



The Parish Caller

First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, Prescott Established 1880

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

August 25th, 2017

IN THIS ISSUE

Page 1

- ♦ This Week at a Glance
- ♦ From Pastor Jay — Letter to the editor

Page 2

- ♦ From Pastor Jay — Letter to the editor — continued
- ♦ "Love and Unity March"

Page 3

- ♦ Re-keying of the church
- ♦ Announcements
- ♦ Stewardship

Page 4

- ♦ Church Annual Picnic
- ♦ Contact Us

This Week at a Glance...

- ♦ **Sunday Choir Practice:** 9:00 a.m.
- ♦ **Sunday Worship:** 10:30 a.m.
- ♦ **Alter-Notes Rehearsal:** Sunday 12:00 p.m. in the Hazeltine Room
- ♦ **Jazz Vespers:** Wednesday 6:30 p.m. featuring the "Gurley Girls"
- ♦ **Pastor's Bible Study:** Thursday 9:30 a.m. in the Maggie B. Room

FROM THE PASTOR

This Sunday's sermon is "The Keys to the Kingdom" – Matthew 16:13-20.

I wrote this "letter to the editor" for our local paper. It should be in the paper either Saturday or Tuesday. Look for it! It is dated at this point, so please excuse times not matching up any more.

Long before we knew that the tragic events would take place in Charlottesville, Virginia, this past Saturday, the congregations of Temple B'rith Shalom and First Congregational Church in Prescott planned to visit each other's worship services this week. Our two faith communities share a long history of working together, and we have shared worship space several times in past decades.

Neo-Nazism, antisemitism, and racism are in the news once again, reminding us that though we have made progress, much work remains to be done. It is our calling as pastor and congregation to denounce the sins of racism and antisemitism and promote love and justice for all and to acknowledge the church in the past has often been silent or complicit in the presence of these sins.

This past Sunday morning, I shared the following statement with our Jewish friends who joined us for worship. It comes from our denomination's annual meeting in 1987 but seems timely for today:

We in the United Church of Christ acknowledge that the Christian Church has, throughout much of its history, denied God's continuing covenantal relationship with the Jewish people expressed in the faith of Judaism. This denial often has led to outright rejection of the Jewish people and to theologically and humanly intolerable violence. The Church's frequent portrayal of the Jews as blind, recalcitrant, evil, and rejected by God has found expression in much Christian theology, liturgy, and education. Such a negative portrayal of the Jewish people and of Judaism has been a factor in the shaping of anti-Jewish attitudes of societies and the policies of governments. The most devastating lethal metastasis of this process occurred in our own century during the Holocaust.

Faced with this history from which we as Christians cannot, and must not, disassociate ourselves, we ask for God's forgiveness through our Lord Jesus Christ. We pray for divine grace that will enable us, more firmly than ever before, to turn from this path of rejection and

Continued on page 2

Continued from page 1

PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDY

We meet on Thursday mornings at 9:30 a.m. in the old library downstairs, the Hazeltine room. The group goes over the Lectionary readings for Sunday.

EVERY WEEK COMMUNION

Communion is served the first Sunday of the month. In addition to that, Communion is available in the front of the sanctuary after worship on Sundays other than the first Sunday of the month.

CHANCEL CHOIR

If you like to sing, the choir is eager to increase its membership. Contact Jane Osborn 928-713- 4752

ALTER-NOTES

Alter-Notes, an alternative music group, singing on occasional Sundays, needs singers and instrumentalists. Folk, pop, Celtic, spirituals and anything else. Rehearsal at noon on Sundays. Contact Melissa Gates, 207-391-3276

SUNDAY SCHOOL OPTIONS

Parents may take children to Sunday school downstairs before the service begins, or they may wait until the children's time with the pastor and then go to Sunday school. Children are also welcome to stay in the worship service at the discretion of the parent(s).

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

persecution to affirm that Judaism has not been superseded by Christianity; that Christianity is not to be understood as the successor religion to Judaism; God's covenant with the Jewish people has not been abrogated. God has not rejected the Jewish people. God is faithful in keeping covenant.

