

# The Desert Disciple

Volume 70 Issue 11

First Christian Church - Tucson, AZ

(520) 624-8695

November 1, 2019

## SEEK GOD

*"Be Still, and know that I am God"*

Psalm 46:10

### Worship this Month

Mary Oliver's poem, "Messenger," begins with these words: "My work is loving the world." It proceeds to name parts of the natural world which we are to respect and love. "Are my boots old? Is my coat torn?" she asks. "Am I no longer young, and still half-perfect? Let me keep my mind on what matters, which is my work, which is mostly standing still and learning to be astonished." Oliver's words grant us the perfect guide for approaching the world around us as a people of faith.

During the Season of Creation, we turn to wonder at the mysteries and marvels of creation. The season follows the example of the psalmists who encourage us to celebrate with creation—meadows, deserts, mountains, rivers, and seas, each of which praise God in their own way. We celebrate Earth, our planet, as God's sanctuary and our home. We celebrate with all kinds of creatures that inhabit this planet as being part of us. And as we celebrate, we raise our consciousness of the crisis faced by this precious sanctuary due to human acts of exploitation, greed, and neglect. Turning to God, we seek forgiveness and look to the promise of God's reconciling work for restoring us and all God has made.

On November 3, we will also observe All Saints Sunday honoring those in our congregation who have died in the last year.

I look forward to seeing you in worship this month.

Blessings,  
Ailsa

**November 3:**  
Job 39:1-12, 26-30  
Lori Bryant preaching

**November 17:**  
Proverbs 8:22-31

**November 10:**  
Job 28:20-27

**November 24:**  
Thanksgiving Service



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

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# LOVE LIKE JESUS

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

## Disciples Women's Ministry

The Disciples Women's Ministry will gather on **Tuesday, November 12 at 11:30am** (This could be during the same time we are serving guests with the Hospitality Ministry). Rosemary Bolza will present on Women's Health.

Early Reminder: The annual Christmas Program with Janet Tolman and David Gale will be Tuesday, December 3 at 12:00pm. Please note that it will be the first Tuesday of December. All are welcome!



## Notes from the Church Board & Forward Together Updates



Thank you to all who attended our Congregational Meeting on September 29 and assisted with our 5th Sunday Service Day project. While we listened to reports, we made over 200 sandwiches which will be used as we continue to support our Hospitality Ministry either when we have guests here or at the Casa Alitas Welcome Center on Ajo Way. If you were unable to attend, please call the church office for a copy of the reports from the meeting. Watch for the date of our next Congregational Meeting in December.

Some highlights from the reports include:

- ◆ The stewardship team will meet this month to prepare a budget for presentation to the congregation at the December congregational meeting.
- ◆ A task force continues to work on a Safe Church plan for the congregation.
- ◆ The nominating committee has begun meeting to prayerfully consider leadership and officers for next year.
- ◆ The Trustees will schedule repairs for the Columbarium wall.

Additionally, **Forward Together Updates** include:

### 1. Building:

- ◆ Property - A task force is being formed to identify property priority needs for a capital campaign.
- ◆ Sanctuary - We are thrilled that total contributions for the new sanctuary chairs will enable us to purchase 175 chairs! That number almost gets us to our overall goal of 200 and exceeds the expectations we had for the September campaign! We continue to explore options for the floor. Thank you for your generous donations!

### 2. Listening Campaign:

Please be in prayer for our listeners as they continue their work in the listening campaign.

## Mind Wholeness Ministry

For people affected by mental health challenges:

1st & 3rd Monday 6pm—7:30pm: November 4 & 18

Family Support Group meets on the 1st Wednesday at 3:00pm: November 6



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### Tucson Pastor/Rep Luncheon with Regional Staff

On September 26, Pastor Ailsa and Janis Sherick met with our Tucson-Marana Disciples clergy, lay members, and Arizona Regional Staff, including our new Regional Minister, Jay Hartley. After a delicious lunch, we shared our visions for the future of Disciples in Arizona and also discussed goals of having positive and prompt communication between the regional office and congregations and ways of connecting with each other more often.

