

A Message from Pastor Jay

HOLY HUMOR SUNDAY

**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

Here comes the Sunday after Easter, and that can mean only one thing – less attendance than Easter Sunday? No, well maybe that also, but it is time for the annual “Holy Humor Sunday.” I can’t give anything away, but the worship service will be filled with humor and a few surprises. If you remember last year, we had a few opportunities for jokes to be shared by the congregation. There will be two “joke breaks” during this Sunday’s service so get your jokes ready! Here is a reminder for why we do this service: Many American churches are resurrecting an old Easter custom begun by the Greeks in the early centuries of Christianity-“Holy Humor Sunday” celebrations of Jesus’ resurrection on the Sunday after Easter. For centuries in Eastern Orthodox, Catholic and Protestant countries, the week following Easter Sunday, including “Bright Sunday” (the Sunday after Easter), was observed by the faithful as “days of joy and laughter” with parties and picnics to celebrate Jesus’ resurrection. The custom was rooted in the musings of early church theologians (like Augustine, Gregory of Nyssa, and John Chrysostom) that God played a practical joke on the devil by raising Jesus from the dead. “Risus paschalis - the Easter laugh,” the early theologians called it. See you Sunday for some Easter laughs! Text will be John 20:19-31 – “The Trickster Gets Tricked.”

BULLETIN

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 11, 2021

**Those who are able may stand...or sit...or do whatever you wish...or not*

Collect

(what in the world is a collect? Sounds like the offering – already!?)

Giving thanks to God is a good and a joyful task, to be done with smiles on our faces and laughter in our hearts; for it is God who created us creatures of mirth and joy... the God who helped us overcome the gloominess in our own lives.

*Postlude: “Humoresque” by Anton Dvorak

*Benediction

Pastor Jay

Go in laughter; go in grace. Keep God in your heart and a smile on your face.

Music: “Lord of the Dance” by Sydney Carter [invite people to clap with the music]

A Time for Children of All Ages - JJ

*Prayer of Dedication

God of joy, as we stumble through this life, help us to create more laughter than tears, dispense more happiness than gloom, spread more cheer than despair. Never let us become so indifferent that we fail to see the wonder in the eyes of a child or the twinkle in the eyes of the aged. Bless our efforts to cheer people, and may these offerings do the same. Amen.

Examination of the Offering

Offering of Ourselves and our Gifts

Give if you love Jesus. Anyone can honk!

Our church is open to all denominations – but it prefers 50’s and 100’s

The Lord loveth a cheerful giver...but God also accepteth from the grouch.

Joke Break (*I am about asleep so say something funny*)

Prayers of the People & The Lord’s Prayer

Music: “I’ve Got that Joy” [Congregation invited to clap with the music]

Sermonette: “The Trickster Gets Tricked”

Pitiful Preacher

Joke Break (*Oh God, deliver us from the tedium of the sermon*)

Music: “Make a Joyful Noise” by Cary Landry [Congregation invited to clap as directed]

Gospel Reading: John 20:19-31

Assurance of Pardon

The Gospels tell us over and over again of the joy which comes to us through Christ. When Jesus was around, lives were changed, the sick were healed, the sorrowful began to laugh with joy. The good news is that this joy is now given to us. You are OK...really!

Prayer of Confession

You know better than we do, Amused God, what important people we believe we are. Believing we have to be serious all the time, we miss out on the joy of your creation. Choosing to feast on the pain of the world, we skip the picnic offered in paradise. Clinging to the despair that is our best friend, we ignore Jesus, who can bring us home to your heart. Forgive us, Heart of Joy, and make us open to the startling and upside-down ways in which you work. Fill us with Easter's laughter; fill us with your healing joy; fill us with the love poured into us through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

Hymn: "We Lack the Gift of Laughter" melody by Brian Moore

Prayer of Invocation

O God, we come into your presence with joy and longing to be surprised. We thank you that you have given to us the gift of laughter and delight. These things give hints as to the nature of your purpose for us and for all the earth. May we find that in giving up to laughter there is healing and hope and abundance and blessing. Tickle our souls with the brush of your Spirit to renew our worship and our living. Amen.

Joke Break (*Someone please tell a good joke so this hour is not wasted*)

Call to Worship

One: "Smiling is infectious. You catch it like the flu."

Many: "When someone smiled at me today, I started smiling, too."

One: "I passed around the corner, and someone saw my grin."

Many: "When she smiled I realized I'd passed it on to her."

One: "I thought about that smile. Then I realized its worth."

