

The Parish Caller August 7th 2020

On Call Pastor
for

August 3rd thru 16th, Jane Cheek, 928-830-7699

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!

A Message from Gary Gard

Please Tell Me Who I Am

From the lyrics of the song, "The Logical Song," we hear... "When I was young, it seemed that life was so wonderful, beautiful, magical...all the birds in the trees singing so happily...playfully watching me. But then they sent me away to teach me how to be sensible, logical, responsible, practical. Won't you please tell me what I've learned. I know it sounds absurd, (but) please tell me who I am."

When times are not as magical and wonderful as they once were, we sometimes question ourselves. "Have I been too innocent? Too idealistic? Too trusting that God will make everything all right"? Congressman, John Lewis had every right to ask himself these questions. Too early in his life, days lost some of their wonder and magic. He learned the need to be careful when walking in a "white person's world." He faced the cruelties of prejudice, snide remarks and hateful insults. As an adult death threats were not uncommon. John Lewis had cause to have doubts about the faith he

held as a child. He had cause to doubt himself, and to question the road he was walking as a crusader for justice.

Yet, listen to what the New York Times reported as they printed what Congressman Lewis penned just before his death. "If we are to survive as a unified nation, we must discover what so readily takes root in our hearts...we must put away our willingness to profit from the exploitation of others. I urge you to answer the highest calling your heart...let the spirit of peace, and the power of everlasting love be your guide." Up until his last breath, John Lewis was still dreaming the dream. Still living the faith. Still hoping. Still crusading for us to do the work of "the power of everlasting love." Wow!

What empowered him? What gave him the strength? What kept his faith alive? I think it was the same "something" that has been empowering, strengthening and sustaining lives for centuries. God's presence. Not just the idea of God, but the presence of God. The same presence Moses experienced when facing the daunting task of confronting Pharaoh. Full of questions and self-doubt, Moses pleaded, --Please, tell me who I am that I should be the one to do this? Then, he felt empowered. Somehow, he felt the presence of God "saying" --I will be with you. [Exodus 3:11-12]

When my own life has not felt so wonderful, beautiful, and magical, it hasn't been Christian doctrines that have resurrected me. It has been "somehow" becoming aware that Another Presence was with me. Empowering me. Sustaining me. I pastored churches for over 35 years. Long enough to know that my story, and that of Moses, and John Lewis are not unique. These stories are your stories too. Think about it. Think about when God's presence has lifted YOU up. Then, when times have you worrying, questioning and doubting, use that memory as a spiritual well. Drink from it. There are still times when I wonder who I am. But, now I do my wondering knowing that I am not alone.

Grace and Peace,

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.

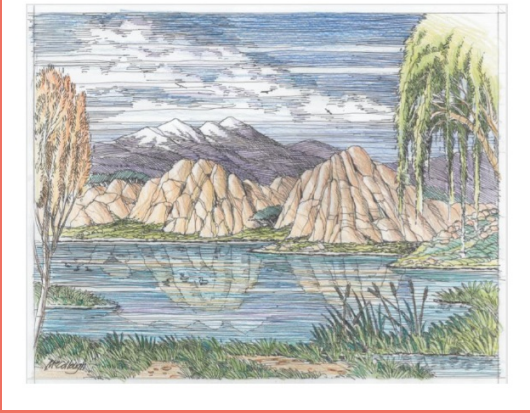
Donations last month (July) went to the Yavapai Food Bank in support of their "Start Right" program. "Start Right" will host upwards of 2,000 K-12 children from impoverished families needing school supplies.

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 19th. 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]

PASTOR JAY'S SABBATICAL

SUPPORT YOUR CHURCH
DURING CORONAVIRUS!



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/sabbatical>.

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

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

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	07/30
MICHAEL, Wendy	07/31
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
WALKER, Brent	08/18
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