

Good News from

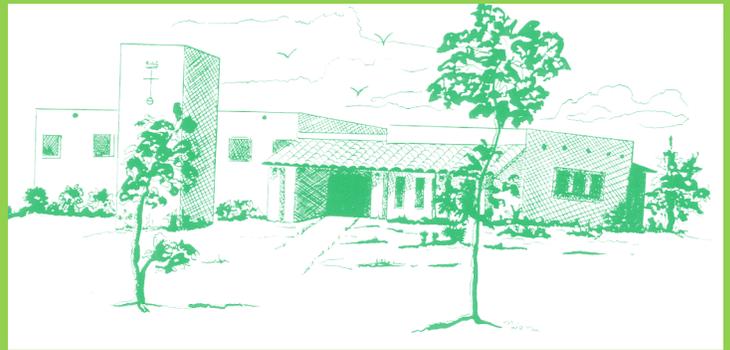
The Good Shepherd United Church of Christ

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May 2019

Our Mission Statement:

The Good Shepherd United Church of Christ welcomes all as we strive to be disciples, boldly living as God's witnesses and celebrating our intergenerational and multicultural life together. The Good Shepherd is an Open and Affirming Congregation.



ENCOURAGE READING -- ONE KID AT A TIME!

The wonderful Reading Room needs a coordinator to schedule readers on Thursdays and Saturdays each month. Kids and parents who come to the Sahuarita Food Bank appreciate this program and reward us with their smiles!

Please call Sue Eaton at 300.4962 for more information. The Reading Room needs you! Thank you!

Green Valley/Sahuarita

USED BIKE DRIVE

Bicas Tucson (Bicycle Intercommunity Arts & Salvage), a non-profit agency serving cyclists of all ages will hold a Used Bike Drive at the Good Shepherd Church on May 10th and 11th from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The drop-off point will be by the church's front entrance. Bikes of any type or size or bike parts are all welcome. If you cannot bring items to the drive but want to have them picked up, contact Tom Wilsted, a Good Shepherd Church member and BICAS volunteer, at the address listed below.

Bicycles donated to BICAS will be distributed to young people or resold to support its many programs. In case you are not familiar with BICAS (www.bicas.org), it offers a range of programs for young people including training to ride, maintaining

a bike as well as earning a bike for those who cannot afford one. It maintains a workshop with all bike tools where individuals can bring their bike to repair it themselves with support from a trained mechanic as well as individual new and used parts for purchase. They also offer classes for adults including basic maintenance, build a bike, and wheel building.

All donations will be greatly appreciated. Donations are federally tax deductible and are eligible for Arizona tax credits. Thank you in advance for your help.

Tom Wilsted
BICAS Volunteer
860-214-2822
Tom.wilsted@uconn.edu

Worship Shift, May 5th, 10:00am

We will be shifting our worship to 10:00am on May 5th. While it is always great to have our two worship service for the main part of our year. It is also good to slow down a bit and combine our worship to one service. This allows us to see friends we haven't seen for a while and to experience the different styles of worship at The Good Shepherd.

**The Good Shepherd
United Church of Christ**

Senior Minister: **Rev. Randy J. Mayer**
Assistant Minister: **Edwin Andrade**
Director of Faith Formation for Children:
Anahi Herrera

CWS Immigration Organizer: **Rev. Noel Andersen**
Commissioned Minister of Faith & Money:
Nancy Ackley

Ministry Intern: **Rebecca McElfresh**
Music Director & Coordinators: **Jeff Vanderlee**

Lisa Otey-Van Deurzen
Diane Otey-Van Deurzen

Pianist: **Kay Jean Moore**

Custodian: **Severo Rivas**

Administrator: **Amy Dillemoth**

Newsletter Editor: **Mary Chapman**

Newsletter Helpers:

Jan Bennett, Darlene Clement, Carlos Henriquez, Judy Holcomb, Bill & Marge Kinkead, Nancy Linthicum, Marilyn and Tom Regnier, Carrie Scheufler

Executive Committee

Moderator: **Rex Crouse**

Moderator elect: **Dennis St. John**

Treasurer: **Sam Dyer**

Council Secretary: **Leslie DeGrassi**

Administrative Area Facilitators

Facilities: **Terry Linthicum**

Finance: **Nancy Bowen**

Stewardship: **Hathaway Cornelius**

Program Area Facilitators

Welcome and Inclusion Team:

Intentional Caring Team: **Linda Redfield**

Mission Service and Justice Team:

Susie Sanders

Spiritual Growth Team: **Susan Hill**

Newsletter Deadline

JUNE ISSUE

WEDNESDAY, MAY 15

**Send items to Mary Chapman at
mchapman15@cox.net**

Bookworms



Bookworms, the evening women's book group, will continue to meet through the summer. Newcomers are always welcome. We meet at 7 pm, the 3d Monday of each month, in the Lantana Room, on the third floor of La Vista, at La Posada. **May 20** we will be discussing The Prague Sonata, by Bradford Morrow. **June 17** we will be discussing The Orphan's Tale, by Pam Jenoff. **July 15**, the book will be The Girl with Seven Names, by Hyeonseo Lee. For more information, contact Sandra Rooney, srooney1935@gmail.com, or 648-4264.



