



# The Spirit of St. Francis



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## A Word from Our Pastor

### Wake Up Dry Bones

This last week, a single scripture kept coming into my life from a number of different directions. I've learned that I ought to pay attention when that happens. The scripture is Ezekiel 37 which speaks about a valley full of dry bones shown to the prophet Ezekiel. The whole valley is full of these bones that are way beyond any hope of life, but the prophet is told to tell the bones that God is going to cause them to live again. And that is what happens. The bones rise up and come together; sinews and muscles join them together to each other and skin covers them once again.

That's a wonderful resurrection scripture isn't it? It reminds us of the new life God has promised to all of us—the life that we celebrate on Easter morning. But that's not where the scripture left me.

This time as I read Ezekiel, I realized that the bones were still not alive even though they had sinews and flesh and skin. They still lacked the breath of life God promised. They do receive that breath, but not until Ezekiel speaks once more and calls it to come from the four corners of the world and fill the bones with new life.

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

**[www.stfrancisumc.org](http://www.stfrancisumc.org)**

**SUNDAY CELEBRATIONS:  
7:45, 9:00 & 10:30 AM  
ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES:  
10:30 AM IN THE  
COMMUNITY CENTER**

## NUMBERS TO KNOW

Sunday Bulletins  
(520)299-9063, Ext. 105

Church Newsletter  
(520)299-9063, Ext. 101

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

Suddenly, my eyes opened to a brand new way of understanding this scripture. I had always seen myself as the dry bones waiting to receive the gift of new life from God, but I realized as I read that I was already enjoying that gift. Unexpectedly, I began to see myself as the breath that is called to come and bring the freshness of God's life to the heap of dry bones. I saw myself as Ezekiel needing to call the breathe of life back into people.

I began to look around me and see people who were in desperate need of the life that God offers; people who had no hope because of the violence of this world; people without strength because of the difficulties they'd been facing; people shaking with fear or ignorant of the beauty around them. In short, I saw a valley of people clothed in sinews and muscle and skin, but desperately needing the life that Spirit could give to them.

Then I realized that I had that breath of life to share . . . and so do you.

And God hope desperately that we will share that life.

May God bless you as you bring life to each other,

Jim

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

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  
or (602)460-0711



**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



**The St. Francis Youth are in the home stretch!**

For months now they have been working like crazy to raise money for their Mission Trip to Peru.

From washing cars



- 1 Bruce Simon
- 1 Bill Monk
- 2 Don Gest
- 2 Tanya Glover
- 2 Jim Wiltbank
- 3 Haley Ageton
- 3 Loti Gest
- 3 Marjorie Martin
- 5 Al Cox
- 5 Patricia George
- 7 Douglas Robson
- 7 Mary Sue Schusky
- 8 Katarina Leon
- 8 Kristen Cameron
- 9 Earl Mason
- 12 Jan Parker
- 12 Beth Haas
- 12 Peg Flaherty
- 12 David Darg
- 12 Nancy Garcia
- 13 Ian Holehan
- 15 Rebecca Hogle
- 16 Jim Bowen
- 17 Linda Schmidt
- 17 Shannon Morrison
- 18 Patty Fallwell-Bowers
- 19 Warren Strubbe
- 19 Hans Huth
- 19 Larry Dyer
- 21 Craig Wunderlich
- 21 Carolyn Watts
- 22 Pat Daniell
- 22 Marianne Schloss
- 22 Sheena Sweeney
- 26 Steven Dvorak
- 26 Rosie Meyer
- 27 John Wilson
- 28 Jane Merrifield-Beecher
- 30 Charlie Cooper

to making and selling chocolate covered strawberries for Valentine's Day



and beautiful handmade wreaths for Christmas, to cooking and serving a delicious Peruvian dinner,



the Youth have truly earned this amazing opportunity. Hopefully they'll have energy left to do all the work that awaits them at the Refugio de Esperanza!



**Welcome to  
St. Francis in the  
Foothills!**

We're glad you're here!

**St. Francis' Welcome Team  
asks you to please  
remember:**

\* Wear your name tags.

