

# THE DESERT DISCIPLE

Volume 69 Issue 10

First Christian Church - Tucson, AZ

(520) 624-8695

October 1, 2018

## Worship this Month: *The Power of We*

The *Power of We* sermon series explores the core values of our faith community and celebrates the many gifts of ministry in our congregation.

### October 7 – The Power of We: Beloved

Matthew 25:31-46

Core value: We celebrate that all are beloved, children of God.

Ministry focus: Mind Wholeness Ministry

### October 14 – The Power of We: Seek

Mark 10:17-31

Core value: We seek to encounter God.

Ministry focus: First Christian Church staff, with special celebration of Jenna Hosler, Office Manager

### October 21 - The Power of We: Diversity

Mark 10:35-45

Core Value: We honor everyone's faith journey and diverse gifts.

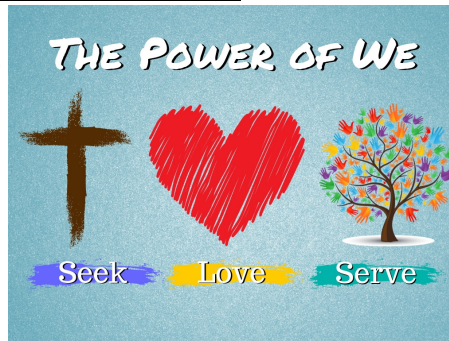
Ministry focus: Lay ministry—elders, deacons, and all volunteers

### October 28- The Power of We: Together with God

Mark 10:46-52

Core value: We join God's work in the world.

Ministry focus: Ministry beyond our walls



**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

## FCC Outing: Marana Pumpkin Patch

### Sunday, October 21

Meet at Pumpkin Patch at 3:00pm

14901 N. Wentz Road, Marana, AZ 85653

Admission is \$13.00 (+tax) per person. Kids 32" and under get in free. Please contact the church office if you need help covering the admission fee.



### Admission Includes:

- Entry to the Farm Festival
- A Wagon Ride to the Pumpkin Patch  
(To pick out your special pumpkin! Pumpkins priced at just \$.50 per pound.)
- Tractor Train Ride
- Free access to both corn mazes
- Access to Straw Mountain and the Kids Zone
- Petting Zoo
- Pig Races
- Rubber Duck Races
- Jumping Pillow
- 1/4 Scale Diesel Train
- Peddle Cart Ride
- Pumpkin Train Ride
- Little Tractors

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## YOU Can Stop Hunger! - CROP Hunger Walk, October 28

**Sunday, October 28**

Registration: 1:30am

Walk: 2:00pm

First United Methodist Church

How you can participate:

**Walk in the CROP Walk** – to register online, please visit our team's page: <https://www.crophungerwalk.org/tucsonaz/FCCtucson> OR you may pick up a walker packet from the greeter stand.

**Sponsor a walker** – Find a walker and give your donation in the form of cash or check made out to **CWS** or go to our CROP Hunger Walk page and click on the walker's name to make a donation online.

**Serve water at FCC's water table in the parking lot** – volunteers will set up the a table in the parking lot with water and offer it to walkers as they pass by on the final leg of the walk.

**Our goal is to have 8 walkers and raise a total of \$500.00 among those 8 walkers.**

75% of donations will go to Church World Service's refugee, disaster relief, and self-help development work. 25% of donations will STAY IN TUCSON, benefitting the Community Food Bank, Casa Maria Soup Kitchen, and Interfaith Community Services

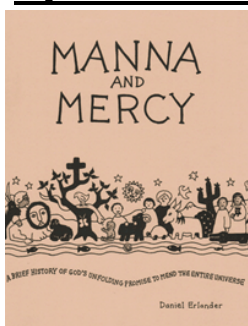


## Disciples Women's Ministry

In our September meeting we heard from Pastor Ailsa about the situation today in Puerto Rico. She had pictures illustrating the vast extent of the destruction brought about by hurricane Maria. The hopeful news is the ongoing work of local churches in Puerto Rico engaged in recovery work. We saw pictures of members of a congregation carrying relief supplies and helping repair roofs in a remote area still in great need.

