

THE DESERT DISCIPLE

Volume 70 Issue 2

First Christian Church - Tucson, AZ

(520) 624-8695

February 1, 2019

Worship this Month



February 10 marks the beginning of a new focus in worship as we celebrate God's "Abounding Generosity" toward us. Tied to this celebration, we also hear God's invitation to generously share our gifts with others. God invites us to bring all that we are and all that we have when we become a follower of Jesus. It is a journey meant both to form us

more into the image of Christ through the discipline of study, worship, prayer, service, and generosity; as well as to strengthen us in becoming powerful agents for the good that God is doing in our world.

When we make an intentional decision about what we bring before Christ, we extend a blessing of health and wholeness to all of creation, because we are certain that this is ultimately what God desires. The world is broken and hurting and we are called to be a movement for wholeness among its many fractured pieces. We do this as a congregation called to **Seek God, Love Like Jesus, and Serve the World**. As we respond in line with God's generosity, we become change agents of grace and hope!

As you may recall, our stewardship campaign in the fall simply invited us to extend current 2018 giving through the first quarter of 2019. We now turn our eyes to ministry in this new year and our sense of call to grow: grow in our evangelism ministry, engage in a listening campaign to discern new ministry opportunities and more faithful use of our building, and seek more efficient approaches to the daily maintenance of our building. Our generosity not only funds the mission and ministry in which we are already deploying as a sign that God's Realm is among us, but now also has the potential of expanding our ministries in these areas.

As we celebrate God's "Abounding Generosity," we have the opportunity to discern our investment in the ministry and mission of First Christian Church. This focus will culminate on Commitment Sunday on February 24 to which you are invited not simply to offer an estimate of giving card, but to join in a potluck lunch following the worship service. All are welcome! Let us celebrate, give thanks, and be filled by God's Abounding Generosity.

February 3 Greater Gifts: Boundless, Luke 4: 21-30

February 10 Abounding Generosity: Abundance
Luke 5:1-11

February 17 XPLOR Resident in Worship
Abounding Generosity: Response
Deuteronomy 26:1-11

February 24 Commitment Sunday
Abounding Generosity: Extravagance
John 12:1-8



Sunday Worship
10:30am

Church School
9:00am

Church Office
(520) 624-8695

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Disciples Women's Ministry

DWM will meet Tuesday Feb 12 to hear a presentation by AmyBeth Willis from the Southern Arizona Sanctuary Coalition. She will explain how the various groups working on different aspects of Sanctuary are collaborating today, and how ordinary people can be supportive. Bring your questions and prepare to be impressed by how well our community is responding to the needs of asylum-seekers and other migrants as we live out our values.



PLEASE NOTE: This meeting will start at 11:30 as usual, and it will last until 1:30, which is later than usual. We will gather to eat a light lunch (provided) and to discuss DWM business, including a request for FCC to host the Women's Fair April 27. Our speaker is not available until 12:30, so the program will start then.

In March, DWM will meet at Jody Vanderkolk's home. Watch for more news about this!

Ann Nichols, Chair

Chance to win a quilt or afghan and help us address family violence

In Arizona, Disciples Women's Ministries has a grant program called HAGAR. It supports community programs for persons affected by family violence. It's funded by DWM groups in various congregations.

Our tradition at FCC is to raffle off a quilt. This year, we have both a quilt and a colorful afghan crocheted by Mary Alice. Beginning Feb 10, we'll put them on display and will have tickets available in the welcome area. We urge you to help us by taking a chance!

