

THE DESERT DISCIPLE

Volume 69 Issue 7

First Christian Church - Tucson, AZ

(520) 624-8695

July 1, 2018

Worship this Month: Upside Down

The "A Life-Giving God" series will conclude on July 1 with the Rev. Janis Brown preaching. Thank you, Janis, for the gift of your voice and faith while Pastor Ailsa is away.

Our new series "Upside Down" will begin on July 8. "Upside Down" will take us on a journey through the powerful movement of God's Spirit in the book of Acts. The power of the Holy Spirit. Life-changing encounters with God. Unexpected dreams and vision. Expanding boundaries of who is in and who is out. A growing movement still alive today!

5th Sunday Service Day—July 29

School Supply Drive and Encouraging Notes for Youth on Their Own



Every 5th Sunday, we hold a shorter worship service in the sanctuary and then continue worship through a hands-on project to connect with and contribute to our community. The next 5th Sunday comes right as children and youth are getting ready to return to school. Because no child should return unprepared, we will hold a school supply drive and invite you to bring any of the items listed below on Sunday, July 29.

In addition, we will write notes of encouragement for youth at Youth on Their Own (YOTO). This organization's stated purpose is to assure homeless youth, without stable adult support in their lives, have the support and resources necessary to stay in school and graduate with their high school diplomas. This helps to assure that they are positively contributing members of the community. YOTO serves about 1,500 youth each year.

List of Supplies:

Backpack, Binders, Colored Pencils, Crayons, Erasers, Folders, Glue Sticks, Highlighters, Markers (12 pack), Paper, Pencils, Protractors, Ruler, Scissors, Spiral Notebooks

4th of July at FCC



FCC will host its annual 4th of July Celebration on Wednesday July 4 at 7:00pm. **Please bring your favorite dish to share in the potluck dinner.** We will enjoy the A-Mountain fireworks from the roof at 9:00pm.



Sunday Worship
10:30am

Church School
9:00am

Church Office
(520) 624-8695

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Brunch at Ann's, July 14



Members of the congregation are invited to come to Ann's house for a brunch on **Saturday July 14**. This is an opportunity to get to know some folks we see in worship in an informal setting, for conversation, and sharing good food. If you are unable to come to this event, there will be other times when elders and others will invite members for fellowship dinners, as we have in the past.

Ann will provide the food. You provide the appetite and the curiosity to get to know some FCC members and friends better.

Arrive any time after 9 am, and stay as late as noon. Ann can accommodate as many as 20 people with ease. There will be a sign-up sheet at the greeter's stand in the welcome area at church, or you may call Ann at 299-3758. Please sign up by Sunday, June 8. You may want to arrange carpools, although there is plenty of parking at her house.

All-Church Outing Sunday, July 15



Bowling 1:00pm

Come in out of the heat for a fun afternoon with FCC friends at the Golden Pins bowling alley. Cost for shoe rental and two games of bowling is \$5 and should be turned in to Nancy Green (in an envelope, preferably) by the end of the worship service on July 15. If dropping off payment during the week, it can be turned in at the church office.

We will meet at **Golden Pins Bowling Alley (Miracle Mile) at 1:00pm**. Because our reservation is as a group, please do not pay your shoes and games directly to the bowling alley. We'll meet at Golden Pins bowling alley at 1:00pm. **Please sign up at the greeter stand so we know how many lanes to reserve.**

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: Men's & Young Boys Clothes (in smaller sizes) & Any clothing for warm weather** —You may place items in the plastic bin marked 'Inn Project' in the Welcome Area. Monetary donations are also welcome. You may write a check to FCC with the memo "Inn Project,"

5th Sunday Service Day

Bring school items for Tucson students. See article for more information.

