

# THE DESERT DISCIPLE

Volume 70 Issue 8

First Christian Church - Tucson, AZ

(520) 624-8695

August 1, 2019

## Forward Together Updates:

**1. Listening Campaign:** After a second training session, listeners have begun the first phase of the campaign. They will meet at the end of August to compile data and plan for the second phase. Listeners will hold one-to-one conversations with leaders in faith communities, nonprofits, restaurants and businesses, and various departments at the University of Arizona located within approximately a mile radius around our church building. Want to know more? Please contact Pastor Ailsa.



## **2. Building:**

**Property Maintenance Person:** The task force continues to work on matching the new job description with available funding for the position. Once revisions are finished, the job will be posted (most likely end of August/September).

**Sanctuary Updates:** The task force will meet this month to work on a financing plan for replacing the pews.

**Updating Physical Conditions Assessment:** A feasibility study will be conducted this Fall to inform a first phase capital campaign goal to address the physical needs of our facility. The assessments conducted by Disciple Church Extension Fund and Richard Bierce will guide the priority repair issues addressed in this phase.

## **3. Expanding Evangelism through:**

**Social Media:** We are awaiting a proposal from a company that would help with our social media presence.

**Reaching out to university students:** Disciples churches in Arizona and other regions are being contacted with an invitation to college students who will attend the University of Arizona this year.



**Sunday Worship**  
**10:30am**

**Church School**  
**9:00am**

**Church Office**  
**(520) 624-8695**

**Pastor**  
Rev. Ailsa Guardiola González  
fccailsa@gmail.com

**Moderator**  
Rudy Byrd

**Office Manager**  
Jenna Hosler  
TucsonFCC@gmail.com

## Worship this Month:



Our August series, "What's in the Heart," begins August 11 and takes us to the 12th chapter of Luke, in which we hear Jesus' urgent call to test what is in our heart and seek the reign of God as our foremost priority.

We will conclude the Rhythm of Life series on August 4 focusing on the Repairers of Broken Walls. There will also be a back-to-school blessing for all the students and teachers preparing for the new school year.

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## FCC Hospitality: August 11 - 18

First Christian continues its collaboration with Casa Alitas, a ministry of Catholic Social Services-Tucson, in its hospitality with families seeking asylum. Though the number of families being released by ICE have been fluctuating, we maintain our commitment to help as needed. That means we need you! You can help prepare the space and donate needed snacks and other items. Volunteers are needed in the following areas:



- 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 Needed:** Snacks (no peanut butter sandwich crackers or kool-aid, please), men's belts, women's small & medium bras, shoes (comfortable for travel) 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.



## August Shout Outs:

**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.

♥ For years (so many we cannot even count!) of weekly preparing communion for worship, this shout out goes to **Rudy Troike**! Thank you for this behind the scenes service in getting us ready for worship every single week! (And for the sweet treats we have enjoyed in the welcome area each Sunday morning.)

- ♥ Gratitude and thanks to **Dave and Lois Longobardi** for going above and beyond and adding (for now) to their responsibilities of Deacon Chair and Deacon, respectively, the weekly preparation of communion since Rudy Troike's "retirement" from this service.
- ♥ In the midst of a busy schedule that includes work and school, **Susan Harris** is participating in the Southern Arizona Sanctuary Coalition trainings, which include pro-reconciling and anti-racist practices for ministries of accompaniment. Our congregation forms part of the Southern Arizona Sanctuary Coalition. Thank you, Susan, for your dedication to this work and the ways it will enhance our ministry!
- ♥ Thank you to **Cathy Nichols**, who while in town caring for Ann also volunteered with the hospitality ministry in June and July. Every day of the week, Cathy was present to call families' sponsors, take guests to the airport and bus station, fill in to prepare meals, lead activities with children and adults, help with travel arrangements to get guests on their way quickly, and make guests feel cared for and dignified.
- ♥ Shout out to Krysia González for her dedicated work with the Hospitality Ministry. Krysia has assisted in all areas including set up/clean up (sorting & organizing toys and clothes), changing bedding, helping prepare meals and being a friend to all the children.
- ♥ Fellowship Hall Clean up crew: **Janis Sherick, R.C. & Austin Troike, Barbara Marshall, Pat Darnell & Dave Longobardi...** Thank you for helping to move all the hospitality things out of fellowship hall to prepare for an rental event on 7/27.