February at a Glance

- Worship & Culture Meeting**—Sunday, February 3 following Worship
- Mind Wholeness Spiritual Support Group**— 1st & 3rd Mondays (2/4 & 2/18) at 6:00pm
- Mind Wholeness Family Support Group**— 1st Wed. (2/6) at 3:00pm
- Elders Meeting**—Thursday, February 7 at 6:00pm
- Elders Retreat**—Saturday, February 9 at 12:30pm
- Worship Leader Training**—Sunday, February 10 following Worship
- Disciples Women's Ministry**—Tuesday, February 12 at 11:30am
- Board Meeting**—Wednesday, February 13 at 6:15pm
- XPLOR Residents in Worship**—Sunday, February 17
- XPLOR Host Team Meeting**—Sunday, Feb. 17 at 4:00pm
- Worship Team Meeting**—Wednesday, Feb. 20 at 6:00pm
- DD Deadline**—Friday, January 18
- Prayer Vigils**—Thursdays at 6:00pm

“News from the Pews”

- ♥ Dear Congregation of First Christian Church, I was so surprised to find the staff gift for me. I want to thank you for the kindness always shown to me. I hope God continues to bless me with you all in my life.
With Love, Nichole Burkett, Childcare Assistant
- ♥ Dear First Christian Church, I am grateful for the generosity and care consistently offered to me and my family. Thank you for the thoughtful gift during the holiday season. I pray this spirit of giving and sharing God's love will lead us in this New Year as we seek to be God's tangible presence for those who desperately need to know they matter and are loved.
-Pastor Ailsa

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, William Koller, Ron & Patti Lemke, Phil Shosie, Ruth Stokes, Jody Vanderkolk, Sally Van Slyke, and Roger White.

Learnings from Discernment

By: Richard Bierce, AIA



As Pastor Ailsa has shared with us previously, the Discernment process concerning future directions for First Christian and its ministries was attended by a large number of congregants last year, and it provided an encouraging wealth of *insights, information, and inspiration* for our consideration and implementation.

As a member new to the church, it was helpful for me to learn about the historic legacy and significance of this sacred institution, its many gifted and prophetic leaders and its legions of faithful and generous members.

I have been praying about ways in which I might best serve the church in the next phases of the search for new ways to grow and strengthen God's kingdom. I will share my skills and knowledge as an historical architect and the experiences *and* insights gained through years of service to other churches and cultural institutions in a number of management, design, research, and planning projects. I bring also my love of the Christian Church/Disciples of Christ as a 4th generation member and servant to its causes.

But far more significant than these things are some important lessons that were revealed to me as the discernment process reached its exciting conclusion last fall. These lessons are represented by four words that will guide me as watchwords in our shared pursuit, refinement and realization of new ideas and goals for growth and revitalization. These four key words are **spirituality, stewardship, sustainability, and service.**

"Spirituality" reminds me that I must first, and always, listen to and be faithful to God by creating and evaluating new ideas and goals for the church in the context of and by the standards of the Holy Spirit's wishes and plans for the kingdom.

"Stewardship" reminds me, and reinforces the fundamental fact, that FCC has been blessed by having great resources of dedicated servants and leaders, as well as exceptional physical resources built for the exalted and singular purposes of worship, education and service, and that we have a great responsibility to ensure that these resources are preserved, nurtured and enhanced for the work ahead.

"Sustainability" reminds me that we have a significant challenge before us to work faithfully towards building a secure economic future as we explore ways to determine appropriate use and development of our physical property resources as they relate to mission fulfillment.

"Service" is a final reminder that we do all of this in service to our great and loving God, to the world in need, to our host community, and for our church and each other, our sisters and brothers in Christ.

I am grateful to God that I am able to participate with FCC in this endeavor, and I pray that I will follow faithfully the guidance ordained in these learnings. I hope that you will consider ways to share your gifts in our journey forward. Amen.



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
10:30 am	Morning Worship - Sanctuary *



VISIT OUR WEBSITE:
firstchristianchurchtucson.org

CALL OUR OFFICE: (520) 624-8695

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Articles for the March *Desert Disciple* should be received in the office no later than **Friday, February 15.**

Praying For Our Missionaries!



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

During the week of...

- February 3:** Ben Drolet, Lebanon
- February 10:** Nia Sullivan, Sierra Leone
- February 17:** Judy Chan, Hong Kong
- February 24:** Priscilla Yang, Hungary

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

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