Taizé

And so Taizé ends for the season on May 8. I know some of you have left for "cooler" climes--at least that's what you tell me. (I'm never sure when I see your humidity.) Easter is over and we gather to bid farewell by singing Taizé songs and sharing a quiet time together. There were nearly 30 of us at the April Taizé and we managed without our cantor although we missed her/him. Hope to see you at 5:00 on the 8th and then again on October 9.

Happy summering!

Poet's Corner....

Like a Current in the Ocean, Invisible

by Marjorie Saiser

When my father was dying,
and my sister came to see him,
he covered his eyes with his hand
as she walked to him; he had
tears. Not everything had been said
that those two needed to say. It would
not be fixed neatly. He had not
organized his life like a picnic basket.
If this is you sometimes,
he could have been a father or brother
to you; he loved you and could not say.

Sabbatical for Reverend Mayer

It is amazing how time flies. Fifteen years ago my family and I took off on a three month Sabbatical adventure that had us driving through for a month through Mexico, spending time in El Salvador with Norma's family and ending up at the border of Costa Rica and Panama.

In February the Admin Team approved my annual Fifth Year Sabbatical. This time I have decided to take one month sabbatical leave over the next three years. At the end of August, Norma and I will travel to Northern Italy to attend the Waldensian Church annual Synod. Over the past 5 years we have had 12 members of their denomination visit the Good Shepherd and learn about our immigration work. This has developed a strong collegial relationship. Paolo Naso, Executive Director of Mediterranean Hope has invited Norma and me to be special guest at that gathering.

From there we will travel to Katerini, Greece. Dr. Peter Makari, Global Ministries Area Executive for the Middle East and Europe has worked out a short-term volunteer assignment with the Greek Evangelical Church. Many people have mentioned that the Good Shepherd and the church in Katerini are very similar because both of our churches have a large immigration ministry and a community food bank. The church has an apartment that they have made available for us and are looking forward to some mutual learning.

Our final 10 days will be spent in Spain walking El Camino de Santiago---the sacred pilgrimage of Saint James.

Norma and I are looking forward to some time away where we can see similar issues from a different perspective. We are grateful that the Good Shepherd has been so supportive of our mutual ministry over the past 20 years and look forward to what the next years will bring our way.

Adult Education

Exciting speakers are set up and being recruited in order to make 2019-2020 exciting events.

Parker Palmer and Carrie Newcomer will be with us for our annual Progressive Seminar-February 2020.

The seminar planning committee needs a few new members as changes are occurring. We will need a new chairperson as Ed Hunt has finished his term. The committee meets between 4-5 times to coordinate the weekend; starting in the Fall.

The Forum planning team selects speakers for our Sunday morning meetings. This team meets as necessary to confirm and schedule the speakers. We have a number of suggestions already in hand.

To show your committee interest, please contact edhunt11@hotmail.com. Thank you.

Treasures for TIHAN - Save the Date!



June 15, 2019 at the Marriott University Park Hotel - our fabulous Treasures for TIHAN benefit auction and party. We're starting now to collect donations for the auction, and making plans for this, our grandest event of the year! If you'd like to join us as a volunteer or sponsor for the event, contact Scott Blades (520-299-6647 ext 202 or scott@tihan.org), and if you'd like to donate an item to be auctioned off, let us know. Stay tuned for more details, but mark your calendar now!

Advocacy Backgrounder: Venezuela—Intervention and the Politicization of International Aid

By Global Ministries (Disciples of Christ and United Church of Christ, March 14, 2019)

Venezuela: Intervention and the Politicization of International Aid

International focus has turned to Venezuela in recent months as the U.S. has very publicly backed self-proclaimed president Jean Guaidó in challenging Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro and much-needed humanitarian aid has been leveraged as a political tool in support of regime change.

Aid as Political Intervention

Humanitarian aid is supposed to be neutral: to meet human needs and to do no harm. The humanitarian aid proposed by the U.S., in coordination with Guaidó, is arguably being used as a cover for a regime change agenda and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the United Nations (U.N.), and other relief agencies have declined to participate in these U.S.-led efforts and offered words of warning.

