

The Desert Disciple

Volume 70 Issue 9

First Christian Church - Tucson, AZ

(520) 624-8695

September 1, 2019

SEEK GOD

"Be Still, and know that I am God"
Psalm 46:10

Worship this Month

This month we celebrate God's presence in our lives through our stewardship



campaign, "Into the Future," and our 5th Sunday Service Day. We will highlight ways our gifts of time, money, and resources have transformed into tangible ministry throughout this year. We will also look toward greater things in 2020. Into the Future we go with confidence, because the generous giver of life leads the way. Into the Future we go with courage, because God calls us. Into the Future we go in service, because the world cries out for justice and peace. Into the Future, we place our trust in God who gives abundantly.

We will conclude our series by celebrating the gifts of God among us on commitment Sunday with lunch and a talent show Sunday, September 22.

Disciples celebrate at the 2019 General Assembly!



Last month I attended the 25th General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Des Moines, IA with over 3,000 Disciples from the US and Canada and Global

Mission partners from around the world. It was marvelous and inspiring! Rev. Dr. Terri Hord Owens, General Minister and President, expressed it well when she said, "the Spirit was present and real" and "the joy was tangible."

A recurring theme throughout the Assembly was one of celebration. We recognized the history and 50th anniversary of 'The Design of the Christian Church,' which shaped the church as we know it today. We celebrated the great work of the 2020 Vision to start 1000 new churches and revitalize 1000 existing churches by next year. And we celebrated the next generation of service and growth among Disciples, highlighting leaders shaped by the XPLORE program and including children's leadership in worship.

It was encouraging to see parallels between our General church and our congregation as we also find ourselves

simultaneously celebrating the history and achievements of this congregation while deeply engaged in shaping and celebrating our vision for the future.

Assembly attendees were blessed by inspired preaching, powerful prayers and praise, empowering messages, and great lessons of service and witness by many gifted pastors. You can find some of these great sermons and teaching online: disciplesga.org. One of the highlights of assembly was witnessing the commissioning of mission co-workers preparing to serve with partners across the globe.

Additionally, attendees had the opportunity to enact our identity as Disciples to be "a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world" through a prayer vigil for children who have died in US detention over the last 12 month, through various mission projects during the assembly, and in a rally at the Iowa state capitol building led by Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II. You can read a more complete overview of Assembly in the magazine rack next to the greeter stand in the Welcome Area.

Ailsa

Seek



Love

Serve

Sunday Worship
10:30am

Church School
9:00am

Church Office
(520) 624-8695

Pastor
Ailsa Guardiola González
fccailsa@gmail.com

Moderator
Rudy Byrd

Office Manager
Jenna Hosler
TucsonFCC@gmail.com

The Desert Disciple
(USPS 154-880)
September 1, 2019
Published monthly by
FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
740 E. Speedway
Tucson, AZ 85719
Periodicals Postage Paid
at Tucson, Arizona
POSTMASTER
Send Address Changes To
The Desert Disciple
c/o First Christian Church
740 E. Speedway
Tucson, AZ 85719

LOVE LIKE JESUS

"And let us consider how we may provoke one another to love and good deeds" Hebrews 24:10

Forward Together Updates:

1. Listening Campaign: Listeners met with eight different individuals, organizations, and institutions in our community in the first phase of the listening campaign. They will continue to make connections in the second phase that will run through the end of September. Want to know more? Please contact Pastor Ailsa.

2. Building:

Property Maintenance Person: We will be posting the position this month. We have enough in our budget to cover the position until the end of 2019. For the 2020 budget we will need \$28,000 allocated for this position, which we hope to raise in our commitments to the 2020 budget year.

Sanctuary Updates: A campaign is underway to raise money for 100 chairs for the sanctuary. This is part one of our chair campaign. Our ultimate goal is 200 chairs. See more information on page 4.

Updating Physical Conditions Assessment: The assessment conducted by Richard Bierce will be ready the first week of September, and a group will gather to set priorities of needs in our physical space that is based on both Richard's assessment and the assessment provided by Disciple Church Extension Fund.

3. Expanding Evangelism through Social Media: We have signed a contract with Social Grace Media to aid us in our online presence, including regular Facebook posts and updating our webpage. Social Grace Media has expertise with nonprofits and churches and is owned and operated by Wende Gonzales, member of Saguaro Christian Church. We are confident Wende's knowledge of church and our congregation will be an asset in this partnership.



