



St. Francis in the Foothills



November 2022

www.stfrancisinthefoothills.org



With a few tweaks, this Thanksgiving can be a kinder one to our shared Earth. Visit your farmers market for side dish ingredients, from squash to potatoes to fresh green beans, and maybe even a heritage turkey. Instead of boxed stuffing, start cubing and drying bread crusts now. Move toward zero waste by sizing your menu to your ability to use up all leftovers. Instead of a disposable roaster, check at the thrift store for one, or query friends for one to borrow. While at the

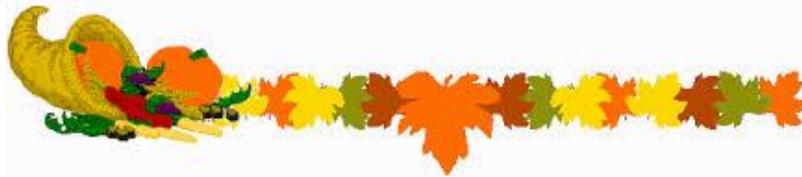


11/1 Eric Ordaz
11/3 Ron Nason
11/3 Adrienne Smith
11/4 Rebecca Redelsheimer
11/7 Keith Vann
11/8 Manny Leon
11/9 Rachel Cushman
11/12 Joan Curry
11/14 Don Black
11/15 Inna Lehrer
11/16 Judy Mitchell
11/20 Scott Blades
11/20 Tami Isaac
11/25 Kay Bauman
11/27 Carolyn Rivers

thrift store, look for autumn decorations, special serving dishes, and extra cloth napkins. Local, reuse, no waste are simple principles all can live by.

- St. Francis Green Team

11/27 Chuck Adams
11/28 Richard Ostroski
11/29 Nancy Kayhart
11/30 Donna Downey
11/30 Arnold Cohen
11/30 Ademar Montoya



A Word from Our Pastor

For this month's newsletter column, I wanted to share a letter I recently wrote to address an issue from a T.V. show:

Dear Dr. Phil,

My wife, who is a Dr. Phil aficionado, invited me last week to sit down and watch your show called "You Can't Say That." She knew I would enjoy the conversation because of the work I do...and she was right. For the conversation you were trying to encourage on the program is the same one that I try to encourage in my congregation on a regular basis – talking across the aisle.

I am a pastor at St. Francis in the Foothills, a Methodist church in the Catalina Foothills of Tucson, Arizona. We are an open affirming, reconciling congregation that attempts to be a place for all people. We are active in the LGBTQ community and involved in many immigrant, civil rights, social justice, and advocacy efforts... arenas that in recent years have become the location of many of the culture wars in America.

Thank you so much for your courage in addressing the ways we so easily draw lines of separation between us and whoever we see on the opposite side of the rift. Your call to be in conversation rather than argument is essential in the divided America of 2022.

That's why I want to bring two things to your attention because, in the midst of division, our messaging must contain as few ambiguities as possible.

Frequently throughout the show you used the term “cancel culture,” usually in the pejorative. As the mediator standing between two separated groups, you should understand that cancel culture is not a neutral term, but rather, one that has often been used as a term of derision by one side in your debate. I understand why you are standing in opposition to how that cancel culture has often played out in our country, but do you realize that you are repeating an all too typical pattern used against minority voices throughout history? It is so easy to sit in a place of relative ease and ignore the challenges present for others who lack some of that privilege (and the ones often caused by those advantages).

This dynamic was epitomized by the young woman in the checkered blazer who said that people “need to grow a thicker skin.” You made a joke about that remark. Those to whom she was directing the comment would have heard it quite differently. Too often people of color, or of a different orientation or sexuality, or of a minority thought pattern, have been told lines like that in a way that essentially sounds like “Just sit down and relax. Everything will be okay.” And then their voices were ignored.

