

First Congregational Church United Church of Christ Prescott, Arizona

An Open and Affirming Congregation



2018 Annual Report

*First Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
216 East Gurley Street
Prescott, AZ 86301
928-445-4555
www.FccPrescott.org*

No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

This Page is intentionally left blank.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Ministries and Leadership.....	4
We Remember	5
Agenda.....	6
Minutes of 137th Annual Meeting, January 28, 2018	7-8
Pastor's Report.....	9-11
Moderator's Message.....	12
Clerk's Report on Membership	13
Treasurer's Report.....	14-15
Ministries Reports	
Nominating.....	16
Outreach & Mission.....	17-18
Called to Care.....	19
Stewardship	20
Welcoming	21
Education.....	22
Music	23
Physical Resources.....	24
Foundation	25
Foundation Financial Reports	APPENDIX A
Pancake Breakfast.....	26
Prescott Community Cupboard.....	27
Church Financial Reports	
General Operations Balance Sheet.....	APPENDIX B
2018 Income/Expense & 2018 Budget Proposal.....	APPENDIX C

2018 CHURCH MINISTRIES AND LEADERSHIP

OFFICERS

Moderator	Patty Lantrip	Yoichi Matsumoto
Vice Moderator	Marti Garrison	Wendy Michaels
Treasurer	Julie McCurdy	Patty Lantrip
Clerk	Anne Solt	Kathy Stephens
Cabinet Members-at-Large	Staci Robins	Rev. Ralph Wagner
	Andy Wallace	Rev. Jay Wilcher
	Linda Foote	Rev. Shirley Williams

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor	Rev. Dr. Jay Wilcher
Office Administrator	Julie Jaquette
Director of Music	Jane Osborn
Organist	Leslee Amenta
Bells Director	Carole Sue Linson
Building Minister	Bill Linson
Janitorial	Debbie Staats
Child Care	Tabitha Biedenkapp
	Bonnie Brashear
	Maria Janca
	Mary McShane
	Debbie Staats
Coffee Coordinator	

FOUNDATION

President	Dave Foote
Vice President	Christy Dinsman
Secretary	Angela Imbierowicz
Treasurer	Al Beeson
Board Member	John McCurdy
Board Member	Jay Eby
Board Member	Julie McCurdy
Board Member	Pastor Jay Wilcher

MINISTRY OF OUTREACH

Becky Bryant
Bill Bryant
Judy Ely
Gary Gard, Chair
Patty Gard

CALLED TO CARE

Marilyn Kerstine, Chair
Marti Garrison
Carole Sue Linson

MINISTRY OF WELCOMING

Patty Brenner
Randy Cook
Tom Macy, Chair
Anne Solt

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

Martha Garrison

MINISTRY OF PHYSICAL RESOURCES

Al Beeson
Chuck Budinger
John McCurdy, Chair
Pete Norum

STEWARDSHIP

Julie Jaquette, Chair
Linda Foote

NOMINATING

Gary Gard
Marilyn Kerstine
Patty Lantrip

PASTOR CHURCH RELATIONS

Angela Imbierowicz
Jay Eby
John Huff

WE REMEMBER

Kevin Nelson, February 25

Pat Welch, December 28

Marilyn Lummel, December 31

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
138th ANNUAL MEETING
JANUARY 27, 2019**

AGENDA

Will be released soon.

MINUTES OF THE 137th ANNUAL MEETING JANUARY 28, 2018

Following worship service, everyone in the congregation was invited to gather in Perkins Hall for the Annual Meeting, followed by a potluck meal. At 11:45, Moderator Marti Garrison called the 138th Annual Meeting of First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, Prescott, Arizona to order. Quorum was established forty-five members and many guests were in attendance.

Pastor Jay opened the meeting with prayer. He then led us in remembering those of our congregation who have passed in 2017, giving each person a personal, brief remembrance of their service to our church. They were Char Tarr, Roland Wood, Chuck Jarvi, Barbara McClure, and Marion Richards.

The minutes from the 137th Annual Meeting of January 22, 2017 were approved.

Julie McCurdy, treasurer, presented a financial review of 2017, noting that expenses incurred were much greater than anticipated. She then presented the 2018 proposed budget for approval and said that we will again anticipate spending more than will be covered by anticipated income, requiring additional funding of more than \$110,000. The FCC Foundation will cover \$102,400 for minister's and education expense, and \$7,610 will be procured from the reserve funding in the Payne Fund. The Ashenfelter Fund will be used, if needed, for non-budgeted expenses for facilities maintenance. Our congregation will continue to be challenged to reduce our need for reserve funding for the next three years. A motion to accept the 2018 budget as proposed was approved.

