

The Desert Disciple

Volume 71 Issue 1

First Christian Church - Tucson, AZ

(520) 624-8695

January 1, 2020

SEEK GOD

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

Worship this Month:

We begin the new year with a series for the season of Epiphany, "In the Flesh Appearing." Epiphany celebrates the manifestation or revelation of Christ among us. At Christmas we heard the announcement of "God with us - Emmanuel." Now we consider what this means: God in Christ. Christ in the flesh. The title of the series comes from the beloved Christmas hymn, "O, Come All Ye Faithful." In that hymn, the chorus repeats, "O, come let us adore him. O, come let us adore him." What does it mean to adore Jesus in the waters of baptism? At the side of the sea? In his call to disciples?

Registration now open for the Regional Youth Events:



Winter Youth Experience for middle and high school aged youth! Join us **January 18 - 19** at Foothills Christian Church in Glendale, AZ. 30 Hours. Experience Community. Experience God. The cost is \$50 and you can register online: <https://docgeneralassembly.regfox.com/winter-youth-experience> Registration Deadline is January 12

"It's Elementary" Children's Event for 1st-5th graders! **Saturday, February 8** at Church of the Painted Hills UCC in Tucson. Come and join us to help solve the mystery of faith. Spend a day playing, learning, and serving together. Cost is \$15 and you can register online: <https://docgeneralassembly.regfox.com/az-its-elementary-childrens-event>. Registration Deadline is January 12

Seek



Love

Serve

Sunday Worship
10:30am

Church School
9:00am

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Pastor's Note

"We look with uncertainty" by Anne Hillman

We look with uncertainty
beyond the old choices for
clear-cut answers
to a softer, more permeable aliveness
which is every moment
at the brink of death;
for something new is being born in us
if we but let it.

We stand at a new doorway,
awaiting that which comes...
daring to be human creatures,
vulnerable to the beauty of existence.
Learning to love.



The passing of time is a curious thing. It happens without us really noticing...tick-tock, tick-tock...until we do notice. A birthday. Anniversaries of different sorts. A new year. On and on it goes, tick-tock, never ceasing. In the end, where does it get us? Where does it lead us? It is typical at the start of a New Year for people to take an account of their lives, to reflect on where the last year has taken them, and to dream and express hopes for what is to come. But one thing for which we can be certain is that we have no certainty of what is to come. What experiences of joy, what hardships, what surprises await us?

I find Anne Hillman's poem to be filled with incredible beauty as it encourages us to embrace uncertainty as a gift for our future. Beyond fixed answers, where does the imagination of the prophets, of Zechariah, of John the Baptist, and of Mary—that we have lived with through the Advent and Christmas seasons—lead us? Of what do we need to let go to experience "aliveness?" As we move on from celebrations of a new baby, what new thing is wanting to be born in us? Are we willing to stand in new doorways, "daring to be...vulnerable to the beauty of existence," daring to learn to love something or someone new?

We cannot know what the future holds for sure. But we are people of faith, people of the God who is faithful and steadfast in love. We go forward in this new year, witnessing to the presence of God in our lives and strengthening one another to be ever-open to the new paths before us.

Ailsa

LOVE LIKE JESUS

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

Installation of Officers

Thank you to everyone who has volunteered to serve as leaders in 2020. We will recognize incoming elders, deacons, and newly elected board officers on **Sunday, January 12 during worship**. Through the gifts of the Spirit, God calls us to serve together in ministry in a rich interweaving of word and worship, work and witness. We look forward to a new year guided by the Spirit as we grow in our purpose and mission to Seek God, Love Like Jesus, and Serve the World.

Moderator: Rudy Byrd

Vice Moderator: Janis Sherick

Secretary: Judy Indermark

Treasurer/Financial Secretary: Deb Stadle

Historian: Larry Kimberlin & Susan Harris

Deacons (Class of 2022): Lori Gale, Colin Green, Nancy Green, Sharon Sorensen, and Jason Thompsen

Elders (Class of 2022): Janis Brown, David Stadle, and Debbie Stadle

Trustees (Class of 2022): Richard Bierce

Deacon Emeritus: Willis Jackson



New Sanctuary Chairs



The sanctuary chairs are scheduled for delivery in the first week of January. Our new plan for transition to the chairs will allow us to remain in the sanctuary. The pew removal will take place in stages such that we can introduce the chairs into the seating area in sections. Thank you, again, to all those who donated for the chairs.