Reactions that seem to be “too much” to the dominant culture are often a result of too many years of having a thicker skin (and because of that, a silent voice), while those whose voice has always been heard are too easily offended by that “smaller voice.” Who truly needs to develop a thicker skin?

When that voice is finally discovered, it might come out at times in less functional ways, but being told to put up with additional offenses will rarely seem like a serviceable solution to that newly empowered individual or group.

Oftentimes those of us in power and privilege need to close our mouths and listen...even if the other voice feels offensive. It might just be the price we owe for years of not being present to that other person, culture, identity, or race.

Thank you once again Dr. Phil for encouraging this conversation. It is one long overdue in our society.

Pastor Jim Wiltbank



*Saint Francis in the Foothills
and Hope of Deliverance, Inc.
present*

Holiday Market & Blessing of the Animals Festival

NOVEMBER 5TH • 9 AM – 1 PM

4625 E. RIVER RD. TUCSON, AZ 85718

Free Admission! Any donations supports
St. Francis UMC and Hope of Deliverance, Inc!

Kids
Pavillion!

Adoptable
Animals!

Local
Crafters
&
Vendors!

Bounce
Houses!

Food!
Music!



The Church Office will be closed on Friday, November 11th
in observance of Veteran's Day.

To all veteran's, thank you for your bravery and your service.



Balancing my checkbook the other day, I started thinking about how my personal finances and St. Francis finances are similar. In both cases, it's extremely helpful to be able to predict how much money is available to be spent and to know when it arrives in our accounts. And it's essential to use a budget to keep track of spending and meet obligations. There are expenditures which are discretionary and under our control and some that are totally unanticipated, throwing a monkey wrench into our best-laid plans, like emergency repairs and maintenance that can't be postponed.

The dynamic tension for your Finance Committee, Trustees and Church Council lies in the

unpredictability of income and the seemingly endless “surprises” that our aging physical plant presents. As I reported to our community last month, we are running an operating deficit for 2022 and expect to end the year in that same position unless a miracle occurs.

As we prepare a spending plan (budget) for 2023, we are anticipating making some tough decisions in the pursuit of a balanced budget for next year. **The one action members of our community can take that will make our job possible is to participate in our stewardship campaign and make an annual pledge for the gifts that you plan to make to St. Francis next year.** Having information about expected gifts on the front end of the planning process is deeply appreciated.

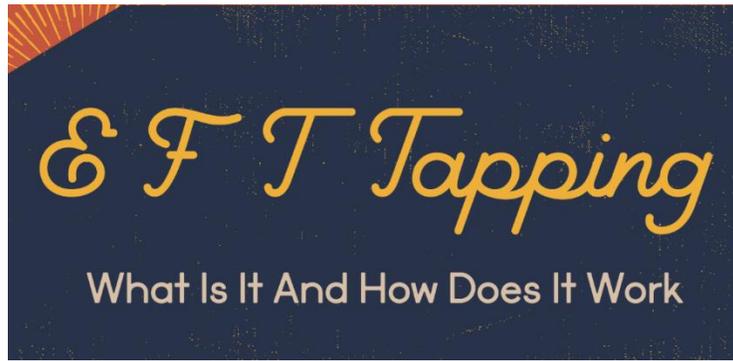
I realize that some people in our community may prefer to give what they can--on the spur of the moment -- by dropping their gifts into the offering baskets at Sunday services. Don't get me wrong—those gifts are deeply appreciated. But if more people would think about making a yearly commitment, in advance, and communicate it, your volunteer leaders and staff will have more confidence in our projections.

I am not suggesting that a pledge represents a “bill” from St. Francis like your electric bill, but it is an important expression of your commitment to our mission, operations, and ministries. Our dedicated staff, welcoming facilities, vitally important community outreach, and thoughtful, inspiring celebrations are all dependent on our financial well-being. That means **all of us** have a part to play in ensuring adequate financial resources are available.

