

THE DESERT DISCIPLE

Volume 68 Issue 8

First Christian Church - Tucson, AZ

(520) 624-8695

August 1, 2017

Worship this Month: Our series "One" continues through the month of August:

August 6

"One: Gathering," Isaiah 55:1-5, Matthew 14:13-21

August 13

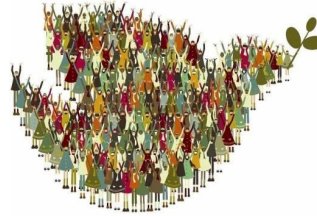
"One: Persistence," Isaiah 56:1, 6-8, Matthew 15:10-28

August 20

"One: Worship," Luke 6:12-19

August 27

"One: Light," John 8:12, Matthew 16:13-16, Romans 12:1-8



Back to School Blessing & Youth Activity - 8/13



We will have a time of prayer and blessing for students, teachers, and others working in the education system as they begin this new school year.

Following worship, youth and children are invited to stay and play in the slip & slide in the patio. Lunch will be provided. Please bring drinks, fruit, vegetables, or dessert to share.

Children Worship & Wonder



Children Worship & Wonder is a unique, Montessori-based approach to engaging the spirit and imagination of young children in worship. It centers on the fact that children (like people of all ages) are spiritual beings in whom God's spirit moves and works. It presents children the opportunity to experience biblical stories with awe and wonder.

Beginning this Fall, we will incorporate this element of worship in our service each Sunday morning. Children are invited to experience the Worship & Wonder biblical story as it is told at the front of the sanctuary. Following the story, children can work with response materials that will be available at the front of the sanctuary. They can choose to sit with parents, remain in the children's area with volunteers who will be alongside them, or, for those still in preschool, return to the nursery.

An orientation for all children ages 4 through 2nd grade and their parents/grandparents will be announced soon.

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)
August 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

Ongoing Groups

Mind Wholeness Ministries – Support Groups

For people affected by mental health challenges

1st & 3rd Monday
August 7 & August 21
6:00 – 7:30 PM

2nd & 4th Wednesday
August 9 & August 23
3:00 – 4:30 PM

For family members affected by mental health challenges

1st Wednesday
August 2, 3:00pm



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.

Thursday Small Group Bible Study at 11am

Connect with others. Seek God. Engage with the scriptures. Be filled by God's spirit. 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. All are welcome to join the Thursday small group that meets each week in the parlor.

Sunday Book Study Group 4pm

We started a new book on July 16th called "Mennonite in a Little Black Dress," by Rhoda Janzen. We anticipate it being the focus through August 27.

Disciples Women's Ministry – Fall Retreat

The Arizona Region's Disciples Women's Ministry retreat will take place September 8-10 at Chapel Rock Retreat Center in Prescott, Arizona. All women are invited to attend. Registration forms are available at www.azdisciples.org and are due August 15 in the Regional office.

Opportunities to Serve the World:

Thursday Prayer Vigils 6pm in Chapel

Vigils of accompaniment and hope are a time to pray for our hospitality guests, others experiencing challenges, and to lift our concerns for our lives and the world. All are welcome.

Primavera – Friday, August 4

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.

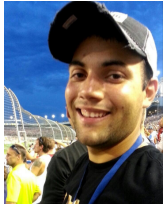
ALL THINGS **XPLOR**

National Benevolent Association
FAITH, JUSTICE AND COMMUNITY

XPLOR Welcome Potluck

XPLOR residents for the 2017-2018 year will arrive Sunday, August 27. We look forward to their arrival. Please pray for them as they prepare for this experience and for their travels to St. Louis for their orientation and to Tucson. Please also be in prayer for the local XPLOR team, comprised of pastors and members of the five Tucson Disciples churches partnering in this ministry, as it continues its work of support in the coming months.

Members of all the churches are invited and encouraged to attend the house blessing and official welcome of our residents on **Sunday, September 17 at 5pm** in our fellowship hall.



Christopher Carter from Hiram, Ohio

My name is Chris Carter and I grew up in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the Hiram-Mantua, OH area and attended Camp Christian. I was previously employed in the United States Navy where I served 3 years and while in Norfolk, VA, I attended Grace Bible Church. I am a very outgoing and loving person. I enjoy being and working with groups of people to make good things happen or just to have fun. I also love being outdoors doing activities such as fishing, camping, and hunting and I love sports and LeBron James.



