

THE DESERT DISCIPLE

Volume 69 Issue 9

First Christian Church - Tucson, AZ

(520) 624-8695

September 1, 2018

Worship this Month: *Upside Down* continues

The story of the early church in Acts presents a community pushed to adapt and change as the Spirit leads. Sometimes changes come easy. Sometimes people resist. How willing are we to change? How ready are we to adapt for the sake of others in need of the Good News? We continue our prayer, "Come, Holy Spirit, come!"

September 2: Acts 6:8-15; 7:54—8:3

September 9: Acts 11:1-18

September 16: Acts 9:9-22, 12:1-19

September 23: Acts 15:1-21

September 30: Acts 17:16-34



Welcome, XPLOR Residents!



National Benevolent Association
XPLOR
FAITH, JUSTICE AND COMMUNITY

Our XPLOR residents, Ethan, Emily, and Natalie, have arrived! Please keep them in your prayers as they make the adjustment to living in a new place, building community with one another, simple living, new work experiences, and participating in different churches.

Join us on Sunday, September 16 at 5:00pm for the Welcome Potluck and House Blessing.

REMINDER: We appreciate all members showing consideration of the residents' privacy. Please remember that these residents will be in the XPLOR area downstairs by the Fellowship Hall. The residents will also use the restrooms and the kitchen. **In order to not cause panic on the part of the residents, we ask that church members needing to be in the fellowship hall, kitchen, or storage room late at night or early in the morning, contact the Church Office first so we can let the residents know ahead of time.**

Sunday Worship
10:30am

Church School
9:00am

Church Office
(520) 624-8695

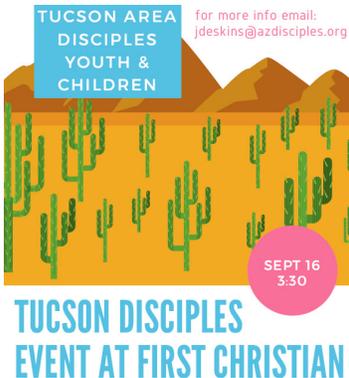
Pastor

Rev. Ailsa Guardiola González
fccailsa@gmail.com

Moderator
Paul DeArman

Office Manager

Jenna Hosler
TucsonFCC@gmail.com



Tucson Disciples

Children & Youth Event

Sunday, September 16 at 3:30pm at First Christian Church, For Children & Youth 1st- 12th grade

Come meet the new Regional Minister for Youth and Children, play games, and see friends! We will also be participating in the XPLOR Resident House Blessing & Potluck at 5:00pm, so bring a dish to share!

For more info, contact Jay Deskins, jdeskins@azdisciples.org

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YOU Can Stop Hunger!



CROP WALK: How You Can Make a Difference Around the World! **Sunday, September 23 following worship in the chapel**

Every year our congregation offers water for those walking in the CROP Walk for Hunger. Every year our members sign up as walkers and ask for donations. But, what exactly is the CROP Walk? For what and for whom is the money raised? And how does that money make a real difference in the world?

On Sunday, September 23, you will hear the answers to all these questions, and more! Join us after worship on Sunday, September 23: eat pizza, show off your charade skills, build a dream garden, and learn the answer to all those questions! Everyone is invited, because everyone can make a difference and impact a life!

5th Sunday Service Day, September 30



A New Thing!

This 5th Sunday, we will take our service day to a whole new level. Partnering with Habitat for Humanity's A Brush with Kindness program, FCC volunteers will engage in hands on service to repair a home of a family in our Tucson community. You need no experience in construction to help. We will keep you informed on the scope of work once we know more details.

Volunteers will work 7am-Noon. We will begin our morning with a devotional and communion. Volunteers must be 16 or older and sign up at the greeter stand.

10:30am in the Sanctuary.