Julie further reported that, as a positive asset, Prescott Station produced significant lease income. Al Beeson, FCC Foundation Board member said this income was \$65,000 for 2017. Church members and friends are encouraged to dine there. Other positive news: \$95,000 received in pledges for 2018 is a "huge" increase. In responding to a question from the floor, Al Beeson said additional funding received this past year from the FCC Foundation was procured from investment income, and that the principal was not tapped. In expense decrease, there is no camp expense in the budget, and there will be a decrease in music expense.

Christy Dinsman, FCC Foundation board member, said they meet quarterly. There were no further questions from the floor.

There were no questions from the floor relative to the Ministries Report as printed in the 2017 Annual Report with all other reports.

Amendments to bylaws: Vice-moderator, Angela Imbierowicz, chair of the bylaws committee, said that the creation of the office of co-moderators was an idea that had been

Continued on next page

MINUTES OF THE 138th ANNUAL MEETING JANUARY 28, 2018

considered in previous years. Adopting this change necessitated revisions. The advantage of the creation of this new office would increase the sharing of knowledge and responsibility and secure a smoother transition from year to year. All bylaws changes were adopted.

The nominations of church officers and cabinet ministry leaders were approved. Moderator Marti noted that a chair for Welcoming and Education, cabinet positions, are still needed. Our new co-moderator, Patty Lantrip spoke to this need.

Paul Sandstrom was recognized from the floor questioning the significant cost of restoration to the Alarcon Street beautification project in the right-of-way along church property, as instituted by the City of Prescott. He was informed that the City wanted to finish the right-of-way area in a manner that we felt would not be beneficial to the church; so the church incurred the expense. The funds were also used to improve our current landscape as well.

Since this was our church administrative assistant Julie Jaquette's birthday, Pastor Jay and all present recognized this, her special day.

During recognition of past and present ministry members, many were commended for their service this past year. Both Jay and Marilyn Eby stood and were greeted with applause, for their many years of being faithfully present to welcome all who come to our church.

In his closing prayer, Pastor Jay expressed thanks for the service of the dedicated members and friends he has found in our church.

Meeting adjourned at 12:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Anne Solt, Clerk

PASTOR'S REPORT

I think I would assess 2018 as a year we continued to build on the foundation laid in previous years – continuing our growth, update of our facilities, and mission outreach into the community.

Some highlights for me: Preached a “Life of David” series that led us to 1st and 2nd Samuel and stories many in our congregation had not heard before. Easter, Holy Humor Sunday, and Beatles Sunday were high points for me. We were on the historic home tour in May, enabling many to see our sanctuary and parish house.

Our mission committee led us through another year of giving that is summarized in their report.

For our Lenten program, we were led by Bill Bryant in a study of white privilege. We were joined by several persons of color who helped us understand things from their perspective. We invited DACA students to share their stories and help us understand how we might help. Rev. Gary Gard and Patty reported back to us after they joined a group from our UCC conference who visited the border in Mexico. We helped a DACA student obtain tuition for her last semester at Yavapai College. And we housed a person who had been living in the CCJ shelter for a year by opening up our office apartment for him.

Brian Moore led us in the performance of a radio play, Ebenezer Scrooge, that was well received and attended.

Choir Director Jane’s patience and prayers paid off in the arrival of new members with musical gifts and talents. Our music program expanded!

I gave significant time to serving as vice-president of the Coalition For Compassion and Justice. Having been elected president for 2019, it looks like even more time will be given during this year. I serve on behalf of our congregation in this work to help those in crisis and house those experiencing homelessness. I am grateful we placed David in our office apartment after spending the last year in the shelter!

Our sister church in Dewey, Faith United, dissolved toward the end of the year. It was sad to see that happen. A congregation is a living, dynamic organism full of mystery. It is hard to pin down since it is in a constant state of flux. I have noticed over the years the congregations I have served go through periods of growth and periods when not much happens. Sometimes it is in our control and sometimes not. I found 2018 to be a growth spurt, not just in numbers but in participation and music. It helps that we are on the main street for visibility and that people continue to move here from other places. And so we press on into 2019, with faith that God will continue to work in our

Continued on next page

PASTOR'S REPORT continued

midst, sometimes with us and sometimes despite us! I found the following thoughts helpful in trying to understand our congregation – I particularly like the way Sarai ended her article – reminding us of the good we do:

What seems increasingly clear to me, however, is that direction matters as much as size – congregational behavior is different depending on whether you’re growing or declining. If we understand growth to be a persistent upward trajectory over time and decline to be a persistent downward trajectory over time, then a growing congregation exhibits different kinds of behavior and different anxieties than does a declining congregation, even if they are both currently the same size.

