

# The Desert Disciple

Volume 71 Issue 2

First Christian Church - Tucson, AZ

(520) 624-8695

February 1, 2020

## SEEK GOD

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



## Worship this Month

"Freedom Songs of the Civil Rights Movement"

Hear stories of the music that fueled a movement. In his book, *Why We Can't Wait* (1964), Martin Luther King Jr. said that civil rights activist "sing the freedom songs today for the same reason the slaves sang them, because we too are in bondage and the songs add hope to our determination that 'We shall overcome, Black and white together, We shall overcome someday.'" The freedom songs of the civil rights movement inspired, empowered, and brought people together for change. Their power continues to move us today.

## It's Elementary

"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 February 5.

## Ash Wednesday, February 26



Ash Wednesday begins the season of Lent. Please join us for our Ashes-to-Go outreach to the community 7:00am-7:00pm and Ash Wednesday Service at 7:15pm.

**Ashes to Go: You can help! Volunteers needed!** Share a sacred moment with those passing by our church. We will provide two stations, one in the main parking lot and one at the Euclid corner bus stop. Two people work at each station. If you are not comfortable saying the blessing/prayer, your presence is still important to provide support, encouragement, and an extra pair of hands to manage the ashes and pamphlets. A sign up will be available in the welcome area a couple of weeks prior to the date.

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)  
February 1, 2020  
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*



## Disciples Women's Ministry

The Disciples Women's Ministry will meet again on **Tuesday, February 11 at 11:30am** in the parlor. Please bring a sack lunch. All are welcome.

## Elder/Deacon Potluck

**Sunday, February 9**, the elders and deacons will meet for a potluck fellowship following the worship service. We thank all those serving in these ministries of spiritual care and service and welcome your prayers for them.

**Elders:** David Stadle, Debbie Stadle, Janis Brown, Jean Jackson, Lori Bryant, Mary Alice Do, Paul DeArman, Rosemary Bolza, Rudy Byrd, and Susan Harris.

**Deacons:** Austin Troike, Colin Green, Jane Warner, Jason Thompsen, Laura Allen, Lori Gale, Margaret Dean, Mark Thornburgh, Nancy DeArman, Nancy Green, R.C. Troike, Rebecca Orman, Sara Van Slyke, Sharon Sorensen, Violet Bierce

## Directory Info & Media Release



Help us have the most up-to-date information in our 2020 directory. If any of your contact information has changed over the last year, please let us know by filling out the form and placing it in the offering plate or turning it into the church office.

This year, a media release is included on the form. According to our Safe Interactions Policy, we ask your permission to use pictures of you when promoting our church's mission and ministry in print and on the internet. **Please write and sign your name on the form and indicate "yes" or "no" to the media release.** Then

place form in the offering plate or return to the church office.

Forms are available in the welcome area.

## LOVE LIKE JESUS

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

### Debut of New Chairs a Success



I want to thank all of the folks who were part of the process to research and secure a good solution for new chairs in the Sanctuary for their many efforts and good judgment exercised in the choice they made. Today, January 12, was the first time they were on full display and our first full opportunity to evaluate them in context. I can attest that every criterion for selection I could think of was met very well. They were affordable, they are large and comfortable, stackable, strong and durable, functional in terms of the hymnal rack and paper slots, and a good, but somewhat neutral, color choice which fits well in our architecturally dignified mid-century modern sanctuary. And I think I observed a subtle change in the acoustic character of the room precipitated by the absorbent surfaces of the chair cushions and backs which tended to soften somewhat the sonic performances, instrumental and vocal. If this were an event at the Olympics, I would give a score of "10". Thanks and blessings to everyone who made it so.

Additionally, Mark Thornburgh is to be commended resoundingly by everyone for his prodigious efforts over the last few weeks in transforming the sanctuary. I know many assisted in the process of removal and disposal of the old pews, and they are to be thanked as well, but it was Mark who led and oversaw the entire effort to prepare and transform the room for the new chair installation. A huge and sincere thank you and blessings to Mark!

- Richard Bierce

We also thank Lori Bryant, Burl Dunn, David Gale, John Indemark, Judy Indemark, Sam Morales, Teresa Soqui, David Stadle, Debbie Stadle, and Pastor Ailsa for their help with the chairs!

