



St. Francis in the Foothills newsletter

May 2021



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Slowly but surely we are moving towards coming together again!

Beginning Sunday, May 2nd, we will start holding a small weekly service at 7:45 am around the Fire Pit. Only 16 people will be allowed to attend this service.

Reservations are required.

To make reservations:

Each week, you can call the office at 299-9063 Tuesday through Friday and reserve seats for the upcoming Sunday.

Beginning Sunday, May 23rd, we will start holding weekly services in the Celebration Center.

Services will begin at a new time - 9:30 am, and only 45 people will be allowed to attend.

To make reservations, go to our website and click on the link which will go up on Monday, May 17th.



LOSS, GRIEF, AND TRANSFORMATION

Wednesdays May 5th and May 12th,
4:00 - 5:30 pm on Zoom

This free two-part class is being offered jointly by the St. Francis Stephen Ministers and Mental Health Ministry. The class presenter will be Frank Williams, a long time pastor and friend to St. Francis.

During this pandemic year, LOSS has been a constant. It has pervaded our lives in many ways - some large, some small. As we experience loss, we GRIEVE emotionally, physically, spiritually, cognitively and behaviorally.

This is a journey that can tear us apart or TRANSFORM us.

Please join this series to help understand loss and grief, how we can be transformed by it, and what we can do to support ourselves and others.

REGISTRATION FOR THE CLASSES

In order for us to send out the class synopsis, we encourage you to register and attend both classes.

You can also call the office and make reservations.

Masks will be required at the service, and socially distanced seating will be implemented.

We look forward to seeing you!



2021 Annual Conference Mission Project

You may have heard Pastor Jim mention this year's Mission Project on several Sundays. To find out more, please click on the link below.

[Mission Project - Desert Southwest Conference \(dscumc.org\)](https://dscumc.org)



Classes for Summer 2021

Embracing the Journey

This five-week series will focus on the spiritual life as a journey and invite us to come together as traveling companions. It will invite us into connections of support and encouragement as we attempt to negotiate this adventure called life. It is part of a longer series called *Companions in Christ*, which the participants can continue if desired.

When: Thursdays 2:00-4:00 pm, starting May 13th.

With: Pastor Jim on Zoom

We are also available for any questions that you may have.

If you do, please contact
Nancy Stevenson,
Stephen Minister Leader at:
nihao_nancy@hotmail.com.

To register, click on the link below:

<https://www.stfrancisinthefoothills.org/transition>

Dusk Night Dawn

Anne Lamott wrote this wonderful memoir as she passed through the pandemic and invites us through its words not only to live in the challenge it has created, but also to examine how the new dawn is emerging in us and through us. Join us as we awaken to the possibilities.

When: Wednesdays 10-11 am, starting May 12th

With: Pastor Jim on Zoom

If you have questions, please call Pastor Jim at (602)460-0711.



A Word from Our Pastor

For Now - Not Forever

For most of the last year I've looked forward to the days that are in front of us...days that I often despaired if they would arrive. **This Sunday (May 2) we have our first live service since March of last year!** This will be held at 7:45 am around our new fire circle and will be limited to 20 participants. In addition, on May 23 at 9:30 am, we will have our first service in the Celebration Center. That event will be limited to 50 people.

I can't tell you how excited I am to see you - but there are some rules and procedures that we will have to follow for that to happen.

First of all, in order to stay within the healthful limits we have set, you will need to register ahead of time in order to attend on a Sunday. Melissa will receive those calls starting at 8:30 on the Tuesday preceding each Celebration service. She will be sending all the sign-ups a copy of our re-opening plan for your review, as well as our COVID Covenant for you to sign and return to her. We would also love a copy of your vaccination card on file. You can bring these on the day of the service or send them ahead of time.

On the Sunday that you have a reservation, please come about thirty minutes ahead of time, because the ushers will be doing a temperature check of all participants, as well as collecting the paperwork.

If by chance there are too many people who sign up for any particular week, then

the extra people will be placed at the top of the list for the next week. Remember that we will continue to have our recorded services each Sunday so you can always connect that way if you do not have a reservation for the week.

On the Sunday for which you have signed up, we are asking three things:

1. Come early so that we can get everyone through all the check-in procedures well before the service begins.
2. Wear a mask. No one will be allowed into the Celebration services without one - **even the outdoor services.**
3. Restrooms will be closed except for emergencies. Please make appropriate accommodations.

Thank you for all your patience in this. While it is not perfect, this plan allows us to have a bit of re-connection after a “too-long” year of separation...and I, for one, am ready to be in closer proximity with all of you! The Celebration Team is working on the timeline for the next phase which will probably come later this year, and we will let you know about those plans as they progress.

I Can't Wait to See You,

Jim



Research shows we each consume about a credit card's worth of plastic every week, as plastics enter our foods and water. Oceans may hold more plastic than fish in fewer than 40 years. Fixing this will take systemic change. However, we can use the power of the purse by selecting produce by the pound instead of by the clam shell. Look for brands that package in cardboard cartons or glass bottles, avoid micro plastics in cosmetics, and buy in bulk (especially with net bags instead of plastic). For kitchen plastics you can't avoid, keep them out of the dishwasher, as plastics will release chemicals into the water. Healthier choices for us mean a healthier planet for all.

The St. Francis Green Team



Our Facilities Department could really use your help!

