THE DESERT DISCIPLE

Volume 69 Issue 4

First Christian Church - Tucson, AZ

(520) 624-8695

April 1, 2018





April Worship: Voices of Resurrection

Worship this Easter season brings us varied voices from different guests in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

April 1: "Celebrating Resurrection", Pastor Ailsa preaching

April 8: Guest preacher, Rev. Jay Deskins **April 15:** "Witnesses," Pastor Ailsa preaching **April 22:** Guest preacher, Rev. Rich McCullen

April 29: XPLOR Residents in worship & 5th Sunday Service Day

About our guests:



Rev. Jay Deskins is a lifelong Disciple from Kentucky. He is a graduate of Christian Theological Seminary and a current Bethany Fellow. He most recently served as Associate Pastor at Downey Avenue Christian Church in Indianapolis. He is married to Rev. Kelley Dick who serves as the Associate Minister at Saguaro Christian Church. They recently moved to Tucson and love exploring their new home!



Rev. Rich McCullen is the Lead Visionary and Missiologist of Missiongathering Movement (Disciples of Christ). He is the founding pastor of Missiongathering, San Diego, and has been the lead planter for Missiongathering Charlotte, Seattle-Issaquash, and Denver. Rich will speak at the April 21 "Wells of Generosity" event sponsored by the Arizona Region, and we are glad to welcome him in worship.

XPLOR Residents, Angelica Santiago, Ingrid Cendeño, and Savanna Phillips will worship with us and share from their experiences in the XPLOR program.



Sunday Worship 10:30am

Church School 9:00am

Church Office (520) 624-8695

Pastor

Rev. Ailsa Guardiola González fccailsa@gmail.com

Moderator

Paul DeArman

Office Manager

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The Desert Disciple (USPS 154-880) April 1, 2018

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

FCC Outing to Desert Museum Sunday, April 22

We will meet at the museum entrance at 1:00pm



Please sign up at the greeter stand (or call the church office) to be counted as part of our group and receive the group discount by Sunday, April 15. Entrance fee with group discount is \$17.95 for adults and \$9.95 for children 3 -11. (We will need at least 10 people to receive the discount).

Mind Wholeness Ministries – Support Groups



For people affected by mental health challenges

1st & 3rd Mondays April 2 & 16 6:00 – 7:30 PM 2nd & 4th Wednesdays April 11 & 25 3:00 – 4:30 PM

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

Disciples Women's Ministry



DWM will meet for the Lunch and Lesson on Tuesday, April 10. Women who attended the WWOW (Wild Women of the West) Retreat will share their experiences. We will also have a brief bible study. Brown bag lunch at 11:30am, program at Noon. All are welcome.

Women attending the WWOW Retreat April 6-8 are: Janis Brown, Mary Alice Do, Krysia González, Susan Harris, Noa Kaufman Nichols, Debbie Munhall, Ann Nichols, Cathy Nichols, Nancy Thompsen, and Pastor Ailsa.

5th Sunday Service Day April 29



Mark your calendar for our next 5th Sunday
Service Day.
The details of the day are in process.
Please stay tuned to weekly emails for more information.



Opportunities to Serve the World:

Thursday Bilingual 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.

Interfaith/Ecumenical Peace Prayer

Tucson faith leaders invite you to a monthly interfaith/ecumenical prayer for peace as we seek healing and wholeness for our local community, country, and world. Each month a 30-45minute prayer service will be held in

the space of and led by the host faith group, using their prayers, music, and style of worship. The current schedule is listed below. We hope to host a service at First Christian later in the year.

April 18, 6:30pmFoothills Lutheran Church 5201 E Craycroft Rd

May 30, 6:30pm Awam Institute (Buddhist) 3400 E Speedway, Ste. 204

Pastor's Note

Christ is risen! Christ is risen, indeed!

Our Easter proclamation is full of joy and excitement, conviction and relief. After six weeks of Lent we are so glad to finally arrive at a celebration. Christ is risen! We celebrate that, with God, life overcomes death. With God, joy has the last word. With God, we should expect the unexpected for hope, new life, and fresh opportunities. We celebrate the God who keeps covenant and remains always faithful.

From this place of celebration and hope, we look toward the future and the days to come. During Lent, we heard stories from people whose lives have been impacted by the ministry and mission of First Christian over the years. Those stories affirmed God's constant presence and love in both joyous and challenging times. We hold on to this truth of God's presence as we look ahead as resurrection people.