### Mind Wholeness Ministry – Spiritual Support Group

For people affected by mental health challenges

1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday: February 3 & 17, 6:00 – 7:30 PM

The Family Support Group meets on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday at 3:00pm, February

# SERVE THE WORLD

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

## Church Work Day

Lent is a time of repentance and clearing out, both spiritually and with our physical stuff. Join us for our "Lenten Clearing Out the Clutter" workday on **Saturday, February 29, 9:00am -Noon**. We will let go of the things we do not need and organize the things that will stay in hopes of more efficient use of our space.

## Campus Pantry Fundraiser



The University of Arizona Campus Pantry will be hosting their annual Benefit Dinner on Friday February 28, 2020, 6:00pm – 9:00pm. This is an annual event held to support the UA Campus Pantry. Guests will receive a three course dinner, and will have the opportunity to participate in a raffle and/or silent auction and take a tour of the Pantry. Dinner options will include gluten free, vegetarian, and dairy free options. **If you would like**

**to attend, please RSVP to the Church Office by Monday, February 10. First Christian will purchase the tickets (up to 20) to attend the event.**

In addition to the dinner, FCC collects food for the Campus Pantry all year round. Please remember to bring your donations for the Campus Pantry. You may pick up a list of acceptable items from the Welcome Area on Sunday.

## Hospitality Ministry Update

The leaders of our hospitality ministry met with Casa Alitas staff and leaders of the other off-site shelters this week. Due to lower numbers of families allowed to enter the United States while going through proceedings for their asylum case, the off-site shelters will not open in the immediate future. In the meantime, we will seek other opportunities to serve families seeking asylum both in advocacy work and direct service in the United States and across the border in Nogales, Sonora. Please stay tuned for dates and updates on the following:

1. Volunteer appreciation potluck for all offsite shelter volunteers to get to know one another and learn of volunteer needs. Date TBD.
2. New projects at the Casa Alitas Welcome Center.
3. Participation in the local Save Asylum campaign. We will inform you of events and actions as we learn of them.
4. Visit to Nogales, Sonora to learn of needs in the shelters and how best to offer support. TBD.

## SERVE THE WORLD

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

### Week of Compassion



Week of Compassion is the relief, refugee and development mission fund of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada. We seek to equip and empower disciples to alleviate the suffering of others through disaster response, humanitarian aid, sustainable development and the promotion of mission opportunities.

You are God's field, God's building. In your church today, you have the opportunity to build something miraculous, to plant seeds of new life.

Where God's people have suffered loss, you are invited to invest in the future. When you give to Week of Compassion, your gift travels to places where disaster or poverty has caused great suffering. Through your generosity, we empower communities to grow new kinds of crops in a changing climate; we support youth education and vocational training; we rebuild homes and churches and help provide needed supplies after disasters; and we empower women with skills to support their family and their neighbors.

Building, planting, watering... and we are co-workers in the kingdom of God. In these and so many other places, trusting that God gives growth to all good gifts shared in faith.

**First Christian Church will receive this special offering on February 16 and 23.**

**Our goal is to collect \$1,000 for Week of Compassion.**

### Community Events:

#### **Hope, Hard Times and the Human Possibility**

**Carrie Newcomer, Parker J. Palmer, and Gary Walters**

Friday, February 21 & Saturday, February 22

Good Shepherd UCC, Sahuarita, AZ

Register online or download registration at:

<https://goodshepherducctheology.wordpress.com/registration/>

#### **Chapman University Founders Day**

**March 14**

Featuring the Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II

Chapman University is a Disciples affiliated college located in Orange, California.

Register at [www.chapman.edu/founders-day](http://www.chapman.edu/founders-day)





## Forward Together Updates & Next Steps for 2020

Our Forward Together discernment has enabled new ministry and conversations in the past year, and in 2020 we will continue to focus on the key areas highlighted in that process:

### **Use of Building:** *“a call to open our building and property to new uses and functions”*

- ◆ In 2019, we opened our space to the hospitality ministry and served close to 300 people seeking asylum. First Christian volunteers contributed hundreds of hours to this ministry. We also received support from volunteers from other Tucson Disciple churches and from new community partners from the Church of Christ campus group and various other Church of Christ congregations, San Juan Bautista Lutheran Church, and other individuals in the wider community. We do not yet know the long-term implications of the Migrant Protection Protocols policy, but will be flexible for what needs arise in 2020.
- ◆ We also celebrate the update to our sanctuary space with new chairs that will enable different configurations and uses of the space.
- ◆ In efforts to maintain the building and not burn out volunteers, we considered creating a new maintenance position. We determined, however, that a more efficient and economically responsible approach will be to subcontract maintenance work as needed.
- ◆ In 2020, we will actively advertise our sanctuary for university music student recitals .
- ◆ Owl & Panther, the nonprofit working with refugees that has had its office in our building since 2014 is moving out thanks to significant growth in its work. We celebrate with them and look forward to new opportunities this may bring for the use of our space.
- ◆ Started in 2019, the church safety task force will continue to work this year on a Safe Church Plan for the congregation.
- ◆ The Property Priorities team tasked with identifying the most urgent issues for maintenance and repair begins its meetings this month. They will have as part of their resources the assessment Richard Bierce made of our property. We thank Richard Bierce, Paul DeArman, Lori Gale, and Dave Stadle for serving on this important team.
- ◆ In our call to care for our space, we will hold a “Lenten Clear the Clutter” workday on February 29. Look for more information on how you can help as the day approaches.

### **Partnerships:** *“We are called to intentional partnerships with other faith communities, nonprofit organizations, and other entities”*

- ◆ We celebrate our new partnership in 2019 with the Casa Alitas Welcome Center of Catholic Community Services as well as the new volunteer partners created through the hospitality ministry mentioned above.

### **Listening:** *“Intentionally listen to our community about the greatest needs and best ways to address them.”*

- ◆ In 2019, we redirected our focus for nonperishable food donations to students through the Campus Pantry and will continue that focus in 2020. (Over)

## Listening continued:

- ◆ We will continue making connections in our community to learn of needs and ways we can respond. Our listening campaign volunteers will regroup to assess information we have gathered and determine next steps.

## Hub of Connections: *“Be a hub of connections for our wider Tucson community.”*

- ◆ We will keep offering our space for community groups, such as the Tucson Peace Center, Paperworks (crafting group), school events, Narcotics Anonymous, and Al-Anon.

## Evangelism: *“Reclaim this word and act on sharing the good news of the gospel.”*

- ◆ Hiring Social Grace Media in 2019 has increased our outreach via Facebook through consistent posts. In 2020, we will focus on updating our webpage.
- ◆ In 2019, we extended an invitation to University of Arizona college students from Disciples churches in Arizona and other regions at the beginning of the school year.
- ◆ New in 2020, a generous donor from the congregation has enabled our advertisement in local newspapers.
- ◆ Also in 2020, we have the opportunity to grow in sharing the story of our church and work as individuals. How will you share the story of FCC? Why is FCC important to you? Why you are here?

## Assessing current structure and ministries: *“Prioritize the use of our collective energy.”*

- ◆ Our 2019 board began assessing our leadership structure and by-laws as well as our desire for better communication in this time of exploration and transformation. Guiding questions for this assessment include: How can we move from idea to action more fluidly? How can we more readily communicate with the congregation opportunities to get connected in mission and ministry? How can we communicate most effectively among leadership in this time of change?
- ◆ In February 2020, Regional Minister, Rev. Jay Hartley, will meet with the board during their retreat as part of this exploration.

## Additionally, we recognize the volunteer hours and financial gifts of all members of the congregation that accomplished impactful ministry in 2019:

- ◆ our **stewardship team** in overseeing our use of financial resources and creating a budget for 2020;
- ◆ our **trustees** who oversee our stewardship of property by reviewing insurance needs, supervising our endowment funds, and filing necessary county and state reports;
- ◆ **personnel team** in conducting two searches to finally hire our current nursery attendants;
- ◆ the **property team’s** continued attention to maintenance issues of the church building and rentals;
- ◆ the ministry of our **elders** in caring for the pastoral concerns of our members;
- ◆ our **deacons’** faithful service in worship and across all ministries of our congregation;
- ◆ our **youth Sunday school leaders** and **adult group facilitators** that keep us growing our spiritual lives;
- ◆ our **committed members** who organize fellowship meals;
- ◆ our **worship team and design teams** that plan worship themes, music, and visuals.

**These ministries will continue as we move *Forward Together* in 2020, thanks to your prayers and support! Thanks be to God!**





# 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...

**February 2:** Abigail Fate, Mexico

**February 9:** Fiyori Kidane, Greece

**February 16:** Abigail Hernandez, Japan

**February 23:** Dustin Riebel, Ecuador

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 March *Desert Disciple* should be received in the office no later than **Monday, February 17.**

Periodicals  
Postage  
PAID at  
Tucson, AZ

**The Desert Disciple**  
First Christian Church  
740 East Speedway  
Tucson, AZ 85719