

A Message from Pastor Jay

This Sunday is Good Shepherd Sunday - always the fourth Sunday of Easter. While most of us are far removed from shepherds and sheep, we can still appreciate the close connection implied and transfer it to God and us. Psalm 23 remains one of the most loved passages in the Bible. A different part of John chapter 10 is the focus each year. This year includes the mention of "other sheep" in the fold. Our culture's current focus on making people "other" receives a timely teaching from Jesus.

We continue our "soft open" with two services which is providing plenty of social distancing opportunities. We are having new people attend even without advertising that we are open. We look forward to an official open date in the next month or two - hopefully! Let's all get vaccinated!

**In-Person Worship 8:30 am & 10:30 am
CDC Guidelines Followed**

No nursery or Sunday school at this time

ZOOM BIBLE STUDY SATURDAY 10:00 AM

ZOOM SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP 2:00 PM

Let us know if you want to be added to these Zoom invitations

BULLETIN

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY**

April 25, 2021

GATHERING TO WORSHIP GOD

Prelude: "My Shepherd is the Living God" NCH#247 (Melissa - flute)

Opening Prayer

Incarnate God, you are the one who comes to us in Jesus Christ. Holy One, you are the one who comes to us in the Holy Spirit. Sovereign of Earth and Heaven, you are the one who calls us to recognize you today and every day. Gather our hearts and minds this day. Kindle our God-consciousness. Let us worship you in awe and wonder!

Choral Call to Worship: “I Was Glad” Central American Traditional, Arr. John Bell (all verses)

Prayer of Confession

One: Merciful and Loving God, we ask forgiveness because our consciousness of you is dimmed by everyday desires and needs.

All: Raise our consciousness of you, O God.

One: We forget that we are a reflection of your image. We act as though you are a Sunday-only event.

All: Increase our mindfulness of you, O God.

One: Help us to a greater common awareness of your deep mystery and infinite presence.

All: Rouse our awareness of you, O God.

One: Open our eyes from surface focus to depth perception. Turn our heads from shallow concerns to eternal truths.

All: Awaken us from faint-heartedness, O God. Forgive us for our narrow and selfish ways. Save us from cheap grace with your amazing grace. We ask in Jesus' name.

Words of Assurance

Holy, Forgiving God, we are your sheep. You keep us awake and aware. Bless you and praise you for forgiving us when we are barely mindful enough to ask. We hear your voice of pardon. Through Christ's grace we are forgiven this morning, and we enter your care. Amen.

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

A Time for Children of All Ages - JJ

Hebrew Scripture Reading: adapted from Psalm 23

Let us pray these familiar words, in the name of our risen Christ, our Good Shepherd:

Jesus, you are our shepherd. We shall never want. You make us lie down in green pastures; you lead us beside the still waters. You restore our souls. You guide us in the paths of righteousness for your name's sake. Even though we may walk through the valley of the shadow of death, we fear no evil, for you, Christ, are with us. You have prepared a table for us in the presence of our foes; you have anointed us with the oil of salvation; our cup runs over! Surely, goodness and mercy will follow us all the days of our lives, and we will dwell in the house of our Lord forever and ever. Amen.

“With a Shepherd’s Care” by James J. Chepponis, Gather #628 (all verses)

Sermon: “The Other Sheep” Pastor Jay

RESPONDING TO GOD’S GRACE

Prayers of the People / The Lord’s Prayer

Offering of Ourselves and our Gifts

Prayer of Dedication

Good Shepherd of the sheep, you have opened the door to new life for us through your self-giving love. May we reflect your love for us by opening the doors of our hearts to you in the act of giving our offerings. Amen.

“Like a Shepherd” by Bob Dufford Gather #332 (verse 2 & 3)

*Benediction

Pastor Jay

*Postlude: “Halle, Halle, Halle” by John Bell Gather #261

The Lord’s Supper (open to all)

Communion is self-serve. Tom will direct each pew to come forward for communion. After receiving the elements, please exit to Perkins Hall to view our historical items, or out the Gurley Street door for continued fellowship.