A growing congregation with 100 in worship, for example, could be said to be characterized by reaching. Everyone, including the pastor and most of the members, is trying to build something new, so there tend to be more task forces and groups, more meetings, more potential confusion about roles and responsibilities as new activities and programs crowd the schedule, more need to communicate well, more financial stress, and more excitement as a new and different expression of the congregation’s deep identity emerges. There also tends to be more exhaustion, because the congregation is building something that is beyond what its current assets – dollars, staff, and volunteers – can easily support.

A declining congregation with 100 in worship, on the other hand, could be said to be characterized by grasping. There is actually less for the pastor and members to do, although they may be reluctant to admit it or unable to see it yet. Financial stress exists, then, not because they are trying to build something new but because, as size changes but self-understanding doesn’t, they can’t quite afford what they are convinced they still need. Unable to let go of formerly necessary staff positions or the people that occupy them, the congregation freezes in place. Excitement and energy tend to be low, and exhaustion is common because members and staff don’t know how to stop doing the programs and processes they’ve always done but there is no one new to “step up” and take their place.

A growing congregation also exhibits a common set of anxieties that are different than those of a declining congregation, even in the midst of all the excitement about growth. For example, some members fear the congregation’s growth because it feels as if “we’re not one big family anymore,” or “those new people are not like us!” Some members will likely be angry because “the pastor’s not paying enough attention to me and my people anymore,” and a few may feel sadness that “the congregation I love is disappearing.”

A declining congregation, on the other hand, may feel deep but often unexpressed shame that they are failing to sustain the institution that their predecessors, and

Continued on next page

PASTOR'S REPORT continued

sometimes literally their grandparents and great-grandparents, created. Many will turn shame to anger, usually directed at the pastor whose inadequacies must surely be the reason that the congregation is declining. And of course many will feel sadness that “the congregation I love is disappearing.”

Is there such a thing as a stable congregation – one that shows a persistently flat trajectory over time? In theory, yes, especially if the congregation is in a neighborhood or community that is itself relatively stable. However, it is difficult to maintain a stable congregation. In order to remain stable at a certain size, a congregation must add members, if only to replace those members who die or move to live nearer to family. If the congregation is good at adding members, it could very well grow. If it is not good at adding members, it will decline.

The good news is that, in all of these congregations, members support each other, pray for each other, give generously, teach children, value their older members, and serve others in the community in a thousand different ways. Any of these congregations is capable of extraordinary ministry, whether they are growing, declining, or staying the same...as long as they don't let their anxieties get in the way.

This article (c) 2014 by Sarai Rice. You are encouraged to copy or distribute it for use within your congregation.

MODERATOR'S REPORT

This time last year I was the newest of newbies, having just spent a year as Member at Large. Then I said YES to co-moderate with then Moderator Marti Garrison, who subsequently became the Education Director. It has definitely been a learning experience and I'm looking forward to my second year of co-chairing with Rev. Ralph Wagner.

You must know that the Cabinet has very ***dedicated volunteers*** and we all had a challenging year. We had some really productive meetings with prayers, laughter and big agendas to cover. Working with them was enlightening and I enjoyed them all. Thank you for your hard work and raised hands when it was necessary to get a task accomplished! Our new cabinet is up for the challenge and eager to get started to promote interest in all church activities and projects.

The annual ministry reports that follow have defined the projects, both in our church and out in the community, which were prayerfully planned and completed. We are so fortunate to have the ***leadership and kind spirits*** that change us and others.

Please note some of our highlights for the year. We have seen so many new faces and with them, came the children. With our excellent teachers and new leader, we have stepped up and continue to see how inviting a learning experience can be. The class rooms have been redecorated and our library has taken on a new vibe, a welcoming one! Please come down stairs and see the improvements and be grateful for the efforts that went in to these projects.

Let's make an effort to extend an ***extravagant welcome*** to any and all faces that walk in our doors. For me, just listening to the chatter and seeing all those that join us for fellowship time is extremely satisfying and a testament to all the good happening: this is what God wants!

Thank you for all your loving and kind support, Patty Lantrip

CLERK'S REPORT ON MEMBERSHIP

Membership count, Jan 1, 2018: 123

Additions	10
Losses	
Death	3
Inactive Status	14
Baptisms	2
Weddings	5

Membership count, Dec 31, 2018: 116

New Members:

Suzanne L. Broussard
Patty Chichon
Jennifer Cortez
Lauren Edwards
Ann Flanagan
Sue Hodge-Parker
Bruce Jordan
Brian Moore
Janet Steven
Ritch Steven

Deceased:

Kevin Nelson, February 25
Pat Welch, December 27
Marilyn Lummel, December 31

Baptisms:

Jazmyn Lynn Carr, April 15
Fay Lynn Wilson, May 27

Weddings:

Deana Fay Wilson/Susan K. Rutt, May 27
Frederick Krupa/Janet Bontrager, June 23
Chandry Rice/Hannah Kissel, September 29
Ben Gessert/Jennifer Tucker, October 21
Jeremiah Hoffman/Klarissa Goggin, Nov. 11

TREASURER

December 31, 2018

The budget for 2018 anticipated expenses totaling \$249,300. Actual expenses reached \$249,214. Funding for much of these expenses came from the Foundation (\$82,000 for Minister and \$20,400 for Education) and the Payne Fund (\$4,000). The rest (more than \$142,000) was received from generous pledges and contributions from our congregation and from facility usage for outside groups, memorials and weddings.

