

# THE DESERT DISCIPLE

Volume 69 Issue 1

First Christian Church - Tucson, AZ

(520) 624-8695

January 1, 2018

## Worship this Month: Hope for the New Year!



- January 7** New Year's Worship  
A Service of Celebration & Hope
- January 14** Hope Through Chaos & Order
- January 14** Hope from the Prophets:  
Remembering Martin Luther King Jr.
- January 28** Guest Preacher

## FCC Outing – UA Women's Basketball Game



Enjoy an afternoon with FCC friends on **Sunday, January 21**. UA plays Utah, and the game starts at noon. We'll want to have our tickets in hand in order to leave right after the benediction! To get your ticket and arrange who will be carpooling, contact Barbara Marshall. The group-rate tickets are \$4 [with a couple of scholarships available]. We need to know you are coming, because extra tickets at this price must be purchased from the ticket office before Friday the 19th. Please

sign up at the greeter stand, ASAP.

## Stories from the Pews



What do you celebrate about being part of First Christian Church? What excites you about our ministry to Seek God, Love Like Jesus, and Serve the World?

We are looking for reflections, stories, and memories about First Christian Church over the years. How has participation in the church community influenced your life? What cherished memories do you have of events or activities that happened at (or through) First

Christian? Are there people who touched your life in a special way? Are there life lessons you learned through church school, camp, retreats, or other experiences? What has the church meant to you?

**We want to hear your stories and include them in a 110<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration booklet. Please send your reflections to Ann Nichols by January 15.**

## New Leaders for 2018

Thank you to everyone who has volunteered to serve as leaders in 2018. We will recognize incoming elders, deacons, newly elected board officers, and ministry team leaders on **Sunday, January 14 during worship**. Through the gifts of the Spirit, God calls us to serve together in ministry in a rich interweaving of word and worship, work and witness. We look forward to a new year guided by the Spirit as we grow in our purpose and mission to Seek God, Love Like Jesus, and Serve the World.



**Sunday Worship**  
**10:30am**

**Church School**  
**9:00am**

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

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

**Moderator**  
Paul DeArman

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## Mind Wholeness Ministries – Support Groups

For people affected by mental health challenges



3rd Monday  
January 15  
6:00pm—7:30pm

For family members affected by mental health challenges  
1st Wednesday, January 3, 3:00pm—4:30pm

## Disciples Women's Ministry



Disciples Women's Ministries continues its monthly programs. Please note that they are open to both men and women. We enjoyed a beautiful Christmas program of music and reading led by Janet Tolman and David Gale for our December program. On January 9 Rosemary

Bolza will share with us her health work in Haiti and Afghanistan. We gather in the parlor at 11:30am with our brown bag lunches, and the program begins at 12:15pm. Please come!

## Opportunities to **Serve the World:**

### Thursday Prayer Vigil

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. The prayer vigil takes place at 6pm in the chapel.

### Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival

The Poor People's Campaign, led by Disciples minister Rev. Dr. William Barber, III, is gaining traction. With articles in both *The Christian Century* and *The Guardian*, as well as other outlets, the call for moral revival is highlighting the reality of many living on the margins.

The campaign calls for healing of the deep wounds of racism, militarism, and poverty. The 2017 General Assembly adopted a resolution (GA 1740) in support of this campaign. If you would like to get regular updates or participate, find out more from the Poor People's Campaign website, [poorpeoplescampaign.org](http://poorpeoplescampaign.org).

### Youth Mental Health First Aid Training (for adults)

Saturday, January 27, 8:00am-4:30pm

St. Francis in the Foothills United Methodist Church, 5725 E. River Rd.

Learn how to recognize and help a youth who may be developing a mental health problem or experiencing a mental health or substance abuse crisis. This program is designed for teachers, family members, friends, school personnel, social service and agency staff, and neighbors to increase mental health literacy, decrease stigmatizing attitudes in our communities, and to increase appropriate and early help-seeking by young people with mental health issues. To register, call Interfaith Community Services (ICS), 297-6049. Registration requires a fee of approximately \$30 (to be confirmed), which includes a booklet of materials covered in the training.

## How FCC Served the World in 2017

We celebrate the generosity of our congregation lived out through donations to the Community Food Bank; participation in the CROP Walk; over-and-above giving to Week of Compassion, Global Ministries, and other ministries of our wider church. This generosity has connected us to and impacted our community as we engaged with The Inn Project and other community groups through our 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Service Days; offered a spiritual connection to our community through Ashes to Go and the weekly prayer in the chapel; and extended hospitality and joy through the Epic Fun Fest.

It has been quite a year—a year filled with the steadfast love and mercies of God that never end! We celebrate your generosity!

