

THE DESERT DISCIPLE

Volume 68 Issue 10

First Christian Church - Tucson, AZ

(520) 624-8695

October 1, 2017

Worship this Month

Starting October 1, we will begin a new series called **"Love Let Loose"** and kick off our stewardship focus. During the series, we will celebrate God's generous outpouring of love let loose in the world and ready to shape our lives.

So often we cling to and hoard the gifts we are given. But...what if? What if we did not cling? What if we did not hoard? What if we let God's love loose into the world through the work we do each day, through our resources, and through our words and actions? Imagine if this were so in your life and in the life of our congregation. This is the power to transform the world!

Our series will conclude on **Sunday, October 15** with the opportunity to offer our pledges that will support the ministries of our congregation and our call to let love loose. We will finish out the month with Mental Health Sunday on October 22 and 5th Sunday Service Day on October 29.

October 1: Love Let Loose

October 8: Love Let Loose

October 15: Love Let Loose

October 22: Mental Health Sunday

October 29: 5th Sunday Service Day



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

5th Sunday Service Day & the CROP Walk



Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might.
Ecclesiastes 9:10:

What we do with our hands matters. If you made a documentary of what your hands do, what would it look like? Manage your hands and they become instruments of grace, not just tools in the hands of God, but God's very hands.

On this **Fifth Sunday, October 29, 2017**, you can help harvest food by walking in the CROP Walk, sponsoring a walker, or serving water at FCC's water table in the parking lot, which is situated at the final stretch of the walk. Many hands will also collect and box food to be taken to the **Community Food Bank (CFB)**. CROP Walk packets for those who want to walk will be available at the CROP Hunger table by the restrooms in the Welcome Area.

Thank you for being God's hands in this world. May you be blessed in this harvest work. For more information, contact Susan Harris, Outreach chair.

Mental Health Sunday

In honor of World Mental Health Day observed on October 10, we will focus on mental health during worship on Sunday, October 22, led by Rev. Mary Alice Do.



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Ongoing Groups

Mind Wholeness Ministries – Support Groups

Thank you, First Christian, for supporting the Mind Wholeness Ministry. We continue to have four interfaith spiritual support groups each month for people affected by mental health challenges and one for loved ones:

1st & 3rd Mondays; 6:00 – 7:30; 6 – 8 people present

2nd & 4th Wednesdays; 3:00 – 4:30; 3 people

1st Wednesday 3:00 – 4:30 (for loved ones of people affected); 4 people



The groups meet in the parlor and open all FCC participants and the community. We will send an invitation to other churches, letting them know that they are invited to participate.

On September 30 and October 1, I will be presenting to the Larkspur church how they can be welcoming and supportive of people affected.

October 22 will be Mental Health Sunday at First Christian Church. Invite friends and family who may need to hear a word of hope around mental health and its many challenges.

Disciples Women's Ministry



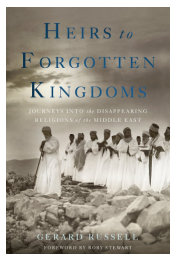
The Disciples Women's Ministry group will meet on the **first Tuesday in October** (10/3). The speaker will be Cathy Nichols. She will talk about the Caribbean Initiative sponsored by Global Ministries. The group meets at 11:30 for a brown bag lunch before the Noon activity begins. All women are invited--and men are welcome, as well, if the topic interests them.

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 and be encouraged in your faith journey. This spiritual formation group meets each week and is open to all.



Sunday Book Study Group 4pm

The Book Group will be studying *Heirs to Forgotten Kingdoms: Journeys into the Disappearing Religions of the Middle East* throughout October and into the first week of November. After that, we will read *The Gifts of Imperfection* by Brene Brown.

End of Life Seminar with Rev. Karen MacDonald October 22 following worship



Invite your friends and family to the End of Life Seminar on October 22 after worship.

