the world who are most impacted by environmental degradation.

In the dry and highly deforested areas of the Totonicapán Department in Guatemala, for example, Week of Compassion is working with the Maya-Quiche and Maya-Ixil communities to promote sustainable agricultural practices and greenhouse management. There, greenhouses and women's educational programs make all the difference to family food security. Together, we can help protect our planet and our neighbors from the worst effects of climate change. Learn more: [www.weekofcompassion.org](http://www.weekofcompassion.org)



## Coming Up in June...

### Pentecost – June 4

Mark your calendars and get ready for the celebration. St. Michael's Ecumenical Catholic Church and First Christian Church will celebrate Pentecost together on Sunday, June 4 in the First Christian sanctuary. We are grateful for our brothers and sisters at St. Michael's and look forward to sharing together in worship.

### Youth Summer Camp

Arizona Youth & Children Ministry exists to provide Christian Education opportunities for the youth and children of the Arizona Region. Camp gives them a week away from their day to day summer routines. It's a chance to cool off and relax in the mountains of Prescott, to worship in nature, team build, and enjoy the many activities that our staff and the camp provides.

Children and youth finishing grades 3-12, mark your calendars for June 5-10! Registration is due by May 19. Forms can be found at the Church Office on online at [www.azdisciples.org](http://www.azdisciples.org).

Spread the word to the children and youth in your life!





## *“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, Jody Vanderkolk and Sally Van Slyke.
- ♥ **Pastor Ailsa will be out of the office** attending a meeting for the Disciples Seminary Foundation Board and continuing education classes. In case of a pastoral emergency, please contact Mary Alice Do (May 11-12) and Ann Nichols (May 16-19).



## May at a Glance

- Mind Wholeness Spiritual Support Group**—1st & 3rd Mondays at 6:00pm (5/1 & 5/15) and 2nd & 4th Wednesdays at 3:00pm (5/10 & 5/24)
- DWM Friendship Lunch**—Tuesday, May 2 at 11:30am at East Buffet (River Rd. & Stone)
- Worship Design Team Meeting**—Tuesday, May 2 at 6:00pm
- Elders Meeting**—Thursday, May 4 at 6:00pm in the Parlor
- Primavera Meal** – Friday, May 5 at 6:00pm (Contact Sharon Sorensen if you’d like to help!)
- Worship Team Meeting**—Tuesday, May 9 at 6:00pm in the Parlor
- Pastor Ailsa at Disciples Seminary Foundation Meeting**—Thursday & Friday, May 11 & 12
- Board Meeting** – Wednesday, May 17 at 6:30pm in the Parlor
- Pastor Ailsa at Continuing Education** – Tuesday thru Friday, May 16-19
- Desert Disciple Deadline**—Friday, May 19
- Mental Health Sunday**—Sunday, May 21
- FCC Outing/Children’s Activity**—Sunday, May 21 at 6:00pm at DeMeester Outdoor Performance Center in Reid Park
- “Dinner Group” Brunch**—Saturday, May 27 at 10:00am, Ann Nichols’ Home
- Church Office Closed**—Monday, May 29
- Prayer Time in the Chapel** – Tuesdays at 11:00am
- Small Group Bible Study** – Thursdays at 11:00am
- Book Study** – Sundays, May 21 & 28 at 4:00pm in the parlor (Won’t meet 5/7 or 5/14)



# 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...

**May 7:** Amelia Casillas & Pedro Carlo Muñoz, Paraguay

**May 14:** Kearsti Bailey, Hungary

**May 21:** John Campbell-Nelson, Indonesia

**May 28:** Judy Chang, Hong Kong

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



VISIT OUR WEBSITE:



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

CALL OUR OFFICE: (520) 624-8695

## NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

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

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