

# The Spirit of St. Francis



## **Sunday, April 14th, Palm Sunday**

Services at 7:45, 9:00 & 10:45 am  
in the Celebration Center

Adult Education class in Room 42.

**Thursday, April 18th,  
Maundy Thursday Service**  
7:00 pm in the Celebration Center



## **In This Issue**

A Word from Our Pastor

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Library News

Inn2 America Update

Exploring Membership at St. Francis!

Prayer Pals

**4625 E River Rd.  
Tucson, AZ 85718  
(520)299-9063  
[www.stfrancisumc.org](http://www.stfrancisumc.org)**

## **NUMBERS TO KNOW**

Bulletin & Newsletter:  
(520)299-9063, Ext.101

Contribution/Pledge  
Questions:  
(520)299-9063. Ext.102

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

**Friday, April 19th,  
Good Friday Service**  
7:00 pm in the Celebration Center

**Sunday, April 21st,  
EASTER SUNDAY**

***Sunrise Service***  
5:30 am in the Celebration Center

**Potluck breakfast on Patio 50**

**If your last name begins with:**

**A - I:** Bring rolls, buns, croissants, sweet rolls.

**J - R:** Bring a main dish such as a  
breakfast casserole, eggs, ham, quiche, etc.

**S - Z:** Bring a fruit salad, fruit plate, juice, etc.

***Easter Services:***  
9:00 & 10:45 am in the Celebration Center

**There will be no 7:45 am service or  
Adult Education class on Easter Sunday.**



Room Reservations:  
(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. Mark Conrad  
(520)325-2775

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



## A Word from Our Pastor



### ***Flavor of the Week***

A few years ago, a rock group, American Hi Fi, wrote a song called "Flavor of the Weak". It talks about a girlfriend and boyfriend who have radically different views of their relationship. His view is very superficial and so he puts little effort into the relationship. On the other hand, "she knows all his favorite songs" and "he means everything to her". The relationship is important to her, but is that enough?

As human beings, we often live in fear that we have that sort of relationship with those around us. What if they don't love me as much as I love them? What if they're just pretending? What if I'm just the "flavor of the week"?

Being hurt by another person in this way confirms these fears and that is a reality most of us face at some time or another. It might be a spouse or a parent that hurts us. It could just as easily be a brother, a sister, a child or a friend. When it happens, it shakes our world.

How wonderful then, to have a Church family that accepts you no matter who you are. Who actively wants and welcomes you because of the diversity you bring. How proud I am to be the pastor of such a church.

We have much work to do. Let us go forth with our arms open wider than ever before.

Happy Easter!

Jim



1 Robert Thompson  
2 John Eisele  
2 Lana Holstein  
4 Amy Fowler  
4 Meg Pradelt  
5 Mark Trommer  
6 Randy Brauer  
7 Mary Hidalgo  
8 Marge Hefty  
8 Katie Burrows  
11 Shelley Whitlatch  
12 Judy Rubin  
12 Mike Wilkinson  
13 Gail Harris  
14 Cassandra Leon  
16 Ruth Cross  
17 Grace Hartman  
18 Pamela Bisson  
19 Dee O'Neill  
19 Richard Snodgrass  
19 Terry Donaldson  
21 Paul Scott  
21 Daniel Niksich  
21 Gretchen Leavenworth-Keenberg  
22 Megan Holehan  
22 Thomas Wheeler  
23 Scott Hamstra  
23 Alice Weekley  
25 Barbara Eisele  
25 Art Evans  
25 Barbara Wilson

WELCOME BACK!!



## Sunday Night At The Movies

Sunday, April 14th  
5:00 pm in the Community Center

***Which Way Home?***  
(2009, 90 minutes, NR)



In this gripping, award-winning documentary, a group of young, unaccompanied Central American children struggle to make their way through Mexico in order to ultimately reach the United States and jump the border to a new home.

Director Rebecca Cammisa follows the struggles of these would-be illegal aliens as they battle poverty, dangerous train rides and potential predators, keeping their sights set on the possibility of a better life that awaits in a new country.



presents

## ***28th Annual Gala Spring Concert!***

Saturday, April 6th,  
3:00 pm in the  
Celebration Center

\$15.00 admission  
Students may attend free.