Meanwhile, those not volunteering will gather at our regular time for worship at

Premiere Showing of *MUD*



Sunday, September 30, 3:00-6:00pm

At First Christian Church

Ever wonder what it is like to dig your own adobe house and make it as safe and charming as any place on earth? Ever wish you knew more about sustainable living in Tucson? *MUD* is an inspiring documentary about a Tucson woman's attempts to live a sustainable existence, focusing on a dwelling she created from mud and recycled materials and featuring interviews with other members of the Southwestern permaculture community.

On Sunday, September 30, from 3-6pm, members of First Christian Church and the general public are invited to attend a premiere showing of the documentary. A discussion in sustainability led by producer and star, Kay Sather, will follow. Samples of truly local foods will also be available.

RSVP Claudia Ellquist (cequist@juno.com) so we will have adequate seating. Invite your friends!

Congregational Meeting



Potluck Lunch & Congregational Meeting, September 16

Hear insights from the Forward Together: Christian Spiritual Discernment process at the next congregational meeting on Sunday, September 16. The meeting will take place following the potluck lunch. Bring a favorite dish to share!



Pastoral Note

Forward Together: Christian Spiritual Discernment Process Insights

First Christian's discernment group met for a third time on Saturday, August 11, during which our facilitators led us in a Clearness Committee. The Clearness Committee is a spiritual practice from the Quaker tradition. Parker J. Palmer of the Center for Courage and Renewal explains:

"Many of us face a dilemma when trying to deal with a personal problem, question, or decision. On the one hand, we know that the issue is ours alone to resolve and that we have the inner resources to resolve it, but access to our own resources is often blocked by layers of inner "stuff"—confusion, habitual thinking, fear, despair. On the other hand, we know that friends might help us uncover our inner resources and find our way, but by exposing our problem to others, we run the risk of being invaded and overwhelmed by their assumptions, judgments, and advice—a common and alienating experience. As a result, we often privatize these vital questions in our lives: at the very moment when we need all the help we can get, we find ourselves cut off from both our inner resources and the support of a community.

For people who have experienced this dilemma, I want to describe a method invented by the Quakers, a method that protects individual identity and integrity while drawing on the wisdom of other people. It is called a "Clearness Committee." If that name sounds like it is from the sixties, it is—the 1660's! From their beginnings over three hundred years ago, Quakers needed a way to draw on both inner and communal resources to deal with personal problems because they had no clerical leaders to "solve" their problems for them. The Clearness Committee is testimony to the fact that there are no external authorities on life's deepest issues, not clergy or therapists or scholars; there is only the authority that lies within each of us waiting to be heard.

Behind the Clearness Committee is a simple but crucial conviction: each of us has an inner teacher, a voice of truth [a core belief for the Quaker community], that offers the guidance and power we need to deal with our problems. But that inner voice is often garbled by various kinds of inward and outward interference. The function of the Clearness Committee is not to give advice or "fix" people from the outside in but rather to help people remove the interference so that they can discover their own wisdom from the inside out...if we respect the power of the inner teacher, the Clearness Committee can be a remarkable way to help someone name and claim his or her deepest truth."

So, led by our question, "What is our specific call from God in this time and place?" participants worship together in prayer. We listened in the silence, clearing away the things that distract us. Clearing away our assumptions and supposed right answers. Clearing away to make space within us and hear that inner voice of truth from the holy. Together, we listened...and at specific moments between the silence, each person was invited to share the thoughts, ideas, and images that came.

Though the list is extensive, the common themes of what was shared enabled us to find a sense of unity around a call. We found that the process not only affirmed our current identity as a community called to Seek God, Love like Jesus, and Serve the World, but also deepened that understanding.

In summary, our call is to be a place of discovery: offering space and opportunity for ourselves and others to discover our purpose. At the center is the call to Seek God, Love Like Jesus, and Be (in God). As we move outward (Serve the World), our call right now is to make new connections—both personal, one-on-one, and with organizations—in order to listen and learn from the heart of our neighbors. Furthermore, the marks of this call are 1) an inclusive love of all, 2) to release fear and let seeds grow, and 3) have magical fun! When we follow the guidance of the Spirit in and among us, there is joy!