Here's a brief recap of 2018 finances, with a few highlights.

Income vs Expense:

Income as of December 31 is \$248,802

- ◊ \$123,820 from pledges and other contributions
- ◊ \$18,582 from facility use and other income
- ◊ \$106,400 from Foundation and Payne Fund

Total expenses as of December 31 are \$249,214.

Total Expenses have exceeded Income by \$412.

Budget vs Actual:

Income at year-end reached 99.8% of the income budget of \$249,300.

- ◊ Income from **offerings** is 99.8% of that budget
- ◊ Income from **facility use** is at 125%
- ◊ Income from **Foundation** is at 100%

Expenses at year-end are at 100% of the expense budget of \$249,300.

There were a few unanticipated expenses in 2018:

- ◊ Our Janitor, Debbie Staats, was presented with a severance package of \$4,000 as we transition to having a live-in custodian who receives free rent instead of wages.
- ◊ We have paid \$2,898 to Yavapai County deputies for providing Security Guards during Sunday worship.

Continued on next page

TREASURER continued

And there were expense categories that were not fully used:

- ◊ Marketing expenses were less than half of the budgeted amount of \$5,000.
- ◊ Snow removal and landscaping only required \$125 of the budgeted \$1,000.
- ◊ The music talents shared by our own congregation allowed us to rely less on guest musicians and spend less than half of the budgeted amount of \$2,400.

Additional, non-budgeted expenses: \$27,775

- ◊ **\$15,010** was spent from Ashenfelter Fund for **Electrical Upgrades**.
- ◊ **\$8,765** was spent for **Basement Renovations**; \$5,000 came from Ashenfelter fund and \$3,765 was came from Payne fund.
- ◊ **\$4,000** was transferred from Favour fund for 2018 wages for **Education Director**; \$6,000 will be transferred in 2019.

Current funds available in reserves and designated funds:

Payne Fund, undesignated	\$150,789
Ashenfelter Fund, for building upkeep	\$20,695
Favour Fund, for Education Director	\$6,000
General Memorial	\$4,789
Women's Fellowship	\$2,150
Music	\$1,000

Julie McCurdy, Treasurer

NOMINATING SLATE

Co-Moderator	Patty Lantrip
Co-Moderator	Ralph Wagner
Ministry of Physical Resources	Bill Rouse
Treasurer	Staci Robbins
Clerk	Suzanne Broussard
Ministry of Outreach	Gary Gard
Education Director	Marti Garrison
Ministry of Called to Care	Yoichi Matsumoto & Patty Lantrip
Ministry of Welcoming	Open to fill Chairperson
Greeters	Anne Solt
Ushers	Jay Eby
Sanctuary	Tom Macy
Sanctuary Pews	Patty Brenner & Randy Cook
Hospitality Team	Patty Gard & Kathy Stephens
Member at Large	Andy Wallace & Sandra Johns

FOUNDATION

Reelection	Angela Imbierowicz
	Al Beeson
Election	Dave Foote
	Andy Wallace

OUTREACH & MISSION

Members: Becky Bryant, Bill Bryant, Patty Gard, Staci Robbins, Gary Gard, Chairperson

NATIONAL/GLOBAL MISSIONS

Christmas Fund _____ \$600
Assistance for low income retired clergy

Neighbors in Need (NIN) _____ \$1,718
Ministries of justice/compassion dedicated to Hope Station, Nogales, Mexico

One Great Hour of Sharing _____ \$607
Relief funds for natural disasters & war zones

Our Church's Wider Mission _____ \$3,950
National/regional staff planning & mission
*Includes \$3600 from Southwest Conference Support line item in our budget

Strengthening the Church _____ \$559
Church development and programs

LOCAL/REGIONAL MISSION

Coalition for Compassion & Justice (CCJ) _____ \$1,470
Shelter services & School supplies for K-12

Community Cupboard _____ *\$3,241
Food bags for homeless and impoverished families
*includes \$2876 from Pancake Breakfast

***DACA Assistance Fund** _____ *\$6,359
DACA college tuition aid & DACA application fee assistance
*Includes \$333 to Prescott College Freedom Education Fund (scholarship fund for DACA's)

Discovery Gardens Preschool _____ \$1,255
Tuition fund for impoverished families, A preschool which welcomes children with developmental challenges.