Pay online at

[www.sonsoforpheus.org](http://www.sonsoforpheus.org).

purchase tickets from a choir member, or pay at the door with cash, credit card or check made out to *Sons of Orpheus*.



## ***Elder Circle . . .***

The Wisdom Journey.  
A safe, respectful place  
to harvest your life

Friday, April 12th,  
10:00 - 11:30 am  
in Ravenscroft Hall

Elder Circle is a dialogue group that meets to discuss important topics that cultivate the value of Elders as mentors and wise council in our community.

It provides a safe, respectful place to share our stories, learn from each other and join

**Because we'll be meeting at 5:00 pm,  
we ask that you please bring food to share -  
whether it's a casserole that you made or a  
snack tray you picked up.**

**St. Francis will provide coffee, tea  
and iced water.**

**The Sunday Night at the Movie Team will provide  
desserts.**

together in the adventure of  
aging consciously.

Elder Circles is a project of the  
Center for Community Dialogue,  
Our Family Services.

**All are welcome.**

**In Concert at St. Francis -**

## Library News



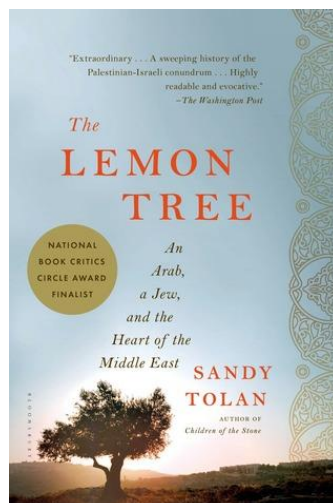
## Recommended Reads

### **The Lemon Tree**

by Sandy Tolan

Understanding the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is nearly impossible. Sandy Tolan tries to make it possible by telling the personal stories of two incredible people - a Jewish woman and a Palestinian man who share a history of the same house in Israel and the memory of the lemon tree in the back yard.

We've read books about the Holocaust, we know the story of Israel which was created as a homeland for the Jews, but we know so little about the price the Palestinians have had to pay. This book does a better job of telling the Palestinian side of the story than anything



## AEOLIAN VOICES DEDICATION

MUSIC BY  
JOHN MARSHALL WILLIS  
AND  
FELIX MENDELSSOHN

FRIDAY, APRIL 12

7:00 PM @ ST. FRANCIS IN THE FOOTHILLS UMC  
FREE ADMISSION (DONATIONS APPRECIATED)



## Endowment Fund Applications Now Being Accepted!

Twice a year, the St. Francis  
Endowment Fund Committee  
considers dispersing  
funds. Applications for funds will  
be considered in the  
following areas:

- \*Mission
- \*Scholarship
- \*Property



I've ever come across, yet it doesn't deny the needs of the Jews. It's a must-read for anyone who wants to see both sides of the conflict. This crisis has continued for so many years because it is incredibly complicated. Yet there is hope.

- Ginny Jones  
Library volunteer

### Check us out - literally!

*Library for Peace* is open from 9:00 to 12:30 pm  
on Sunday mornings.

We are also open during the week, but hours vary.  
Please call 299-9063, Ext. 101 for availability.



The Inn2 America Project at St. Francis in the Foothills is currently taking a break. With so many volunteers leaving for the summer, we are having to re-organize and decide if we will have enough people to keep the Inn going.

Since we opened in November, we have served 617 people from the countries of Guatemala, Mexico, Honduras, El Salvador, Brazil, Peru, Cuba, Ecuador and even Russia.

\*Ministry  
\*Special Need

Applications may be picked up in the church office and must be returned by April 15th.

The St. Francis Endowment Program was established in 2008 for the purpose of providing members and friends the opportunity to make charitable gifts to St. Francis in the Foothills that would become a permanent endowment of financial support and a living memorial.

You can help support the future of St. Francis by bequeathing funds or property to the *St. Francis Endowment Fund* in your Estate plans. More Endowment giving information is available at [www.stfrancisumc.org/giving.html](http://www.stfrancisumc.org/giving.html)



### Upcoming Events

#### Refugee 101: Info Night

Thursday, April 16th,  
6:00 - 8:00 pm

Catholic Community Services  
140 W. Speedway Blvd.,  
Suite 130

This interactive workshop focuses on global, national and local aspects of refugee resettlement; ways in which Iskashitaa enhances our community through food-based programming.

