

First Congregational Church

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

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR JAY

Sunday 10 a.m. Greeting & Sharing:
Meeting ID: 8 663-004-956
Zoom in via your computer
Phone in : 1-346-248-7799

Phone Only Option: 1-346-248-7799



On Sunday, April 5, (Palm Sunday) we share together Holy Communion in our online interactive worship.

Before the time of the service you will want to prepare some bread, a slice or a small loaf of any kind of bread. In some parts of the world tortilla, rice cake, cassava are used as this element which is defined not as a wheat product but as the most common food of the people. Let it be something you alone or you with others in your house may break and share. Prepare a cup or cups of juice -- perhaps grape or cranberry -- or wine, with or without alcohol.

Set these elements in the living room or kitchen where you experience worship electronically with our faith community. Perhaps you want to put them on a lovely cloth or fabric that reminds you of a special time or a person deeply connected with you in the communion of saints. Perhaps you will light a candle or place a flower or plant or the photograph of someone you wish to bring into the circle of faith beside the bread and the cup.

Thank you for your preparation. *Jay*

Here is the new normal going forward:

We are recording the worship service each week (with a few of us present) and it will be available on our website each Sunday by 10:30am.

There will be a zoom meeting every Sunday morning at 10:00 a.m. to continue our pre-worship greetings to one another. Now it will be virtual!

There will be a zoom meeting every Thursday morning at 10:00 a.m. for our church family connection - to provide community, social interaction, sharing of concerns.

There will be a zoom meeting every Friday morning at 10:00 a.m. for Bible Study related to the text for Sunday.

Pastor Jay

jayfccprescott@gmail.com

[Watch Worship Services Here](#)

MISSION NEWS FOR APRIL

Invest in futures

Give to One Great Hour of Sharing



This month's mission emphasis is our denomination's **One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS)**. OGHS dollars support national/global programs/projects which fund [1] health, education, and agricultural projects [2] natural and human caused disaster relief and [3] Refugee Settlement aid. In I Corinthians 3, Paul writes that we are co-workers in God's service. Some of us plant. Some of us water. God gives the growth. When we donate to the OGHS, we plant and water programs/projects which install water wells in villages without access to clean water. We teach new methods of farming so fields will increase their yield. We shelter people whose lives have been devastated by hurricanes or by human violence. In all of this, we are co-workers in God's service. We embody God's love and desire to infuse hope and healing. Checks can be made payable to the church, with the memo, "OGHS".



Community Food Bank update: Our crew of dedicated volunteers continue to provide food bags for Prescott area low income families and those who are homeless. With the Covid 19 crisis, the number of people needing help has increased. Our church's co-captain, Angela Imbierowicz, is attentive to scheduling volunteers and to other needs as they arise. To each of you, thank you!

Prescott Area Shelter Services (PASS) update: One thing that remains constant is our church's heartfelt commitment to support our mission outreach. Thanks to our MANY faithful volunteers who volunteer their time, their expertise in the kitchen, and their cheerful spirits to create a special dinner for the guests at PASS.

Questions/comments can be directed to our Mission Outreach Team. Becky and Bill Bryant, Helaine Berman, Patty Gard, Linda Moore, Staci Robbins, Gary Gard (Chairperson).



Even as the snow was gently falling on the evening of March 18, our bountiful PASS meal was delivered. In addition to the meal and a box of snack items for the children, we were also able to provide a box of much-needed cleaning items. With profound gratitude, the staff and guests extended their thanks to each of you.

PASS has undergone some temporary changes as they face the current crisis. Women with children are now residing at a facility in Chino Valley. The Prescott shelter houses single women. This arrangement is in place through April and may change after that. Both shelters typically have the maximum number of guests staying in their facilities. The snacks we deliver monthly for the children are collected here in Prescott and taken up to Chino Valley by PASS personnel.

Thanks to our nine volunteers who have already signed up for our next PASS meal. We are set for April. Again, we are reminded day after day that "we are blessed to be a blessing" - THANKS TO EACH OF YOU FOR THE BLESSINGS YOU BRING!! -- Patty Gard, PASS meal captain.



Marti and Paul's New Adventure: Maine, 2020

One week before we planned to leave, we hurriedly finished packing and drove away on March 21. My children were concerned about two things simultaneously: 1. we should stay in Arizona so we don't jeopardize our health by driving so far and 2. We should leave right away to "get ahead" of the virus and possible highway and state border closures. Because our condo had sold, we had to go somewhere so we decided to make the trip: Paul driving a 10-foot packed UHaul truck with me following driving car packed with art in the back, the cat Tweet, and a usually messy passenger seat with a jumble of CDs, gum, snacks, hand sanitizer, food wrappers and whatever else that day accumulated. We drove for almost five days, averaging 8-10 hours a day, first stop Tucumcari. Our last stop was Binghamton, NY.