Our Facilities Department is working hard to get a lot of outdoor work done before the heat of summer sets in. Steve has provided a list of tasks that anyone can do - whenever they wish. Here they are:

1. Refinish benches
2. Clean out and wipe down Community Center Kitchen Cabinets
3. Spread Mulch in different areas on campus
4. Help with painting projects
5. Cut down all the Desert Broom
6. Create a stone border around the area where the blue tables are, located just East of the Community Center
7. Any weeding behind the schools back perimeter
8. Help with creating the Zen Garden area
9. Clean and clear-coat campus signage
10. Weed the medians in the parking lots
11. Check Blue Chairs and tables in Community Center for missing screws

Do a little or a lot. Anything will be a tremendous help. All you have to do is contact Steve at 520-299-9063, Ext. 103 or email facilities@stfrancisumc.org and let him know which task(s) you'd like to work on. He will be able to give you all the information and find out what times, days etc. will work for you, as well as what tools or materials you will need.

As always, we so appreciate everything you do to help St. Francis.
We couldn't do what we do without you!

And don't forget our next *Spruce Up Day*
on Saturday, May 15th,
8:00 am to noon.

For information, contact Steve at 299-9063
or email facilities@stfrancisumc.org



Throughout the month of May,
on Tuesdays-
join us for **Art as Meditation.**

Lessons available
Tuesdays through Thursdays.
Friday mornings there will be no
lessons, but the studio will be open
for free painting time.

All supplies available.



\$20 for each class.

9:00-10:30 am

in the Sunflower Art Studio,
next to the St. Francis mural
on Patio 50.

- Limited to 10 in the class.
- Outdoor seating.
- A student art show will be held in July with art projects created in class.

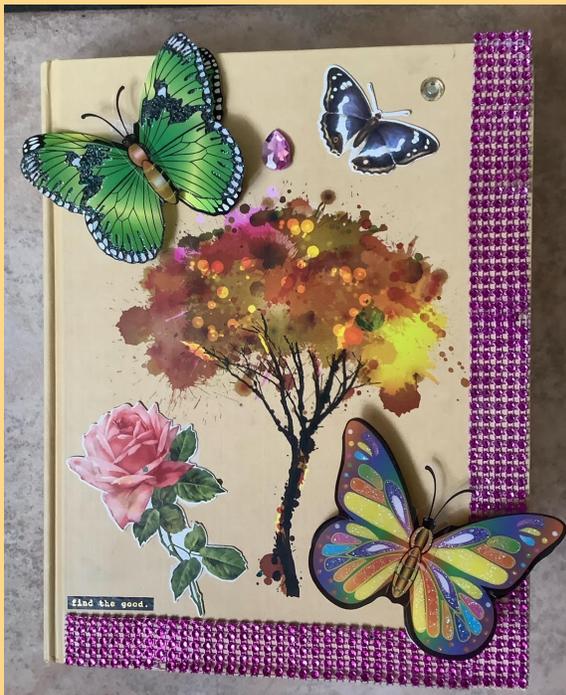
Art Journaling for Healing and Transformation

Starting May 22nd (Saturday)
for 4 weeks, *Art Journaling* will be
offered at the Sunflower Art Studio,
from 9:00 -10:30 am.

Each class is \$40, or \$150 for all
4 classes. Art and writing prompts
will be given as well as instruction.

Contact Nancy Wilkinson to secure
your spot in either or both of these
classes at: naquill@aol.com.

Her website
is quietmoonphotos.com



St. Francis in the Foothills is hiring for the following two positions. We offer competitive wages while working with a great crew and for a wonderful, appreciative congregation.

Part Time Administrative Assistant

- 12 - 15 hours per week.
- Must have a pleasant, helpful, professional demeanor, take direction well yet be a self-starter, able to see what needs to be done.
- Must have basic computer skills and be familiar with programs such as Microsoft Word.
- Must have excellent people skills.
- Must have a pleasant, professional phone manner.

Duties include:

- Answering phones, taking messages or directing calls to the proper person.
- Greeting and assisting visitors to the church office.
- Scheduling, training and supervising front office volunteers.
- Handing out food bags.
- Entering attendance and other information into the church database.
- Undertaking tasks assigned by the Administrative Coordinator.

Facilities Team Member

- 20+ hours per week. **Sunday's are required.**
- Must have a pleasant, helpful, professional demeanor, take direction well yet be a self-starter, able to see what needs to be done..
- Must be able to lift 50 lbs. This job requires repetitive lifting and moving of heavy objects.
- Must be able to work outdoors in all kinds of weather.
- Knowledge of simple plumbing, painting or landscaping helpful but not required.
- Knowledge of working a sound board and basic computer skills helpful but not required.

Duties include:

- Cleaning and sanitation of all church buildings.
- Landscaping and maintenance of church campus.
- Repairs around the church campus.
- Working a wide variety of events at the church.
- Working Sunday services and hospitality.

**If you are interested in either of these positions,
please call Melissa at 520-299-9063 for more information.**



Try this perspective:

Instead of seeing "social distancing" and travel bans as panic, try seeing them as acts of mass cooperation intended to protect the collective whole. This plan is not about individuals going into hiding. It's a global deep breath, an agreement between humans around the planet to be still.

Be still in hopes that the biggest wave can pass, without engulfing too many of the most vulnerable amongst us.

Dr. Lindsay Jernigan