What do you value in life? What makes life meaningful? What legacy, material and spiritual, would you like to leave your loved ones and the world?

Karen MacDonald, Health Ministry Manager at Interfaith Community Services (ICS), will lead us in reflecting on these and other questions. Experience how conversations about the end of life—ours or that of loved ones—can enrich the quality of our living now.

A light lunch will be served in the chapel after worship prior to the program.



Rev. José Morales' Sermon from General Assembly

The General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) opened with an inspiring sermon from the Rev. José Morales. The sermon will be shown during the 9:00am bible study group on **Sunday, October 15**. Everyone is invited to attend and join the discussion following the viewing.

Safe Interactions Training for Volunteers October 14 from 9:00am – 12:00 pm



Why should you attend? You are important to the life and leadership of the church! **We need and encourage all staff, leaders, volunteers (Elders, Deacons, and any who work with children, youth, and vulnerable adults), and anyone else who is interested to attend this important event.**

Safe Interaction Training is an important step in the implementation of the new policy adopted by the board last November, which provides guidelines and expectations

for all church leaders, staff, and members. It will help us assure a safe and secure atmosphere in which persons of all ages can learn about, experience, and share God's love in a nurturing environment.

We will meet in Fellowship Hall for the presentation. The training will cover important information on essentials of the policy, recognition of signs and symptoms of abuse and exploitation, and incident reporting. Laureen Pew and Deb Stadle will lead the training with interactive activities, PowerPoint presentations, and a participant guide.

Refreshments will be served.
Thank you,
Personnel Ministry Team

RSVP to Janis Sherick
577-8304 / Janis@shericklaw.com

FCC Outing: Marana Pumpkin Patch



Sunday, October 8

Meet at FCC at 3:00pm to
carpool.

14901 N. Wentz Road,
Marana, AZ 85653

Admission is \$12.50 (+tax) per person. Kids 32" and under get in free. Please contact this church office if you need help with the admission fee.

Admission Includes:

- Entry to the Farm Festival
- A Wagon Ride to the Pumpkin Patch (To pick out your special pumpkin! Pumpkins priced at just \$.50 per pound.)
- Tractor Train Ride
- Free access to both corn mazes
- Access to Straw Mountain and the Kids Zone
- Petting Zoo
- Pig Races
- Rubber Duck Races
- Jumping Pillow
- 1/4 Scale Diesel Train
- Peddle Cart Ride
- Pumpkin Train Ride



Opening Narrative of Treasurer/Financial Secretary Report From the Congregational Meeting 09/24/2017

Much of the work of the church is accomplished through the generous time and talents of our membership, including thousands of dollars of un-reported contributions for materials, meals, supplies, etc.

When we **“Seek God”** in worship, dozens of people out front and behind the scenes provide music and music leadership, while others organize or serve as deacons, elders and worship leaders.

When we learn to **“Love like Jesus,”** there are those who teach and facilitate Sunday school; organize, schedule, and plan fellowship events; provide transportation for others; and develop policies and guidelines to support our mission and ministries.

As we **“Serve the world,”** there are those who connect us to critical needs and issues in the community; organize and lead us in projects; and pick up a hammer, shovel, clean up trash; or hand out a water bottle, a can of food, or a warm jacket.

It is extremely difficult to reflect those actions in dollars and cents, yet they are as real and essential as the money we track in our budget. And this is just the tip of the iceberg.

Many of these same people take it a step further and put their money where their heart is so that we have even more resources to **Seek God, Love Like Jesus, and Serve the World**. Money assures that we have a building that provides lovely, safe and sheltered spaces for our XPLORE participants, worship celebrants, seekers of sanctuary, and those in recovery. Funds provide the ministry of staff who serve our children, schedule and organize use of our facility, challenge us to grow, and help us through our grief. Finances assure that we have supplies and materials for education, celebration, worship, and sharing the Good News with others.

