

THE DESERT DISCIPLE

Volume 69 Issue 11

First Christian Church - Tucson, AZ

(520) 624-8695

November 1, 2018

Worship this Month

This month offers a variety of worship opportunities to give thanks and praise to God, beginning with the observance of All Saints Sunday on November 4th. The next two weeks, we will be led in a season of thanksgiving through the Psalms and a special Thanksgiving service and also celebrate the baptism of Golnaz (Goli) Bahktiari on November 11. Finally, we will conclude the month with Mark Behle, Global Ministries Missionary to Lesotho, as our guest preacher.

November 4 — Season of Thanks: All Saints Sunday

November 11 — Season of Thanks: Hallelu-yah

November 18 — Season of Thanks: Special Thanksgiving Service

November 25 — Season of Thanks: Celebrating Global Partners with special guest, Mark Behle, Missionary to Lesotho



Mark has served through Global Ministries for over 33 years and his retirement from service will be celebrated at the Arizona Regional Assembly earlier in the month.

At 9:00 am, he will give a presentation on his work and our partners in Lesotho. The presentation will take place in the sanctuary, and everyone is invited to attend. Mark will also be with us in worship and will offer the message that day. Do not miss this unique opportunity to meet Mark and learn of the ministry and life of our brothers and sisters in Lesotho.

Arizona Regional Assembly



The Regional Assembly of the Christian Church in Arizona will take place Friday and Saturday, November 2-3 at **Saguaro Christian Church in Tucson**. Everyone is invited to each of the worship services, whether or not

you registered for the assembly.

Friday, November 2 at 7:00pm with Rev. Erin Wathen, Senior Pastor of Saint Andrew Christian Church in the Kansas City area.

Saturday, November 3 at 9:00am with Rev. Al Lopez, founder and one of three co-pastors of UrbanMission, a new church in Pomona, California.

Saturday, November 3 at 3:00pm with Rev. Terri Hord Owens, General Minister & President of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

FCC Thanksgiving Meal

Sunday, November 18

Join us for a Thanksgiving celebration following worship on Sunday, November 18. Dinner is potluck, so bring a favorite dish to share.



Sunday Worship
10:30am

Church School
9:00am

Church Office
(520) 624-8695

Pastor
Rev. Ailsa Guardiola González
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Moderator
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Office Manager
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Disciples Women's Ministry

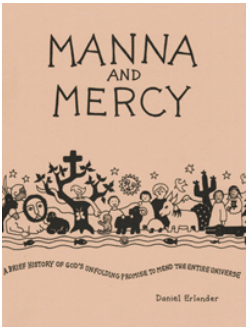
Disciples Women will gather Tuesday, November 13 to continue our discussion of Disciples work in the Caribbean Region. Last month Cathy Nichols gave us an overview of projects in the Caribbean Initiative, as well as peace-building work going on in Colombia as that country tries to implement an end to their long-standing civil conflict.



This month we will be led by Rosemary Bolza, who has served in the region and will present on her experiences and challenges. Bring a sack lunch and come at 11:30 to eat together, or join us at noon for the program. Men are welcome, too!

Manna & Mercy Bible Study

Open Invitation



The Manna and Mercy Bible study is open to everyone and typically meets each 2nd and 4th Monday evening from 6-7:30 in the parlor. If you would like to join this group, let Ann Nichols know so she can give you a book. It is ok to join the group, even if you missed the October meeting!

We are using *Manna and Mercy: A Brief History of God's Unfolding Promise to Mend the Entire Universe*, a book full of illustrations and easy-to-read text. The book goes from Genesis through Revelation, highlighting themes and stories that illustrate God's care and nurture for all people and creation as well as God's presence and forgiveness toward humankind and our misbehavior.

Future meetings will be on November 12 & 26, December 10, and January 14 & 20. Come join us!