\* Greet visitors and those you don't know. In fact, why not just greet everyone?!

\* Sign the Ritual of Participation books every Sunday. Let us know if you're new, visiting, or visiting with a member.

**Welcome everyone  
because  
everyone is welcome!**

And speaking of that, take a look at all the supplies that have been donated:



Pastor Jim and the youth will be taking all these things with them, but they can always take more. Here's a list of what is needed. Let's load them up!

### **MEDICAL ITEMS**

Tylenol, Aspirin, Ibuprofen  
Antacids  
Anti-diarrhea medications  
Laxatives  
Antibiotic ointment (i.e. Neosporin)  
Antifungal cream (i.e. Lamisil)  
Ointment for rashes  
Gauze/ Ace Bandages/ Band Aids  
Knee/ankle/wrist braces  
Orthopedic Velcro strips  
Freezable ice packs  
Mole Skin  
Antibacterial hand gel or wipes  
Multivitamins  
A kit for repairing glasses  
Powerbars or protein granola bars

### **CHILDREN'S SCHOOL SUPPLIES**

USB "flash" drive (helpful for staff)  
Batteries (AA and AAA)  
Super glue (fixes everything)  
Hard candies (for gifts)  
Elmer's glue  
Pens/Pencils/Crayons/Colored Pencils  
Notebooks  
Printer paper  
Scissors  
Stickers/Craft supplies  
Scotch tape/Packing Tape/Duct Tape  
Small toys for prizes

St. Francis in the Foothills  
Adult Education  
Summer 2018



The St. Francis Adult Education program for the summer of 2018 harkens back to the summer of 1967 - called the "Summer of Love". On most Sundays for the next 13 weeks, we will present DVD and discussion classes concerning a prominent spiritual leader, writer or teacher - all dealing with the theme of LOVE! Classes on the other Sundays will also be focused on the theme of LOVE. Classes are held on Sundays from 10:30 am to noon in the St. Francis Community Center.

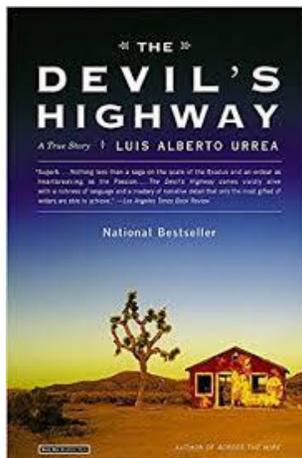
For more information, please go to our church website - [www.stfrancisumc.org](http://www.stfrancisumc.org) and click on "Adult Education classes". There you can find out what's coming up each week, as well as read through our Summer of Love brochure.

## Library News



### ***The Devil's Highway* by Luis Alberto Urrea**

This finalist for the 2005 Pulitzer Prize for General Non-fiction tells the tragic account of 26 men who attempted to cross the Mexican border into the desert of Southern Arizona. This area is so harsh and desolate that even the Border Patrol is afraid to travel through it. Only 12 of the men made it out. These men, who were mostly from Veracruz, were enticed by the "coyotes" and then led astray .



One of the most intriguing parts was the effort that the Border Patrol made to save the lives of these men once they first detected them - flying helicopters to rescue them and get them to the hospital in Yuma. On the day they were rescued, it was 110F by noon.

This book is about our neighbors, the immigrants trying to cross the border and the Border Patrol who try to capture and deport them.

## St. Francis in the Foothills Concert Series



### ***Gabe Lehrer* in Concert!**

Saturday, July 21st,  
4:00 pm  
in the Celebration Center

with Special Guest Artist  
Remi Goode

Classically trained guitarist and recording artist Gabe Lehrer will perform original songs from his 2016 album *Cuban Chevy*, as well as covers of well-known songs by artists such as James Taylor, Leonard Cohen, Bob Dylan, and Louis Armstrong.

Lehrer will also perform a short set of classical guitar favorites.

Later in the show, he will be joined onstage by Special Guest Artist Remi Goode.

