

THE DESERT DISCIPLE

Volume 69 Issue 5

First Christian Church - Tucson, AZ

(520) 624-8695

May 1, 2018

Worship this Month

Sunday, May 6: "No Greater Love" John 15:9-17

Sunday, May 13: "When Word is Truth" John 17:6-19

May 20 - Pentecost

First Christian Church and St. Michael's Ecumenical Catholic Church will celebrate Pentecost together on **Sunday, May 20** in the sanctuary. The service combines the traditions of each congregation creating a rich experience as we celebrate the gift and power of God's spirit in and among us. **We will enjoy lunch together with members of St. Michael's and have water games for children and youth following worship.**

May 27 - Mental Health Sunday

During Mental Health Awareness Month, we highlight our commitment to radical welcome and inclusion of individuals living with mental health challenges and their families with a service focused on breaking the stigma of mental health and lifting up the hope for support and recovery for those who suffer. We look forward to your presence as we observe **Mental Health Sunday in worship on May 27.**

Pastor's Note



Forward Together: Process of Christian Spiritual Discernment **Saturday, May 12, 9:00am-Noon**

Forward Together. This is how we envision our congregation's future. To whatever God calls us. To where ever God says go. For however God says, "Share my love." We listen, are equipped, and act together as a

community united in the spirit of God. For this reason, we pray that each person actively participating within our congregation join in our process of Christian spiritual discernment that begins on Saturday, May 12 at 9:00am-Noon.

Why a process of Christian spiritual discernment, and what is that anyway?

Our first session will address these questions more fully, but most simply put, Christian spiritual discernment is **intentionally seeking God's desire through practices of prayer and deep reflection from the riches of our Christian tradition.** Our facilitators will teach us the principles and guide the process, so you do not need any special skills or knowledge to participate.

We are using this process, because as a community of faith we are much more than a group of people capable of democratic decisions. We are God's people – the body of Christ – and have the gift of the Holy Spirit. Because this is not just Sunday morning talk, we seek to live these truths together. Therefore, we will intentionally seek God, learn new ways to hear and listen to God, trust God, and as a result grow as a congregation and as individuals together.

What does this process look like?

We will be led by Rev. Teresa Blythe and Greg Essenmacher (teresablythe.net), who



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
Jenna Hosler
TucsonFCC@gmail.com

The Desert Disciple
(USPS 154-880)
May 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

have similarly worked with other congregations. We will meet five times, three hours each. The first session is Saturday, May 12. Following sessions will take place on Saturdays in June, August, September, and October. All sessions will be 9am-Noon. Our time together will include a variety of activities and conversation both in large and small groups. Most importantly, our time together will be richest with the most of us present as is possible. Childcare will be provided.

Our goal by the final session is to come to an agreement on concrete questions about our mission and building, including action steps for living it out.

The changing landscape of our society and world presents us with new opportunities for reaching others and sharing God's love and hope in our community. I look forward to exploring these with all of you as we trust in a future upheld by God, grounded in Christ's love, and infused by the Spirit.

Helpful Hints for Giving



In addition to the ministry and mission that it provides, one of the personal benefits of giving to the church is the credit or deduction that one can apply to their taxes. In order to make use of this, please follow these steps:

- If using checks, make sure to write the reason for the gift on the memo line of the check and/or place the check in an envelope and clearly indicate the reason for the gift on the envelope.
- If giving for more than one purpose, write a separate check for each.
- If using cash, put the cash in an envelope; clearly print your name on the envelope and indicate the reason for the gift(s) on the envelope.

These same steps will greatly help the bookkeeper and treasurer to appropriately document your gifts and direct them as you intend. Thank you!

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.

Food for Community Food Bank

First Christian collects non-perishable food items for the Community Food Bank throughout the year. Donations can be placed on the shelves in the Welcome Area.

The Inn Project:

The Inn Project has been busy with many families. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Gretchen Lokey at [520-312-1451](tel:520-312-1451). There are morning, afternoon, evening, and overnight shifts.

The Inn Project is in need of:

- Carryall or gym bags
- Toiletries
- Small Blankets
- Jackets / sweaters
- Drawing paper
- Crayons
- Shoes / Socks

You may place items in the plastic bin marked 'Inn Project' in the Welcome Area.

Mind Wholeness Ministries Support Groups



For people affected by mental health challenges

1st & 3rd Mondays

May 7 & 21

6:00 – 7:30 PM

2nd & 4th Wednesdays

May 9 & 23

3:00 – 4:30 PM

Pentecost Special Offering



The Pentecost Offering supports Disciples new church development. Planning, nurturing and sustaining new congregation is part of the Disciples' vision. This offering supports the specialized ministry of new church development through both regional and general programs – with gifts for this offering divided between each. Fifty percent of gifts received by a region remain in that region, the balance supports the work of general, new church efforts.

Join us on May 20 & 27 as we receive the special offering for Pentecost. **First Christian has a goal of raising \$1,000 for this special offering.**

Montessori School House Concert

Montessori School House Choir students (including Krysia González) have been enthusiastically engaged in the creative endeavor of writing their own opera!

Don't miss the performance of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* on Saturday, May 12 at 3:30pm. FCC Sanctuary, 740 E Speedway Blvd



April at a Glance

DWM Friendship Lunch—Wednesday, May 2 at 11:30am, Fronimo's Greek Café

Pentecost Planning—Wednesday, May 2 at 5:30pm

Ailsa out of Office—Thursday, May 3 - Friday, May 4

Mind Wholeness Ministry Family Support Group—1st Wednesday - Cancelled for May

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

Nominating Committee Meeting—Sunday, May 6 following worship

Mind Wholeness Spiritual Support Group—1st & 3rd Mondays (5/7 & 5/21) at 6:00pm

Board Meeting—Tuesday, May 8 at 6:15pm

Elders Meeting—Thursday, April 10 at 6:00pm

Mind Wholeness Spiritual Support Group—2nd & 4th Wednesdays (5/9 & 5/23) at 6:00pm

Forward Together, Discernment Process 1—Saturday, May 12, 9:00am—12:00pm

Montessori School House Concert: Saturday, May 12 at 3:30pm in the Sanctuary

Pentecost Celebration—Sunday, May 20

Mental Health Sunday—Sunday, May 27

Church Office Closed—Monday, May 28

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”

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, Larry Kimberlin, Ron & Patti Lemke, Ruth Stokes, Jody Vanderkolk, Sally Van Slyke, and Roger White.



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 June *Desert Disciple* should be received in the office no later than **Friday, May 18.**

Praying For Our Missionaries!

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

During the week of...

May 6: Judy Chan, Hong Kong

May 13: Nia Sullivan, Sierra Leone

May 20: Sara Makari, Israel/Palestine

May 27: Carlos Sediles-Real, Mexico

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



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