Ingrid Ceden from San Diego, California

My name is Ingrid and I am a full time and active member at my church Fe, Esperanza, y Amor-Faith, Hope and Love (Disciples of Christ) in San Diego CA. I am a former children's and youth ministry leader. Working with the children at my church encouraged me to pursue a career in working with children. I have been working for the YMCA as a PRYDE Assistant Supervisor at an elementary school. I love working with a variety of cultures and individuals and all coming together as one. I'm also the member of a non-profit organization called War On Hunger where we go out to the streets of LA and share love with the homeless. I plan on continuing to work to better my community and fighting for justice for the people in need.



Savanna Phillips from Cedar Rapids, Iowa

Savanna is a lifetime member of the Disciples denomination and a founding member of her home church New Disciples of Cedar Rapids, IA. She has worked with the youth in her congregation and assists with teaching during her church's Wednesday night kids program. She was an avid volleyball player in high school as well and is an extremely talented clarinet player. She enjoys cooking, writing, reading, and playing with her dogs. Savanna is reserved when you first meet her but quickly warms to new people and will be your most dedicated friend.



Angelica Santiago González from Lorton, Virginia

Angelica offers a unique blend of church experience as she describes herself as a "church hopper" from Roman Catholic, to Baptist, Pentecostal, and nondenominational congregations; she has experienced a little of all. In May, she will graduate from Lynchburg College in Lynchburg, VA with a sociology degree. At LC she has served as an RA and VP of Student Government Association. A former military child, she has experienced a glimpse of the life of a nomad. She hopes to become a child advocate and eventually working with child abuse prevention policies. She loves writing, superheroes, and watching too much Netflix. She desires to someday be her own hero.

What is XPLOR?

XPLOR is a 10-month residency for young adults who want to consider lives of care and service. It partners young adults with Disciples congregations and their communities.

Residents engage in the four cornerstones of the program:

Hands-on Service/Justice Work: Working with local non-profits to empower local mission efforts while gaining awareness of systems of injustice.

Simple Living in Community: Learning and practicing faithful, intentionally simple, and culturally competent communal living.

Spiritual Discernment on Vocation: Practicing spiritual disciplines as they strive to discern their purpose, call, and vocational direction.

Disciples Leadership Development: Living out their Disciples identity and unleashing leadership capacity.

In Tucson, First Christian shares our space with XPLOR residents. Please be mindful of their presence in the area off of the fellowship hall and continue to respect their privacy. Your gifts to the church enable this ministry here. More importantly, the impact of your gifts reaches not only the lives of the young adults, but also spreads into our community through the work they do in the non-profits. Thank you!

General Assembly

My Experiences at the General Assembly

by Mary Alice Do

General Assemblies are inspiring events to go to. The theme was that we are one, which sounds like an easy thing to affirm and be, but it isn't. Rev. José Morales talked about how we have not truly been inclusive of others. He challenged us to truly be one, which is a difficult thing to do since we come together with different ideas, backgrounds, experience, cultures and expectations.

Of course, a great part of the Assembly is seeing old friends and making new ones.

I spent most of my time in the exhibit hall talking to people about my book, *Journey Toward Wholeness*, which Disciples Home Missions published. I signed books. Many people shared with me that they or someone they cared about had a mental health challenge. I was glad to be able to talk to them and offer hope that recovery was possible. I sold about 35 books during the Assembly.

On Wednesday morning I helped with NBA's workshop, "Speaking into the Silence." I was a part of a panel that consisted of five clergy who all had a mental health challenge. We educated people about mental health and discussed how to be supportive. I was glad that the room was full of people interested in learning more about mental health.

The Best Things of General Assembly

By Krysia González

The kid program was better than two years ago, because we did more activities. We went to the zoo, which had an aquarium and a dolphin show. The next day, we went to the children's museum and a lot of exhibits and almost saw a human canon. The last day, we went to Conner Prairie where we got to pet goats, sheep, cows, and feed pigs. We also played on a four-story tree house where at the very top we had to look for 18 objects that were hidden, with binoculars or your bare eyes. All the objects were on big rocks or above you.