#### Tickets:

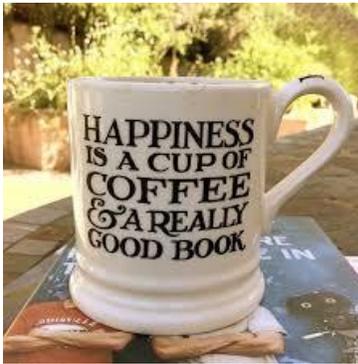
\$15.00 General Admission  
\$10.00 Students with valid ID

Buy two tickets and receive a courtesy recording of Gabe and Remi's version of "Hallelujah" by Leonard Cohen.

This book is a must-read for anyone looking for the reasons why these people risk their lives to cross the border - what they're getting away from and what they're looking for. To say it's complicated is an understatement.

- Ginny Jones  
Library for Peace volunteer

**Why not relax in our air conditioned library with a book or magazine?  
Bring your kids to our Children's Library.  
Pick up some DVD's for movie night(s).  
With all that we have to choose from, we're pretty sure the time will fly!**

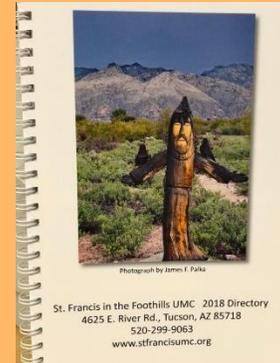


**Check us out -  
literally!**

The *Library for Peace* is open most Sunday mornings from 9:00 to 12:30 pm.  
We are open during the week, but hours vary.  
Please call 299-9063 for availability.



## The updated 2018 Church Directories are here!



To get yours, please contact Melissa at the Church Office - 299-9063.

## Weekly Breakfasts



### **Sophia's Circle Women's Group**

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



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

Thursdays,  
6:30 - 7:30 am  
in Ravenscroft Hall

For information about these groups, please call the Church Office at (520)299-9063.



### ***Stephen Ministry: Love in Action***

Stephen Ministers play a significant role in caring for people facing challenging times. Stephen Ministers are trained and ready to provide emotional and spiritual care, through active listening, to those dealing with a crisis or chronic situation. However, Stephen Ministers could not function without a supportive congregation and pastor.

#### ***Did you know?***

- Our 1st Stephen Ministry class was commissioned here in April 2009!
- Since then, a total of 33 Stephen Ministers have volunteered to give of their time and energy as they serve the extended St. Francis community.
- As of today, we have 20 active Stephen Ministers who meet monthly for continuing education!
- As of today, Stephen Ministers are caring for 16 people.
- We currently have 4 Leaders who have received advanced training by Stephen Ministry International.
- Donations provide the program with funds for photocopies, postage, and local training expenses; and St. Francis also provides bookkeeping and a quiet room for confidential, monthly meetings.
- Over the years, St. Francis' Stephen Ministry has also gratefully received several anonymous donations, which have covered thousands of dollars worth of Stephen Ministry International tuitions and other expenses necessary for the program.



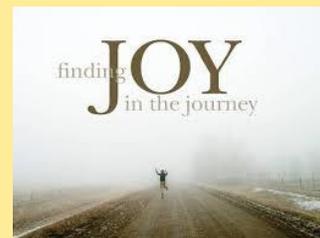
### ***Elder Circle . . .***

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

Friday, June 8th,  
10:00 - 11:30 am  
in Ravenscroft Hall.

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

**Newcomers are always welcome!**



### ***Joy & Wisdom Discussion Group***

Joy & Wisdom is a small, friendly group of diverse individuals which meets on the 1st and 3rd Fridays of each month at 1:00 pm in room 50 at St. Francis in the Foothills. Through our reading and our casual, non-judgmental discussions we explore spiritual awareness; seeking the active living out of Oneness and spiritual awakening in our Creator/God.  
(We also have a lot of fun!)

For more information,  
please contact 404-1691.

***This month we welcome our newest Stephen Ministers who just completed their 50-hours of formal class-room training and were commissioned on May 20th.***



Left to right:  
Karen Bauder, Mickey Dixon,  
Marilyn Keefer, Ann Rau.

