

The Parish Caller Weekly Newsletter December 6th, 2019

First Congregational Church

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

JOIN US ON ACKER NIGHT ~ DEC. 13TH 5:30

Tapestry is a small, vibrant acapella group of passionate singing women. We sing a broad variety of sacred, seasonal, classical, folk and positive, social-themed music. We are led by Dr. Will Fisher, who directs our weekly rehearsals and chooses the pieces which make up our programs. What makes Tapestry unique is that when we perform, each piece is led by one of the singers. Being "self-directed" creates a special bond between the singers as we listen to blend our voices, and share the spirit of our song.



Heroica Caborca, Sister City of Prescott, is approximately 330 miles from Prescott in the state of Sonora. Caborca is a modern city of some 35,000 people and is governed by a mayor and eight council members. Most recently, Caborca formed a choir under the direction of Karen Reyna. The Caborca Choir has been invited by the Sister Cities Committee to perform at Acker Night in conjunction with Tapestry. The choirs will be appearing at First Congregational Church the second half of Acker Night, so that the visiting choir members can enjoy Acker Night touring around the various venues. FCC will be hosting a Christmas Carol sing-a-long for the first half of the evening.

From Pastor Jay's Desk



I like to mention from time to time that you allow me to serve as president of the board of CCJ - The Coalition for Compassion and Justice. United Church of Christ congregations have a history of granting their pastors time to work in their communities for peace and justice. So, I wanted to share with you an exciting development of our joint work. This photo shows our two lodge models being built on Rush Street by Dorn Homes and a host of subcontractors donating labor and materials. This sign may be hard to read, but it does reveal how many companies are helping us house those experiencing homelessness. CCJ has several other lots where this can be repeated. I am grateful to you for the opportunity to have lived through the transformation of CCJ since 2015. It was not always easy to say the least, but worth every minute following Jesus into this important work.



Thanks for the opportunity, Pastor Jay



Sylvia E. Neely, 82, died peacefully in her sleep at Margaret T. Morris Center on the evening of a beautiful day, November 21, 2019.

She was born to Juanita Bridges Soderstrom and Dr. James Soderstrom in Denver, Colorado.

Being the daughter of an Army doctor, she moved numerous times before her family settled in 1949 at the Prescott VAMC, always known to her as Whipple.

Her favorite memories centered around her teenage years growing up in Quarters No. 9.

Sylvia attended Washington Elementary School, Prescott Jr. High School and Prescott High School, where she graduated in 1955. She then attended Arizona State University, then known as Arizona State College where she graduated in 1959 with a bachelors degree in early elementary education.

It was during her years at ASU where Sylvia met her future husband, William (Bill) Neely on a blind date. They were married June 11, 1960 in the United Methodist Church in Prescott. They moved to Prescott in 1966 and have resided in the same home since then.

Sylvia was an elementary school teacher for three years in the Washington School District in Phoenix, Ariz. After having a daughter in 1963 and another in 1965, she decided to become a stay-at-home mom until they were both in high school. Her daughters are grateful for the time she devoted to them and for her nurturing their love of books, nature, and animals.

In the 1980's, Sylvia returned to work as a librarian at Dexter Elementary School and later as one of the teachers for the New Horizons program for gifted students. She retired from teaching in 1995.

Proud of her many years in Arizona, Sylvia chose to give back to her community by volunteering for many local groups including Girl Scouts, church, Prescott Audubon Society and Fort Whipple Museum. Most special to her heart was the Sharlott Hall Museum, where she was involved in the Folk Arts Fair for many years. She also spent many happy hours researching and documenting the pioneer women represented in the rose garden on the museum grounds. She especially enjoyed interviewing long-time Yavapai County residents and recording 165 oral histories to preserve their memories for the Sharlott Hall archives.

Sylvia was predeceased by her parents. She is survived by her beloved husband, Bill; her daughters, Lisa Reyes (Charlie), Beth Neely (Bret); grandson, Adam Reyes (Jessica); granddaughter, Amy Boehm (Troy), all of Prescott, and her sister, Susan Abold of Austin, Texas.

Sylvia had many friends in Prescott in her lifetime and cherished them all.

A celebration of her well-lived life will be held on December 16, 2019 at the Unity Church of Prescott, 145 S Arizona Ave in Prescott at 2:00 p.m. In lieu of flowers, Sylvia requested donations be made to Sharlott Hall Museum or the Prescott Audubon Society.

Information provided by survivors

Ron Solt

In Loving Memory

4/13/1932 - 10/23/2019

In October we said goodbye to Ron Solt. Our Church had kept a steady watch on his last years. He always wanted to be with you, even in his last week. These were his two loving Communities, his Church, and his Home. After his last day, October 23rd, David arrived after cancelled flights from the UK. Soon we sat down with Pastor Jay and Julie and planned his day of remembrance, October 28. They were thoughtful, caring and compassionate. Pastor Jay was, as he is, completely open to wishes. Julie remembered her times with he'd stop by the office and visit. My family had arrived from all over to honor Grandpa. Our church family and friends from our 50+ years filled the sanctuary to honor a man who loved you; who received your welcome in his regular spot in the back pew every Sunday. He knew would be there for him as you always had been.

The church has collected \$420 in Memory of Ron Solt. Thank you all. Anne Solt



Coffee & Fellowship

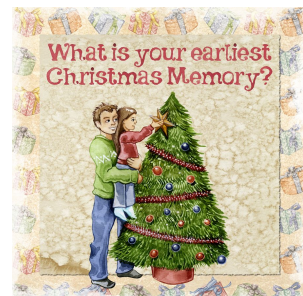
A BIG THANK YOU TO THOSE THAT HAVE SAID YES!

