

THE DESERT DISCIPLE

Volume 68 Issue 12

First Christian Church - Tucson, AZ

(520) 624-8695

December 1, 2017

Worship this Month

December 3 Hope - Isaiah 64:1-9

December 10 Peace - Isaiah 40:1-11, Mark 1:1-8

December 17 Joy - Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11, Psalm 126

December 24 Love - Luke 1:26-38, Luke 1:46b-55

December 31 5th Sunday Service Day



Mark your calendars for the 3rd Annual Live Nativity! **December 22 & 23.** Members and Friends of FCC are invited to celebrate the birth of Jesus through a live nativity on the Speedway sidewalk. There will be a manger, a bright star, and YOU! You can dress as whichever character you choose—a Wiseman, sheep, Mary, Joseph, or shepherds. Bring your costume or use one that we have.

We will be live for 2 hours (6:00pm – 8:00pm) in the evening. It's an open house type event, at which you come when you can and stay for as long as you want. No assigned times or parts. Come help spread the cheer of this joyous season!



Sunday Morning Worship:
10:30am

Family Service & Walk-in
Pageant: 6:30pm

Family Service with children's walk-in pageant. Children wanting to participate should arrive by 6:10pm to choose a role and get in costume. Children are encouraged to invite friends and family to participate. Since there is no rehearsal, any child can participate. If you will attend the family service and can help children get into costume, please let us know by contacting Lori Bryant or the Church Office.

Candlelight Service: 11:00pm

Celebrate the birth of the Christ child with scripture, music, and the lights of Christmas at the candlelight communion service.



Sunday Worship
10:30am

Church School
9:00am

Church Office
(520) 624-8695

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Ongoing Groups

Mind Wholeness Ministries – Support Groups



For people affected by mental health challenges

1st & 3rd Monday
December 4 & 18
6:00 – 7:30 PM

2nd & 4th Wednesday
December 13 & 27
3:00 – 4:30 PM

For family members affected by mental health challenges
1st Wednesday, December 6, 3:00pm

Disciples Women's Ministry presents Special Music Program, December 5



Enjoy the music of Christmas with Janet Tolman and David Gale on **Tuesday, December 5 at 12:15pm in the sanctuary**. This program is sponsored by the Disciples Women's Ministry. The DWM will meet prior to the program with a brown bag lunch meeting at 11:30am in the parlor.

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.

Discipleship Group Led by Savanna Phillips

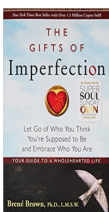


The group led by XPLOR resident, Savanna Phillips, will continue to meet on Wednesdays at 6:00pm throughout December in the parlor (the group will meet in the choir room on December 13). Curious, but haven't been able to attend yet? No worries. You can still participate any time!

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 read *The Gifts of Imperfection* by Brené Brown. Everyone is welcome. Meet in the Parlor at 4:00pm on Sundays. Contact Ann Nichols or Susan Harris for more information.

Alternative Christmas

Select a gift to honor
a friend or relative
and bring blessings to
people in real need.



There are several ways to share the joys of the Christmas season with those you love. Why not choose one that also makes a difference in the lives of others? Global Ministries has alternative Christmas gift options. You can give the gift of health, education, microcredit, water, peace with justice, people in mission, or church capacity building. For example, in Haiti: \$25 can provide school supplies, \$50 can provide 120 meals for children—one day's worth, \$100 can provide construction materials to rebuild homes damaged by Hurricanes

For more information visit www.globalministries.org/alternative_giving.

**You can also find
alternative gifts at:**

Week of Compassion
WoC continues offering aid in numerous places around the world. You can learn more at www.weekofcompassion.org

The International Holiday Bazaar at St. Michael's & All Angels Episcopal Church on Saturday, December 2 (10am – 4pm) and Sunday, December 3 (10am – 2pm).

FCC All Church Outing - December 9



Enjoy an evening at Christmas on the Farm at Post Farms (Marana Pumpkin Patch) on Saturday, December 9, 5pm-8pm. Admission of \$8 includes a ride on the train, lights display, and jumping pillows. Please sign up at the greeter stand to let us know if you plan to attend. You can meet the group at the entrance at 5pm or at the church to carpool at 4:15pm. Please indicate your intent to carpool on the sign up sheet.