RSVP to  
[harvesting@iskashitaa.org](mailto:harvesting@iskashitaa.org) or  
call 440-0100

Our guests have gone on to new lives in over 34 different states, with about half going to the southern states of Florida, Georgia, South Carolina and Tennessee.

As we decide on the future of the Inn here at St. Francis, we want to thank you all for the many hours you have contributed. Should you wish to continue, there are several other Inns operating in Tucson that would welcome your assistance.

The Inn at First United Methodist Church  
615 E. 4th Street.

Contact: Gretchen Lopez (520)312-1451 (Text is best) or email [gretchenlokey@icloud.com](mailto:gretchenlokey@icloud.com)

Rincon Congregational Church  
122 N. Craycroft  
Contact: [Nancy@rinconucc.org](mailto:Nancy@rinconucc.org)

Catholic Community Services  
Contact: Diego Lopez (520)470-7387 (Text is best) or email [diegojlopez@gmail.com](mailto:diegojlopez@gmail.com)



### ***Tree of Life***

Spring is in the air, and this is a great time to help our *Tree of Life* and the Endowment Fund grow.

Leaves are now available for those who make an Endowment gift of \$150.00 or more.

A golden leaf will be engraved with your personalized message and displayed on the *Tree of Life* located in the Celebration Center.

Gifts to the St. Francis Endowment Fund are tax deductible.

Contact:

[endowmentfund@stfrancisumc.org](mailto:endowmentfund@stfrancisumc.org)

for more information.

Order forms are available in the Church Office.



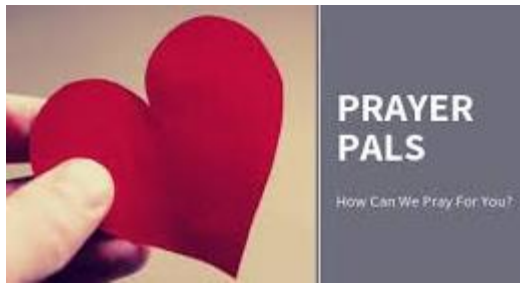
### ***St. Francis in the Foothills Exploring Membership Retreat***

Saturday, April 6th,  
8:30 am - 2:00 pm in the Community Center

Join Pastor Jim Wiltbank and the Welcome Team as they host an enjoyable and enlightening Membership Class to answer questions about the history and mission of St. Francis in the Foothills.

A healthy light lunch will be served.

Please RSVP by contacting  
Nancy Stevenson at 323-0318.



Many thanks to the folks who said "yes" to being Prayer Pals for our children!

During this season of Lent, we have been talking about prayer. The children have heard about the why's, what's, when's and the many choices on how to pray.

Our Prayer Pals are, Don Black, Pam Simon, Kathy Faller, Chris Beauchene, Karen Sparks, Karen Bliss, Diana Strnatka, Sarah Tomassetti, Shannon Sullivan, Judy Robinson, Al Cox, Scott Doty, Ted Gemoets, and Judith Holt.

The children have enjoyed receiving their postcards with great thoughts, prayers and wishes written on them. The Prayer Pals have sent "their" child a postcard each week. As their teachers, we offer thanks to YOU for affirming the boys and girls with positive words and prayers.

- Christine Washburn and Sue Gemoets



Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network

*A Compassionate Response to HIV/AIDS*

The annual Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network (TIHAN) 2018 report to the community was held the evening of March 19th at St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal church. Some 200 community volunteers, TIHAN staff, and representatives from local partner organizations attended the event, along with several dozen "Care Partners" - individuals living with HIV.



May is *Mental Health Month*. The St. Francis Mental Health Ministry will be passing out ribbons again this year at services on Sunday, May 5th to signify our work and determination to remove the stigma of mental illness. Please join us in wearing this ribbon.

We will also present an Adult Education class - "Good Mental Health - What Is It?" on Sunday, May 12th from 10:30 am to noon in the Community Center.