Mind Wholeness Ministries Support Groups

Summer Group

For people affected by mental health challenges

1st & 3rd Monday

July 2 and 16

6:00 – 7:30 PM

Resuming in September

For people affected by mental health challenges

2nd & 4th Wednesday

Taking a Summer Break

For family members affected by mental health challenges

will meet next on

September 5 at 3:00pm

Pastor's Note

I have shared Maya Spector's poem for spring, "Jailbreak," before, but think its words are so appropriate for the summer months when we typically experience a break from our regular routines. The change of pace can make us realize how stuck we sometimes are in the way we do things, the way we think, and even the way we see the world. It can remind us that God does not want us stuck in the place we are, but always growing. Growing in understanding, love, and compassion. Growing in wisdom and courage. Growing in seeing what it takes for God's will to be done "on earth as in heaven" as well as how we must adjust our priorities.

Especially in this time of congregational discernment and our facilitators in this process pushing us to reclaim our call to evangelism, this poem reminds us of our constant need to be open to the work of the Spirit within us. It is work that can only happen when we listen deeply to God, to one another, and to new voices we have not considered before. So...are you up for it? Listening for what may challenge you? Considering new ideas? Growing in Christ?

Inevitably, growth means change. We seek a growth that, though sometimes is slow, will guide our transformation into the likeness of the One we worship. "Lose your determination to remain unchanged," Spector writes. Summertime pushes us in this direction. The direction to "break out," to "stop holding back the blossoming," to be open to the "gentle nudge" that "carries behind it the force of a flash flood." Are you ready? Are you ready to acknowledge the gentle nudge and put aside fear? Are you ready for the adventure of the flash flood—the quick moving, forceful waters—that will come?

Jailbreak

It's time to break out—
Jailbreak time.
Time to punch our way out of
the dark winter prison.
Lilacs are doing it
in sudden explosions of soft purple.
And the jasmine vines, and ranunculus, too.
There is no jailer powerful enough
to hold Spring contained.
Let that be a lesson.
Stop holding back the blossoming
Quit shutting eyes and gritting teeth,
curling fingers into fists, hunching shoulders.
Lose your determination to remain unchanged.
All the forces of nature
want you to open,
Their gentle nudge carries behind it
the force of a flash flood.
Why make a cell your home
when the door is unlocked
and the garden is waiting for you.

-Maya Spector



Forward Together: Christian Spiritual Discernment Update

Participants from First Christian's membership met for the second session of our spiritual discernment process on June 23. We focused on the identity of our congregation: our history, our personal experiences that ignited passion, core values, and relevant data of our current time and place. We affirmed the ways our

history has shaped us to now and the legacy we hope to carry with us into the future. In addition, the group began an honest assessment around all the current ministries and programs of the congregation, evaluating passion and energy level as well as growing edges.

As our facilitators emphasize the need to embrace our call to evangelism, for the next meeting participants are invited to reflect on the session and come prepared with one simple phrase that describes who we are as a congregation. In addition, participants are asked to engage in the spiritual practice of a weekly examen (based on Ignatian spirituality).

Simple Examen – Done Once a Week

- Make yourself comfortable and set aside some quiet time for this prayer. You may want to light a candle or ring a chime to invite yourself into contemplation.
- Rest into silence for a few moments.
- Ask God's Spirit to lead you in this prayer.
- Review your week's experience at First Christian (worship, outreach, business meetings, fellowship, classes).
 - ♦ If you could make any one moment last longer, which would it be? What happened in that moment that made it so life-giving? Sit with that moment and allow it to give you life again. Offer your gratitude to God for that moment.
 - ♦ If you could go back and alter any one moment in your week's experience at church, which would it be? What made that moment so difficult? Sit with that moment in the light of God's love and allow yourself to feel whatever emotion you have. Offer that moment to God for healing.
- Make a note of these two moments in your week.
- Take time for silence. Allow the Spirit to speak to you and allow you to learn from these moments.
- End by giving thanks to God for all the ways God has been with you—through the joy and the pain.

All members of the congregation are invited to participate in these practices as well and to continue praying for this process.