THEREFORE, the Sixteenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ affirms its recognition that God's covenant with the Jewish people has not been rescinded or abrogated by God, but remains in full force, inasmuch as "the gifts and the call of God are irrevocable" (Rom. 11:29).

It calls upon all local congregations, and regional judicatories of the United Church of Christ actively to engage in dialogue with the Jewish community in order to establish relationships of trust and to participate in a joint witness against all injustice in our local communities and in the world.

We stand with our Jewish brothers and sisters against the evils of antisemitism and racism, and we will work with them against all forms of hatred and injustice.

Pastor Jay Wilcher
First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ
Prescott

“LOVE AND UNITY MARCH” PRESCOTT

SEPTEMBER 16TH at 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

Prescott College & Prescott Courthouse Square (Sidewalk only)

Mission: To peacefully celebrate diversity and inclusiveness and promote love and unity in the midst of a growing climate of division.

We invite everyone that believes in our mission to join us at Prescott College at 9 a.m. to enjoy a few moments with our inspiring speakers and music. This will be followed by a peaceful march to the Prescott Courthouse Square. Our posture is to meet everyone with love and unity. Please, feel encouraged to bring posters that are geared toward all ages and focus on our mission. We will have a brief organizing meeting after that march to discuss further ways we can come together as a community.

If you would like to help with the organization of this event, please contact Pastor Jay.

Sponsors:
Coalition for Compassion and Justice
First Congregation Church

Organizers:
Jessi Hans
Victoria Abel
Montana Morris

Speakers:
John Morris

USHERS NEEDED

We need more volunteers as ushers. Please volunteer. See Jay Eby, Tom Macy, or call the office 445-4555

SUNDAY GOODIES WANTED

We need more goodies for coffee hour. Goodies provide greater fellowship. Sign-up sheet is in Perkins Hall.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

REKEYING THE CHURCH ENTRANCE DOORS

If you are a current key holder, or if you have business with the church that requires you to have a key, the new keys are available now. Please let Julie know in the office if you will need a new key. 445-4555

JAZZ VESPERS — THIS WEEK!

This month’s August Vespers will feature the Gurley Girls. Join us Wednesday, August 30th at 6:30 p.m.

ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC

September is right around the corner! On September 24th after Sunday Worship service we will gather at Goldwater Lake for our Annual Church picnic. You won’t want to miss the fun, food and fellowship! Please help us plan by adding your name to the sign-up sheet in Perkins Hall.

CHURCH FOUNDATION BOARD MEMBERS NEEDED

Please help us by serving on our foundation board – quarterly meetings on Thursdays at 5:15 pm. If interested in learning more, please see Dave Foote or Pastor Jay.

DISCOVERY GARDENS PRESCHOOL

Volunteers are always needed at Discovery Gardens Preschool. Please see Yoichi or Pastor Jay if you are interested in volunteering, whether it be for an hour a week or more.

PREACHING SERIES ON OUR STAINED-GLASS WINDOW

How does our church and scripture relate to the scenes in our window?
Sept. 10 – Magna Carta; Sept. 17 – Gutenberg; Sept. 24 – Wycliffe;
Oct. 1 – Mayflower; Oct. 8 – Harvard; Oct. 15 – U.S. Constitution; Oct. 22 – United Nations; Oct. 29 - Luther

VAN MINISTRY

Our Van Ministry is up and running! Bill Rouse has volunteered to head up this vital ministry. If you need a ride to church, please give him a call by Saturday. Bill Rouse: 602-769-5770. Our many thanks to Bill for this ministry!



OUTREACH AND MISSIONS

August: We are helping our local Discovery Gardens Preschool. Education can help build a more robust society, a society wherein everyone may find greater opportunity to realize their dreams. You may use our donation box in the front of the sanctuary. Or make a monetary donation for the purchase of supplies. Thank you for your participation in helping young people build a brighter tomorrow. Gary Gard, Outreach Chairperson.