We have had several folks sign-up to help with Coffee Time but we can always use more. Contact Patty Lantrip since she is putting together a schedule so we can have a clear picture of the next few weeks.

CHRISTMAS MEMORIES

Due date to submit your writings is December 9th.

Write about your favorite memories, family traditions, funny/interesting happenings, favorite meals, Christmas songs, prayers, recipes, etc. Send it by e-mail to Angela Imbierowicz at angelaprescottaz@gmail.com, and Marti - Garrison and I will edit it (if you so desire) and include it in what we believe will be a wonderful treasury of our congregation's Christmas memories. Thank you.



Judaism

Judaism Class for non-Jews has been a real enjoyable and successful educational experience for us. We have two more weeks of class. It isn't too late to join us and participate for our last two sessions, Dec. 12th and the 19th. For more information, contact Meli

The light shines in the darkness,

★ THE CHRISTMAS FUND for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund



MISSION NEWS: Our December mission emphasis is two pronged. Once again we will be supporting the national UCC “Christmas Offering”. Donations to this offering will assist low-income retired clergy. Our second option is to support local Christmas programs which will be distributing free Christmas gifts and gift cards for children and young adults living in low income families. You may make your check payable to the church with a note on the memo line of either “UCC Christmas Fund”, or “Local Christmas families”. Checks supporting our local outreach need to be received no later than December 15th.

As always, thanks for remembering that we have been blessed to be a blessing [Genesis 12:2]. Our Mission Outreach committee members are: Becky/Bill Bryant, Helaine Berman, Patty Gard, Linda Moore, Staci Robbin, and Gary Gard (chairperson).

Stewardship Reflection:

Why do we “go to church”? We each have our reasons. My stewardship reflections given during worship in November spoke to the reasons prompting Patty and me.



1. Gathering with others on a Sunday morning helps to refresh and remind us of who we are as God’s children, and of what God might be asking of us.
2. Finding joy in knowing our church’s identity as a loving and inclusive church whose arms are open to welcome everyone “no matter where they are on life’s journey.”
3. Working with our mission outreach seeking be an extension of Christ’s borderless, boundless love, grace, and encouragement.

All of these reasons are couched in thanksgiving, concern, and hope. Thanksgiving for those supporting the church now, and for those preceding us whose endowment gifts (10’s of 1000’s of dollars annually) help sustain us financially. Concern that if everything remains status quo, those gifts will be exhausted in about 5 years. Hope that our increased contribution of financial support will keep the light radiating from our church shining for generations following us.

With our “best estimate” of what we might be able to contribute to our 2020 budget, we can reduce our reliance on shrinking endowments funds. We can extend our dreams for our church’s future.

We can continue for countless years reminding countless children of God that they are of great worth; they are loved “no matter where they are on life’s journey.” We each need to prayerfully consider how we can help pay God’s love forward.
Gary and Patty Gard

2020 Stewardship

Estimate of Giving Help us plan for 2020 by telling us what you think your Estimate of Giving may look like.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Amount: _____ or Monthly _____ Annual Total _____

Celebrating 140 Years

Time and Talent Name: _____

Usher: Sunday morning worship services, pass out bulletins, assist with the offering and song books. I would like to volunteer for this: _____

P.A.S.S.: Once a month, Wednesday at 5:00 p.m. provide a portion of a meal for P.A.S.S. Shelter. Covered dishes, dessert, salad, vegetables or bread. I would like to volunteer for this: _____

Called to Care: There are many ways to visit, call and birthday cards, visit the homebound, and many others. I would like to volunteer for this: _____

Social Day: It doesn't take any special skill to help us with snow removal. I would like to volunteer for this: _____

Building Teams: Be part of the physical resources team to oversee the maintenance with the church grounds, by preserving and improving our buildings. I would like to volunteer for this: _____

Chancel Singers & Alter Notes: are becoming less frequent. Your musical instrument talent is also a gift! I would like to volunteer for this: _____

Communion: Serve communion or help with preparation. I would like to volunteer for this: _____

Devotee Cookies: Do you like to bake? Some bought are good but we always need fresh goodies for coffee hour, and various fellowship gatherings. I would like to volunteer for this: _____

Newcomer outreach: Each week we would like to send our welcome notes to our visitors. I would like to volunteer for this: _____

Estimate of Giving Card

Help us plan for 2020 by telling us what you think your estimate of giving may look like.

Time and Talent Side Two

Offering Counter: Help with counting the offerings and making a deposit in the bank. Counters work in rotation in teams of two. I would like to volunteer for this: _____

Special Events Hosts and Coordinators: offer your party organizational skills to organized helpers for the many events events that are held here: Potluck, Christmas, Potlucks, etc. I would like to volunteer for this: _____

Coffee Hour host/helper: Rotate with other volunteers to prepare and serve the goodies and coffee during our Coffee Hour. If your special gift or talent isn't listed here, that's ok, let us know how you can help. If you see an area that needs attention, then most likely it needs you! I would like to volunteer for this: _____

Nursery Helper: Periodically we need a volunteer to help with the children's ministry when one of our staff is off. I would like to volunteer for this: _____

Greeter: Sunday morning worship services, great folks with a friendly face. This is a long-standing UCC tradition that is exceptionally important! I would like to volunteer for this: _____

Are you tech oriented? We are looking to expand our online presence by recordings and tagging our archives in 2020. I would like to volunteer for this: _____

Decorating: Put your talent to work! Christmas decorating, Kaper displays, table settings and the like. I would like to volunteer for this: _____

If your special gift or talent isn't listed here, that's ok, let us know how you can help. If you see an area that needs attention, then most likely it needs you! I would rather do something different. Please Explain _____