Tweet was well behaved and mostly slept in his



National UCC Zoom call series kicks off with call to prayer Sunday, April 5

April 03, 2020
Written by Hans Holznagel

The whole United Church of Christ is invited to a twice-weekly series of gatherings for inspiration and learning via video conference, starting with a Call to Prayer at 6 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time Sunday, April 5.

Hosted by UCC Justice and Local Church Ministries on the webinar platform Zoom, the Sunday kickoff will feature live prayers and music led by pastors from New England to Hawaii and points in between. Though primarily in English, prayers will be offered in Spanish and Hawaiian as well.

Participants can log in from around the globe and will be invited to send prayer requests using Zoom's "Q&A" and "Chat" features. Some of these

carrier between the seats and occasionally used his foldable little litter box on passenger floor. I did let him out and he was fine, except for the last day. He had had enough of this and meowed but when I released him from his carrier he tried to get under my feet. Back in your cage, buddy, with zipper zipped.

First off, I tend to complain after only two hours in the car, so I had to radically adjust my attitude. Second, of course I had to keep up with Paul, changing lanes, avoiding the huge trucks, and generally staying awake and alert. Except around the bigger cities, the highways were empty except for the trucks, police cars, and others like us looking desperate and determined.

An additional challenge was trying hard to wipe down gas handles at stations, not to mention public restrooms. We used gloves almost always. It is easy to forget every time we stepped out of the vehicles. At first I assiduously wiped down handles, surfaces, lamp fixtures and so on in the motel rooms, and lugged in our own pillows and comforter, but by the fourth night I was not so thorough and fell exhausted into bed hoping their sheets were clean.

Our second or third day driving out of Joplin we hit very heavy rain with trucks spraying on both sides, me trying to even see through the windshield not to mention the UHaul taillights. It was my meltdown morning. I called my children, my best friends in Iowa and Prescott, and my former therapist. I was extremely anxious and afraid a truck would smash into the back of the car. We got through it. When I could reach Paul on his phone we decided to pull over where I had myself a good cry. Then onward.

Regarding the coronavirus, the first self-protection message I heard from my children was that we are older and vulnerable and to be careful and the second, when we got to Maine, was to protect others from us. Both make sense. I feel conspicuous with an Arizona license plate. The ones who are really not welcome now are people fleeing early from New York City for their summer homes on the coast. I can't help but wonder if the tourist season here (which is big) will be a bust.

Maine has a low number of positive cases and deaths and they want to keep it that way, so we are finishing week one of a 14-day quarantine. That means we don't go out except to take walks. It continues to be cold and rainy here, so that's not a welcome prospect. We are very fortunate to be living in a big sunny clean apartment, first floor of a house built in 1850. Stuff is old here. Upstairs are the owners who are my daughter's boyfriend's aunt and uncle. They finished painting and installing new appliances the day before we arrived. The computers and TV/Roku are hooked up and we have lots of food thanks to Ruth, the daughter who lives here. At some point I will interact with my two-year-old grandson!

And a final bit of news: we made an offer on a house at 52 Lincolnville Rd., Belmont, ME 04861, if you want to google it. Two acres, house recently renovated, about 10 minutes from Belfast and the only YMCA with a pool in the area, which is conveniently located near the library. All are shuttered of course. And, tragedy, I don't have any books!! Therefore, I watch Netflix during the day trying not to feel guilty and am figuring out the whole ebook thing with the local library. Still a bit of a mystery.

The house inspection is Monday and believe it or not, the well for the house is dug on Monday. The disclosure said the seller was using water from his neighbor's well! Funny. Anyway, the seller is paying for it. In terms of (no) zoning, I am sure a few backyard chickens will be fine.

may be lifted up aloud as the pastors take turns praying; many more will be acknowledged in writing in real time.

Registration for the April 5 event is now open at this [Zoom registration link](#). Details can also be found at this [Facebook event](#).

Starting April 7, regular online gatherings will be held each Tuesday and Thursday for the foreseeable future. They will focus on timely topics, such as mental health during the current COVID-19 pandemic, said the Rev. Traci Blackmon, the UCC associate general minister who leads JLCM. An initial list of topics, dates and times will be announced soon.

The staff team is exploring streaming the gatherings simultaneously on one or more social media platforms. These may be offered as alternatives if the 1,000-participant Zoom capacity is reached. Those details will be announced as they become available closer to Sunday and the subsequent events, said Chris Davies, leader of JLCM's Faith, Innovation and Formation team.

Leaders of the April 5 call to prayer will be:

- The Rev. Traci Blackmon, UCC Associate General Minister, Cleveland
- The Rev. John Dorhauer, UCC General Minister and President, Cleveland
- The Rev. Sharon Lee Macarthur, retired, Hercules, Calif.
- The Rev. Leah Robberts-Mosser, Community UCC, Champaign, Ill.
- The Rev. Da Vita McCallister, First Church Somerville (Mass.) UCC
- The Rev. Edwin Pérez Jr., Manantial de Gracia UCC, West Hartford, Conn.
- The Rev. Kenneth Makuakāne, Kawaiiaha'o Church, UCC, Honolulu

The Rev. Tracy Howe Wispelway, Faith INFO's minister of congregational and community engagement, will provide music between prayers.