Wish List for Discovery Gardens:

1. Construction paper

2. Washable colored pencils

3. Washable markers

4. Washable paints

5. Washable crayons
6. Scissors (blunt)

7. Glue sticks

8. Facial tissue

9. Hand sanitizer.

Parish Stewardship

Offerings		
	August	YTD
Offerings	\$ 5,827	\$ 73,376
Facility Use	\$ 1,352	\$ 8,210
Foundation	\$ -	\$ 42,876
Other		\$ 5,509
Total	\$ 7,179	\$129,971

Expenses		
	August	YTD
Expenses	\$ 16,712	\$183,273

Outreach Gifts		
Jan		
Prescott Comm. Cupb.	\$	490

Feb		
PASS	\$	140

March		
Habitat for Humanity	\$	165

April		
One Great Hour Share	\$	1,183

May		
Church World Service	\$	319

June		
Strengthen the Church	\$	280

July		
Pancake Breakfast	\$	3,027

August		
Discovery Gardens	\$	30

Sept		
OCWM		

Oct		
CCJ "Warm for Winter"		
Neighbors in Need		

Nov		
CCJ Family Christmas		

Dec		
CCJ Family Christmas		
UCC Christmas Fund		

Undesignated Missions		
YTD	\$	750

Famine Relief		
Special Offering	\$	795.00

Attendance; Monthly Average	
January	102
February	89
March	89
April	108
May	101
June	79
July	96
August	92

CONTACT US:

216 E. Gurley Street
 Prescott, AZ 86301
 928-445-4555
 fccprescott@gmail.com
 www.fccprescott.org

Administration**Office Hours**

Monday-Thursday

9:00 - 4:00

Friday: 9:00 - 1:00

Pastor Jay

Monday - Thursday

9:00 - 1:00

Other times by appointment

Cell: 928-899-9066

jayfccprescott@gmail.com

Regularly Scheduled

PASS MEAL

Once a month we provide
 a meal for the Prescott Area
 Shelter Services the 3rd
 Wednesday of every
 month at 5:00 pm.
 Sign-up sheet is in
 Perkins Hall.

CHOIR PRACTICE

On Summer Break

ALTER-NOTES

Meets at 12:00 for
 rehearsal in the Hazeltine
 Room after worship
 service.

BELL CHOIR PRACTICE

Meets for rehearsal at 11:00
 am on Thursdays

PRAYER CHAPEL

Called to Care weekly prayer
 group meets at 11:00 am on
 Mondays
 in the Chapel

CABINET MEETING

Meets the 4th Thursday of
 every month at 6:00 pm
 in the Office
 Conference Room.

PFLAG SUPPORT GROUP

Meets the 3rd Friday of
 every month at 6:30 pm in
 the Church Library/Chapel.
 See Julie J. for more details.

KNIT WITS

Meets the 1st & 3rd
 Tuesdays of every month
 from 1-3 pm in the Office
 Conference Room.

COMMUNION

An informal "Every Sunday
 Communion" takes place in
 the sanctuary after worship
 on Sundays except the first
 Sunday of the month which
 is our regular communion
 time.

PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDY

An informal study group
 meets on Thursday mornings
 at 9:30 a.m. in the Hazeltine
 room. All adults are
 welcome.



**PICNIC
IN THE
PARK!**

Annual Church Picnic

**SEPTEMBER 24TH AT
NOON AFTER WORSHIP SERVICE AT**

**GOLDWATER
LAKE PARK**

**VOLUNTEERS
WANTED FOR
PLANNING
AND SET UP**

**RSVP AND
BRING A
SALAD, OR A
DISH TO
SHARE**

FOOD, FUN, FELLOWSHIP!

First Cong. Church

Gurley Street

S. Mt. Vernon

S. Senator Hwy

*Head East on E. Gurley
 *Turn Right on S. Mt. Vernon
 *S. Mt. Vernon turns into Senator Hwy.
 *Turn Left at Goldwater Lake Park
 *Follow the signs.

North
 South
 W E