Habitat for Humanity _____ \$345
Since its founding in 1989, 97 families have been helped into new homes.

Continued on next page

OUTREACH & MISSION continued

People Who Care_____ \$300
Caregiver relief, doctor & shopping transportation, minor home repairs, friendly visits.

Prescott Area Shelter Services (PASS)_____ *\$370
Shelter and support for women & children
*additionally, we provide monthly hot meals

Rainbow Acres (Camp Verde)_____ \$455
Resident living and support services for adults who are developmentally challenged

2018 General Fund Mission Outreach Budget	\$3,000
Congregational Mission Donations	\$18,229
Total Budget + Donations	\$21,229

Prescott Area Community Cupboard: For scheduled periods throughout the year, volunteers help to pack food bags distributed to homeless and impoverished families. This past year 14,629 people were given food bags. See Al Beeson's Annual Community Cupboard report for details. For years, Al Beeson has served faithfully as our church's team captain to recruit, train, and schedule volunteers. We are now in need for someone to co-captain with Al. If this seems like it might be a good volunteer opportunity for you, please contact Al at 928-717-9915. In addition to our monetary donation to the Prescott Area Community Cupboard, we maintain a donation box to receive donated canned food items.

Prescott Area Shelter Services (PASS): Each month volunteers from our church family provide a hot evening meal for the women and children staying at the shelter. If you would like to help, please contact our PASS meal coordinator, Patty Gard at 910-460-3042.

Educational Opportunities: Each year, our Mission Outreach team efforts to provide opportunities to learn more about particular social justice issues. This year, one of our team members, Bill Bryant, did a masterful job of leading a series of Wednesday night discussions concerning the racial prejudice endured by many in our society. The series, "White Privilege", also helped identify how many of us enjoy privileges afforded to us simply because of our race and ethnicity. Following that, we hosted a panel of DACA college students who shared some of their life stories and gave us a better understanding of life lived as migrant families. Later in the year, Gary and Patty Gard shared their experience of being on the Mexican border for a week observing and learning more about our nation's immigration policies and practices.

CALLED TO CARE

2018 had been a challenging year as our distinguished past chair person, Marilyn Kerstein left for Georgia to be close to their children. That left a big hole in our team in terms of leadership, experience and hours she dedicated to serve parishioners. We truly miss Marilyn for her very compassionate care for people. Wendy Michaels and Yoichi Matsumoto have been serving as co-chairs after she left. We have currently 7 members, but most have difficulty visiting people for their health reasons. We would like to have more people joining us. Fortunately, Rev. Harry Strong had joined our team last fall to give us a big help. We are excited to have him. Current members are; Patty Lantrip, Carole Sue Linson, Yoichi Matsumoto, Wendy Michael, Rev. Shirley Williams, Rev. Harry Strong and Kathy Stephens.

Very recently, Pat Welch and Marilyn Lummel left our home bound group and joined God's care. They were very nice people to visit. We have now four people on our home bound list to visit. There are also others who prefer not to have any visitor and we send cards to them. We have been rewarded with a warm welcome for each visit. We enjoyed listening to them to know the church's recent past. We are truly blessed to have them, and they let us know that they also enjoy our visits. We feel it is very important to see these people who have contributed so much for our church. We took turns to visit home bounds. But specially, Patty Lantrip and Kathy Stephens besides Marilyn Kerstine are to be commended for their effort to see many people.

We all also visited, called and sent a card to people who were in the hospital or sick at home as it happened. We tried to supplement and support their families, friends and Pastor Jay's care.

Kathy Stephens made beautiful goodie bags for home bounds every quarter. They were really appreciated by home bounds. They also served us a tool to start conversations with people, specially you were visiting them for the first time.

Carole Sue Linson made phone calls to home bounds and sick every week to comfort them. She also updated their status to be included in our prayer list. We often found the need for a visitation from her updates.

Wendy Michael sent out church bulletin and caller to home bounds every week. She also sent get well cards signed by church members. She made several phone calls to home bounds during the year.

Marilyn Kerstine ran a very successful reading/book club at Las Fuentes Village every month. Patty and Yoichi saw 15 very happy and enthusiastic seniors, when Marilyn was reading a book for them. Pete Norum volunteered to take over the club after last September. It is going very well even though the residents miss Marilyn.