Many: "A single smile just like mine could travel the whole earth."

One: "So if you feel a smile begin, don't leave it undetected."

Many: "Let's start an epidemic quick, and get the world infected!"

Words of Welcome - Announcements

*Time to Get Out of Here!

*Music to Get You Out of Here! "God's Big Surprise", "Surprise Symphony" by Franz Joseph Haydn

Serving the Church

Ministers All the People of the Church

Pastor Rev. Dr. Jay Wilcher

Pastor Emeritus Rev. Robert Bradstreet

Worship Leader Tom Macy

Alter Notes Director Melissa Gates

Organist Brian Moore

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
216 E. Gurley Street
Prescott, AZ 86301
www.fccprescott.org
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!

The Southwest Conference annual meeting will be by Zoom April 23-25. All are welcome to attend. We need one official delegate. Let us know if you can attend and we will sign you up to receive the meeting materials.

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 WORSHIP

**April 11 8:30 & 10:30 AM
Holy Humor Sunday**

**April 18 8:30 & 10:30 AM
Christ Among Us**

**April 25 8:30 & 10:30 AM
Good Shepherd Sunday**

TREASURER REPORT

Income as of February 28 is \$25,636
Total expenses are \$20,507.
Total income exceeds expenses by \$5,129.

Year-to-date income is at 21% of the income budget of \$122,450.

Year-to-date expenses are at 14% of the expense budget of \$146,905.

Did you know that our church pays annual membership dues?

As part of our promise to support operations for our Southwest Conference and the UCC in general, we are asked to make an annual payment of \$10 per member of our congregation. Wouldn't you like to help off-set this cost to our church by contributing your \$10 membership dues? If you would like to help, please include the memo "per capita" with your contribution. Thank you!

**SOUTHWEST CONFERENCE ANNUAL MEETING APRIL 23-25
BY ZOOM - DELEGATES NEEDED! PLEASE CALL THE OFFICE
IF INTERESTED**

Instead of continuing with two groups...Christ created a fresh start for everybody...bring us together...and that was the end of hostility...peace to outsiders and peace to insiders... treated as and made equals, sharing the same Spirit and having equal access to God. –Ephesians 2:14-18 (The Message) Co-hosts: Desert Palm UCC (Tempe) and Church of the Good Shepherd (Albuquerque)

REGISTER NOW!

Registration opens on March 1. Early registration cost is \$100 per church which covers all five delegates, and \$20 per person (clergy and guests). Early pricing expires on April 10. Need help with the registration process? Watch this step-by-step video.

We'll conduct the Annual Meeting via the Zoom platform. First time on Zoom? Watch this video. Delegates must attend a mandatory orientation on Saturday, April 17 at 8 am Arizona/ 9:00 am New Mexico and El Paso. Watch your inbox for the Zoom information the week of April 12.

During the closing worship on Sunday, Conference Minister Rev. Dr. Bill Lyons will preach "A Fresh Start for Everybody" on Ephesians 2:14–18.

Rev. Liana Rowe will preach at the opening worship on Friday.

Virtual Exhibit Hall: With their paid registration, vendors may request a spot on the Virtual Exhibit Hall page by clicking here.

Friday April 23 Morning Plenary 10:00 am - 11:30 am

Hybrid In-Person and Online Panel

LUNCH

Afternoon Breakouts and Hearings:

1:00 pm - 1:45 pm
UCC@ASU/Andrew Ponder Williams - Campus Ministry Update
First Church ABQ - How we are doing it? Panel Guests
Hearing: SWC Budget
2:00 pm - 2:45 pm Panel Guests Hearing: Resolution re Immigrant
Welcoming Hearing:

Resolution re COVID-19 BREAK

7:00 pm
Evening Worship Rev. Liana Rowe is preaching. Liana is retiring in 2021 after many years of dedicated service to the Southwest Conference as board officer, justice organizer, and staff member.

Saturday April 24 Morning Sessions - Voting will take place in both business sessions.

9:00 am - 9:15 am Devotion
9:15 am - 11:00 am Opening Business Session
LUNCH

Afternoon Business 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm Business Session
ADJOURN

5:00 pm - 6:00 pm After hours Follow Up: Sharing Time What are churches doing now?

Sunday April 25 10:00 am - 11:00 am Worship Rev. Dr. Bill Lyons, Conference Minister, will be preaching. Bill's theme is "A Fresh Start for Everybody" and his text is from Ephesians, chapter 2.

COVID-19 UPDATE FROM CABINET

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