



The Spirit of St. Francis



It will take more than a worldwide
pandemic to keep us from
blessing your animals!



Drive-By Blessing of the Animals

Sunday, October 4th,
1:00 - 2:00 pm in front of
the Celebration Center



www.facebook.com/stfrancisumc/

In This Issue

Blessing of the Animals!

A Word From Our Pastor

Ways You Can Help TIHAN

Library News

Eco Tip

Church Directory update

ICS Volunteers Needed!

**4625 E River Rd.
Tucson, AZ 85718
(520)299-9063
www.stfrancisinthefoothills.org**

ONLINE SUNDAY SERVICES:

9:00 AM

ON OUR WEBSITE OR
FACEBOOK

10:45 AM

LIVE TALK BACK

ON OUR WEBSITE
OR CALL IN

NUMBERS TO KNOW

Contribution/Pledge Questions:
(520)299-9063, Ext.101

- Simply drive up in front of the Celebration Center with your pet(s) in the passenger or back seats, and Pastor Jim will bestow blessings upon your pets from a safe distance!



A Word from Our Pastor

My "Immigration" Experience

When I was nineteen years old, I got in an airplane and landed at the International Airport in Buenos Aires, Argentina, a country that was to be my home for the next two years. I was excited about the opportunity in front of me.



Along with the other four men that were traveling with me, I had been working hard to be ready to be in a new country. I had studied the culture and the social expectations. I knew about the people and the places I might experience while I was there. I had been studying "Castellano," the language of Argentina, and for eight weeks I had been using it almost exclusively in all my communication.

Monthly Newsletters
(520)299-9063, Ext. 101

Prayer Requests:
(520)299-9063, Ext.101

International School for Peace
(520)299-8908

FOR PASTORAL HELP

Reverend Jim Wiltbank
(520)299-9063, Ext.106



The Desert Southwest Conference of the UMC

Resident Bishop
Bishop Robert Hoshibata
(602)266-6956

District Superintendent
Rev. Matt Ashley
(520)539-0929

South District Lay Leader
Maritza Velazquez
(520)285-6928

And then I touched down on the tarmac...

It didn't matter how much I thought I knew when I took off, when I landed, I was overwhelmed by the newness and the foreignness around me.

And the man who was supposed to meet us to help navigate our first day in this new country of ours...

the man who was supposed to get us across this enormous metropolis where we found ourselves...

the man who was supposed to provide us with food and shelter...

the man who had our tickets for the next section of our trip...

...never showed up at the airport.

And I was lost! ...But I soon learned that I was not alone.

Kind strangers saw the bewildered eyes of these five new immigrants to Argentina and stopped instead of walking by. They saw the panic emanating from our hearts and chose to speak instead of remaining silent. They saw the confused, perplexed, and baffled *Americanos* and reached out with arms of love that soothed anxiety, fed the troubled hearts with comfort, and helped us find our way past the fear to our final destination.

There are so many ways in which people find themselves in similar situations today, whether it is due to immigration issues at our border, or those of separation and division within the boundary of our country. COVID has further increased our fears of "not being in Kansas" anymore, while hiding our final destination in a myriad of ways.

But here at St. Francis, just like the folks at the airport in Buenos Aires, we are people who **Choose Love** and move



1 Donald Smith
3 William Clyatt
3 Kristen Pearthree
3 Erin Fly
4 Juan Rodriguez
6 Pam Simon
6 Bill Brantley
8 Keith Sweeney
9 Mark Dunbar
9 Cecilia Monroe
9 Susan Wilkinson
9 Betty Morphew
11 Sandy Mason
13 Jane Ageton
13 Art Aldag
13 Zoey Burrows
14 Marvin Reuther
14 Patricia Moore
15 Kathryn Damstra
16 Patrick Holehan
16 Allison Ewing-Cooper
16 Noah Huth
19 Winifred Keefer
20 Carol Constan
20 Harold Wilson
23 Willa Barron-Gafford
23 Jeffrey Evans
25 Robert Hopper
26 Marcia Hutchison
26 Jim Palka
26 Ann Faulkner
27 Dave Goguen
27 Mary Stafford
27 Joan Carson
29 John Hannan
29 Kaitlin Poe
30 Linda Clark
30 Chrystal Pierce
31 Sandra Stephenson
31 Greg Barron-Gafford
31 Lisa Hornung

toward others instead of away. In fact, that is exactly our mission as an organization: to be with people in a space of fear and challenge and "unknowingness," and be loving companions on each other's journey through life.