Into the Future Talent Show

Get ready for an afternoon of great entertainment! One of our congregation's core values states, "We honor everyone's faith journey and their diverse gifts." It is true. And this month we celebrate our gifts both in our Into the Future campaign and with our talent show.

Do you like to sing, play an instrument, have an unusual talent, or have a funny skit to share? We cannot wait to see you in the talent show! Start planning your act today.



Disciples Women's Ministry

Welcome Back, DWM!

The first meeting of our new program year will be **Tuesday, September 10**. We will be discussing women's health with Rosemary Bolza.

Disciples Women's Ministries (DWM) meets on the second Tuesday at 11:30am from September to April. **The meetings are open to all members and friends of FCC.**

Meet Our New Childcare Attendants

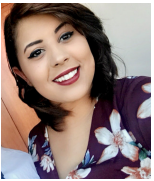
LOVE LIKE JESUS

"And let us consider how we may provoke one another to love and good deeds" Hebrews 24:10



Patricia Barceló

Hooray! We have hired 2 new childcare staff members. We welcome **Patricia Barceló** and **Tia Watts**. Patricia will be our Childcare Coordinator and Tia will be our Childcare Attendant substitute/on call. Patricia started on Sunday, August 25 and Tia will start on Sunday, September 1, 2019. Even though Tia will be our substitute, she will work in the childcare area for the first six weeks to get familiar with the routine and with the children and for the children to become familiar with her.



Tia Watts

We will also move the childcare area from the room at Desert Spring to Room 113, which was formerly the Children Worship and Wonder room on the top floor (the one with the Noah's Ark mural). This is targeted to happen by the end of September.

We will hold a "Welcome Wonderful Workers" reception in the new childcare space, Room 113, on Sunday, September 8, 2019 after worship. Come welcome our new staff, celebrate the work of our current Childcare Attendant, Nichole Burkett and see plans to transform the room. Refreshments will be provided.

Want to Learn Spanish?



We will have an opportunity to take Spanish classes from one of our skilled hospitality volunteers. She was a simultaneous interpreter in Venezuela for 17 years, and now teaches Spanish. She will offer different levels for all who are interested and will tailor our class to the needs of hosting our hospitality guests. **Please see Lori Bryant** for information on this opportunity. There will be a minimal cost for classes.

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.

- ♥ I celebrate **Sharon Sorensen** who is always looking for things to do to benefit the church and community. She is behind the scenes whenever we eat. She faithfully attends groups and classes. She visits shut-ins and even brings communion to share with those she and **Laura Allen** visit. I thank her for all she does. She is a blessing in this church. ~ Mary Alice Do
- ♥ We are lifting up and celebrating **Joel Holodynski** for all the help he gave during hospitality week. He definitely went above and beyond in every way.
- ♥ **Lori Bryant** is celebrated up for her work in many things at FCC including: Children Worship and Wonder, Worship Team, Hospitality Ministry, Sanctuary Chair Team, and the Maintenance Person conversation.
- ♥ Debbie Stadle gives thanks for **Janis Sherick, Laureen Pew, Jenna Hosler, and Pastor Ailsa** for their help in hiring the new childcare workers.



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.

SERVE THE WORLD

"Speak up for those who cannot speak... ensure justice for those being crushed" Proverbs 31:8

Sanctuary Chair Campaign



We are excited to be moving forward with replacing the pews with chairs. As a result of our discernment process, we decided to keep our beautiful building and look for ways to serve our community better. One of those ways is to have chairs to improve the functionality of our sanctuary. This way, we can invite others to use our space for music, art, and meetings; and we can use it for more creative worship and other functions. On a side note, our pews are in dire need of repair, and it is more costly to repair them than to replace them.

In order to make this happen, we need YOU! We are asking members of the congregation, who are able, to purchase a chair - a chair for you, a chair for a guest, a chair for our expected growth.... The cost of a chair is \$68. We would like to start with 100 chairs and eventually grow to 200 chairs. Our goal is to raise \$6,800 to purchase our first 100 chairs by the end of September.

GOOD NEWS! There is already \$2,500 from a special gift dedicated to the chairs, so we are well on our way already!

