

THE DESERT DISCIPLE

Volume 70 Issue 3

First Christian Church - Tucson, AZ

(520) 624-8695

March 1, 2019

Worship this Month



We begin worship this month with XPLOR residents, Natalie Maxson and Ethan Bradfield, as our special guests on March 3. They will participate in worship and share some of their experiences so far this year.

On March 10, we will start our Lenten series, "Blessed Hunger: Holy Feast." On one hand, we see in the scriptures the themes of human emptiness, longing, and need for forgiveness. On the other hand, we see God's abundant fulfillment of our most basic needs. Each week in worship, empty bowls will symbolize our hunger before God. And each week, the filling of these bowls will offer reminders of

the holy feast only God can provide.

Lent at FCC:

Ashes to Go:

March 6 is Ash Wednesday. We will be serving those in our community by providing Ashes to Go from 7am—7pm. There is a sign-up sheet in the Welcome Area. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet the folks that pass by our church on a daily basis. It is a chance to share a moment of the holy and sacred with the stranger alongside fellow church members. **How can you help? We need volunteers!** We like to provide 2 stations, one in the main parking lot and one at the Euclid corner bus stop. Two people work each station. If you do not feel comfortable saying the blessing/prayer, you are encouraged to simply be present to provide support, encouragement, and an extra pair of hands to manage the ashes, the pamphlets, etc. Please prayerfully consider participating in this ministry of our church. Contact Lori Bryant if you have any questions.

Lenten Dinner Series:

Enjoy an evening of food, friendship, and creative worship at our Lenten dinner series. This year we will gather with Desert Dove Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and Church of the Painted Hills UCC for three **Tuesday evenings at 6:30pm**. We will also go on a field trip to DeGrazia Gallery in the Sun to see the stations of the cross exhibit and share in a devotional there on April 9.

March 19 at Church of the Painted Hills; Pastor Pedro leads devotional

March 26 at First Christian Church; Pastor Michael leads devotional

April 2 at Desert Dove; Pastor Ailsa leads devotional

April 9 at DeGrazia Gallery in the Sun, Stations of the Cross exhibit **at 1:30pm**

First Christian will host on Tuesday, March 26. This means we will provide a potluck meal with enough to share with all of our guests. Please arrive with food by 6:15pm, if possible, so we have time to set everything up.

A Picture Worth a Thousand Words

Blessed Hunger: Holy Feast invites us to pay attention our experiences of longing and fulfillment. What do we encounter each day that reminds us of our needs and of God's bountiful presence? **You are invited to capture these moments in a picture.** For example, everyday things like an empty glass can remind us of God's desire to fill us with love.

You can send your picture to the church office or print it out and bring it in on a Sunday (and give to Pastor Ailsa). We will display the pictures at the back of the sanctuary throughout the season of Lent.



Sunday Worship
10:30am

Church School
9:00am

Church Office
(520) 624-8695

Pastor

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fccailsa@gmail.com

Moderator

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Yard Sale

Yard Sale to Benefit Disciples Women's Ministries Honors Claudia Ellquist
Saturday, March 16, 8am-2pm at the church's front door

Disciples Women's Ministry (DWM) remembers our beloved member, Claudia Ellquist - social justice activist and lover of thrift stores and yard sales, and invites you to celebrate her life with us.

All are invited to donate items the week of the event (March 11-15) from 9am-1pm. Jenna will open the door for you to put items on the stage in Fellowship Hall.

Do not miss this opportunity to clean out your space, support the work of DWM, offer people in our community the chance to purchase items at a very good price, and help us celebrate Claudia as she asked. Monetary donations in memory of our beloved Claudia will also be accepted. The DWM uses funds to help women attend retreats and mission projects.



DWM Lunch & Learning

Our March 12 meeting will be at the warm and wonderful home of Jody Vanderkolk. It will give us a unique opportunity to reminisce about women's work at First Christian Church over the years and hear about Jody's experiences and hopes for our future. Stay tuned for more information about carpooling from the church and other details.

Also, our raffle continues. We have two beautiful quilts as prizes. Proceeds will benefit the HAGAR fund to benefit persons affected by family violence. Raffle tickets are available in the Welcome Area each Sunday.

Manna & Mercy Bible Study Continues

We will resume our study of Manna & Mercy in March! Our dates are the 11th and the 25th, 6-7:30 pm. We will be starting the New Testament portion. If anyone new wants to join us, this would be a good time to begin. All are welcome. See Ann Nichols for a book or for more information.

Congregational Meeting:

The congregational meeting will take place Sunday, March 31 following worship. The budget for 2019 will be presented for the congregation's approval.