In October we have a wonderful opportunity to continue our study with the help of a speaker. Cathy Nichols, Executive, Mission Personnel Office, will be in town and will bring information about the Caribbean Initiative and other work of Global Ministries. **We meet on Tuesday, October 9, from 11:30-1:00.** A light lunch will be provided. It will help if you let Ann Nichols know if you are coming so there will be enough food. Men are also welcome to attend!

## Spiritual Growth Group, now meeting Wednesdays at 12pm



This 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 on **Wednesday, October 10 at 12:00pm** in the Parlor. *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.

## Connect with XPLOR



We are delighted about Ethan's presence with us at First Christian. We look forward to Ethan's involvement in a number of ways. First, members and friends of First Christian can connect with Ethan over a meal or activity to which you may want to invite Ethan. If you are interested in this, please contact Janis Sherick. Second, in the first several months at First Christian, Ethan will periodically participate in leading worship, work with our children and youth, and explore aspects of the Mind Wholeness Ministry.

## Safe Interactions Training for All Leaders and Volunteers

**Saturday, October 13**

**Option 1: 8:30am – 12 noon**

**OR**

**Option 2: 1:00pm – 4:30pm**

In 2017, First Christian Church adopted the Safe Interaction Policy for our congregation. This policy provides guidelines for how we interact with each other, particularly youth and vulnerable adults; establishes when we must report incidents to civil and church authorities; defines what constitutes an incident; and provides an overall structure to help assure protection and respect for those participating in the church. The policy and its training requirement for all employees and volunteers also keep us within our insurance carrier's guidelines.



The interactive and thought-provoking training will answer such questions as:

- How do I avoid misunderstandings of my intentions with my behavior?
- What constitutes abuse, neglect and exploitation? What are the signs?
- To whom, under what circumstances and what do I report to civil and church authorities? What are the timelines?
- Who is a vulnerable adult? Who is a youth?
- Who has to know this information?

The training is required for all church employees, designated leaders, and those volunteering with youth and vulnerable adults. Others can take the training as well. The last time we offered this training, some individuals attended the training because they felt they could benefit from the information or because they thought they might like to volunteer in the future.

The training will take place on Saturday, October 13, 2018 and will be offered at two separate times. The **first option** is from 08:30 am to 12:00 noon. **The second option** is from 01:00 pm to 04:30 pm. If you are a church leader, employee, or volunteer who has not yet taken this training please arrange to attend **one** of these sessions. **Please call the church office or Debbie Stadle by October 11 to enroll.** If you are someone who leads by example, participates in church activities, and are interested in the training, you are also welcome to enroll.

We promise you an engaging time that will better equip you to serve in the life and ministry of First Christian Church! We look forward to seeing you there!

## Spaghetti Lunch, October 21

Enjoy a spaghetti lunch following worship on Sunday, October 21. No need to bring anything but your appetite! Thank you, Sharon Sorensen, for providing the delicious meal and honoring all our leaders and volunteers.

## A Note from the Stewardship Team!

Fall is already upon us! Though Autumn in Tucson is largely a non-event where weather is concerned, the season brings with it a number of things, most of which seem to be pumpkin-spiced flavored. Wedged somewhere between the back-to-school frenzy and noticeably earlier sunsets is the annual Stewardship focus at church. Each year this takes on a different look and approach, always adapting to our current needs and aspirations. It inspires us and adds something to our lives, be it appreciation for all our church does for us and our community or a new perspective on our role as faithful caretakers (stewards) of the gifts God gives us and what that can mean in our lives. Yet, the stewardship focus always brings us to the same place: a point to assess the links between our hopes, intentions, and real world plans. This is always an awkward ask, as it calls for a decision that weighs heavy and can't be made lightly. Yet, we all must arrive at some decision on our personal response to participate in this spiritual practice.

This year's stewardship focus, however, is unique. As we all know, we are currently undergoing a critical discernment process to determine the direction in which FCC Tucson proceeds over the next several years. Because the discernment process shows promise in guiding our future direction and goals, **the church board made the decision to extend the current budget throughout the first quarter of 2019 in order for a complete budget to be created once we know more about our areas of focus.**

This means we have a very unique request this year: **we would like to ask everyone to continue their 2018 pledge through the first quarter of 2019 and to begin prayerful consideration for supporting wherever the discernment process leads our ministry.** And if you have never tried giving via a pledge before, this is a perfect time to attempt this spiritual discipline for a three month trial period!

