

The Parish Caller July 24th 2020

On Call Pastor for

July 13th thru 26th, Rev. Bill Linson, 928-717-4494

July 27th thru August 2nd, Rev. Harry Strong, 719-291-0779

Parish Caller Submissions

If you would like an article or information posted in the Parish Caller, please email it to Staci Robbins, StaciRobbins@outlook.com, by Noon on Thursday. Thanks!

Quarterly Contribution Statements

Quarterly Contribution Statements were sent out via email and postal service on July 7th. If you haven't received your statement, please either call (928) 445-4555 or email, FCCPrescott@gmail.com, and provide a current email or mailing address. Thank you!

A Message from Rev. Dr. Michael Friday

Keeping Faith

One of the thoroughly overworked words in the English Language – at least not as much as *love* – is *faith*. It is a versatile word, found as a noun (faith) an adjective (faithful) and adverb (faithfully). Americans are quite familiar with each iteration of the word. We know the noun, often spoken in reference to America's religious realities. We know the adjective – whether it refers to their dog's disposition to them or its meaningless application to too many people's attitude in relationships. In its adverbial form, we know its even more meaningless and hypocritical status as some politicians and public servants mouth it in their oaths, promising to *faithfully* uphold, execute or observe the Constitution of the United States of America, and then doing the exact and iniquitous opposite. Faith, when honored, can hold a community together. Faith, when mocked, shall break community, especially when leaders abuse or mock it; for faith is an indispensable ingredient in the glue that holds community together.

In these days, Christians must reevaluate faith. What is this faith we say we have? What do we mean when we say we have faith in God? Can we be said to truly have faith in God if God has no faith in us? I am always tickled when I read John 2:24. Jesus was still a "new kid on the public block," doing miracles; and many were believing in him – that is, putting their *faith* in him. But Jesus was not putting any faith in them, because he knew they were more interested in entertainment and magic than in any meaningful relationship with him or what he represented. The valid question then arises: is faith in God a one-way issue, or does God need to have faith in us for our faith in God to truly be valid or even "work"? Good question. I'll leave you to ponder it; but huge clues to the answer are available in the social relationships we share, and in the kinds of expectations we have of God and the kinds of disappointments that are delivered, relating to those expectations.

Another question that arises is this: can our faith really be something private? If I am faithful to the road code, does not the driver on the other side of the road *see* that I am, when I keep to my side of the median? If I am faithful to my spouse, should not the world *see* that it is so? If I am faithful to God and faithful to the Gospel, does not the world get to *see* that, in my reaction to public policy, especially when it utilizes dishonesty and cruelty to bring or perpetuate injustice and inequality? Or does my faith remain quiet and indifferent – private? What role does an American, faithful to God, to the ethics of Jesus, to truth, to the notion of the inestimable worth of every human being – whether white or black, immigrant or native, documented or undocumented, male or female or neither, Christian or Muslim, Republican or Democrat – play in a nation at a time when those very things: truth, ethics, justice, and more, are being deconstructed and demolished? Again, I'll leave you to ponder that. But let's be sure that Jesus believes in you, if you say you believe in him.

Meanwhile, let's keep the faith.

Rev. Dr. Michael P. Friday
Bristol, CT.
July 8, 2020.

Working for Racial Justice Workshop

Submitted by Jane Cheek

<http://www.swcucc.org/faith-in-action-blog/2020/6/25/working-for-racial-justice-in-solidarity-with-the-black-communityupcoming-workshop>

Working for Racial Justice in Solidarity with the Black Community—upcoming workshop

Sent: July 14, 2020 in Faith In Action

Save the dates: 10:00 to 11:30 am AND 1:00 to 3:00 pm on Saturdays, August 1, 8, 15, and 22.

Register in advance for this webinar:

[Register for Workshop](#)

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing

information about joining the webinar.

[Link to Zoom](#)

JULY MISSION NEWS

Our July Mission Emphasis is Discovery Gardens Preschool.

Without knowing the details of how this school year will begin, we know there will be children who will need assistance with supplies and with the expense of tuition.

Thanks to volunteers, needs for July's PASS meal were met. Thanks, also, for our faithful volunteers who help pack food bags for Community Cupboard clients.

On-going ministries: We are grateful for the volunteers of our church family who regularly help pack food boxes for the Prescott Community Cupboard. Angela Imbierowicz is our captain. So too, are we thankful for those who monthly help to provide an evening meal for women and children being sheltered at PASS. Patty Gard is our captain.

As always, thank you for remembering that we are blessed to be a blessing. (Genesis 12: 2) Questions or comments can be directed to; Becky or Bill Bryant, Helaine Berman, Linda Moore, Patty Gard, Staci Robbins, or Gary Gard, chairperson.