Week of Compassion Special Offering, March 10 & 17



The theme for the **2019 Special Offering for Week of Compassion** is "More than we can imagine!" That theme, based on Ephesians 3:20, reminds us that we are not alone in our imagining a better world for all God's children, for it is God's imagination that fuels and empowers ours! You see, God imagines a world where:

- No one is left to face the ravages of natural disaster alone - neighbor helps neighbor, stranger helps stranger - for we are the church together!
- Clean and abundant water and ample sanitation facilities are available to every person;
- Work brings security from hunger and the land is treated with respect;
- Families displaced from their homes are able to build new lives;
- Women are no longer subject to discrimination and gender-based violence.

Week of Compassion is the relief, refugee, and development mission fund of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). It partners to alleviate suffering throughout the world. **FCC will receive this special offering on March 10 and 17. Our goal is to collect \$2,000.00.**

Forward Together: Hospitality to Families



Discernment is never a clear-cut path. We listen. We reflect. We take action. And we go through the process again. Sometimes our listening leads us to different opportunities. We have heard the need for churches to temporarily house guests who come seeking asylum in our country, have been processed by ICE, and now await an asylum trial. Many seek to unite with family or friends in other states who will sponsor them as they wait. In the day or two that it takes to secure tickets for travel, they need a place to stay.

This is where we come in. In partnership with Casas Alitas (Catholic Community Services) we hope to offer our hospitality in our church one week per month to families seeking asylum. A **volunteer training** through Casas Alitas will take place on **Thursday, March 21 at 6:00pm at the Benedictine Monastery**. **If you have not attended FCC's Safe Interactions Training, you need to attend the March 21 training to volunteer.** If you are interested in helping, please contact Susan Harris or Pastor Ailsa.

FCC Shout Outs:

Appreciation. Thanks. Encouragement. Gratitude. We could all use more of these in the world. Seeing the positive. Inspiring one another for good things. At First Christian there is never a lack of things to do: visit people, take food to the sick, call someone in hard times, volunteer work to clean, decorate, serve. We know MANY good things happen within our church community without fanfare, without thought or recognition. Therefore, we are proud to introduce the "Shout out" corner - a new section in the DD to recognize folks doing great things in our congregation and the wider community. **Do you know someone going above and beyond? Do you know someone doing an amazing thing? If so, let the church office know so we can celebrate them here. You can submit your shout-out anonymously or with your name.** As the writer of the book of Hebrews says: "Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful. And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching." (Hebrews 10:23-25)

March Shout Outs:

We lift up **Austin Troike, R.C. Troike, and Danny Pew** for helping Mark Thornburgh with the laborious task of putting up and taking down the Christmas lights. Way to go, guys!

An Expression of Gratitude: *"Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death"* (from Psalm 23)

In all honesty the 23rd Psalm has not been a favorite of mine. I have heard it too many times at funerals and memorial services. Recently hearing it again as I am dealing with my own health crisis – knowing there is potential for it to end with my death- I thought, "That is all well and good, but it has little currency that 'Thou art with me' except for the love and support of the people who accompany me on this journey."

I realized that is how I know that our loving God is with me, through those who love and support me. From my husband who has gone to every doctor's appointment and is sometimes more traumatized than I am, to Violet Bierce who sent me a lovely e-card. It is the people who love me that show me I am not in that valley alone. I recently read, "Saints are the people who let the light shine through." There is truth in that, and I am surrounded by so many saints that the valley is aglow with the entire spectrum of light illuminating my path, dazzling my eyes, filling my soul. Among those saints are: Jean Jackson – a second mother and a lighting designer; Ailsa – lighting director; Lori Gale – sympathetic ear, helper and enveloping glow; Lori Bryant – patient listener and creative genius; Jenna Hosler – avid listener and partner in crime; Mary Alice Do, Mary Workman, Janis Sherick, Violet and Richard Bierce, David and Lois Longobardi, Sara Van Slyke, Sue Blickhahn, Debbie Munhall, Sharon Sorenson, Ann Nichols, Colin Green, Krysia Gonzalez, Paul DeArman, and Dave Gale who are all well-wishers, cheerleaders and smile givers: and so many more that I am not recalling and who are lighting my path with prayer. I thank you and I thank God for you.

You are the rod and the staff that comfort me, those that anoint me with oil and prepare the feast. Reconsidering, the 23rd Psalm is a beautiful metaphor for the caring of this community in which you all play a part and I am grateful. —Love, Debbie Stadle



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 April *Desert Disciple*
 should be received in the office no later than
Monday, March 18.

Praying For Our Missionaries!



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

During the week of...

March 3: Debbie Colvin, Ghana

March 10: Karen Campbell-Nelson,
Indonesia

March 17: Jeanette Salley, Nicaragua

March 24: Carlos Sediles-Real, Mexico

March 31: 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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