Specifically, we hold on to this truth as resurrection people visioning our future. At our last congregational meeting, we heard about some of our next steps in visioning our future together with a spiritual discernment process that we hope to begin in May. Our process will be led by a facilitator experienced in working with congregations like ours and will take place over the course of a few months. It will incorporate both small and large group conversations. It will seek to create space for us to listen to God's Spirit and move in unity. It will include everyone who participates regularly in the life of our congregation. Everyone's voice and ideas are important and valuable, and everyone's perspective will enhance our process! More details on the logistics will be shared as soon as they are finalized.

One part of our discernment will be visioning the ministry and mission of our congregation. In other words, on what area(s) will we focus to impact our community? To what acts of love and justice are we called in this time?

The other part of our discernment will be on what resources—financial, people, building—we will need to live out that ministry and mission. We will especially focus on the role of our current building in our future. To start in helping us address this piece, the ministry formation team provided us with a broader financial picture. They also provided a lengthy list and costs of immediate maintenance and other needs that would have to be met, if we were to consider remaining in our current location. This information is available to those unable to attend the meeting by contacting the church office. In addition, any question can be addressed to Pastor Ailsa or Paul DeArman, Board Moderator and Chair of the ministry formation team.

"Knowledge is power" is a phrase often attributed to Francis Bacon (from his *Meditationes Sacrae*, 1597). Certainly we find much truth in it. Knowledge of who we are (which we affirm in our core values and statement to Seek God, Love Like Jesus, and Serve the World), knowledge of where we are in our finances and maintenance needs, and knowledge of our calling and gifts inform us as we seek to envision and plan for our future with integrity and faithfulness to God. I consider it an honor to be part of a congregation willing to address its current realities with honesty, faith, and expectation. Because Christ is risen; because life overcomes death; because joy has the last word; because with God we can expect the unexpected for hope, new life, and fresh opportunities, we anticipate the next steps God has for us wherever that may lead us.

Christ is risen! Christ is risen, indeed!



June 3rd to 8th

3rd - 12th grade Camp Pinerock 1400 Pine Drive Prescott, AZ 86303

REGISTER TODAY - WWW.AZDISCIPLES.ORG



Early Bird Registrations (due April 21): \$360 Regular Registrations (due May 19): \$385 **Don't delay, register today!**

First Christian Church pays ½ of fee for all church participants.

You may register online or pick up a packet from the greeter stand.

Easter Special Offering

Like good stewards of the multi-colored grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. 1 Peter 4:10



Your gift to the Easter Offering helps bring life, love and learning through the general ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). The General Ministries of the church partner with local churches and partners around the globe in our call to be "a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world." For more information, visit www.disciples.org.

Our goal is to receive \$1,000 for Easter. As of March 28, we have received \$250.00



Blessing of the Fleet at Humane Borders

Humane Borders will host an interfaith blessing for its work along the border on **Sunday, April 15 at 5:00 pm** at their offices, 243 West 33rd Street.

Pastor Ailsa will participate in this event.

All are welcome and encouraged to attend and show support for this life-saving ministry.

For more informationabout Humane Borders, visit www.facebook.com/HumaneBordersAZ/

April at a Glance

Easter Worship & Egg Hunt—Sunday, April 1, 10:30am Church Office Closed—Monday, April 2, after Easter Mind Wholeness Spiritual Support Group—1st & 3rd Mondays (4/2 & 4/16)at 6:00pm

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

Wild Women of the West Retreat—April 6-8 in Scottsdale, Arizona

DWM Lunch & Lesson—Tuesday, April 10 at 11:30am **Elders Meeting**—Thursday, April 10 at 6:00pm

Mind Wholeness Spiritual Support Group—2nd & 4th Wednesdays (4/11 & 4/25) at 6:00pm

Interfaith Peace Prayer—Wednesday, April 18 at 6:30pm, Foothills Lutheran Church

Summer Camp (early) Registration Deadline—April 20 **Wells of Generosity Leadership Event**—Saturday, April 21, 9:00am—1:30pm in Casa Grande, Arizona.

FCC Outing: Desert Museum—Sunday, April 22 at 1pm
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"

Mary Workman wants to express her deepest gratitude to everyone who celebrated her 90th Birthday in March. She says it was the best day of her life! She is thankful for all the love she received.

Please be in prayer for:

- 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 & Marion 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:



Find us on: facebook.

firstchristianchurchtucson.org

CALL OUR OFFICE: (520) 624-8695

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Articles for the May *Desert Disciple* should be received in the office no later than **Monday, April 16.**

Praying For
Our
Missionaries!



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

During the week of...

April 1: Mark Behle, Lesotho

April 8: Chimiste Doriscar, Haiti

April 15: Bruce VanVoorhis, Hong Kong

April 22: Elena Huegel, Mexico

April 29: Ha-un Priscilla Yang, Hungary

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

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