In the mornings, we did different activities. We learned games from different cultures. We heard different stories from Palestine and Israel. Every morning we got a note from a different child from there, and we got to write a note back to them.



Rev. Mary Alice Do in the exhibit hall promoting her book.



Krysia at the Global Ministries dinner with Rev. Feliberto Pereira, Executive Director of Southwest Good Samaritan Ministries in Los Fresnos, TX.

Continued on page 5

The first day, we got henna tattoos, because that is what they do at weddings.

One of my favorite things at General Assembly was seeing my friends.

Reflection of 2017 General Assembly

By Janis Brown

General Assembly is the gathering of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) from across the United States and Canada. I was privileged to attend with my grand-daughter, Briana.

Here are some words/phrases that describe GA 2017:

Family Reunion: Meeting & Greeting family, old friends, colleagues, and family in faith; making new friends!

Conversation: Food for the body and thought around banquet tables, in the hallways, at the shuttle bus, in the exhibit hall.

Education/Learning: Forums and workshops: Leadership, Social Justice, Mission, Stewardship and others! Exhibit Hall – Booths from all units of the church and church related colleges and universities (college shopping!), Chalice Press Book Store and more!

Community: Worship in local congregations (Sunday) and nightly worship (singing with 3,000!) with dynamic speakers, diverse music, moving communion, lovely spirit – did I mention singing with 3000? After-session gatherings of regions and constituencies, hanging-out with friends.

Mission Servant: Briana and I were able to do “hands-on” location mission: building frames for Habitat for Humanity, Packing food boxes for local food bank, hero capes for Payton Manning Children’s Hospital, health kits for Disciples Women.

Doing Business of Ministry: Video and verbal reports from units and related church organization.

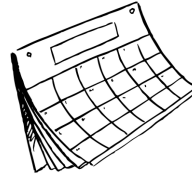
Celebration!: Ministry of Sharon Watkins – first woman to lead a mainline denomination! 50th Anniversary of the National Convocation! Commissioning new Missionaries!

Historic!: Electing the 1st African-American woman to lead a mainline denomination! Rev. Theresa Hord Owens! Participating in her installation as General Minister and President!

The 2017 gathering in Indianapolis was informative and moving, connecting us to the wider church and

our ministries across the USA, Canada and around the world!

In the words of my sixteen- year-old grand-daughter, Briana Walker, “It was Great! I had a good time. I love General Assembly.” High praise from a teen! ■



August at a Glance

CWW Storyteller Training—Tuesday, August 1 at 6:00pm

Mind Wholeness Ministry Family Support Group—1st Wednesday (8/2) at 3:00pm

Ministry Formation Team Meeting—Wed., August 2 at 6:00pm

Elders Meeting—Thursday, August 3 at 6:30pm

Primavera Meal – Friday, August 4 at 6:00pm
(Contact Sharon Sorensen if you’d like to help with this ministry!)

Mind Wholeness Spiritual Support Group—1st & 3rd Mondays at 6:00pm (8/7 & 8/21) and 2nd & 4th Wednesdays at 3:00pm (8/9 & 8/23)

Back to School Blessing & Youth Activity—Sunday, August 13

Prayer Time in the Chapel – Tuesdays at 11am

Small Group Bible Study – Thursdays at 11am

Prayer Vigils—Thursdays at 6:00pm



“News from the Pews”

- ♥ **Our hospitality guests**
- ♥ **Prayers for Matt DeFer, the N.A. Groups that meet in our church, and others struggling with addiction.**
- ♥ **Prayers for The Mind Wholeness Ministry and the people & families affected by mental health challenges.**
- ♥ **Continued prayers for:** Peggy Brady, Lily Foster, Grace Judson, Bea Kimberlin, Ron & Patti Lemke, Ruth Stokes, Jody Vanderkolk and Sally Van Slyke.



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 September *Desert Disciple* should be received in the office no later than **Monday, August 21.**

Praying For Our Missionaries!



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

During the week of...

August 6: Martha Mensendiek, Japan

August 13: Olga Yan-Pardo, Ecuador

August 20: Ricardo Mayol, Guatemala

August 27: Leah Dewey, Thailand

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

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Postage
PAID at
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740 East Speedway

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