Questions you may have upon reading this:

"Wait, can I just pledge for the year like always?" Yes, you can. Just realize you will be asked to re-confirm once the new budget is ready.

"Why is pledging such a big thing, again?" Your gifts are a way of giving thanks and joining in God's work through ministries at FCC. They are appreciated however you give them. For you, pledging is a way of practicing giving in a regular way. For the church, pledges enable an accurate plan for our ministries for the year. Un-pledged offerings can fluctuate a lot and make it difficult to plan ahead. Additionally, if you want to claim your donations on your taxes, they'll have to be identifiable to you.

"Why would this be a good time to start pledging?" Small, trial goals are always a good way to start something new. The timing lines up with New Year's resolutions, and just at the time most people have forgotten their resolutions, you will have met your goal! By then, you'll have an idea of how pledging fits in your life and what you would like to pledge for the rest of the year. If you already pledge, this could be a nice trial for something you haven't done before, such as giving at a different interval or setting up auto-payment with your bank.

During worship on Sunday, October 28 you will have the opportunity to reaffirm your current pledge or begin a new trial pledge. As in years past, cards will be available for you to fill out and place in the offering plate. As always, the information you provide remains confidential.

Whatever your decision, thank you for your support and God Bless!

-Colin Green, Stewardship Ministry Team Chair

## Pastoral Note

This month we celebrate the ministries of our church through our series, The Power of We. But truthfully, the real celebration is of God: How God is tangibly present with us in gatherings for worship and Bible study; moments of supporting one another through life challenges; offering support to others in our community; sharing meals and holiday celebrations; activities for families; and in the great services and ministries that take place here, such as XPLOr, Desert Spring Children's Center, and Owl & Panther.

Essentially, we remember and give thanks that God invites us to participate in amazing, transformative work in our lives and the lives of others. We also take time to prayerfully consider in what specific ways we will respond to the invitation. Whether through our resources of time, special skills, finances, compassion, or moments of care, this invitation remains.

I look forward to seeing you in worship this month as we lift up the Mind Wholeness Ministry, witness baptisms, honor our staff with a special recognition of Office Manager, Jenna Hosler, say thank you to our lay leaders and volunteers, and hear the variety of ways we serve the world. I look forward to celebrating with you!

## Week of Compassion Update



### **Providing Emergency Relief in the Philippines after Typhoon Ompong** September 19, 2018

While the mid-Atlantic coast of the U.S. still struggles with the aftermath of Hurricane Florence, with many communities still cut off from flooding due to rivers that are only now beginning to crest, Typhoon

Mangkhut -- known as Ompong in the Philippines -- made landfall on the northern tip of Luzon on Friday night local time and has decimated much of the Philippines with winds of over 125 mph. Rev. Melzar Labuntog, General Secretary of the United Church of Christ in the Philippines, reports that there are upwards of 2500 church families who are in need of food due to their homes and livelihoods being destroyed. Forty-nine of the Church's communities need seeds to replant gardens and farms that were washed away. Many people were buried alive in landslides in the areas of Baguio City, Kayapa, Nueva Vizcaya and Itugon, and Benguet; 41 bodies have been retrieved with more expected to be.

Through Global Ministries, our partner the United Church of Christ in the Philippines, has requested our help in channeling monetary aid, medical supplies, food, and monies to assist families who have been directly affected by this severe storm. Week of Compassion will continue to work with our partners in the days and months ahead to help communities impacted by this devastating typhoon to rebuild. We seek your prayers for those who are grieving, for those are caring for their neighbors, and for the restoration of these communities. Your continued gifts to Week of Compassion will, through the work of our partners, bring help where it is needed. Thank you.

You can give to Week of Compassion through FCC (memo: WoC), or online at:  
<https://docgeneralassembly.webconnex.com/weekofcompassion>

## **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 10 & 24**  
6:00 – 7:30 PM

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





## **Arizona Regional Assembly**

### **Friday & Saturday, November 2 & 3**

### **Saguaro Christian Church in Tucson**

Abraham and Isaac dug wells searching for springs of water. Moses watched water flow from a rock to quench the thirst of his people. A Samaritan woman heard Jesus speak of a living water which would become a “spring of water gushing up to eternal life”. On November 2-3, you are invited to come to the springs of life at our 2018 Regional Assembly.