DACA Update

In addition to this month's mission emphasis project, we have a DACA Fund to which we gratefully receive donations throughout the year. We celebrate with our "adopted" DACA student, Franceny, and her family over the good news coming from this week's Supreme Court ruling. On a 5-4 vote, the Court ruled that the DACA program can remain in place. There are mountains yet to climb, but this week's ruling brings relief and hope to 100's of thousands of DACA families. We continue to pray for meaningful immigration reform leading to more compassionate laws and policies.

We rejoice also in the Supreme Court's ruling which prohibits job and health care discrimination based upon a person's sexual identity. When in the Lord's Prayer we pray, "...thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven" we are praying that the love and grace we picture in heaven will become a reality here on earth. As people of faith, this is the goal toward which we work.

A Message from Desert Palm UCC

Dear Members and Friends,

Do you have a family member who is attending or will be attending Arizona State University this fall? There is a new initiative – **UCC at ASU** – that will serve as a wonderful activity and resource for those students whether attending in person or through online classes. UCC at ASU will be a recognized student organization. New and returning students will have a new pathway to connect with other students, enjoy support and gain leadership opportunities with the student organization while pursuing their studies.

I'm pleased to share some background and contact information for those of you who would like to learn more about this initiative (and please feel free to forward):

Desert Palm United Church of Christ in Tempe and the Southwest Conference are working together to support and inspire ASU students with our UCC witness and faith.

Andrew Ponder Williams is serving as the Campus Minister. Andrew is a Member in Discernment at Desert Palm UCC. Andrew works with a dynamic Campus Ministry Committee of Desert Palm members. Andrew previously served as a campus minister with the United Methodist Church on the campus of the University of California-Irvine.

UCC at ASU is now a member of the Arizona State University Council of Religious Advisors. This Council is an interfaith body with representatives from many faith traditions. Presently, Andrew is a part of the leadership of the writing of an official statement from the Council condemning the lynchings of people of color in our country. Andrew is also collaborating with student organizations that support LGBTQ students and students of color.

Join us for one of these upcoming Zoom events

- Learn More About This New Ministry (for all ages), August 4, 6:00 pm
- Special Zoom meeting for College Students at Home, August 6 at 6:00 pm (all college age persons welcome, not just ASU-we want to build community for students at home now and into the Fall)

Campus Minister Contact

Andrew Ponder Williams

*United Church of Christ Campus Minister for Arizona State University
Desert Palm Youth and Young Adult Minister*

www.desertpalmucc.org

Call or Text! (602) 386-0669

UCC at ASU

PASTOR JAY'S SABBATICAL

A TIME TO SLOW DOWN FOR REFLECTION



Pastor Jay will continue with his planned 2020 sabbatical over the summer months. The sabbatical committee has prepared a brochure to share information about his sabbatical. It will also be helpful in answering your questions about how church will operate in his absence.

A digital copy of the brochure is available on the Church website, in the Resources area, <http://www.fccprescott.org/sabatical>.

Paper copies of the brochure will be available; please call the church office to get a copy mailed to you.

Here is a look at the summer ahead:

- Sabbatical Schedule of Sundays - Guest Preachers
- Lloyd - first 2 Sundays of July
- Bill - last 2 Sundays of July
- Harry - first Sunday of August
- Jane - second and third Sundays of August
- Rev. Dr. Michael Friday (Ralph's friend from Connecticut via recording) - fourth and fifth Sundays of August

SUPPORT YOUR CHURCH DURING CORONAVIRUS!

- Online – go to our website: www.fccprescott.org and look for the tab on the front page
- You can set up regular, ongoing giving or one-time giving.
- Use your credit card and get some points!
- Your bank may have free online bill pay. You find the tab on your online account, fill in the details of the check as you would a regular check, and the bank mail will mail it for you! You can set up a one-time check or recurring scheduled check amount.
- Mail a check out to the church and mail it to 216 East Gurley Street, Prescott, AZ 86301

The church office is closed going forward, however, someone will pick up the mail on a daily basis to place checks into the safe.

[Visit our website](#)

[Watch Services Here](#)

[More info on Pastor Jay's Sabbatical](#)



Celebrating YOU!!!

Anniversaries

STRONG, Harry & Anna	07/14
WILSON, John & Sonja	07/23

Birthdays

ROBBINS, Staci	07/01
MOORE, Linda	07/02
CORTEZ, Jennifer	07/05
DIAL, Martie	07/10
HUFF, Patsy Jo	07/13
ELY, Luke	07/17
SANDBERG, Mary Alice	07/19
LLOYD, Mary	07/22
JORDAN, Bruce	07/25
FLANAGAN, Ann	7/30
ROBINSON, Anne	07/31
BEESON, AI	08/03
BRUHN, Mary	08/03
PREBLE, Murl	08/08
CHRISTOPHER, Jim	08/10
IMBIEROWICZ, Angela	08/11
OSBORN, Jane	08/12
JONES, Tarah	08/22
GILGES, Cheryl	08/27
SANDSTROM, Paul	08/30