

THE DESERT DISCIPLE

Volume 70 Issue 7

First Christian Church - Tucson, AZ

(520) 624-8695

July 1, 2019

Worship this Month: Rhythm of Life—Sabbath

Vacation, travel, rest, time with family, leisure, and fun. The summer season promises a break from the typical hurriedness of life to enjoy things for which we usually do not have time. This month we consider how our faith calls us and makes space for this type of rhythmic break and rest from it all, both in the summer and all year long. As part of our series, Rev. John Indermark will preach on Sunday, July 21.

Forward Together Updates:

- 1. Listening Campaign:** The listening campaign organizing session was scheduled for Saturday, June 29 and led by pastor and community organizer, Rev. Matthew Funke Crary. With “digging deeper into joy” as the guiding theme of our campaign, the session explored joy in the aspects of faith, vulnerability, and community-building and allowed participants to practice listening approaches they will use in the field.
- 2. Building:**
 - Property Maintenance Person:** The task force is editing the new job description to conform with finances allotted in the budget. Once revisions are finished, the job will be posted.
 - Sanctuary Updates:** A task force has been formed to make a financing plan for replacing the pews.
 - Updating Physical Conditions Assessment:** Conducted by Richard Bierce, this assessment will help us prioritize repair and maintenance issues.
- 3. Expanding Evangelism through:**
 - Social Media:** Conversations have begun with an organization specializing in churches and nonprofits.
 - Reaching out to university students:** Board and other members are working on outreach to Disciple churches in order to identify and communicate with students planning to attend the University of Arizona in the Fall.

Emergency Regional Assembly: July 13

The search committee of the Christian Church in Arizona will present a candidate for Regional Minister and President of the Region at an emergency (called) Regional Assembly on Saturday, July 13. Seven representatives from First Christian will have a vote in the assembly, and all members are invited to attend the video streaming of the assembly on **Saturday, July 13 at 3:30pm in the First Christian sanctuary.**

General Assembly: July 20-24

Abide in Me John 15:1-5

Please be in prayer for the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) as it gathers in Des Moines, Iowa this month. Delegates from Disciples churches across the United States and Canada, along with international partners, will gather for worship that lifts the soul; stories that touch the heart; educational experiences to strengthen congregations; conversations to stretch the mind; and powerful messages from inspired preachers. Please stay tuned for ways to experience General Assembly through live stream right in your own home.

Pastor Ailsa and Krysia González will attend the assembly.



Sunday Worship
10:30am

Church School
9:00am

Church Office
(520) 624-8695

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Rev. Ailsa Guardiola González
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FCC Hospitality: July 7 - 14

Mark your calendar for our next week of hospitality, and sign up for a slot to help! Spanish is not required to volunteer. Your presence, compassion, and willingness to share God's love is all we need. Volunteers can help in the following ways:

- Plan or help prepare meals
- Be present with guests during the day (4 hour shift)
- Overnight (12 hour shift, flexible)
- Welcome guests upon arrival (Spanish needed)
- Launder linens
- Drive guests to bus station or airport
- Pick up bus tickets from bus station
- Make peanut butter & jelly sandwiches
- Donate \$20 for a family's travel money
- Donate needed items (see below)

Please see Susan Harris or Pastor Ailsa to sign up, or use Signup Genius (link in weekly email).

Donations: Certain supplies are always needed: Snacks (no peanut butter sandwich crackers or kool-aid, please), clothing items, belts, shoe laces, bras, women/men/children underwear as well as urgently needed items on our Amazon Wish List. You can order and have items shipped directly to the church. This list is subject to change as needs change. Use link in weekly email.

CROP Walk T-Shirt Design Contest!

Use your imagination and digitally create an 8.5x11 design that you feel best represents the theme: "TUCSON WALKS TO END HUNGER"

The design should include the above theme phrase, the CROP web address (crophungerwalk.org), and the Crop Walk Logo (see below).

All digital entries must be submitted by **August 1, 2019** to: saletson@aol.com

The Tucson CROP Hunger Walk organizing committee will choose the winning design and make it available on-line for Tucson walkers to print at home (iron-on decal paper) and then apply to a t-shirt.

The winner will receive a \$100 donation to their fundraising page from Rev. John Angiulo.

Thanks for participating and have fun creating a great logo! Call (520) 954-4057 with any questions.