“We will not be participating in what is, for us, not humanitarian aid,” [stated Colombia’s ICRC spokesperson, Christoph Harnisch](#). In a press briefing in early February, [U.N. spokesperson, Stéphane Dujarric, shared](#), “Humanitarian action needs to be independent of political, military, or any other objectives. What is important is that humanitarian aid is depoliticized and that the needs of the people should lead in terms of when and how humanitarian assistance is used.”

There are [significant humanitarian needs](#) as more than half of families in Venezuela are unable to meet their basic food needs and more than 3 million people have fled the country. During this time the Maduro administration did accept aid from sources not seen as politicized, including the ICRC and the U.N.

One reason for the humanitarian crisis is the decrease in government social programs because of [U.S. sanctions on Venezuelan oil](#). The most recent round of sanctions prohibit corporations under U.S. jurisdiction from purchasing oil from Venezuela’s PDVSA (the state-owned oil company) - an estimated loss of \$11 billion in revenues in 2019. In the past, Venezuela has been celebrated for its vast social programs that are largely supported by oil revenue, which accounts for 95% of the country’s [export earnings](#). De Zayas, the former UN special rapporteur, said that if Washington’s immediate interests are the well-being of the Venezuelan people, it should [lift the sanctions](#). “If we want to help Venezuela, we need to let the country buy and sell like anyone else.”

The conversation about humanitarian aid and intervention came to a head when the aid organized by USAID and Guaidó arrived at the Colombia/Venezuela border. Photographs of the aid being rejected and of a truck on fire flooded the media. President [Maduro said](#): “Humanitarian aid has been turned into a spectacle to justify a military intervention of our country.” U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo posted a photo of a blocked road on Twitter and said: “The Venezuelan people desperately need humanitarian aid. The U.S. & other countries are trying to help, but Venezuela’s military, under Maduro’s orders, is blocking aid with trucks and shipping tankers.” Opinions about this incident were loud and starkly opposed. A U.S. State Department video alleged that Maduro ordered the trucks of aid to be burned, but eventually the [New York Times published video footage](#) which confirmed that an opposition protester started this fire. Dujarric, of the UN, said: “When we see the present stand-off, it becomes even more clear that serious political negotiations between the parties are necessary to find a solution leading to lasting peace for the people of Venezuela.”

Advocacy Recommendations

Global Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ has been engaged in a relationship of solidarity and accompaniment with the Evangelical Pentecostal Union of Venezuela for more than 60 years. Now we watch with deep concern the recent talk of United States military intervention in that country and the humanitarian impact of U.S. sanctions on Venezuelan oil. Every time Venezuela, or any other country in Latin America and the Caribbean, has suffered a military episode in its recent history, the lives of the poorest and the most vulnerable populations have been severely damaged.

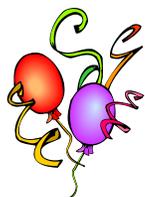
We encourage contacting your legislators with the following advocacy messages:

-Support for HR1004 Prohibiting Unauthorized Military Action in Venezuela

-Support for dialogue with no conditions through the Latin American and European-led International Contact Group

-Affirm the right of the Venezuelan people to self-determination

-Call for an end to U.S.-imposed economic sanctions on Venezuela



Best Wishes for a Happy Birthday

Carol Christ	05/01
Ray Frieders	05/02
Irene Little	05/04
Ruth Lyngholm	05/04
Joan Scovil	05/06
Carolyn Wilson	05/08
David Dethmers	05/09
Bette Mulley	05/10
Gail Chaffee	05/12
Jim Diers	05/12
Clyde Clement	05/15
S. Lee Sheppard	05/16
Connie Aglione	05/21
Bill Spearman	05/25
Richard Hill	05/26
Jacob Mayer	05/27
Marge Kinkead	05/28
Darthea Tilley	05/28
Noel Andersen	05/29

Diane Dearington	05/31
Kathy Babcock	05/31



Congratulations on Your Anniversary

Mitzi Eilts-Welch & Paula Welch-Eilts	05/08
Raymond & Nancy Hebert	05/20

If you have not seen your special day (birthday/ anniversary) in the newsletter, please contact Amy if you would like to update your record.

The Good Shepherd United Church of Christ Administrative Team Meeting Tuesday, February 12, 2019, 7:00 p.m.

Present: Judy Bischoff, Rex Crouse, Leslie DeGrassi, Sam Dyer, Nancy Bowen, Terry Linthicum, Randy Mayer, Susie Sanders, Rebecca McElfresh

The meeting was called to order by Moderator Judy Bischoff at 7:02 p.m.

1. Opening Prayer: Randy Mayer

2. Minutes of the last meeting: Leslie DeGrassi

MOTION: (Nancy/Susie) The minutes of the January 15, 2019, meeting were approved as corrected.