Disciples Women's Ministry

The Disciples Women's Ministry will meet again on **Tuesday, January 14 at 11:30am** in the parlor. Please bring a sack lunch. All are welcome. This will be the same week as Hospitality.



LOVE LIKE JESUS

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

Mind Wholeness Ministry



For people affected by mental health challenges

1st & 3rd Monday, January 6 & 20

6:00 – 7:30 PM

The Family Support Group meets on the 1st Wednesday at 3:00pm. Due to the holiday, this month they will meet on the second Wednesday, January 8.

Arizona Regional News:

You're Invited!

The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Arizona invites you to the Installation of Rev. Jay Ross Hartley as Regional Minister on **Saturday, January 11, 2020** at First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Mesa, AZ.



Joined by special guest, Rev. Terri Hord Owens, General Minister and President of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada, we will celebrate his call to the Arizona Region, our covenantal relationship as Disciples, and our hopes for the future of Disciples ministry in Arizona.



Location

First Christian Church, Mesa
805 N. Country Club Dr.
Mesa, AZ 85201

Schedule

11:30 am - Pastor and Guest lunch w/ Rev. Terri Hord Owens (registration required)
2:00 pm - Installation Service
3:30 pm - Reception with light refreshments

RSVP for the Installation and/or Register for the lunch at azdisciples.org.

SERVE THE WORLD

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

Hospitality Ministry

First Christian will offer hospitality **Monday, January 13 - Friday, January 17**. Please follow the link to sign up in the weekly email or contact either Lori Bryant or Janis Sherick. Thanks to amazing volunteers from FCC and the wider community, in 2019 we hosted 290 people! We appreciate the dedication and passion of our volunteers and continue praying for all those affected by policies that militarize our border and criminalize immigrants.

Urgent Needs: Jackets & Long Sleeve Shirts – youth & adult sizes

You can see all these items and more on our Amazon Wish List (link in weekly email).... Where you can have items shipped directly to the church!

How FCC Served the World in 2019



We celebrate the generosity of our congregation lived out through donations to the Community Food Bank & Campus Pantry; participation in the CROP Walk; and over-and-above giving to Week of Compassion, Global Ministries, and other ministries of our wider church. Your generosity has impacted our community through our Hospitality Ministry, 5th Sunday Service Days, Ashes to Go, and the weekly prayer vigil in the chapel. It has been a great year—a year filled with God’s steadfast love that never ends! We celebrate you for sharing the abundance of God’s gifts.

Over and Above giving for Special Offerings & New Ministry:
Total \$ 19,739.00!

Thank You!

Christmas Offering (as of 12/20):	\$ 580	A.L.A.S:	\$ 450
Easter Offering:	\$1,242	CROP Hunger Walk:	\$ 696
Pentecost:	\$ 775	Staff Gifts (as of 12/20):	\$ 1,265
Reconciliation:	\$ 510	Hospitality Ministry:	\$12,138
Thanksgiving:	\$ 833		and 290 people served
Week of Compassion:	\$1,250	Campus Panty at UA:	6 Loads Taken
		Community Food Bank:	1,108 lbs

BorderLinks at FCC

First Christian continues the partnership with BorderLinks to help house groups coming to learn about border issues. We will provide overflow housing for BorderLinks for 14 people January 6-11 in Fellowship Hall.



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...

January 5: Victor Makari, Israel/Palestine

January 12: Victoria Peagler, Botswana

January 19: Ricardo Mayol, Guatemala

January 26: Priscilla Yang, Hungary

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



VISIT OUR WEBSITE:
firstchristianchurchtucson.org

CALL OUR OFFICE: (520) 624-8695

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Articles for the February *Desert Disciple* should be received in the office no later than **Friday, January 17.**

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