Our timeline is to have the needed funds by the end of September and purchase the chairs. It will take several weeks to deliver the chairs once ordered, and 2 weeks max to remove the pews and prepare the floor for use. During that time we will meet in fellowship hall. Wouldn't it be wonderful to have a new sanctuary style for the new year?

These are exciting times, living into our faith and what God has in store for us.

5th Sunday Service Day and Congregational Meeting



Our next Congregational Meeting will be on **Sunday, September 29th** as we gather after worship for our 5th Sunday Service Day and Sharing. While we make sandwiches for Casa Maria Soup Kitchen and our own Hospitality Project, we will share and celebrate how we have been seeking God, loving like Jesus and serving the world through our ministries and offering over the last six months at First Christian Church.

The Board is continuing to work on plans for how best to utilize our wonderful facility space, and the listening process with the community is going well.

Wanted: Church Office Volunteers



Our Office Manager will be on vacation September 26 – October 4. **We are looking for volunteers to cover the church office hours Monday, September 30 through Friday, October 4, 9am – 1pm.**

Tasks would include answering phones, receiving the mail & rent from tenants, and greeting visitors. If you are available one or more of those days, please let Jenna know by contacting the Church Office 520-624-8695 or tucsonfcc@gmail.com!

Week of Hospitality September 8-15



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!**

Volunteers are needed in the following areas:

- Welcome guests upon arrival (Spanish helpful)
- Help prepare meals
- Be present with guests during the day (4 hour shift)
- Overnight (12 hour shift, flexible)
- 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).

SERVE THE WORLD

"Speak up for those who cannot speak... ensure justice for those being crushed" Proverbs 31:8

Can't volunteer, but want to help? Needed items are always welcome! (Please note we are no longer accepting clothing items, unless listed as an urgent need.)

Urgent Items Needed:

- **Travel Items:**
travel size deodorant, combs, and small blankets
- **Personal Care:**
nail clippers, children's toothbrushes
- **Women's Clothes:**
shirts (sm/md), jeans (2-8), leggings (sm/md), and teen jeans
- **Men's Clothes:**
white shirts (sm/md) and jeans size 28-32 short
- **Boy's Clothes:**
pants (s/md/lg)
- **Shoes for Travel:**
women's size 5-6, men's size 7-8, and children's size 3-12

See these and other items needed on our Amazon Wish List (link in weekly email). You can order and have items shipped directly to the church. This list is subject to change as needs change.

Celebrate Disciples Leaders in Action and Service

By Richard Bierce

The August 14, 2019 issue of Christian Century magazine contains four items about (or by) the work and witness of several Disciples of Christ clergy and leaders around the nation. It speaks well to the leadership of these individuals, and Disciples everywhere should support and be proud of their service.

First, there is an item under the heading "New Scripture Study" which notes that our General Minister and President, the Rev. Teri Hord Owens has written "an insightful study of Luke 9:10-17, the feeding of the 5,000." Copies of the study are available at no charge from Bread for the World (bread.org).

Reverend Dr. Michael Kinnamon, noted Disciples scholar and past leader of the National Council of Churches has written an illuminating article about one of his mentors and former leader in the world wide ecumenical movement, theologian W.A. Visser't Hooft, entitled "What is church unity for?"

Rev. Kaji Dousa is senior pastor at Park Avenue Christian Church in New York City. She has been very active in ministry to migrants to the US and in advocating their rights. The Dept. of Homeland Security has placed her on a "watchlist", which led her to sue DHS for allegedly violating her right to practice her religious imperatives.

Rev. Verity Jones was the founder and publisher of Disciples World magazine in the early 2000's. She has served as a pastor, and in numerous organizations and educational activities. She was recently named a program director in the religion division of the Lilly Endowment in Indianapolis.



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 October *Desert Disciple*
 should be received in the office no later than
Monday, September 16.

Praying For Our Mission Co-Workers!



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

During the week of...

Sept. 1: Danielle Murry-Knowles, Lesotho

Sept. 8: Niko Sopepa, Fiji

Sept. 15: Fiona Kenall, Italy

Sept. 22: Judy Chan, Hong Kong

Sept. 29: Ignacio Salinas, Nicaragua

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

Periodicals
 Postage
 PAID at
 Tucson, AZ