3. Treasurer's Report: Sam Dyer

- At the end of January, income was \$38,000 (\$6000 over budget). Expenses were \$24,500 (\$7000 under budget). The highest giving month, February, is ahead!

**2019 Budget:* Nancy Bowen

The proposed budget contains a deficit of over \$10,000 but the Finance Team feels that this will be made up after all pledges are received. The Finance Team requests endorsement of the proposed budget.

MOTION (Nancy/Rex): A motion was made to accept the proposed 2019 budget. The motion passed.

4. Facilities: Terry Linthicum

** Keys*

- Severo checks all locks each evening.
- Should we change the code on the alarm? It has never changed in 20 years. Randy does not see the need to change since we have never had a problem. We will monitor the situation closely.

MOTION: (Leslie/Rex) A motion was made to not change locks or codes at this time. The motion passed.

- A minor irrigation problem was resolved.

- Sunday overflow parking at Great Expectation School has been discontinued because some damage was observed by the school during one of our events.
- Team members gave feedback on whether to do anything about the casual shortcut path next to the Columbarium. It was decided to leave it as is for now.

5. Program: Susie Sanders

- About 40 people attended the first Environmental Movie and Pizza Night.
- A field trip to Café Justo at the end of January was attended by 15 people.
- We will celebrate Earth Day at worship on April 28. The Earthwise group also will present an Adult Forum topic that day.
- Susie had a question about nominations to mission teams, as the bylaws seem confusing on this topic. The Mission, Service, and Justice Team has collaborated on a better description of its work, and Judy suggested that Susie give this description (with some modifications) to the nominating committee.

6. Sahuarita Food Bank: Leslie DeGrassi

- Regarding a discussion in Admin Team regarding a SFB volunteer request to have a phone line in the library, Carlos will investigate why, since most people have cell phones.
- Regarding the possibility of SFB contributing to the cost of the church emergency expenditure, i.e. AED and first aid kits, no decision has yet been made by the SFB board.
- SFB will be hosting a La Posada Foundation event on Thursday, March 7 at 1:30 p.m. on the building site to allow La Posada to announce their very generous donation to the SFB building campaign.
- SFB has qualified as an Arizona Qualifying Charitable Organization that our donors can receive a credit on their 2018 and future Arizona taxes of \$400 for an individual and \$800 for a couple
- Ann Striker, past Executive Director is now a voting member of the SFB Board.

7. Updates: Judy Bischoff

**Church Security*

- The first aid kits have shipped. Arlynne will train volunteers to use the AEDs when the additional unit is installed. Judy will place a note in the bulletin re kits, AEDs and training, and new phone in the narthex. The cost of the emergency supplies was \$2398.69; the budget was \$2400!
- Randy recently met with Ken Woodward and Don Higley to install an outside light on the southeast corner of the main building.

**Rebecca McElfresh's Path to Ordination*

- Rebecca is working with a discernment team from TGS, which counsels on her progress.
- Coursework is taken through an online theology school.
- There is a clinical pastoral requirement in the Southwest Conference which partly consists of 300 hours of direct clinical experience and self examination. She is currently spending 10-15 hours a week in pastoral care.

8. Other

- The Congregational Annual Meeting will take place on Sunday, March 10 at 6 p.m. with a 5 p.m. potluck supper preceding the meeting. The Annual Report will available next Sunday, February 17.

9. Pastor's Report: Randy

- UCC grants received: \$5000 asylum grant and \$1200 short-term adult volunteer grant
- There is an application pending for \$15,000 grant for a new Samaritan van.
- Five or six new Stephen Ministers will be installed at an upcoming worship service.
- Attendance at worship has been very good. Last Sunday, 220 and 110 people attended at the first and second services, respectively.
- There was an article in the Cleveland *Plain Dealer* on Sunday, February 10, by a reporter who attended our Common Ground on the Border/Border Issues Fair in January. It is online at cleveland.com/news/2019/02/arizona-border-city-slams-trumps-deployment-of-lethal-razor-wire.html
- Nancy Montoya of Arizona Public Media came to a recent Samaritan meeting. A short segment was aired earlier this week and another will air soon.
- Randy's upcoming travels: San Carlos, Sonora with Spanish class trip, February 18-21, and Los Mochis on a mission trip with members of our congregation, March 19-25
- The Good Shepherd will welcome 12-15 new members next week!
- Two of our members, Curt Ackley and David Dethmers are serving other UCC congregations in the Tucson area as interim/bridge pastors.
- Paolo Naso, colleague of Ciccio and Marta who have been with us in the past, and his wife, will visit us February 21-26.

10. Closing Prayer: Randy Mayer

The meeting adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Leslie DeGrassi, Administrative Team Secretary