Mind Wholeness Ministries Support Groups



For people affected by mental health challenges:

1st & 3rd Monday
November 5 & 19
6:00 – 7:30 PM

2nd & 4th Wednesday
November 12 & 26
3:00 – 4:30 PM

The Family Support Group that meets on the 1st Wednesday of every month.

November 7 at 3:00pm.

Sunday Book Group

The Sunday afternoon book group will meet again after the holidays. If you are looking for something new in the New Year, you are welcome to join the group. You even get to help choose the book we read! Contact Susan or Ann for more information.

Pastoral Note

Forward Together: Spiritual Discernment UPDATE

Participants in the Forward Together spiritual discernment group gathered September 22 and October 20 for the final two large group sessions. In these sessions and in between them, the group meditated; prayed; went through another clearness committee process (mentioned in a previous update); attuned to God's presence; shared insights; and researched the immeasurable options available to us. During the last session, participants presented research findings, explored what the different options might look like for First Christian, and were led in a final discernment to measure where the group felt God's energy was leading.



In the end, the group expressed energy and a sense of unity in our call in two particular ways:

- 1- repurposing/rehabbing our current property for use more aligned with mission and
- 2- establishing, building, and working through intentional partnerships with organizations.

This fell in line with recurring themes that have come up throughout the process in which we found unity around the following: Strong partnerships; Being part of this University community; We must change; We must dedicate the time we need to make progress; Listen to our neighbors/community; Evangelism; Opening up our space; Explore, try, discover.

Most importantly, we know that the end of this particular discernment process marks the beginning of our next steps, which will entail ongoing prayer and discernment as we work for the future.

This is just the beginning! Now the work starts! Our Ministry Formation Team, which has guided us in this process, will meet with the facilitators for the final session on Saturday, December 1. They will begin work on the SMART plan and action steps to live out the call. The Ministry Formation Team will be tasked to guide us in the SMART action steps. The SMART plan will include specifics such as plans for financing, listening to the community, identifying and building partnerships, possibilities for building use, setting benchmarks, and setting priorities.

S – specific, significant, stretching

M – measurable, meaningful, motivational

A – agreed upon, attainable, achievable, acceptable, action-oriented

R – realistic, relevant, reasonable, rewarding, results-oriented

T – time-based, time-bound, timely, tangible, trackable

You can learn more about the discernment process and the SMART action steps at the next Congregational Meeting on Sunday, December 2.

Thanksgiving Special Offering, November 11 & 18

THANKSGIVING OFFERING NOV 2018

51,641
students attend
Disciples related
institutions of
higher learning

12,674
students graduated
from Disciples
institutions in the
past twelve months

The Thanksgiving Offering benefits the Colleges, Universities, Seminaries, and Divinity Houses affiliated with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). These learning communities are an extension of the church, challenging students to understand and respond to God's call to serve.

From the very beginnings of the movement, Disciples have founded institutions of higher learning, encouraging students in their intellectual pursuits. The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is still committed to higher education. Your gift to the Thanksgiving Offering helps underwrite the education of students attending one of our 14 undergraduate institutions and our seven seminaries or divinity houses.

Colleges & Universities of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Barton College • Bethany College
Chapman University • Columbia College
Culver-Stockton College
Drury University • Eureka College
Hiram College • Jarvis Christian College
Lynchburg College • Midway University
Texas Christian University
Transylvania University • William Woods University

Seminaries & Divinity Houses of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Brite Divinity School • Christian Theological Seminary • Disciples Divinity House at the University of Chicago • Disciples Divinity House at Vanderbilt Divinity School • Disciples Seminary Foundation • Lexington Theological Seminary • Phillips Theological Seminary

Hundreds of thousands of students have attended the Colleges and Universities of the Christian Church, receiving both a quality education and the opportunity to remain within our Disciple's heritage. Your financial gift provides scholarships and support for spiritual life offices. By giving to the Thanksgiving Offering you are investing in our students and helping keep education costs down.