***Thank you for your support;  
we are part of all that YOU do!***

Do you know someone who might benefit from a Stephen Ministry relationship, or would YOU be interested in becoming a Stephen Minister? If so, please contact **Pastor Jim @ 299-9063, Joyce Leissring @ 404-1691** or **Sue Gemoets @ 885-0780**.

## *Spirit Stories*

The spirit stories we are requesting are those gifts of grace that happen in all of our lives. Sharing our stories acknowledges that we are paying attention, and that we are grateful for these blessings. Reading others' stories raises our awareness of the continual working of Spirit in our midst. We welcome contributions from anyone of any age. Authors can choose to remain anonymous. Please email your story to [aliceweekley@gmail.com](mailto:aliceweekley@gmail.com). If you would prefer to dictate your story to her, you can call Alice at 520-292-8799.

-- The Inspiration Team

"You are hypocritical, selfish, arrogant, disgusting." The email from my sister Gail, the first one I opened that morning, was filled with hate. I had sent her a remembrance of our brother to



On the third Thursday of every month, St. Francis in the Foothills hosts TIHAN's Poz Café.

This lunch provides people living with HIV an opportunity to get out, meet positive people, and enjoy a delicious lunch.

People living with HIV and one guest (18 or older) are invited. All attending the café are asked to honor the highest standard of confidentiality.

To attend Poz Café, please RSVP by the Monday before the lunch by contacting a Link Specialist volunteer at [linkvolunteer@tihan.org](mailto:linkvolunteer@tihan.org) or call 520-299-6647 (ext. 205).

Limited transportation is also available for this event. Please call to find out more.

If you are interested in representing St. Francis as a volunteer, please contact Karen Sparks at (520)808-3152 or email [raykaren55@msn.com](mailto:raykaren55@msn.com)

mark what would have been his 65th birthday and this was her response. So things were no better between us than before. I had thought that perhaps she would be softer, in light of our loss. Perhaps we could find a way to bond. But it was not to be. She had sent another blow to my heart.

For half an hour I was engulfed by grief for the loss of hope. It felt like losing our brother all over again. I could barely function. But I had to be in Globe AZ by noon, so I needed to clear my mind, make my lunch, and get on the road. *Dear God, let me set this aside for right now so I can get my job done. I'll return to this later and figure out what to do.*

Once out of the city and on the highway, in the midst of the quiet desert, my thoughts turned again to my sister. *Dear God, please help me with Gail. I don't know what is happening. I don't know why things have never been right between us. I don't want these terrible feelings.*

A few moments of silence, then a movie began to play in my mind, not an actual memory, just a short video clip of a scene in a child's bedroom: I was a little girl, about six years old, sitting on a bed. Beside me was my little sister, about three. Our mother was gently brushing my hair and neatly sectioning it and braiding it. It was a sweet scene until my sister spoke. "What about me, Mommy? What about me?"

Oh! My heart broke wide open, and I wept for that little girl, right there, driving down the highway. So that's how it was for her!

That's how it has been for her all her life. Forlorn, yearning for something just out of reach. Why had I not seen this before? There was nothing to forgive anymore, just compassion for her. The only thing to forgive was my own blindness. Thank you, Holy Spirit, for teaching me.

My prayer: *Dear God, I turn my sister over to you. Please take care of her and let her know a love that meets her deepest need. I don't know how to do it, but You do. I surrender to you my hopes for having love returned in this situation, so please take care of me too. Let me know in my heart the embrace of your love and feel your arms around both of us. Amen.*

- Karen Kennedy



### **Sustainable Tucson Summer Potluck**

Tuesday, June 12th,  
6:00 - 8:00 PM  
Tucson City Council  
Ward 6 Office  
3202 E. 1st St. 85716

Can food help bring people together, to help create a more cohesive, safe, and stronger community? Can local food build our local economy and help us prepare for the many challenges of Global Climate Change?

Come to the next *Sustainable Tucson* meeting, share good food and your ideas about building community, while you enjoy a meal with current and future friends from around Tucson.