Who around you needs help to negotiate the challenging pathways ahead of them? How can you provide companionship and guidance and love for people who are going through a much more difficult moment than the one I went through? How can you be a partner of hope and help on their journey?

Jim



Dear St. Francis family ~

We have always been a generous congregation --- and we continue to be in this "year of the virus."

One of the best ways we offer our respect and loving care to our fellow humans is to donate food and basic supplies through the agencies we know and trust. Your "drive by" donations of critically needed foods to ICS (Interfaith Community Services) last month was greatly helpful to and enormously



ECO TIP

As political news overtakes Covid coverage, it's a good time to join Citizens Climate Lobby.

CCL is an effective national group with local chapters, working on a bipartisan basis (how rare is that!?) to create political will for climate legislation.

Join at any level, from listening to the monthly Tucson meeting to specialty groups, like climate and health, or letters to the editor, or monthly calling campaign.

Go to citizensclimatelobby.org to explore all they offer, in training, support and mobilizing.

appreciated by our Tucson and Pima County brothers, sisters, and families who are just "scraping by" during this terrible pandemic. Donations like these are how we live by our church's and our personal mission.

Though the pandemic lingers on, we are tireless in fulfilling our mission! TIHAN (Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network) is also a tireless agency that had its beginning right here at St. Francis in the Foothills. The population it serves - hundreds now and thousands over its 25-year history - are faced with serious food shortages for the foreseeable future. *But great news:* TIHAN has received a grant of \$20,000 from the Community Foundation of Southern Arizona that donors have matched! The total will supplement food needs for our CarePartners just through November, so let's boost that amount through the holiday season! We can do it!

Please send your check - any amount will be a big help - to:

TIHAN
2660 N. First Ave.
Tucson, AZ. 85719

And note that it is for FOOD.

Or use the link:

<https://tihan.ejoinme.org/foodsupport>

(PLEASE SEND YOUR DONATION DIRECTLY TO TIHAN. DO NOT SEND THEM TO THE CHURCH OFFICE OR MAKE A DONATION THROUGH EASY TITHE.)

And here is another way to offer much needed household and personal supplies to our CarePartners (our friends who are living with HIV). When you go shopping, pick up an extra paper product like TP, facial tissues or paper towels, and drop them off at the TIHAN office at the above address. Household



**Can't pay your rent?
Are you or someone you know
facing eviction?**

'Lawtech' is here to help.

Free anti-eviction software like "Hello Landlord" can generate the legal declarations renters need to qualify for federal protection from eviction.

Click the link below
to find out more.

https://apple.news/A_iH_YQm4T6aZ2UZs945Tww

(Thanks to Rolly Loomis
for sending this in.)

cleaning products, toothpaste and shampoo are in critical need as well. When you take your donation by the office, call first: 299-6647, so the staff will be ready to meet you outside, keeping a safe social distance. Be sure to wear your mask, too.

Thank you for all that you can do to give life and love to our friends in need!

On behalf of our church and TIHAN,

n Wilson

Joh

Library News



In honor of the *Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi* and *Blessing of the Animals Sunday* - both on October 4th - your friends at the *Library for Peace* have put together a list of books for the animal lovers among us (and you know who you are!). All of these can be found online, or possibly at the public library. Enjoy!