### Weekly Breakfasts



#### ***Sophia's Circle***

#### ***Women's Breakfast Group***

Wednesdays 6:45 - 8:00 am  
in Ravenscroft Hall



#### ***Chrysalis***

#### ***Men's Round Table***

Thursdays, 7:00 - 8:00 am  
in Ravenscroft Hall

**Newcomers are  
always welcome!**



It was a joyful occasion that included a celebration of the many accomplishments of the programs and operations of this wonderful community service.

**Scott Blades**, the executive director for TIHAN and a member of St. Francis in the Foothills, told the gathering how TIHAN began, almost 25 years ago, with an idea by a handful of St. Francis church members. The idea was to offer services and compassionate care for individuals living with HIV in the Tucson community. From meager beginnings as a committee of St. Francis church, the organization is now an independent non-profit supported by 30-plus churches and faith organizations, over a dozen local businesses that offer financial and in-kind support, and more than 100 volunteers.

The evening's program included recognition of individuals and teams for their "Outstanding Efforts in 2018!" St. Francis in the Foothills members receiving special recognition were **Noel Floresca** and **Jon Stetson**, long-term volunteers, board members and recipients for "Excellence in Caring"; **Ron Holland** for many services from administrative tasks to outstanding CarePartner support; **Karen Sparks** (who is St. Francis' TIHAN representative) for outstanding CarePartner support and Education and Awareness service; and **John Wilson** for outstanding Link Specialist, Care Team, and New Volunteer services.

And, of course, **St. Francis in the Foothills** was thanked for providing their facilities and staff monthly through the year to host Poz Cafe, where up to 160 persons living with HIV come for a sumptuous lunch prepared by a consortium of churches and faith organizations, an auction, games, and camaraderie.

Grateful thanks to everyone who help make TIHAN the amazing organization it is.

- John Wilson



### ***Joy & Wisdom on the St. Francis campus!***

*The Joy & Wisdom Discussion Group* is a small, friendly group of diverse individuals (both women and men!) which meets on the 1st and 3rd Fridays of each month from 1:00 until around 2:45 pm.

Through our reading, casual, non-judgmental discussions, and synergistic conversations, we explore spiritual awareness; seeking the active living out of Oneness and spiritual awakening in our Creator/God. (We also laugh and have lots of fun!)

You are warmly invited to explore along with us!  
Call Joyce Leissring at 520-404-1691 for more information.



### ***Awareness Through Movement***

(Feldenkrais) Class  
meets Monday evenings,  
6:00 pm - 7:00 pm  
Room 30/31

Facilitated by David Taylor



*Don't let worry kill you off -  
let the Church help.*

- from Church Bulletin Bloopers  
Just-One-Liners.com



I hope you've enjoyed this month's newsletter. I'm always interested in any 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 contact [mmitchell@stfrancisumc.org](mailto:mmitchell@stfrancisumc.org).

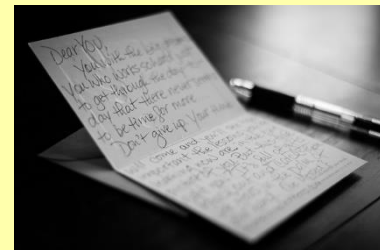
**Please be aware that the cut-off date for accepting submissions for the May 2019 newsletter is April 19th.**

Anything submitted after that date may not be included.



Find out how easy it is to feel lighter and freer, yet more grounded and connected doing this form of gentle, almost meditative non-exercise. Wear comfortable clothing and bring a mat to lie and move on.

Contact David  
at [davtay@aol.com](mailto:davtay@aol.com)



### ***Loving Letters Writing Group***

Friday, April 5th,  
9:30 - 11:00 am  
in the *Library for Peace*

This small group comes together once each month to write love letters to people we don't know as well as people we do.

Coffee, tea and goodies are provided, along with stationary, pens pencils and postage.

We will also mail the letters providing they're not international.

We hope you'll join us.

**Because the world needs  
more love letters.**

## **HAPPY SPRING!**

Newsletter Editor: Melissa Mitchell  
St. Francis in the Foothills United Methodist Church  
(520)299-9063, Ext. 101