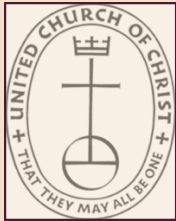


The Parish Caller

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

August 12, 2016



First Congregational
Church, United
Church of Christ,
Prescott

FEATURED THIS ISSUE

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This Week at a Glance...

- ◆Choir Rehearsal Sunday 9:00 am
- ◆Worship Service and Fellowship time Sunday 10:30
- ◆Welcome Leslee Sunday 11:30 after worship service
- ◆Bell Choir Rehearsal Thursday 11:00 pm

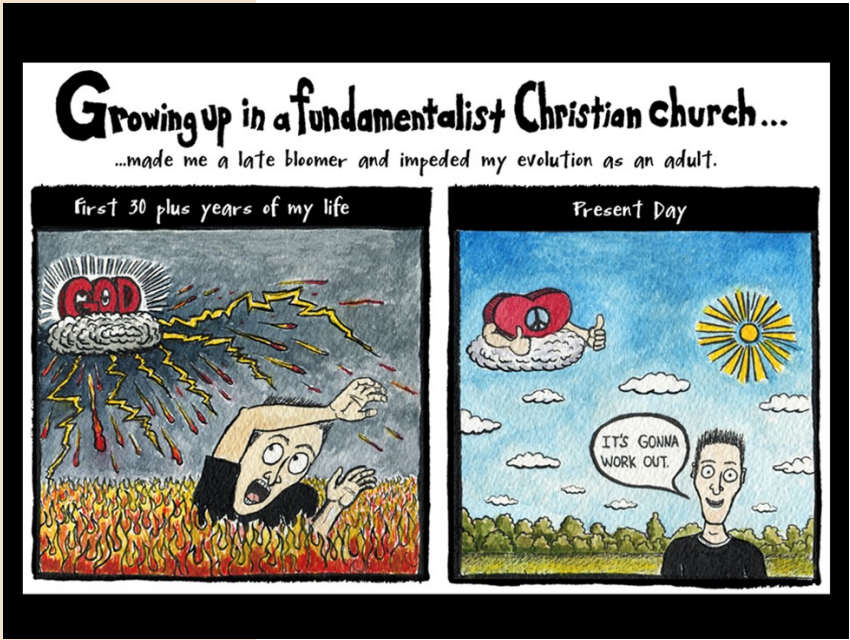
From the Pastor

OUR VAN ODDYSEY

On recent visits with Jean Woodburne and Mardell Hull at Las Fuentes, I tried to explain our long and winding journey toward the purchase of a church van. Both Jean and Mardell would benefit from being able to ride our van to church or other events. Jean offered a funny insight: "we have been talking about getting a church van for 20 years!" Our search is hampered by being far removed from Phoenix – if we find a used one we like it requires someone to drive down there to look at it. We also find that if we do see one online that may be a good fit, by the time we call to find out about it, someone has already purchased it. So, our odyssey continues ... If you would like to take up the search on our behalf, please let me know. You will be rewarded in knowing that every time someone came to church by the van, you made it happen!



**CONFERENCE MINISTER REV. BILL LYONS TO HELP PREACH
AUGUST 21
"FROM LEGALISM TO GRACE"**



Calling all ex-fundamentalists and those who have been hurt or damaged by fundamental churches!

Pastor Jay and Rev. Lyons will share their journeys from very conservative churches to an acceptance of a God of grace and love. Spread the word!

“Be The Church”
from Rev. Gary
Gard

“Be the Church”

“Be the Church”. You may have noticed this challenge printed on one of our church banners. It’s not a new challenge. When asked by an early disciple what his focus in life should be, Jesus told the story of the Good Samaritan. A man who showed great compassion and love. He then said, “Go and do likewise”. [Luke 10:37] In Mathew 25:34-40, Jesus gives further definition to what “go and do likewise” includes. Today we might call this, “being the church”, or “social gospel”, or “doing the work of love”.