1. *ARE WE SMART ENOUGH TO KNOW HOW SMART ANIMALS ARE?*

BY FRANS DE WAAL

This exciting new book explores the current science of animal cognition and challenges many of the assumptions humans have about "lower" life forms. The genius of animals has long been underestimated, but this book seeks to



Since the photography for the new church directory was done back in February, lots of folks have been wondering where our new church directories are. Because of the Coronavirus, Lifetouch has been shut down and only running with a skeleton crew - sort of like the church office!

They hope to have our directories printed and to us in November.

set the record straight, marveling at the ways in which animals have adapted to their natural environments and the humans that too frequently invade their homes.

2. *THE ANIMAL DIALOGUES*

BY CRAIG CHILDS

In this book, naturalist Craig Childs recounts his amazing encounters with other species in the wild-from sharks and grizzlies to elk and Bighorn sheep. This book also contains perhaps the best description of a porcupine ever written-he describes it as "a mobile hairstyle"-a truly great contribution to naturalist literature.

3. *SAD ANIMAL FACTS*

BY BROOKE BARKER

If you're the sort of person who likes off-beat trivia, this book is for you. *Sad Animal Facts* is a colorful and hilarious compendium of that will change the way you see animal life.

4. THE GREAT GRISBY: TWO THOUSAND YEARS OF LITERARY, ROYAL, PHILOSOPHICAL, AND ARTISTIC DOG LOVERS AND THEIR EXCEPTIONAL

ANIMALS BY MIKITA BROTTMAN

Brottman's quirky collection reads like a cast of [canine characters](#), from Pablo Picasso's winsome friend to Elizabeth Barrett Browning's spaniel Flush, who was such a charismatic figure that his biography was written by Virginia Woolf. It's a fun and entertaining read, one that will leave you knowing a lot more about



Volunteer Opportunities

We are looking for drivers who can deliver meals for our Mobile Meals program.

Deliver nutritious meals
one day per week
(11 am to 1 pm)

to elderly and disabled individuals who can't cook for themselves. Mileage reimbursement is available.

We have a need for volunteers at the ICS Eastside Food Bank, located at New Spirit Lutheran Church at Old Spanish Trail and Camino Seco. volunteers are needed on the first and third Saturdays of the month from 10 am to 1 pm to help clients going through the ICS Food Bank.

Volunteers are also needed at the Resource Center on the east side to assist people with job searches and computer use.

We especially need help with drivers who can take seniors and disabled individuals to appointments anywhere in Tucson. We are calling these special volunteers "Anywhere Drivers".

This is our most requested service, and assignments are usually 2-3 hours Monday through Friday.

Flexible schedules allow you to decide your availability and mileage reimbursement is available.

Use your own vehicle
or become a driver for the
ICS Care-A-Van.

the world's dogs than when you picked it up.



We're the library your mother warned you about (and proud of it)!



Hugs and thanks to all those who came by and donated food at our **Drive-Thru Food Drive** to benefit the Interfaith



Community Service Food Banks. Since our own Food Pantry is closed at this time, I've been trying to come up with ways we can help in that area. Because of you, more people will food on their tables.

To become a volunteer or for more information, contact our Volunteer Resource Manager at 520-526-9308 or 520-297-6049. Or email info@icstucson.org



Dear Reader,

I hope you've enjoyed this month's newsletter. I'm always interested in submissions that have to do with the people, ministries, and activities of St. Francis in the Foothills.

If you have something you'd like to share, please email your ideas to: mmitchell@stfrancisumc.org

Please be aware that the cut-off date for accepting articles and photographs for the November 2020 newsletter is Friday, October 23rd.

Anything submitted after that date, without prior communication may not be able to be included.

And **huge loving thanks and appreciation** to members of the St. Francis Care Team for giving their time to help greet people and unload their donations.



L to R: Roy DeBise, Ann Rau, Marie Andrews, Sheri Houston, Pat Fox, Harlow Sires



Good to know we're all doing our part to keep people safe.

(Thanks to Wendy Kreider for sending in this picture)