Sunday, December 17



Christmas Dinner—You are invited to the FCC Christmas dinner following worship on Sunday, December 17. The dinner is potluck and you are encouraged to bring a favorite family dish to share. All are welcome!

Congregational Meeting—Following the dinner, we will hold our annual congregational meeting to consider officers for next year and the 2018 budget to support our ministry and mission.

Christmas Caroling—Help spread the joy of God's love to homebound members as we go caroling. Everyone is invited, regardless of how you may rate your singing ability! We will begin at 2:00pm.

5th Sunday Service Day - Electronic Recycling



Planning to upgrade electronics this season, but don't have a plan for your old electronics? Our next 5th Sunday Service Day is your chance to clear out your old and/or non-functioning electronics and take another step toward caring for the environment.

On Sunday, December 31, bring old electronics to church to be donated to World Care's electronic recycling program. Susan Harris will coordinate transportation of items to World Care's facilities.

Christmas Poinsettias



Each year we provide the opportunity for church members and participants to purchase Poinsettias to decorate our worship space in memory or honor of loved ones. That time is upon us once again. The Poinsettias that we buy are sold as a fundraiser for Our Family Services, a social service organization benefitting homeless and displaced women, elders, and families. **Order forms for Poinsettias will be in worship bulletins the first two weeks of December (12/3 & 12/10).** You can fill out the order forms and submit them with your checks or cash. Checks can be made payable to First Christian Church with "poinsettias" on the memo line and/or envelope. Poinsettias will cost \$12 each.

Staff Love Gifts



First Christian Church is very blessed by our staff. We have enjoyed great stability and consistency in employment, incredible commitment, dedication, and integrity in their work and willingness to be flexible with the unique challenges of working for a church. Each of our employees sees their job beyond just a paycheck. They see it as a calling, a mission of their own within this faith community.

Therefore, we want to show our gratitude to them through a "love gift" that will be received through December 17. Please prayerfully consider their value gifts within our ministry and how you would like to show appreciation. Please make checks payable to First Christian Church, and put "staff gift" on the memo line and/or note it on the envelope if you give cash. As always we are grateful for your generosity.

Christmas Offering: December 10 & 17

Miracles happen every day in all our regions as we:

- Assist congregations and leaders in claiming their unique mission and ministry, and provide resources and support.
- Call, commission and ordain new pastors, and support and equip all pastors for their ministries.
- Revitalize existing congregations and plan for new congregations.
- Connect Regional Disciples to give witness to ministries of justice, hope, and compassion.
- Provide camps, conferences, and retreats where children and youth find hope and Christ's love and a community of faith that embraces "everyone."
- Make visible the care for all of God's family through ministries of reconciliation and anti-racism.
- Call and equip passionate leaders for today's church.
- Provide pastoral care for clergy and congregations.

The Christmas Special Day offering supports all of these and many other ministries of our regions. Your generous gifts make a difference! FCC's goal is \$1,000.00.



Celebrating Epic Fun Fest!



Many thanks to all the volunteers who helped and donated to our Epic Fun Fest! Your presence and dedication made it possible for us to **Serve the World** through this gift to our community. We were so thrilled to see a couple hundred of our neighbors of all ages enjoying this evening of fun and celebration. Children thoroughly enjoyed the jumping castles, piñatas, cupcake walk, face painting and many other games. Everyone enjoyed the

amazing music and new connections made. We are grateful to community partners for providing the games and sharing the ways they bring hope to our community and world. In tense times, our congregation provided a safe space for renewal, engaging with community, and celebrating those making a positive impact in the world. Good work, First Christian! Special thanks to:

Event Organizers: Barbara Marshall, Pat Darnell, Jenna Hosler, Marco González, and Pastor Ailsa

Community Organizations: Al-Anon, Because We Care Foundation, Community Food Bank, Desert Spring Children's Center, Grandparent Ambassadors, Guatemalan Consulate, Jobs' Daughters, Living Streets Alliance, St. Michael's Ecumenical Catholic Church, Guatemala Project of St. Michael's Episcopal Church

Musicians: Bruce Phillips, Mariachi Herencia de Cuco del Cid, and the Jazz ensemble led by Sean Gale