We have no idea why we joined Called to Care team in this church and our former churches. But we like our team's name, "Called to Care". Please listen to God's voice carefully if he is calling you (we don't pretend that we clearly heard his voice.). You may be helping us soon. God bless,

Wendy Michael and Yoichi Matsumoto

STEWARDSHIP

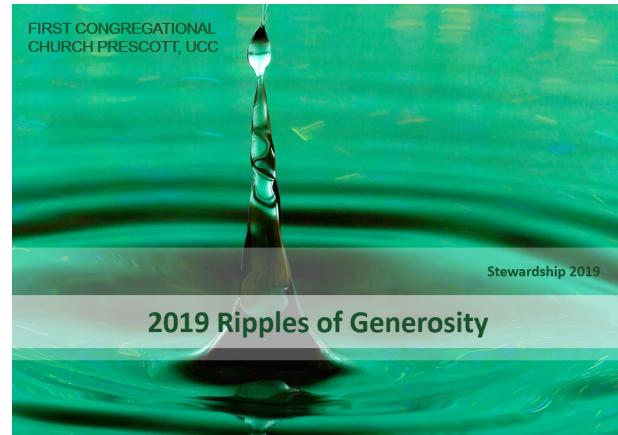
THE 2018 THEME FOR STEWARDSHIP WAS “CARING FOR EACH OTHER, OUR COMMUNITY, OUR HOUSE AND OUR WORLD.”

- ◆ Our budget for 2018 was: \$249,300
- ◆ 46 pledged units totaled \$97,020
- ◆ We received from those pledges, \$97,270.
- ◆ We have also calculated \$12,600 in projected gifts from Implied Givers.
- ◆ Like years past, we received money from our Foundation to meet the needs of the budget.
- ◆ See the treasurer's report on page 12-14 for the complete picture of our income and expenses.

THE THEME OF THE 2019 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN IS “RIPPLES OF GENEROSITY.”

Contributions of time and money generously given to our historical church ripple outward, reaching an ever widening circle. There is no way to measure how many people have been touched or helped by God-gifts of love, understanding, and hope since our congregation was established.

We have collected 64 pledge units. This means that couples pledging together constitutes a single unit. Out of those pledges, 47 of them were Members of our church, with 17 additional units from Friends and Regular Attenders.



Here is the breakdown of the 2019 proposed budget and pledges:

	2017	2018	2019	2019 Implied Amount
Pledge Units	38	46	64	
Implied (Units of regular givers)	0	0	\$ 14	\$ 12,600
# of Members that Pledged	55	54	47	
# of Friends and Regular Attendees Pledged	8	12	17	
Total Amount Pledged	\$ 65,462	\$ 97,020	\$ 97,274	

NOTE: Implied Amount simply means that this amount is a calculation of regular gifts from folks that do not officially pledge, but faithfully give.

WELCOMING

Greeters

This was another amazing year of greeters, greeting. Here you see teams of greeters numbering over fifty individuals--four to five of you each Sunday at two doors. Many of these "friendlies" were greeting you and visitors four or five *consecutive* Sundays. I know James is on the list twice. James did a double. Being responsible for a month commitment is difficult, but amazingly, it was usually fulfilled. Thank you, all of you, for making this job fun. You have been a part of what we call a "first" impression. Many people never return to a church when they are not warmly welcomed. Well, it didn't happen here!

Greeters for this past year were:

James Olney, Carma Keats, Bill Rouse, Michele McFadden, Christy Dinsman, Angela Imbierowicz, Nan Helmling, Dennis and Barbara McCulloughs, Fay and Sue Wilson, Linda Kaul, Gary and Patty Gard, Andree Shrimpton, Paul Monska, James Olney, Susan Lemons and Ralph Wagner, Ritch and Janet Steven, Cheryl and Ralph Gilges, Jim Christopher, Alice Kring, Chuck Budinger, Yoichi Matsumoto, Sonja and John Wilson, Staci Robbins, Anna and Harry Strong, Patty Brenner, Lauren Edwards, Sandra Johns, Ann Flanagan, Liz Spence, Patty Lantrip, Sandra and Lionel Talbot, Eric and Rita Day, Brent and Darcy Walker, Al Beeson, Linda and Henry Dahlberg, Susi Lobaugh, Carol Dosse, Susanne Broussard, Randy Cook, and Marilyn Kerstine.

And special thanks to Tom Macy and Sylvia Staats for always being there.
Submitted by Anne Solt, Greeters Ministry.

Pew Supplies

Thank you to Randy Cook and Patty Brenner for all of the help you provide to keep our Pews neat, organized and well stocked.

Office Volunteer

Thank you Suzanne Broussard for your tireless efforts of helping Julie Jaquette in the office to stay on task and helping to get ready each week for Sunday Service.

Sanctuary

Thank you Tom Macy for the amazing attention you pay to making sure our Sanctuary is clean and beautiful each week with all of the many tireless hours you volunteer.

Kitchen & Hospitality

Thank all of you that who brought wonderful potluck dishes and sweet goodies throughout the year, making our fellowship times flavorful and memorable.