"As Holy Week begins in this extraordinary time in the church and in the world, we felt that this could be a powerful way to gather as the United Church of Christ," Blackmon said. "We look forward to having many people praying together, across the miles, this Sunday."



Commentary: Lockdowns, Social Distancing and Working from Home: A View from the Underside

April 02, 2020

Written by Deenabandhu Manchala

In just over two months, coronavirus has turned the world upside down, forcing us to accept many unsettling realities and to deviate from familiar paths and pursuits. With numbers rising daily all over the world, and with vaccine and drugs several months away, the journey ahead is likely to be long and hard.

Coronavirus doesn't discriminate against anyone -rich or poor, young or old, powerful or disempowered. Lockdowns, social distancing, work from home, washing hands, etc., are prescribed to slow the spread, with the assumption that all have the possibilities to comply. Not so for many in the world with scarce access to water, sanitation and healthcare. Although coronavirus doesn't discriminate, social injustice does.

Paul is designing a chicken coop and run.

Not only is the climate very different from Prescott, not to mention Phoenix, but the terrain, the trees, the gardens, the architecture are way different. I am loving all the old conifers and anticipate the vast expanses of maples and oaks. We are excited and relieved to be here but almost any kind of move involves losses and adjustments. We miss you, our church friends, and friends outside the church.

We are going to check out The First Congregational UCC in Camden and others in nearby towns. Maine has plenty of FC/UCC churches, being New England and all. All are closed now, of course. This Sunday we will check into a service on-line. Maybe Zoom? Starting to make connections is pretty much on hold until some day when this massive dark cloud at least partially lifts. I think of the church teachers who are paid hourly at so many churches.

We are fortunate, but so many are not. Now is an opportunity to live out our message of social justice. I know so many businesses and non-profits are folding. And we don't know where this is going.

So that's all the news and more that is fit to print from our temporary home in Thomaston, Maine. We are certain that all the church in Prescott has to offer is handled well by its faithful servants.

Marti and Paul

**Thank you Marti & Paul for
sharing your
road trip story with us!**

**Anyone else want to send me
your stories or jokes?
Try to keep them clean!**

Juliefccprescott@gmail.com

The sudden 21-day lockdown announced by the Indian government on March 24 forced millions of migrant workers in cities to move back to their villages in less than 24 hours. With bus and train services suspended, workers walked hundreds of miles - starving, falling sick and dying along the way - in order to obey the call to play their part in stopping the spread of coronavirus. Ironically, there have never been lockdowns to stop the viruses of social injustice, poverty and exploitation that have kept these same workers incapacitated for generations.

While it may be possible for the wealthy and powerful to build walls around themselves for social distance, the poor in India can only afford to live in densely populated areas, often with six or more people sharing one room. 'Social distancing' sounds like an insult for those victimized by cultures of domination and discrimination, such as classism, casteism and racism that sanctified social distance to guarantee privilege for a few.

Similarly, the solution of "work from home" exposes an assumption that everyone has a desk job and that all have the luxury to work from home. What about those who do not have homes, or those whose homes are under flyovers, on pavements and in crowded slum areas? What about those whose lives depend on public activity - street vendors, skilled and unskilled workers, security guards, barbers, cooks, waitstaff, transportation workers, domestic helps, and many others? Relying solely on income through daily hard work, most of these do not have pensions, sick leave, paid leave, insurance, or bank accounts. How does this mantra work in their case, and for how long?

Millions of local, unorganized, daily wage workers are being put through horrendous suffering in order to "bend the curve" for the world - even though the world has never bothered to "close the gap" for them. Such callous insensitivity towards their conditions, needs and rights for the sake of the larger whole is nothing but a subtle exploitation of the poor to rescue the rich from the pandemic.

Deenabandhu Manchala, Area Executive for Southern Asia for the United Church of Christ. View this and other columns on the UCC's Witness for Justice page.

ANNIVERSARIES

John & Julie Mccurdy 04/18
Don & Kathy Stephens 05/20
Deana & Susan Wilson 05/27

BIRTHDAYS

Kristin Steele 04/04
Janet Steven 04/08
Deana Wilson 04/27
Tom Lloyd 04/28
Gerri Lyons 05/03
Matt Ely 05/04
William Bryant 05/05
Ritch Steven 05/17
Nancy Blevens 05/18
Anne Solt 05/18
Lisa Sandberg 05/19
Caleb Flanagan 05/22
Joanne Lussier 05/25
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Sarah Huff 05/26
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