



# St. Francis in the Foothills newsletter

January 2021



1/3 Fran Donnellan  
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1/20 Sarah Leonard  
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1/25 Doug Bobbitt  
1/27 Jeanette Mathias  
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1/31 Ed Leigh

## WHAT'S HAPPENING



### And the award for Brightening Up Our Campus goes to Nancy Wilkinson!

Nancy just finished her second mural on for our campus, which is located on the back of the office building. Her "Tree of Life" definitely gives much needed life and color.

We are so grateful to Nancy, for so freely sharing her creative gifts with us and making our campus (and our world) more beautiful.



Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network  
*Helping People with HIV to Live Well*

Thank you St. Francis Care Team!

The team got together on two Saturday mornings to decorate 108 Care Package bags for TIHAN's Poz Cafe gift-giving this holiday season.

Here is a sampling of the festive bags created by Pat Fox, Sheri Houston, Marilyn Keefer, Linda Clark, Harlow Sires, Marie Andrews, Susan Davies, Israel Almanza and his two boys.

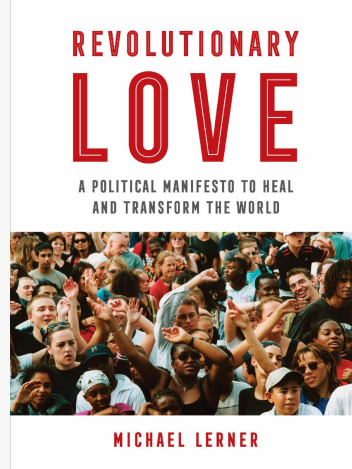
What fun we had and what joy we feel offering gifts to our brothers and sisters living with HIV in Tucson.

Thank you St. Francis in the Foothills for all the love you give!

John Wilson



One of the things that makes St. Francis so special is the amazing



## Join Pastor Jim for some Revolutionary Love!

If the title of this class, which is also the title of the Michael Lerner book that we will study, is not enough to entice you, then look at its subtitle: A Political Manifesto to Heal and Transform the World.

The rich and powerful words used just to describe the intent of this book fill my heart and imagination to the brim. I can't wait to discuss them with you!

Tuesday, 3:00 pm starting  
January 12th.

Thursday, 7:00 pm,  
starting January 14th.

Zoom code:  
821 559 673

For more information, email  
[jwiltbank@stfrancisumc.org](mailto:jwiltbank@stfrancisumc.org)



One of the many charitable activities St. Francis was involved in during the 2020 Holiday Season was our annual *Holiday Help Drive*. For the last three years, we have picked a local organization - preferably small and not

creativity that surrounds us! A case in point is our choir and their director, Cynthia Hilts, who have come up with the innovative idea of "Drive-In Choir"! Armed with individual microphones, plugged into a universal soundboard, they rehearse and perform from their cars!

This is so unique that they were featured on KVOA Nightly News at the beginning of December. If you'd like to see the interview, click below.

[Click here to see the SF choir on KVOA!](#)

too well known - who could use some help from our congregation - and through our efforts - the community.

For our 2020, we picked the animal rescue organization, *Hope of Deliverance*, and here is what you did for them:

\$1655.00 Checks & online donations  
\$125.00 Petsmart Gift Cards  
\$40.00 Wish List bag of treats  
\$50.00 donations made directly to HOD  
**TOTAL: \$1870.00**

Thank you everyone for your amazing generosity!



## A Word from Our Pastor

### *How Is Spirit Calling?*

I wonder how many others are starting their January newsletter with some variation of, "Glad we made it through 2020"? The intersection of pandemics, elections, racial unrest, social disorder and economic uncertainty gives a much broader and deeper meaning to the word "crash." And those incidences throughout the year have often been deadly.

Due to those collisions, as much as it is an accomplishment to have survived the year, the work that this moment brings to us is far from over. Because vaccines are being provided, it doesn't mean our diligence to health and relationship can stop. Because we may feel more at ease than we have for months does not mean that others can or do share that comfort. Because an election is finished doesn't stop the work of governance and reconciliation that this New Year will ask of us.

We have tasks ahead of us. I saw a meme that explained it well for me -





It is certainly much easier to act like the woman on the left – hoping that someone else will do the work that must be done.

Spirit however calls us to be like the woman on the right who does the often-difficult work that is required in order to achieve the results that are hoped for...and that are desperately needed in our world today.

**The work of the Spirit is always an active endeavor.**

What is this moment calling out of you?

On December 31, the eviction moratorium, which ensures that thousands of families are able to stay in their homes, is due to expire. The effect on our society will be terrible. Is this where Spirit is calling you?

The people along our southern border that have been waiting for many months to cross will find a sympathetic administration in the New Year. Is this where Spirit is calling you?

A new session of the Arizona State Legislature begins shortly, with items on the agenda that will affect our lives and the lives of many around us. Is this where Spirit is calling you?

In late August the United Methodist Church is scheduled to meet in order to deal with the issue of full inclusion. Is this where Spirit is calling you?

These issues and many more lie in front of us in this New Year.

Instead of making a resolution, make a commitment to be active in our world. It will need our best work.

**The Great Holiday Food Drive  
of 2020!**

It started with a few emails.

# Thank You for ALL The Food!



Because the need for food was so great, St. Francis was going to re-open its Food Pantry for one morning a week, hoping to help. To do this, we needed donations to fill our shelves - especially holiday foods.

All folks had to do was drive up to the Celebration Center on this particular Wednesday morning between 9:00 and 11:00 am, and we would unload their donations. Plus they could pick up a new church directory (It only took nine months to get them.)!

That Wednesday, members of the St. Francis Care Team showed up ready to go. They chatted and paced, enjoying the cool weather. Melissa sat behind a table, poised to hand out new directories. They could hear traffic passing by on Swan Road. They chatted some more . . .



Then cars began to come - two and three at a time. They stopped at the first table to give their accumulated change to Katie Kans. Then they drove up to the front of the Celebration Center where the volunteers unloaded their cars. There was talk and laughter as folks dropped off their bags and boxes and picked up the new directories. Pastor Jim greeted people, visited and carried in food.



When the Food Drive was done, the lobby of the Celebration Center had bags lined up three rows deep! It took two pickup truck loads to get it all down to the church office where the Library for Peace became an impromptu holding area. Tables were put up and bags and boxes were loaded onto them.



It was an absolutely amazing sight - six tables full and more stuff underneath! Even now, going into January, the library is still full of food items, waiting to be stocked in the pantry and given away. And we have you to thank for it. You are so amazing! So many will have food on their tables because of you. **THANK YOU!**



Submitted by Wendy Kreider



**Belated and grateful thanks to those who showed up for our last Spruce Up Day:**

Vicki Crutchfield  
Kay Bauman  
Art Evans  
Doug Robson  
Bob Evans  
Tom Bossert  
Mary Langlois