Iskashitaa Refugee Network is partnering with Sustainable Tucson for this potluck, so there will be plenty of opportunities to hear about the fascinating food traditions brought by some of our refugee neighbors, as well as to learn about exciting locally available foods (some familiar, some perhaps less familiar).

Bring a dish you can share. If possible, please try to feature one or more local ingredients.

Program/potluck starts at 6:00.  
Doors open at 5:30.



*Shop with Scrip* has got everything you need to make summer a whole lot easier!

### Going on vacation?

We've got handy gift cards for:

- \*Car rentals (Avis, Budget etc.)
  - \*Hotels (Comfort Inn & Suites, Econo Lodge, Four Points, Fairmont Hotels, Hyatt Hotels, Hilton Hotels, and more!)
  - \*Gas cards (ARCO, Exxon, Mobil, Shell etc.)
  - \*Cruises (Carnival, Celebrity, Princess)
  - \*Restaurants (too many to print here!)
- and of course STARBUCKS!

### Staying home?

- \*Movie theaters (AMC, Cinemark, Cineplex Odeon, Century, Regal)
- \*Restaurants (Still too many to name!)
- \*Music (I-Tunes, Barnes & Noble, Amazon)
- \*Ice cream & sweet treats (Dairy Queen, Cold Stone Creamery, The Cheesecake Factory)

**For the months of June and July, we're highlighting our entertainment retailers.**

**Anyone purchasing a card at the Scrip table on Sundays for one of these retailers will be entered in the next Gift Card Raffle.**



### **Tucson World Refugee Day Celebration**

Saturday, June 16th  
10:00 AM 2:00 PM  
Catalina High School  
3645 E. Pima St. 85716

The *Tucson World Refugee Day Celebration* is an annual event to remember the plight of refugees around the world and to celebrate the lives of refugees in our own community.

Join us in the school auditorium for opening remarks and a youth citizenship ceremony.

Then, beginning around 12 PM, come on down to the cafeteria for the Family Fun Fest.

Enjoy a family-friendly atmosphere with games, giveaways, and cultural entertainment.

**Looking for more ways to help St. Francis?**

\* This summer, our hardworking Facilities team will be doing a lot of interior work on our classrooms and Community Center. They can definitely use gift cards to Home Depot and/or Lowe's to purchase paint and cleaning supplies.

\* And don't forget the amazing *Library for Peace!* Your donations of Amazon, Barnes & Noble or Walmart gift cards can help us purchase supplies and new inventory for our expanding collection.

**For more information,  
contact Lorelei Kaczmariski  
at [loleikacz@gmail.com](mailto:loleikacz@gmail.com)  
or stop by the *Scrip* table on Sunday at 10:00 am.**



Dear Reader,

I hope you've enjoyed this months 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 send it to [mmitchell@stfrancisumc.org](mailto:mmitchell@stfrancisumc.org).



**From the Editor**

**For the July 2018 newsletter, the final date for submissions is Friday, June 15th.**

Anything submitted after that date may not be included.



**Volunteers Needed:**

**We need volunteers for Transportation and Mobile Meals this Summer!**

Can you pitch in and give an isolated senior a ride to a much-needed appointment or deliver a meal? We offer a monthly incentive raffle for the months of June, July and August for our drivers.

**Mobile Pantry help needed in Midtown**

ICS is starting a Mobile Pantry in conjunction with Desert Valley Adventist Church. We need 6 to 8 volunteers on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of each month from 8:00 to 11:30 am for setup, distribution and clean up.

For more information, please contact Toni Carlson at [tcarlson@icstucson.org](mailto:tcarlson@icstucson.org) or call (520)526-9308.

**Millions for Tucson - Jim Click Raffle!**

A raffle ticket is a great way to support ICS, and you could win a new car in the process!

Win a 2018 Jeep Grand Cherokee by purchasing raffle tickets from our Ina Road office. Or call (520)526-9304.

**Spirit of St. Francis Staff**  
Editor/Writer: Melissa Mitchell