Counters

Thank you offering counters. Your faithfulness in attendance and attention to detail has not gone unnoticed. The daily workings in the church office could not go on without you!

EDUCATION

In the four months I have been director of Christian Education, I have organized the children's teachers so that they are following the appropriate UCC curriculum. I cleaned the older children's room and added touches that made it brighter and more attractive. We hired Jeni Gessert for that room and after Mary Clare McShane's resignation from nursery as of January 6, 2019, two alternating substitutes were hired: Kelsey Williams and Trudy Thomas.

For two months I passed around and made available in other ways an adult education questionnaire, seeking input on people's interests and times they can meet. The Spiritual Journey gathering met twice and the Social Justice once. Two people showed up, but we had interesting discussions. I have several classes, workshops, and seminars slated for January-April, 2019. These I will advertise in both the Caller and the bulletin, and will write regular columns for the Caller about education opportunities. I am trying various ways to interest adults and recognize it will take some time.

One of the big bulletin boards in Perkins Hall is now designated for education, both children's and adults'. I will change that every month and teachers will add examples of children's projects. The table beneath it has a changing display of books for all ages. These books come from the library, which Carol Dosse and I have been re-organizing. We are sorting the books on the shelves according to subject. I am also making the library more comfortable and appealing with a new armchair and lamps. For the Caller, I will submit short book "reviews" every week or so to encourage people to use our library.

The bulletin board and whiteboard in the downstairs hall now have posters and children's projects displayed. I ask the teachers to change this regularly, with a focus on the displays being bright and informative. The goal is having both congregants and parents know what the children are learning.

Rev. Marti Garrison
Director of Christian Education

MUSIC

2018 has brought even more growth and exciting changes to our music program! Melissa Gates has continued with Alter-Notes and she is selecting some fun and challenging pieces of music. Chancel Singers continue to be the weekly singing troupers that welcome the respite that Alter-Notes brings. However many of the Chancel Singers are part of Alter-Notes. Some of us just can't get enough singing in! Both groups combine for special seasons such as Easter, Advent and Christmas Eve. The Ringing Bells have performed several times this past year and continue under the leadership of Carole Sue Linson. Carole Sue has also been the primary accompanist for Alter-Notes.

Leslee Amenta was released from her contract the last Sunday in December 2018. We are so fortunate to have Brian Moore who has taken on the organist/pianist duties. Brian has been a part of us for more than a year and brings some truly special talents with him.

This year, we instituted something called "Joyful Noise" which is not a formal group, but a collection of Chancel Singers, Alter-Notes and anyone else interested in creating a Sunday that is full of alternative music. This was born out of Ann Flanagan's 40th birthday and her desire to have her Dad come and play/sing at our church. The result was awesome, inspiring and just a lot of fun. So, we've done a few more and plan to continue to put those kinds of Sundays in from time-to-time. This also spurred the birth of music workshops, which really are a number of us that gather and brain-storm about what kind of music we like, when we want to incorporate it into service and so forth. That project is in its infant life and we are progressing forward.

We are blessed with so many talented folks in our church and I don't want to make a list, lest I forget someone. I am starting my 11th year as music director and can finally say that I see dreams coming to fruition – simply because God is providing to us those who can and want to share their musical gifts. I am so very grateful and the positive feedback from this congregation is proof to me of God's work.

Respectfully submitted,
Jane Osborn, Director of Music

PHYSICAL RESOURCES

As most are aware we are in the process of refurbishing our campus. And as with any building that is over 100 years old there are always issues that need to be dealt with. This year was no exception.

Two projects were our main focus this year: repairing our electrical system and updating the basement.

The electrical system was found no longer to have a ground, putting the structure at risk as well as endangering those of us that use the facility. Elan Electric, electricians for our refurbishment of the sanctuary and Perkins Hall, was able to help us remedy our issue. All is functioning well and safely.

The basement has new flooring and a fresh coat of paint, making the basement more friendly and usable for us and our guests. This also brings the basement closer to what we envision for the future of our congregation.

We would like to thank Bill Linson for his service to us in keeping things in operating condition as well as being the eyes and ears for areas that are in need of more immediate attention. You are greatly appreciated.

Julie Jaquette has also been instrumental in the day-to-day needs of our campus -- finding vendors to provide the services we need when the rest of us cannot, making phone calls, setting schedules, and keeping us in line. Excellent work, Julie, thank you.

Many others have done small and great things to make our campus welcoming and well -functioning. Thanks to you as well in developing our campus.

As we go through the next year, more repairs will be needed and areas will again be chosen for refurbishment. We look forward to another productive year in the development of our campus and our congregation.