Over and Above giving for  
Special Offerings:  
**Total \$10,486.66**

Easter Offering: \$1,286

Pentecost: \$846

Reconciliation: \$600

Thanksgiving: \$710

Week of Compassion:

\$2,626.66

A.L.A.S: \$1,715

Community Food Bank of

Southern Arizona: \$1,611

and **2,017** pounds of food!

CROP Hunger Walk: \$1,092

*(We did not have a total for  
the Christmas Offering at  
print of printing.)*

## Pastor's Note

We begin a new year all too aware of the need for God's transformative presence in the world. Whether in our lives, the lives of loved ones, or in the life of those we see in need in our community and world, we long for wrongs to be made right; violence to cease; peace to reign; and for compassion, rather than fear or greed, to guide decisions, policies, and action. Rather than be discouraged, our faith prompts us to hold on to the promise of God's faithfulness, steadfast love, and work to heal and mend us all. As a community of faith, we commit to regularly gather together for prayer and worship and to work together in acts of justice, love, compassion, and care. As we Seek God, learn to Love Like Jesus, and Serve the World, we do so as people of hope—people who, as Reverend Victoria Safford writes in her poem (below), have a mission “to plant ourselves at the gates of Hope” in order to see and share the vision of what God's transformative power brings. This must be our way forward for 2018.

### The Gates of Hope

A poem on hope by Reverend Victoria Safford.

Our mission is to plant ourselves at the gates of Hope—

Not the prudent gates of Optimism,  
Which are somewhat narrower.

Not the stalwart, boring gates of Common Sense;  
Nor the strident gates of Self-Righteousness,  
Which creak on shrill and angry hinges

(People cannot hear us there; they cannot pass through)

Nor the cheerful, flimsy garden gate of  
“Everything is gonna' be all right.”

But a different, sometimes lonely place,  
The place of truth-telling,

About your own soul first of all and its condition.

The place of resistance and defiance,  
The piece of ground from which you see the world  
Both as it is and as it could be  
As it will be;

The place from which you glimpse not only struggle,  
But the joy of the struggle.

And we stand there, beckoning and calling,  
Telling people what we are seeing  
Asking people what they see.

(Stanford Social Innovation Review, August 19, 2015. [https://ssir.org/articles/entry/the\\_gates\\_of\\_hope](https://ssir.org/articles/entry/the_gates_of_hope))

## January at a Glance

### Mind Wholeness Ministry Family Support

**Group**—1st Wednesday (1/3) at 3:00pm

**Primavera Meal** – Friday, January 5 at 6:00pm

**Ministry Formation Team Meeting**—Tuesday,  
January 9 at 6:00pm

**Elders Meeting**—Thursday, January 11 at 6:00pm

**Installation of New Leaders**—Sunday, January 14  
during worship

**Deacons Meeting**—Sunday, January 14 after  
worship

**Mind Wholeness Spiritual Support Group**—3rd  
Monday (1/15) at 6:00pm

**Church Office Closed**—January 15

**DD Deadline**—Friday, January 19

**FCC Outing: UA Women's Basketball Game**—  
Sunday, January 21 at 12:00pm

**Prayer Time in the Chapel** – Tuesdays at 11am

**Spiritual Growth Group** – Thursdays at 11am

**Prayer Vigils**—Thursdays at 6:00pm

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

## “News from the Pews”

- ♥ The church office will be closed from December 25—January 1. In case of a pastoral emergency, please contact Ann Nichols.
- ♥ Pastor Ailsa will be out of the office January 1—January 6. In case of a pastoral emergency, please contact the Church Office during business hours (9am—1pm) or Claudia Ellquist after hours.

### Please be in prayer for:

- ♥ **FCC Youth (Alicia Marin, Colin Thompsen, Jason Thompsen, Krysia González, and Lilly Bramer) and Pastor Ailsa** attending the Regional Youth Midwinter Retreat at Camp Pinerock January 26-28.
- ♥ **Our hospitality guests and XPLOR Residents**
- ♥ **The N.A. Groups that meet in our church, and others** struggling with addiction.
- ♥ **The Mind Wholeness Ministry and the people & families** affected by mental health challenges.
- ♥ **Continued prayers for:** Peggy Brady, Lily Foster, Grace Judson, 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 *

## Praying For Our Missionaries!



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

During the week of...

**January 7:** Bethany Waggoner, Lebanon

**January 14:** Lindley Kinerk and Andy Jepson, Sri Lanka

**January 21:** Anne Gregory, Thailand

**January 28:** Cara McKinney, Mexico

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 February *Desert Disciple* should be received in the office no later than **Friday, January 19.**

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