Members and friends who were not able to join the discernment group can hear more about the process so far at our next congregational meeting and potluck on Sunday, September 16.

Disciples Women's Ministry



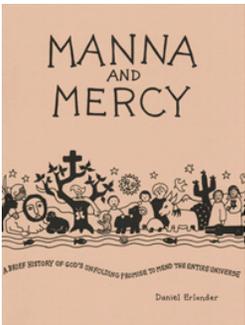
Welcome Back, DWM!

Disciples Women's Ministries will meet Tuesday, September 11 to open our new program year. From September through November, we will use materials from the Caribbean Initiative developed by Global Ministries. This program helps us learn about the lives of the people, the issues they face, and the work of our partners in this part of the world. We will especially focus on Puerto Rico.

At our September meeting, we will receive materials about Puerto Rico and the Caribbean Initiative. **Our speaker will be Pastor Ailsa, who will share stories of recovery from Hurricane Maria.** Please come to hear her!

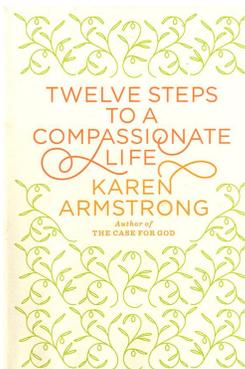
Lunch will be provided for this meeting, and the meeting is open to all members and friends of FCC. Please let Ann Nichols know if you plan to come so she will prepare enough food. Call her at 299-3758, see her at church, or email at annwnichols@gmail.com.

Thursday Spiritual Growth Group 11am



The Thursday small group will begin a new study based on the book *Manna and Mercy: A Brief History of God's Unfolding Promise to Mend the Entire Universe* by Daniel Erlander. *Manna & Mercy* offers an unique entry into the scriptures through its retelling of the Bible and focus on God's grace and never-ending love for humanity. Daniel Erlander describes this as a book about God—more specifically the God of the Bible who is present and active in human history and all creation. Using Jesus' life, death, and resurrection as our guide, we journey through all of Scripture to reclaim its message of life, justice, and inclusion for all people.

Book Group News



The Sunday book group will host producer Kay Sather and the showing of her documentary, MUD, on Sunday, September 30, 3:00-6:00pm.

Looking forward to October: Plan now to participate in an abbreviated book group session (3 Sundays), in which we discuss Karen Armstrong's *Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life*. This astonishing book by a UCC minister has been chosen as the 2018 book-to-read by Tucson Mayor Rothschild. Book clubs at several locations will be taking it on as part of the city-wide Mayor's Compassionate Book Club and the locations, including ours, are

listed on their website. We invite you to join this effort that goes beyond our own walls and reaches out to the community.

The conversation will take place 3:00-5:00pm on October 7, 14 and 21 in the parlor. You may order your book directly, or see Ann Nichols about obtaining a copy.

Mind Wholeness Ministries Support Groups



For people affected by mental health challenges:

1st & 3rd Monday
September 3 & 17
6:00 – 7:30 PM

2nd & 4th Wednesday
September 12 & 26
3:00 — 4:30 PM

The Family Support Group that meets on the 1st Wednesday will resume October 3 at 3:00pm.



Welcome, Jay Deskins, Regional Minister for Youth & Children

We celebrate our new Regional Minister for Youth & Children, Rev. Jay Deskins. Jay will be holding office hours both in Phoenix and Tucson. His Tucson office will be at First Christian several days a week. His will use the room off of Jenna's office. Please take a moment to greet Jay if you are ever at church while he is here.

Reconciliation Offering September 23 & 30

Embracing the Call

Have you ever found yourself in the presence of someone who was greatly overwhelmed, and you felt powerless to ease their pain? Recently while participating in a meeting for a rally to highlight the plight of people living under the oppression of poverty, the moderator of the meeting was being criticized by the participants because he apparently made a decision without securing approval from the group. Because of this, the group felt left out and their emotions started getting reactive. Soon, I felt my own anxiety increasing. I took a deep breath and asked the group, "What do you need today?" Slowly, the tone of the meeting changed. Words like trust, confidence, and fairness began to emerge. I wondered, "Is this not what God asks us every day, beckoning us to the ministry of reconciliation?" It seemed as if in the midst of our tensions and anxieties God was asking us, "What do you need today to embrace my call?"