Serving the Church

Ministers All the People of the Church

Pastor Rev. Dr. Jay Wilcher

Pastor Emeritus Rev. Robert Bradstreet

Worship Leader

Alter Notes Director Melissa Gates

Pianist Carole Sue Linson

Flutist Melissa Gates

Co-Moderators Melissa Gates & Bill Bryant

Minister of the Building Rev. Bill Linson

Facilities Coordinator Tom Macy

Video Technician James Logsdon

Building & Grounds Manager David Tyrrell

First Congregational Church of Prescott

United Church of Christ

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Prescott, AZ 86301

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www.facebook.com/FccUccPrescott

928-445-4555

Founded September 26, 1880

APRIL MISSION NEWS

This month's mission emphasis is our denomination's special offering supporting the One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS). OGHS dollars support a variety of national & global missions which fund (1) health, education and agricultural projects (2) natural & human disaster relief (3) migrant & refugee projects. For donations to the OGHS, please write your check payable to the church, with the memo "OGHS".

Pass (Prescott Area Shelter Services) update. If you would like to attend this year's "Afternoon Tea Event" for a virtual tour of the PASS shelter, please register by going to www.prescottshelters.org/ events.

Members of our Mission Outreach team (Helaine Berman, Becky & Bill Bryant, Patty & Gary Gard) thank you for remembering that we are blessed to be blessing (Genesis 12:2).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to our return to worship after more than a year online! We are in a "soft open" phase before we announce we are officially open to the public. Vaccines and the virus will determine when that will happen. Bear with us as we learn the ins and outs of in-person worship using CDC guidelines – masks, social distancing, no congregational singing, etc. At this point some have been fully vaccinated and some not, so please continue to follow CDC guidelines another few more months until all are vaccinated, A good number of our faithful and involved members moved during the last year to be near family in other states, so we hope to have our own resurrection this year – your gifts and talents are welcome here – we need you! - musical gifts, volunteers for the office, new study and fellowship opportunities, after worship refreshments, etc. Let us know of your gifts and availability. We will continue with 8:30 and 10:30 am worship each week for spacing needs until the virus is under control. We will see whether we want to continue the two services. So much is unknown at this point – we journey forward by faith!

Zoom Opportunities: Bible Study Sat. 10am / After Church Fellowship Sunday 2pm The Church office will remain officially closed at least until the end of April. Phone messages and emails are checked regularly.

Our new tenant at the restaurant will be “Red, White, and Brew” (There is a location in Mesa already). After renovations, a tentative opening late summer is planned. The lease is for ten years with possible extensions. Our thanks to the Church Foundation members and attorney Tom Lloyd for all their work!

APRIL - MAY WORSHIP

**April 25 8:30 & 10:30 AM
John 10:11-18
Good Shepherd Sunday**

**May 2 Abiding in Christ - John 15:1-8
May 9 Mothers Day - John 15: 9-17
May 16 Sabbath Rest - John 17: 6-19**

**May 23 Pentecost - Acts 2:1-21
Remembrance of George Floyd Lynching**

**May 30 - Trinity Sunday (Rev Gard preaching)
100th anniversary of Tulsa Black Wall Street Massacre**

TREASURER REPORT

Income as of March 31 is \$34,314.

Total expenses are \$34,837.

Total expenses exceed income by \$523.

Year-to-date income is at 28% of the income budget of \$122,450.

Year-to-date expenses are at 24% of the expense budget of \$146,905.

\$3,162 has been transferred from Special Funds reserves held in the money market account to off-set the budget deficit.

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

MUSICIAN / SOLOIST NEEDED FOR 8:30AM SERVICE

SOUTHWEST CONFERENCE OPENINGS

Good morning, Northern Arizona friends. I trust this email finds you well in body, mind, and spirit. The nominating committee has done wonderful work discerning nominees for the standing committees of the Southwest Conference. The slate will be moved for election on Saturday.

Several members of our NAZ congregations were contacted to serve on our standing committees. We are grateful for the nominees who said, "Yes!" Two seats for representatives from Northern Arizona are still vacant. I am writing to you asking that you prayerfully consider who among you in our NAZ congregations the Holy Spirit might be calling to leadership. The vacancies for Northern Arizona are as follows:

- Executive Board – unexpired term ending in April 2022 (1 year, eligible for another term)
- Nominating Committee – full term ending in April 2023 (2 years)

May I also ask you also to share this need with your delegates and MCVV representative?

If you or someone you know feels called to say, "I have the gifts to serve in that way," please contact me as soon as possible. Nominations will be taken from the floor at our Annual Meeting on Saturday. And we would be grateful to complete the slate before that time.

Bill

Rev. Dr. William M. Lyons
Conference Minister
Direct: 602-317-2724

We are offering 8:30 & 10:30 AM In- Person Worship services for spacing requirements. Masks required. No congregational singing yet. COVID-19 spread and cases will be monitored and adjustments made as needed.

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.
- Make 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