I urge you to thoughtfully consider what your St. Francis financial commitment can be over the coming year and then take the important step of formalizing your pledge amount during our upcoming stewardship campaign “Grace in Action.”

In advance, your dedicated volunteer leaders thank you for joining us in being generous and grateful givers.

Paula Van Ness, Chair
Finance Committee



The EFT Tapping seminar presented by Susan Stanko was a huge success!

EFT Tapping is a studied and proven technique to help you reduce stress. It is simple and easy.

If you missed the first seminar or want to refine your skills, there is a second session coming up

When: November 6th

Time: 10:45 AM after the Celebration Service

Where: Room 50

If you have further questions, please contact Shar Aslaksen: saslaksen@stfrancisumc.org or call 520.299.9063 ext. 102



Cynthia Hilts in Concert

Saturday, November 12th,
6:00 pm in the Celebration Center

Cynthia Hilts will perform a concert at St Francis on Saturday, November 12th at 6pm. She will play and sing original jazz compositions and



Sunday, November 13th,
10:45 am in the Celebration
Center Conference Room

Please join us to find out what NAMI's *Ending the Silence* program is doing to help in the public schools. They have presentations for students,

standards with special guest musicians. Cynthia has performed from France to Madagascar to Mexico, always with the special fire that illuminates her playing and singing. Suggested donation is \$15, \$10 for students.

Tickets can be purchased online at <https://cynthiahilts.com> or at the door.

teachers, and parents helping them learn symptoms and indicators of mental illness and how to help.

Ending the Silence also partners with *Text, Talk, Act*, an interactive activity that guides students' discussions on these issues.

Presented by the
St. Francis Mental Health Ministry



The St. Francis Church Office will close at noon on
Wednesday, November 23rd
and be closed on Thanksgiving Day and Friday, November 25th.
We will re-open on Monday, November 28th.

From all of us, we wish you a safe, blessed, and beautiful Thanksgiving.

We are so thankful for you.

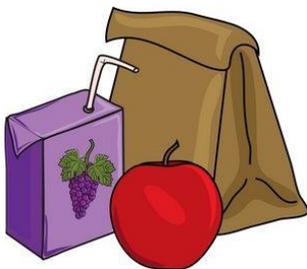


Pack A Snack

**Wednesday mornings, 9:30 am
in Ravenscroft Hall**

Join us to decorate and pack small snack bags for the immigrant families that are staying at *The Inn of Southern Arizona* until they can continue on their journey.

The Inn staff constantly tells us how much these simple bags mean to their guests - especially because of the drawings and cheerful greetings written on the bags! What a wonderful, loving way to reach out to these folks who are in a strange country and can use comfort and support.



Water in the Desert

Our newest Outreach program - ***Water in the Desert*** gives water and supplies to the homeless here in Tucson.

If you would like to participate, please contact Jo Moody at 520-370-8472 (please call before 8:00 pm).

Donations of supplies can be brought to the church office.

We desperately need: Bottled water, granola bars, individual snack packs of nuts, beef jerky and peanut butter crackers. Individual cleansing wipes, sunscreen, and small packets of insect repellent.

You can also make monetary donations to St. Francis either by check (please put "Water in the Desert" in the memo line) or by going to our website and making a donation on Easy Tithe.

PLAY, LEARN, AND GROW Together!



Fun & Games at St. Francis!

Join us every Wednesday at 2:00 pm
in Ravenscroft Hall
to release those endorphins by
playing board games, carrying on
good conversation and enjoying
goodies. Pastor Jim is a tough
opponent!

Think you can beat him?
Come give it a try and feel your
cerebral cortex expand!
(He has that effect on people!)



Laughter Yoga at St. Francis!

Tuesdays at 5:00 pm
in Room 50
All ages and abilities
are welcome.

Did you know that laughter, when
paired with deep breathing and
gentle yoga movements can have
incredibly restorative benefits?

These classes are FREE, however
donations are gratefully accepted.
For more information,
call 520-449-0213

