

# The Parish Caller July 31st 2020

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## On Call Pastor for

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

August 3rd thru 16th, Jane Cheek, 928-830-7669

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### 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](mailto:StaciRobbins@outlook.com), by Noon on Thursday. Thanks!

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## Quarterly Contribution Statements

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

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## A Message from Harry Strong

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### Watch Your Tongue

Harry L. Strong

I guess when you're approaching the end of your 8<sup>th</sup> decade on the planet, you should expect it - but it's still hard ... Losing friends and loved ones to death, I mean.

When death enters the homes of people we care about, as Christians, we would like to be able to offer some measure of comfort, consolation, and sympathy to help ease the burdens of those who are grieving. Jesus bids us to comfort the afflicted and we would like to be able to ease their burdens, even if ever so slightly.

The tragic thing is sometimes we do just the opposite. We add to the pain of those who are already hurting. We don't mean to - but we do.

Back in 1968, I didn't mean to make Celia any more miserable than she already was – but I did. Her beloved husband, Phillip, had died. Phillip had endured a long and painful battle with cancer. But now he was free from pain. He was no longer suffering. And, fresh out of seminary and a course in Clinical Pastoral Education, I said: “Celia, you know you wouldn't want Phillip back as miserable as he was.” Then, abruptly, Celia shouted in my face: *“OH, YES, I WOULD! HOW DARE YOU TRY TO TELL ME WHAT I WANT OR I DON'T WANT?!”*

She was right, of course. I had presumed too much. I had presumed she was already focusing on Phillip's release from suffering. But Celia wasn't there. Not yet – or at least not at that moment. She was terrified - and she was more alone than she'd ever been in her life.

Of course, I apologized – I had no right to presume anything about dear Celia's feelings or her grief. But the damage had been done. I couldn't take back what I had said.

Our most sincere attempts to offer words of compassion and healing can sometimes backfire. We need to watch our tongues - very carefully.

So for the past 52 years, I've tried to avoid saying things like: “God must have a plan that we can't discern” or “God must have needed her more than we did” or “God called her home” or “It must have been his time” or “God never gives us more than we can handle” or “I know how you must feel” - or anything else that presumes I know the mind of God *OR* I know the mind of the person who is grief-stricken!

So what **SHOULD** we say? If you know someone who has just suffered an unspeakable loss – and if you feel you **MUST SAY SOMETHING**, try asking God for guidance first, and then, depending on the circumstances, preface your words with something like “This is so horrible and unfair ...” or “How can I be most helpful?” or “I can't imagine how you are feeling, but please know I am so very sorry for your loss” or “Would it be all right if I told you just one of my favorite memories of ... (the person who just died)?”

Don't practice psychology. Don't debate theology. Don't tell the person what helped you get through something similar. As far as he or she is concerned, it may be that *“there is no sorrow like MY sorrow.”* Don't say that Jesus “walked the same valley before you.” They might not even be ready for you to “give them Jesus.”

Your greatest gift may well be your very presence. Just being there says you care. Sometimes we are at our best when we say nothing at all.

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## Working for Racial Justice Workshop

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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](#)

## **AUGUST MISSION NEWS**

**Mission Outreach News:** For August, our DACA Fund will be our mission emphasis. Donations will help our DACA family to meet their educational expenses. Franceny is continuing her studies at Prescott College, expecting to earn her degree in sociology/psychology in December 2021. Her older brother, Francisco, is a senior at the U of A. He has only 2 classes remaining before his graduation, either this December or next May. Franceny's younger brother, Fernando, will be pursuing his studies in Construction Management at Yavapai College.

Donations last month (July) went to the Yavapai Food Bank in support of their "Start Right" program. "Start Right" will host upwards of 2,000 K-12 children from impoverished families needing school supplies.

Thanks to your contributions, we support multiple mission projects throughout the year. This includes the on-going work of our church volunteers who regularly pack food bags for the Prescott Area Community Cupboard (PACC) and provide meals to the women and children sheltered at the Prescott Area Shelter Services (PASS). Our next PASS

meal will be delivered on Wednesday, August 19<sup>th</sup>. Both Angela Imbierowicz (PACC team captain) and Patty Gard (PASS team coordinator) thank you for your service as volunteers.

On behalf our Mission Outreach Committee (Helaine, Berman, Becky and Bill Bryant, Patty Gard, Linda Moore, Staci Robbins, and Gary Gard, chairperson) thank you for remembering that we have been blessed to be a blessing. [Genesis 12:2]

## 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*

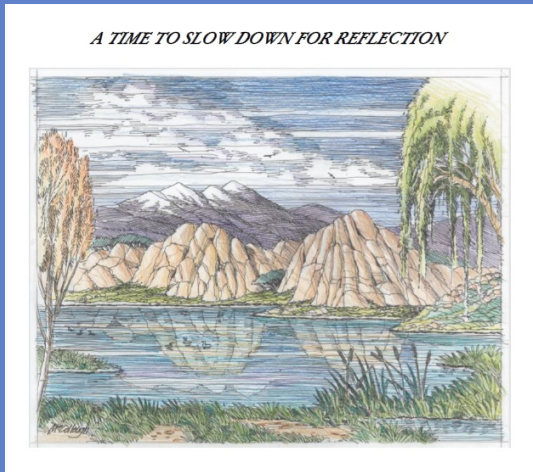
[www.desertpalmucc.org](http://www.desertpalmucc.org)

Call or Text! (602) 386-0669

UCC at ASU  
Page

## 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

## SUPPORT YOUR CHURCH DURING CORONAVIRUS!

- Online – go to our website; [www.fccprescott.org](http://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

- Jane - second and third Sundays of August
- Rev. Dr. Michael Friday (Ralph's friend from Connecticut via recording) - fourth and fifth Sundays of August

Here

More info on Pastor Jay's Sabbatical



## Celebrating YOU!!!

### Anniversaries

|                                |       |
|--------------------------------|-------|
| STRONG, Harry & Anna           | 07/14 |
| WILSON, John & Sonja           | 07/23 |
| WAGNER, Ralph & Susan Lemons   | 09/05 |
| GILGES, Ralph & Cheryl         | 09/09 |
| BRYANT, Bill & Becky           | 09/22 |
| JAQUETTE, Julie & Sandra Johns | 09/24 |
| FONE, DJ & Marita Callaway     | 09/28 |

### Birthdays

|                     |       |
|---------------------|-------|
| LLOYD, Mary         | 07/22 |
| JORDAN, Bruce       | 07/25 |
| FLANAGAN, Ann       | 7/30  |
| ROBINSON, Anne      | 07/31 |
| BEESON, Al          | 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 |
| BROUSSARD, Suzanne  | 09/06 |
| DINSMAN, Christy    | 09/07 |
| MCCOLLOUGH, Dennis  | 09/09 |
| MACY, Tom           | 09/14 |
| MATSUMOTO, Yoichi   | 09/18 |
| RELTH, Arlene       | 09/22 |
| WILSON, John        | 09/28 |
| KAUL, Linda         | 09/29 |