As we consider our finances I invite you to see beyond the numbers to see how money transforms into ministry.



Reconciliation and Week of Compassion Special Offering - update

Thank you to all who gave generously to the Special Reconciliation Offering in September. We received **\$410** of our \$1000 goal. In addition, many gave donations to Week of Compassion for hurricane relief. We celebrate the **\$605** that will be sent for recovery efforts.

Children and Youth Midwinter Retreat Registration Due October 15

The Regional Midwinter Retreat for **grades 1-12** will be **January 26-28** at Camp Pinerock. You can register online via the regional website www.azdisciples.org. Retreat fee is \$135, and the church pays ½ the price for children and youth in the congregation. When registering, click on the option “my church will be submitting a partial payment on my behalf.” **The church office needs to know you are registering by Sunday, October 15** so a check can be sent for the remaining portion of the fee.


Save the Date!
MIDWINTER RETREAT
January 26th - 28th
CAMP PINEROCK
1ST - 12TH GRADE



First Christian Church Presents:

EPIC Fun Fest!**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17****4:00pm – 8:00pm****Food * Music * Games * Fun!**

Save the date for the 2nd annual Epic Fun Fest on Friday, November 17, 4-8pm!

This is a ministry of First Christian for the community to enjoy live music, food trucks, festival games, a kid's bouncy house, and more. Volunteers are needed prior to the event to plan games, contact vendors, and donate candy and prizes. We will also need help on the event day to set up, run games, and clean up when we are finished. More details to come.

Contact Barbara Marshall for more information and to volunteer.

Opportunities to Serve the World:

Primavera – Friday, October 6

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.

Thursday Prayer Vigil 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.

Help with a Habitat Project – Nov 4



There is an opportunity for up to 3 members of our congregational to join other faith-based volunteers and a small group of folks from a halfway house in a project involving painting or construction. See Ann Nichols for more information. If you would like to be part of this project, please let Ann know by October 20.



October at a Glance

Mind Wholeness Spiritual Support Group—1st & 3rd Mondays at 6:00pm (10/2 & 10/16) and 2nd & 4th Wednesdays at 3:00pm (10/11 & 10/25)

Mind Wholeness Ministry Family Support Group—1st Wednesday (10/4) at 3:00pm

Elders Meeting—Thursday, October 5 at 6:30pm

Primavera Meal – Friday, Oct. 6 at 6:00pm

All Church Outing: Pumpkin Patch—Sunday, October 8 at 3:00pm (meet at FCC to carpool)

Safe Interactions Training—Saturday, October 14, 9am-Noon

Rev. José Morales' Sermon—Sunday, October 15 during Christian Education Class, 9:00am

DD Deadline—Friday, October 20

Mental Health Sunday—Sunday, October 22

End of Life Seminar—Sunday, October 22 following worship

5th Sunday Service Day—Sunday, October 29

CROP Walk—Sunday, October 29 at 1:30pm

Prayer Time in the Chapel – Tuesdays at 11am

Small Group Bible Study – Thursdays at 11am

Prayer Vigils—Thursdays at 6:00pm

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

“News from the Pews”

- ♥ **Mary Workman** THANKS everyone for the calls, visits, and cards. She is feeling very happy in her new home.

Please be in prayer for:

- ♥ **Marco González**, recovering from surgery.
- ♥ **Our hospitality guests**
- ♥ **Matt DeFer**, 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 *



VISIT OUR WEBSITE:

firstchristianchurchtucson.org

CALL OUR OFFICE: (520) 624-8695



NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Articles for the November *Desert Disciple* should be received in the office no later than **Friday, October 20.**

Praying For Our Missionaries!



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

During the week of...

October 1: Tom Liddle, East Timor

October 8: Linda James, Dem Republic of Congo

October 15: Bosela Eale, Dem Republic of Congo

October 22: Jeff Wright, Israel / Palestine

October 29: Andy Jepson, Sri Lanka

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

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