New XPLOR Residents

We have heard the good news of the incoming XPLOR residents that will arrive in August. Following is a brief introduction of these young adults. One resident will worship and participate in ministry with us, and we will announce that once we know. Please begin praying for them as they prepare this for this new chapter in their lives.

Ethan Bradfield from Long Beach, California

Ethan is from Bixby Knolls Christian Church in Long Beach, California, where his dad is the pastor. In middle and high school, they were very involved in theater/drama. Their passion is for photography and film making. They have spent the past 3 years as a part time staff at Loch Leven, their regional church camp, and they are active in many other Regional events. Ethan is an Eagle Scout and applied for XPLOR because of a call to help others and spread their love for humanity. They are very good at working with others and solving problems. As well as photography, they enjoy building props, Photoshop, and playing the ukulele.

Emily Bray from Wauseon, Ohio

Emily is a preacher's daughter from Wauseon, OH, participating in FCC Sylvania, OH. Since graduating high school, she has completed one year of college, worked as a barista, head maintenance at Camp Christian in the summers, and grounds maintenance worker at the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium. In October 2016 she traveled to Thailand to serve two weeks at a refugee camp. Emily says that her faith has been the most important thing in her life as long as she can remember. She doesn't quite have the future figured out yet, but she'll get there. She loves to read, sing and dance, drink coffee, work out, and spend time with her kitten. She describes herself as hardworking, smart, loyal, reliable, kind, focused, loving and accepting and adventurous.

Natalie Maxson from Springfield, Missouri

Natalie is wrapping up her senior year at Drury University in Springfield, Missouri, where she majors in Religious Studies and Spanish. She has acted as a peer mentor for international students in Drury's English for Academic Purposes (EAP) program and currently works at the campus library as a Circulation Assistant. Natalie is fairly new to the Disciples but found her way to Central Christian Church in Springfield because she was seeking a faith journey that fostered inclusivity and community engagement. She has a passion for music, dance, intercultural communication, and interfaith dialogue, and she loves discovering how each of these can inspire and inform the pursuit of social justice. In her free time, Natalie dances West Coast Swing and other assorted styles, practices yoga, plays ukulele, crochets, and cultivates a sense of perpetual curiosity.

July at a Glance

Pastor Ailsa out of Office—June 26—July 6

Mind Wholeness Spiritual Support Group—1st & 3rd Mondays (7/2 & 7/16) at 6:00pm

4th of July Celebration—Wed., July 4 at 7:00pm

Elders Meeting—Not meeting in July

National Hispanic & Bilingual Assembly—July 12-14

Brunch at Ann's—Saturday, July 14 at 9:00am

FCC Outing: Bowling—Sunday, July 15 at 1:00pm

Interfaith Peace Prayer—Wednesday, July 18 at 6:30pm, St. Mark's Methodist Church, 1431 W Magee Rd.

DD Deadline—Friday, July 20

Board Meeting—Tuesday, July 24 at 6:15pm

ICS Mental Health Network Meeting—Wednesday, July 25 at 10:30am

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"

We Welcome:

- ♥ New childcare assistant, **Nichole Burkett**. Nichole begins her time at FCC on Sunday, July 1. Please take a moment to give Nichole a warm FCC welcome.

Please be in prayer for:

- ♥ **William Koller**, recovering from a fall & surgery.
- ♥ **Larry Kimberlin**, recovering from a fall & surgery.
- ♥ **Our hospitality guests and soon to arrive XPLOR Residents: Ethan, Emily & Natalie.**
- ♥ **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, June King, 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 August *Desert Disciple* should be received in the office no later than **Friday, July 20.**

Praying For Our Missionaries!



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

During the week of...

July 1: Amelia Casillas and Pedro Muniz, Paraguay

July 8: Alison Trezona, United Kingdom

July 15: Israel / Palestine

July 22: Michael Joseph, Colombia

July 29: Cindy Moraga-Selva, Mexico

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

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