Food Trucks: Rangel Food, Yami's Hot Dogs, and Wilson's Kettle Corn

FCC Volunteers with Habitat for Humanity

If you haven't volunteered to work for Habitat for Humanity, perhaps you should give it some thought. A couple of weeks ago, my wife Nancy and I volunteered to join a work crew on a Habitat for Humanity project, which turned out to be very rewarding. In our work crew of 10, were 3 former prison inmates transitioning into society, and 7 church members. Besides First Christian Church, there were three other churches represented, partnering with Old Pueblo Community Services. It was hard labor, but at the end of our day, when we put away our hard hats and our hammers, we were dirty and tired, but very satisfied with our accomplishments, the construction of 8 large window frames. The fellowship was amazing. If you have a chance, try it sometime. Thanks to Ann Nichols for coordinating this opportunity.

-Paul DeArman



"News from the Pews"

- ♥ THANK YOU to those who participated in the CROP Hunger Walk on October 29, 2017. Team FCC Tucson raised a total of \$1,092! It was because of you that we were able to greatly exceeded our original goal of \$500.

Please be in prayer for:

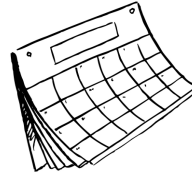
- ♥ **Family & friends of Betty Collier**, upon her death on November 4, 2017. A celebration of Betty's life was held earlier in November.
- ♥ **Our hospitality guests and XPLOR Residents**
- ♥ **The N.A. Groups that meet in our church, and others** struggling with addiction.
- ♥ **The Mind Wholeness 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.

FCC Celebrates 110 Years! **Anniversary Booklet**

FCC will celebrate its 110th anniversary on December 22. Our official celebration party, however, will be held in early 2018. Between now and the end of the year, we would like to collect writings from our members and friends that include stories, recollections, and reflections from different times. Perhaps you have a favorite memory from recent years or from many years ago. When has FCC made a difference in your life or the life of the community? Was it an event, a class, a group, an activity, or a relationship? How did it affect you?

These reflections can be of different lengths. Most will probably be two or three paragraphs. If you want to share two reflections, feel free. If you know someone who was part of the church in the past but now lives or worships elsewhere, ask them if they would like to participate. We have a rich history, and we want to celebrate it.

Please give/send reflections to Ann Nichols and Mary Workman. If you would like to help collect and put together the booklet or to help plan the celebration of the anniversary, please contact Ann Nichols.



December at a Glance

- Primavera Meal** – Friday, December 1 at 6:00pm
- Mind Wholeness Spiritual Support Group**—1st & 3rd Mondays at 6:00pm (12/4 & 12/18) and 2nd & 4th Wednesdays at 3:00pm (12/13 & 12/27)
- DWM Christmas Music Program**—Tuesday, December 5 at Noon in the Sanctuary
- Budget Team Meeting**—Tuesday, Dec. 5 at 6pm
- Mind Wholeness Ministry Family Support Group**—1st Wednesday (12/6) at 3:00pm
- Elders Meeting**—Thursday, Dec. 7 at 6:00pm
- Board Meeting**—Wednesday, Dec. 13 at 6:30pm
- DD Deadline**—Friday, December 15
- Christmas Meal**—Sunday, December 17 following worship
- Congregational Meeting**—Sunday, December 17
- Christmas Caroling**—Sunday, Dec. 17 at 2:00pm
- Live Nativity**—December 22 & 23, 6pm-8pm
- Christmas Eve Services**—6:30pm and 11:00pm
- Church Office Closed**—December 26—January 1
- Prayer Time in the Chapel** – Tuesdays at 11am
- Discipleship Group**—Wednesdays at 6:00pm
- Small Group Bible Study** – Thursdays at 11am
- Prayer Vigils**—Thursdays at 6:00pm
- Book Study** – Sundays at 4:00pm in the parlor

Seek



Love

Serve



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 January *Desert Disciple* should be received in the office no later than **Friday, December 15.**

Praying For Our Missionaries!



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

During the week of...

December 3: Bruce Van Voorhis, Hong Kong

December 10: Brigitte Eale, Kenya

December 17: Michael Joseph, Colombia

December 24: Elena Huegel, Mexico

December 31: Maria Bakalian, Thailand

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

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