The Trustees

FOUNDATION

The Foundation Board members appointed Officers at the first Foundation board [Annual] meeting for 2018 were: Al Beeson, President, Angela Imbierowicz, Vice President, Jay Eby Secretary, and Susan Lemons, Treasurer. Board Members newly elected to the Foundation Board at the 2018 Church's Annual meeting were: Jim Christopher, Dr. Will Fisher, and Susan Lemons. Other Board members were, Julie McCurdy, John McCurdy, as Chair of Physical Plant and as our Pastor, Jay Wilcher.

Also at the first board meeting held in February the Board presented Dave Foote with a plaque and our thanks for his faithful service for the past six [6] years as our Foundation President.

Effective in the 2nd quarter we received the resignation of Dr. Will Fisher as a board member and in the 3rd qtr. the resignation of Jay Eby as a board member and Secretary. Jay Eby received special thanks for this many years of service and support for the Foundation. Jim Christopher was then appointed Secretary.

Pursuant to requests from the Church Cabinet, and approved within the Church Budget by the Congregation at the Annual Meeting in January, 2018 the Foundation Board approved and funded during the year the requested \$82,000 for Pastors salary and \$20,400 for support of "Christian" Education..... up from 2017 requests/ approved/amounts of \$53,690 in funding for the Pastor's salary and funds to support Christian Education in the amount of \$14,950.

At each regular Foundation meeting the Board received and reviewed financial reports from its accountant & CPA Amy Jaspers. For the third quarter ending September, 2018, the Foundation's assets totaled \$1,424,634 compared to September 2017; when the Foundation's assets totaled \$1,447,623. The third quarter 2018 financial report (ending September, the most recent quarter) and the fourth quarter 2017 financial report (ending December 2017 , the most recent full year report) with assets, liabilities and fund balances are included as part of this annual report. Annual fourth quarter reports are not typically available until late in January, after the Church Annual Meeting.

During the year the Board considered a request for approval and financing over approx. 40 months of a Pergola Project [outdoor patio cover] for the Prescott Station Restaurant. After review of submitted specs and plans the Board approved the Pergola project with financed costs set at max of \$14,800. Monthly payments as scheduled have been made since June, 2018.

The Board has set their regular Board meetings for 2019 as: February 21, May 16, August 15 and November 14.

Respectfully submitted,
Albert Beeson, President
First Congregational Church UCC Foundation 2018

60th ANNUAL PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Music (DJ)	\$	150
Lion's Club	\$	110
Food Receipts	\$	389
Supplies	\$	67
Trash Cans & Porta john	\$	152
Total Expenses	\$	868
Income From Congregation Donations	\$	918
Income From Ticket Sales	\$	2,640
Income From Leftover Food Sales	\$	185
Minus Expenses	\$	(868)
Net Total	\$	2,875
Total for Prescott Community Cupboard	\$	2,875

(Additional expense of \$109.12 was used from the Marketing Budget to pay for Advertising)

PREScott COMMUNITY CUPBOARD FOOD BANK

The First Congregational Church of Prescott has supported in its Mission outreach, the efforts of the Prescott Community Food Bank for over 48 years. We provide non-perishable food and teams of volunteer packers, who pack food currently one week, every 7 weeks, with 5 teams each week, (2 volunteers each week day), this work currently being done from 1:30pm to 4:30pm.

The members and friends [all 2 of them] of FCC Prescott, signed up for a team when called in 2018 to make up the needed Packer Teams and to them go our sincere thanks for a job... again well done.

Anyone not currently on our list of Food Bank volunteers can contact the FCC Prescott, Team Captain, Al Beeson at 717-9915. We can then add you to the list. We are still looking for a co Team Captain.

The 2018 year to date totals of the activities of the Prescott Community Cupboard Food Bank, shown below outline that impact of the service to those in need in our community. This was accomplished thru the efforts of our wonderful volunteers from the First Congregational Church and of five other local churches throughout the Community of Prescott. The 2018 final totals for the Prescott Community Cupboard Food Bank are: Food issued in 2018 weighted in at 113,467 pounds, we gave food out meals to 14,629 people, while filling 4,407 orders, and of these; we served 1157 Veterans and 139 homeless people, and provided meals to 4301 children. We extend to all that volunteered and helped to make this effort possible our sincere thanks. It seems humbling to me to look back over the 2018 year and see these impressive results of all our efforts.

The First Congregational Church, Food Bank Teams Service weeks for 2019 are as follows:

Jan 7-11	Feb 25	Mar 1	April 15-19	June 3-7	July 22-26
Sept 9-13	Oct 28	Nov 1	Dec 16-20.		

The Food Bank gratefully accepts non-perishable food donations and we have a collection box at the Church for your donations.

Respectfully submitted by:
Al Beeson, FCC Food Bank, Team Captain
717-9915, CP# 277-9784

This Page is intentionally left blank.