The Thanksgiving Offering also provides scholarship and support for those pursuing theological education at one of our seven seminaries or divinity houses. Consider the many generations of pastors, who, if not for the support of faithful congregations and individuals over the ages would not have flourished as our pastors, teachers and leaders. What impact has your pastor had in the life of your church, community or region? You can thank them by supporting the Thanksgiving Offering.

Please give generously to this year's Thanksgiving Offering.

FCC's Goal is \$800. The offering will be received in worship November 11 and 18.

Many Thanks!

We have so much to be grateful this season at First Christian Church!

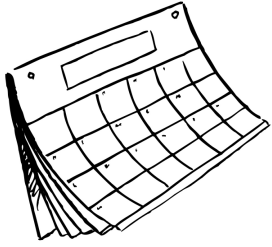
Thank you to everyone who contributed to the **Reconciliation Special Offering** in September. We were able to send **\$845** to help provide programs for leadership development, curriculum for dialogue and learning, and partnerships within the Church and communities to fulfil the church's mission to become a pro-reconciling and anti-racist church.

Thank you to all who participated in providing necessary **supplies for the asylum-seeking families** released by ICE in October. Those donations have continued to come in and Susan Harris has faithfully delivered the supplies to the Ward 6 office who is distributing the goods as they're needed to the different hospitality sites.

Dear FCC, It has been my honor to work as the office manager for the last 8 years. Thank you so much for a wonderful celebration in worship on October 14. I have been blessed by this congregation in many ways and I am so thankful to be a part of this church family. **THANK YOU! - Jenna Hosler**

Dear FCC, I am grateful for the thoughtful words and gift of appreciation for pastor appreciation month. The stole is beautiful and unique—a gift to be cherished. **Thank You! - Ailsa**





November at a Glance

Elders Meeting—Thurs., November 1 at 6:00pm

Arizona Regional Assembly—Friday & Saturday,
November 2 & 3 at Saguaro Christian Church

All Saints Sunday—November 4

Mind Wholeness Spiritual Support Group—
1st & 3rd Mondays (11/5 & 11/19) at
6:00pm

Mind Wholeness Family Support Group—
1st Wednesday (11/7) at 3:00pm

Worship Team Meeting—Wednesday,
November 7 at 6:00pm

AZ Hispanic Asamblea—Friday & Saturday,
November 8 & 9

Baptism in Worship—Sunday, November 11

Spiritual Growth Group—2nd & 4th Mondays
(11/12 & 11/26) at 6:00pm

DWM Lunch & Learning—Tuesday, Nov. 13
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

DD Deadline—Friday, October 19

Interfaith Peace Prayer—Wednesday, Nov. 14
at 6:30pm at Temple Emanuel El

FCC Thanksgiving Meal—Sunday, November 18
following Worship (Potluck! Bring a dish.)

Church Office Closed—Thursday & Friday,
November 22 & 23—THANKSGIVING

Missionary Presentation—Sunday, November
25 at 9:00am with Mark Behle, Lesotho

Prayer Vigils—Thursdays at 6:00pm

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.

The Inn Project

The Inn Project continues to give support to families seeking asylum. Donations can be placed in the welcome area inside the bin labeled “Inn Project.”

“News from the Pews”



Please be in prayer for:

- ♥ **Claudia Ellquist** as she receives care at Peppi’s House. No Visitors. Calls and Cards are welcome.
- ♥ **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, William Koller, 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 *



VISIT OUR WEBSITE:

firstchristianchurchtucson.org

CALL OUR OFFICE: (520) 624-8695



NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Articles for the December *Desert Disciple* should be received in the office no later than **Tuesday, November 13.**

Praying For Our Missionaries!

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



During the week of...

November 4: Michael Joseph, Colombia

November 11: Danielle Lee, Thailand

November 18: Victoria Peagler, Botswana

November 25: Maria Bakalian, Lebanon

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

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