WE ARE WALKING TO END WORLD HUNGER. We want people to know that WE in Tucson care and are walking with them where they are.

This year's CROP Walk will be Sunday, November 3. Join our team now, at <https://www.crophungerwalk.org/tucsonaz/TucsonFCC>



Appreciation. Thanks. Encouragement. Gratitude. Seeing the Positive. Inspiring one another for good things. We could all use more of these in the world, and our monthly "shout out" helps us do just that.

July Shout Outs:

- To the **dedicated members of FCC** who have served on the XPLO host team over the last four years: **Thank you!** Thank you for your passionate concern for young adults seeking connections of life, faith, and church and their place in this world. Thank you for relationships made with the residents. Thank you for dedicated hours in setting up placements in nonprofits, seeking funding, and creating opportunities for church connections and leadership development. Thank you for sharing yourself, your life, your compassion, your hope for the future, and your love. **Lori Bryant, Marco González, Ann Nichols, Janis Sherick, and Pastor Ailsa.**
- A shout-out to **Sharon Sorensen** for cleaning the kitchen stove!

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.

Stumbling Blocks and Millstones

By John Indermark

In Matthew 18, right after bringing a small child among the disciples to answer a question about who was the greatest in God's sovereign realm, Jesus offered this additional word about children and "little ones" in our midst:

If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones . . . it would be better for you if a great millstone were fastened around your neck and you were drowned in the depth of the sea. (18:6)

Now, I get it that Mid-Eastern teachers of Jesus' day often engaged in hyperbole, and Jesus was no exception. Camels passing through a needle's eye . . . cutting off one's hand if it causes you to sin . . . a servant who runs up a personal debt equivalent to the annual taxable income for Syria, Phoenicia, Judea, and Samaria combined at that time. All exaggerations for the sake of highlighting crucial points.

Exaggeration or not, we take Jesus' point about the offense of causing grief to children and vulnerable ones. By the way, the Greek word translated as "stumbling block" is *skandolon* – in English, **scandal**.

Matthew 18 came to my mind when the most recent news (read, "scandal") of a detention facility in Clint, Texas broke: children still in cages, youngsters having to care for infants who are not even family while subject to outbreaks of lice and other gross indignities. And understanding that such conditions do not come reported from distant Third World sites, but 5 hours east of our church on Interstate 10.

As a result, one cannot help but hear Jesus' words in Matthew in an unexpected way. And one is led to wonder: what would Jesus do in response? Which is to say, what would Jesus have us do?

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.

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.

Hospitality at First Christian Church

First Christian continues to prepare to support families seeking asylum by offering temporary hospitality. If you are interested in volunteering with this ministry, please contact Pastor Ailsa or Susan Harris.



July at a Glance

Mind Wholeness Spiritual Support Group— 1st & 3rd Mondays (7/1 & 7/15) at 6:00pm

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

Week of Hospitality—Sunday, July 7 through Sunday, July 14

Elders Meeting—Thursday, July 11 at 6:00pm

Emergency Regional Assembly—Saturday, July 13 at 3:30pm

Board Meeting—Wednesday, July 17 at 6:15pm

DD Deadline—Friday, July 19

General Assembly—July 20 - 24

Worship Design Meeting—Tuesday, July 30 at 6:00pm

Church Office Closed: Mondays through June & July

Prayer Vigils—Thursdays at 6:00pm

“News from the Pews”

Pastor Ailsa will be out of the office July 18—25 while attending General Assembly. In case of a pastoral emergency, please contact Elder Chair, Susan Harris, or Board Chair, Rudy Byrd.

A memorial service will be held for William Koller on Monday, July 1 at 1:00pm at the Arizona Veterans' Memorial Cemetery.

Please be in prayer for:

- ♥ **Our hospitality guests**
- ♥ **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
10:30 am	Morning Worship - Sanctuary *



VISIT OUR WEBSITE:
firstchristianchurchtucson.org

CALL OUR OFFICE: (520) 624-8695

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

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

Praying For Our Missionaries!



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

During the week of...

- July 7:** Carmelo Alvarez, Venezuela
- July 14:** Fritz Gerald Joseph, Morocco
- July 21:** Victoria Peagler, Botswana
- July 28:** Marilyn Cooper, Ecuador

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

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