Our Regional Youth Minister, Jay Deskins, Disciples Women's Coordinator, Linda Sexton, and Regional Administrator, Matt Clark, shared several events coming up this fall which members can attend:

- November 1 & 2: Mental Health Training** in Phoenix
- November 1 & 2: Arizona Convención Asamblea** in Phoenix
- November 9: Youth Leader Gathering** in Phoenix (contact Jay Deskins for more information and to RSVP ([jdeskins@azdisciples.org](mailto:jdeskins@azdisciples.org)))

And in January there are two events:

- January 18: Winter Youth Experience (Phoenix)**
- January 18: Joint Day of Learning** with DOC, UCC and the Insurance Board in Casa Grande

If you have questions, please check out the Arizona Region newsletter at <https://azdisciples.org/e-az-newsletters/> or ask Pastor Ailsa or Janis Sherick for more information. Our next Pastor/Rep Meeting in Tucson will be On March 19. Please let us know if you have any concerns or ideas you would like us to share with our Regional Staff.



## SERVE THE WORLD

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



### CROP Walk

**Sunday, November 3**

Registration: 1:30pm

Walk: 2:00pm at First United Methodist Church

How you can participate:

- ◆ **Walk in the CROP Walk**  
To register, visit our team page: <https://www.crophungerwalk.org/tucsonaz/TucsonFCC>
- ◆ **Sponsor a Walker**  
Find a walker and give your donation in the form of cash or check made out to CWS or go to our CROP Hunger Walk page and click on the walker's name to make a donation online.

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## Sanctuary Chair Campaign



**Thank you, First Christian participants and friends!** Your generosity in contributions to new chairs moves us closer to preparing our space for wider community use. We appreciate your commitment to this call and ask that you continue praying for us to reach this dream. We look forward to ordering the 175 chairs your donations have funded and will let you know once we have an expected date for their arrival.

## Hospitality Ministry

We have learned that flexibility is a key aspect of our hospitality ministry. For November, this means we will be on an **on-call status** the second week of the month. Casa Alitas is requesting this from all off-site shelters such as ours, due to an increase in the number of families. We invite all volunteers to sign up on the Signup Genius (link in weekly email) for days you are available to help. We will confirm with Casa Alitas 24-48 hours in advance on the need of our facility.

Additionally, Casa Alitas invites all First Christian Hospitality Ministry volunteers to serve at the Casa Alitas Welcome Center on Ajo Way. If you have received the Safe Interactions training at First Christian, you do not need to undergo the Casa Alitas Safe Environment training. However, you are asked to take a tour of the welcome center to learn in what areas you may wish to volunteer. Please contact Pastor Ailsa (fccailsa@gmail.com) to let her know you are coming and find out where to park.

**Tour Dates:** Monday, November 4 at 11:00am | Friday, November 8 at 1:00pm  
Tuesday, November 12 at 6:00pm (if we are not hosting guests)

## New Food Ministry – Campus Pantry



Our Forward Together discernment process emphasized a more intentional consideration of the University community. Through our listening campaign, we have connected with the Campus Pantry at the University of Arizona. The University community faces challenges with food insecurity among its student population. **In an effort to partner with these neighbors, we will receive donations for the Campus Pantry beginning November 1.** This marks a change in our food collection focus from the Community Food Bank to the

Campus Pantry. Please note the different kinds of food requested from the Campus Pantry. **Donations will still be received in the welcome area.**

### Proteins:

- ◆ Canned Meats (tuna, chicken, salmon)
- ◆ Canned Beans
- ◆ Dried Beans or Lentils
- ◆ Nuts
- ◆ Seeds
- ◆ Peanut Butter

### Grains:

- ◆ Cereal (12.5oz or larger)
- ◆ Rolled Oats / Oatmeal
- ◆ Rice
- ◆ Quinoa
- ◆ Bulgar
- ◆ Pasta
- ◆ Popcorn
- ◆ Crackers & Chips (single serve)