**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.

## Disciples Women's Ministry Fall Retreat

September 6-8, 2019

Chapel Rock Conference Center  
Prescott, AZ

### **Celebrate! Women of Action!**

Keynote Speaker: Rev. Dr. Christal Williams, *Regional Minister & President, Christian Church in Tennessee*

Register now at

<http://azdisciples.org/ministries/dwm-disciple-womens-ministry/>

**All registrations must be completed by August 21.**

## Welcome, Rev. Jay Hartley, new Regional Minister and President of the Christian Church in Arizona

The Christian Church in Arizona is overjoyed to announce its calling of Reverend Jay Hartley as Regional Minister and President. On Saturday, July 13, 2019, the Region held a special Regional Assembly to hear the Regional Search Team's nomination and overwhelmingly approved calling Rev. Hartley to the position.

Rev. Hartley is a graduate of Vanderbilt Divinity School and will come to the Christian Church in Arizona from Eastwood Christian Church, where he has served since August of 2000. The Region looks forward to Rev. Hartley exercising his collaborative leadership style, his long history of mentorship, and his deep abiding love for the Gospel in his new role in Arizona.

The Region expresses tremendous gratitude for Rev. Richie Sanchez who has served as our interim Regional Minister and President for nearly two years. Rev. Sanchez's guidance and spirit of joy will be missed. But we are heartened by the knowledge that he will be serving nearby as Regional Minister of the Pacific Southwest Region.

The Christian Church in Arizona is poised for great things in the future, and our excitement and enthusiasm are elevated by the potential represented by calling Rev. Hartley. Amen!

James E. Barton II  
Regional Moderator  
Search Team Chair



## August at a Glance

**Elders Meeting**—Thursday, August 1 at 6:00pm

**Mind Wholeness Spiritual Support Group**— 1st & 3rd Mondays (8/5 & 8/19) at 6:00pm

**Mind Wholeness Family Support Group**— 1st Wed. (8/7) at 3:00pm

**Week of Hospitality**—Sunday, August 11 through Sunday, August 18

**Board Meeting**—Wednesday, August 14 at 6:15pm

**Board Meeting**—Wednesday, August 21 at 6:15pm

**DD Deadline**—Friday, August 23

**Listeners Meeting**—Tuesday, August 27 at 5:45pm

**Prayer Vigils**—Thursdays at 6:00pm

## *“News from the Pews”*

**The Church Office** will resume regular business hours in August: Monday through Friday, 9am—1pm.

**Owl & Panther** is now using space at FCC on Monday evenings to offer violin lessons for children in their program.

To Ailsa & FCC Fam,

Thank you for all that you did to make this XPLORE year possible for Emily, Ethan, and I (Natalie). I know that there was a massive amount of behind-the-scenes work in addition to the up-front welcome & hospitality that you extended to each of us, and I just want you all to know that it has meant so much to me. I literally would not be here if it weren't for you all working in community demonstrating faith in acts. So, thank you again! You have taught me more than I could have imagined. Take care of yourselves & one another. — I'll be seeing you around.

In gratitude, Natalie Maxson

### **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](http://firstchristianchurchtucson.org)

CALL OUR OFFICE: (520) 624-8695

## NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Articles for the September *Desert Disciple* should be received in the office no later than **Friday, August 23.**

## Praying For Our Mission Co-Workers!



Please be in prayer for our mission co-workers serving through Global Ministries.

During the week of...

**August 4:** Jeffrey Mensendiek, Japan

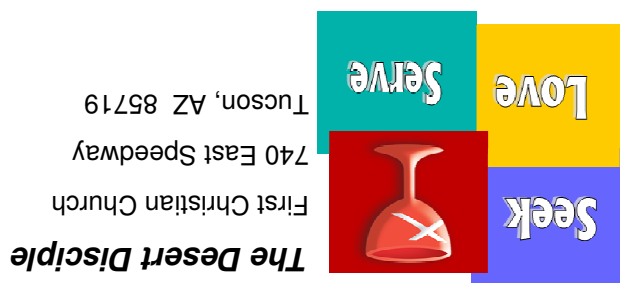
**August 11:** Ricardo Mayol, Guatemala

**August 18:** Rosie McArdle, Pohnpei

**August 25:** Violeta Rocha, El Salvador

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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