In the verse preceding the well-known verse of Micah 6:8, The Message version reads, "How can I stand up before God and show proper respect to the high God?" The prophet ponders on response to God, "shall I give... the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?" God has created and empowered each of us numerous gifts, passions, and experiences for how we respond to the prophet Micah's question.

But, what if we changed the question? What if in the midst of our emotions, feelings, anxieties, and even as we ponder the sins of our souls, we stopped to ask God "What do you need from me today?"

Last year's special offering reminded us that everyone has a story, would you join us this year and let yours be one of doing justice, loving mercy and walking humbly before God?

Through your giving to Reconciliation Ministry, our churches are hosting "One Bag of Tea" conversations where everyone voice is valued; our Youth are leading and teaching faith-rooted activism; and our leaders are developing and participating in educational opportunities that promote justice that heals and love that binds us together with our God and neighbors. Will you Embrace the Call?

About the Special Offering

The Special Offering is used to fund our Church's mission imperative to become an pro-reconciling and anti-racist church utilizing experiential education, inclusive worship and intentional dialogue. Our efforts to promote healing, relationship and restoration in the whole family of God are enlivened by funds from this offering. Through it we are able to provide programs for leadership development, curriculum for dialogue and learning, and partnerships within the Church and our communities.

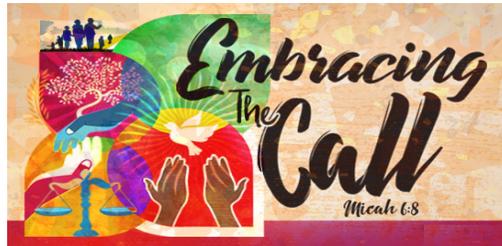
FCC will receive the offering September 23 & 30. Our goal is \$700.00.

Arizona Regional Assembly



Mark your Calendar:

Arizona Regional Assembly
Friday & Saturday,
November 2 & 3
Saguaro Christian Church in
Tucson



Community Events:

Labor Day Sing-a-Long

SEPTEMBER 3, 2018, 3-5 PM
FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH, CHAPEL
740 E SPEEDWAY

Ted Warmbrand unpacks a treasure trove of labor and struggle songs for us to sing. From the IWW, the CIO, and more.

From the work place to the way forward. Songs reminding us where we come from, how we got here and what's left...

Free for all. All ages welcome.
For more information, call 623-1688.

Borderlands Theater presents Sanctuary



Sanctuary

by Milta Ortiz

Directed by Marc David Pinate

Southside Presbyterian Church

317 W. 23rd Street
Tucson, AZ 85713

September 6-23, 2018

Thursday- Saturday @7:30pm

Sunday @4:30pm

Buy tickets: <https://sanctuaryplay.bpt.me>

Based on real people and events.

Sanctuary chronicles the Tucson birth of the 1980's Sanctuary Movement.

For more visit www.borderlandstheater.org

Church Women United's Christmas in September Fashion Fair



Saturday, September 15 at First Christian Church
Red Carpet Registration: 9:00am – 9:30pm; Event until 11:30am

\$10 Registration Fee includes:

Breakfast, Door prizes and two entries into a raffle for amazing outfit supplied by Aloha Glamour (It will be sent to you to ensure size & style), Fashion Show (you may participate or just watch)

Mission in Action: bring items for the Butterfly Boutique & the Inn Project

Items for the Butterfly Boutique:

- ◆ Business Casual Women's clothing
- ◆ Costume Jewelry,
- ◆ Accessories



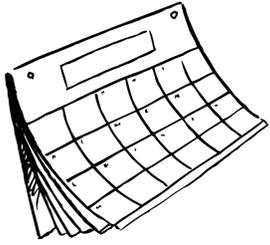
The Butterfly Boutique is an all-volunteer, all donated goods, nonprofit (501c3 tax deductible) store which uses revenue earned to support Teen Challenge's Springboard Home for Youth in Crisis, a 3 to 5-month residential program for adolescent girls. This boutique sells new and gently used clothing for women of all sizes, as well as costume jewelry and other great accessories. Butterfly Boutique is located at 3725 W. Ina Road, Suite 100 (Ina/ Thornydale) and open Mon-Sat 10:00am – 5:00pm.

Items for the Inn Project:

- ◆ Men's/Boy's Clothing
- ◆ Backpacks & Gym Bags
- ◆ Baby & Children's Clothing
- ◆ Hygiene items

The Inn Project is an emergency response of the United Methodist Church to an increased number of families with children being released from Immigration and Customs Enforcement Custody. We are providing temporary shelter, food, and transportation to the Tucson Grey Hound Station and Airport.

To register, call or text Patti 520-253-1329 or email phoagg@comcast.net. If you need childcare, you must register by September 5th.



September at a Glance

- Church Office Closed**—Monday, September 3
- Mind Wholeness Spiritual Support Group**—
1st & 3rd Mondays (9/3 & 9/17) at 6:00pm
- Board Meeting**—Wed., September 5 at 6:00pm
- Elders Meeting**—Thurs., September 6 at 6:00pm
- Choir Rehearsal Resumes**—Thursday,
September 6 at 7:15pm
- Mind Wholeness Spiritual Support Group**—
2nd & 4th Wednesdays (9/12 & 9/26) at 3pm
- Worship Design Team Meeting**—Wednesday,
September 12 at 6:00pm
- CWU Christmas in September Event**—Saturday,
September 15 at 9:30am
- Congregational Meeting & Potluck**—Sunday,
September 16 following Worship
- Tucson Disciples Children/Youth Event**—
Sunday, September 16 at 3:30pm
- XPLOR House Blessing & Potluck**—Sunday,
September 16 at 5:00pm
- DD Deadline**—Monday, September 17
- Interfaith Peace Prayer**—Wednesday, Sept. 19
at 6:30pm at SEMA Foundation
- Forward Together: Discernment Process, Part 4**—Saturday, September 22 at 9:00am
- YOU Can Stop Hunger**—Sunday, September 23
following Worship
- XPLOR Team Meeting**—Tuesday, September 25
at 6:15pm
- 5th Sunday Service Day**—Sunday, September 30
- MUD Documentary**—Sunday, September 30 at
3:00pm
- 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

Opportunities to Serve the World:

Thursday Bilingual Prayer Vigil

Vigils of accompaniment and hope are a time to pray for our hospitality guests; those affected by the political, humanitarian, and legal complexities of the border; 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.

5th Sunday Service Day

Volunteers (16 and older) will repair a home for a Tucson family with Habitat for Humanity's A Brush of Kindness program. 7:00am-Noon.

"News from the Pews"

- ♥ First Christian Church!
As deployed Regional Staff it is so important for me to have a place to "hang my hat" here in Tucson! Thank you for welcoming me and allowing me to use some office space in your church! I am so excited about the work that our region will be doing for our youth and children! Thank you for giving me a place where I can focus and accomplish the work that is set out before me!
Peace, Rev. Jay Deskins
Regional Youth and Children's Minister

Please be in prayer for:

- ♥ **Our hospitality guests and 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, Phil Shosie, 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 * (Off for September)
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 October *Desert Disciple* should be received in the office no later than **Monday, September 17.**

Praying For Our Missionaries!



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

During the week of...

Sept 2: Jeanette Salley, Nicaragua

Sept 9: Martha Mensendiek, Japan

Sept 16: Emmanuela Loccident, Morocco

Sept 23: Tom Liddle, East Timor

Sept 30: Robert Breckenridge, Zambia

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

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