### Canned Goods:

- ◆ Soups / Stews
- ◆ Chili
- ◆ Pasta Sauce
- ◆ Fruit (peaches, oranges, mixed)
- ◆ Vegetables
- ◆ Tomatoes
- ◆ Tomato Sauce
- ◆ Ravioli / Spaghetti
- ◆ Sloppy Joe Sauce

### Other:

- ◆ Dried Spices & Herbs
- ◆ Hamburger Helper
- ◆ Dried Fruit & Raisins
- ◆ Granola
- ◆ Jelly
- ◆ Baking Supplies (flour, sugar, jello)
- ◆ Coffee

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## Thanksgiving Offering, November 17 & 24

The Thanksgiving Offering benefits the Colleges, Universities, Seminaries, and Divinity Houses affiliated with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Higher education has been an important focus for Disciples since the very beginning of the movement. Throughout our history, Disciples have founded institutions of higher learning to educate students and form leaders to make a difference in the world. The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is still committed to higher education. Your gift to the Thanksgiving Offering helps support the education of thousands of students at our fifteen colleges and universities as well as our seven seminaries and divinity houses.



Please give generously to this offering. Your gift makes a difference in the lives of our students and it makes a difference in the world. **We will receive this offering for two Sundays, November 17 & 24. Our goal is to receive \$500.00.**

## Humanitarian Aid on the Border: From the Mediterranean Sea to the Sonoran Desert

First Christian has a long history of providing humanitarian aid in our location near the border. We have understood it as a mandate of our faith. The gathering, Humanitarian Aid on the Border, presents an opportunity to reflect on such acts both here in the Sonoran Desert and in the Mediterranean Sea. What similarities exist? What challenges to humanitarian aid workers face? What can we learn from a different setting? Everyone is welcome to the event.

**Wednesday, November 6th, 7:00pm to 8:30pm**

Grace-St. Paul's Episcopal Church  
2331 E Adams St, Tucson, AZ 85719



**Haidi Sadik**

staff member of Sea-Watch which provides humanitarian search and rescue in the Mediterranean Sea



**Scott Warren**

volunteer with No More Deaths and Samaritans providing humanitarian aid in the Sonoran Desert

They will present on each organization's humanitarian aid mission, the weaponizing of the Sonoran Desert and the Mediterranean Sea by governments, and the prosecution of aid volunteers in each region.

## Faith Floods the Courtroom

**Wednesday, November 20 at 8:00am**

Calling on people of faith and conscience to flood the court room on November 20th in Tucson, Arizona and show support of Scott Warren, Human Rights activist facing 20 years of jail for providing lifesaving aid to migrants in the desert. The Interfaith Prayer Service will feature local and national faith leaders calling for an end to the criminalization of humanitarian aid and the fundamental principles of care and compassion. Our presence in the courthouse and the vigil outside will be a visible witness of our support. Let us remember: he is facing prison time for doing that which our faith traditions demand of us — welcoming the stranger, feeding the hungry, offering water to the thirsty. And let's be very clear — any one of us could be on trial.

Agenda:

**Tuesday, November 19**

- Mass Meeting

**Wednesday, November 20th**

- 8 AM Interfaith Prayer Service outside Court
- Fill the court room for the trial
- Hold vigil outside the Federal Courthouse (Detailed agenda to come for those who RSVP)

RSVP at the link provided in the weekly email (or by emailing the church office, [tucsonfcc@gmail.com](mailto:tucsonfcc@gmail.com)) to receive detailed information.



# 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 *

## Praying For Our Mission Co-Workers!



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

During the week of...

**November 3:** Mark Knowles, Lesotho

**November 10:** Maria Bakalian, Lebanon

**November 17:** Emanuela Loccident, Morocco

**November 24:** Larry Colvin, Ghana

For more information regarding our missionaries, overseas partners, or how you can make a difference, visit: [www.globalministries.org](http://www.globalministries.org)



VISIT OUR WEBSITE:  
[firstchristianchurchtucson.org](http://firstchristianchurchtucson.org)

CALL OUR OFFICE: (520) 624-8695

## NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Articles for the December *Desert Disciple* should be received in the office no later than **Monday, November 18.**

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