All around us, we can find experiences of life-giving waters through inspiration, connection, worship and celebration. These springs assure us we are known, remind us we are loved, and draw us to the places we are called. Our scripture and desert life speak of the vitality of water, and it is in water we find inspiration for our 2018 Regional Assembly. Fuente de Vida!

We are excited to welcome three amazing speakers:



**Rev. Erin Wathen**



**Rev. Al Lopez**

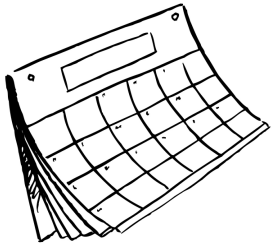


**Rev. Terri Hord Owens**

Each will inspire, challenge, and call us to courageously seek to find the Spirit’s workings for creativity in the life, mission, and ministry of the Arizona Region.

We will also share in opportunities to experience springs of life within our Region including a daylong pre-assembly event, Fuente de Vida at the Border. In this event, participants will visit organizations working at the border and connect with Disciples in Nogales, Sonora.

**Registration is \$40 for youth & adults, \$5 for kids 5 & under.**  
**Due by October 11. Register online: <http://ra.azdisciples.org/>**



## October at a Glance

### **Mind Wholeness Spiritual Support Group—**

1st & 3rd Mondays (10/1 & 10/15) at 6:00pm

### **Mind Wholeness Family Support Group—**

1st Wednesday (10/3) at 3:00pm

### **Elders Meeting—Thurs., October 4 at 6:00pm**

### **Mental Health Sunday—Sunday, October 7**

### **Baptisms in Worship—Sunday, October 7**

### **DWM Lunch & Learning—Tuesday, October 9 at 11:30am**

### **Mind Wholeness Spiritual Support Group—**

2nd & 4th Wednesdays (10/10 & 10/24) at 3:00pm

### **Worship Design Team Meeting—Wednesday, October 10 at 6:00pm**

### **Safe Interactions Training—Saturday, Oct. 13: 2 sessions, 8:30pm-12 OR 1:00-4:30pm**

### **DD Deadline—Friday, October 19**

### **Interfaith Peace Prayer—Wednesday, Oct. 17 at 6:30pm at St. Andrew's Episcopal**

### **XPLOR Team Meeting—Wednesday, October 17 at 5:30pm**

### **Forward Together: Discernment Process, Part 5—Saturday, October 20 at 9:00pm**

### **Spaghetti Lunch—Sunday, October 21 following Worship**

### **FCC Outing: Pumpkin Patch—Sunday, Oct. 21 at 3:00pm**

### **Board Meeting—Wednesday, October 24 at 6:00pm**

### **CROP Hunger Walk—Sunday, October 28 at 1:30pm, First United Methodist Church**

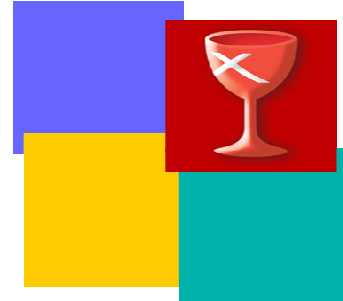
### **Prayer Time in the Chapel – Tuesdays at 11am**

### **Spiritual Growth Group – Wednesdays at 12pm**

### **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.

## *“News from the Pews”*



### **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 *
10:30 am	Morning Worship - Sanctuary *
4:00 pm	Book Study *



VISIT OUR WEBSITE:

[firstchristianchurchtucson.org](http://firstchristianchurchtucson.org)

CALL OUR OFFICE: (520) 624-8695



## NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Articles for the November *Desert Disciple* should be received in the office no later than **Friday, October 19.**

## Praying For Our Missionaries!



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

**During the week of...**

**October 7:** Jerry Handy, Mexico

**October 14:** Paul Turner,

Democratic Republic of Congo

**October 21:** Marilyn Cooper, Ecuador

**October 28:** John Campbell-Nelson, Indonesia

For more information regarding our missionaries, overseas partners, or how you can make a difference, visit: [www.globalministries.org](http://www.globalministries.org)

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