Our church’s Mission Outreach Committee strives to be alert to this call. We listen for those crying to be loved, crying to be included, crying for justice; a justice pulsating with mercy and grace. But, this is not only our committee’s goal. It needs to be the goal of each of us. Think about it. **Think about what you are doing to “be the church”.** Maybe it’s volunteering your time with a project or organization whose goals include helping those in need. Maybe it’s the time you commit to befriend a person needing a friend. Maybe it’s being a “prayer warrior”. Maybe it’s pledging yourself to learn more so you can better understand and learn to love. Maybe it’s the time you commit to provide transportation for someone no longer able to drive their car. Maybe....

The literature table and bulletin board in Perkins Hall highlights some of what our Mission Outreach Committee is striving to do to show the world that we are more than a building. **We’d like to hear from you regarding what you are doing to “be the church”.** Consider dropping us a note. There’s a “Be the Church” response box on the literature table in Perkins Hall. Or, you may email your response to the church office (www.fccuccprescott.org) Or, e-mail to me at gpgard@cableone.net.

Thanks,
Gary Gard, (chairperson, Outreach Committee)

Announcements

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OUTREACH MINISTRY

This month’s mission emphasis will be the local Community Cupboard. This program helps to provide canned food to local impoverished families. A donation basket will be located in front of the sanctuary to receive your food donations.

PASS MEAL

The PASS meal is Wednesday, August 17 at 5:00 pm. Our church provides a monthly meal for Prescott Area Shelter Services, a home for women in transition. We need several items of food for that Wednesday. The meal items are brought to our parking lot at 5:00 pm. A sign-up sheet is on the table in Perkins Hall.

CHURCH FOUNDATION BOARD

The Foundation Board will meet Thursday, August 18 at 5:30 pm in the office conference room

SUNDAY SCHOOL STARTS AUGUST 21

Volunteers will be needed to follow our “safe church” policy of having two adults per classroom. Please see Bret Ely if you can volunteer on a Sunday morning.

MEN’S FELLOWSHIP

5:00 pm, August 26th at John Huff’s House. See John for more details.



Announcements
Continued



NEW MEMBERS RECEIVED SUNDAY, AUGUST 28 DURING WORSHIP

Please let the pastor or John McCurdy know if you are interested in joining the church. Orientation will be right after church on August 21 right after worship services. For those of you that received your new membership packet in the mail, give Julie a call in the office, 928-445-4555. Thanks!

PASTOR OPEN HOUSE

In a further effort to get to know one another, Cherie and I invite you to a “pastor open house.” It will be Sunday, August 28, from 12:30-4:30 at our home. More details and directions as the time approaches.



JAZZ VESPERS

This month vespers features OPUS Jazz Ensemble, August 31st

WOMEN’S FELLOWSHIP

Women’s Fellowship will meet Friday, Sept 2nd at 10:00 a.m. in Perkins Hall.

“Mind Fit” WORKSHOP

Rev. Marti Garrison will give a brief presentation on September 7 at noon on the topic of “Brain Fitness and Healthy Minds” to explain how Cognitive Therapeutics works. Marti is a coach for Home Care Assistance, doing one-on-one activities with those who want to prevent loss of brain function associated with aging and those who want to strengthen memory, focus, and attention that has been lost. This presentation is just one part of a six-week series called *Mind Fit*, trademarked by Home Care Assistance.

NATIVE AMERICA—THEN AND NOW

On September 15 at 4:00 pm, Manuel Lucero of the Cherokee Nation, addresses the treatment of Native Americans from the landing of Columbus to the present day. Cooperatively sponsored by: Temple B’rith Shalom; Granite Peak Unitarian Universalist Congregation; First Congregational United Church of Christ. Meeting held at the Granite Peak UU on 882 Sunset Avenue. Those that attend will receive a free pass to the POWWOW September 23-25 at Watson Lake Park.

CHURCH PICNIC

Heritage Park, Garden Ramada—September 25 at noon right after worship services. More information to come!

JUSTICE AT THE BORDER

October 7-10: Nogales Arizona. See page 3 for more details. See Julie in the office if you have an interest in participating.

From UCC.org

Commentary: Checking My Privilege by Rev. John Dorhauer

I have to check my privilege quite a bit these days.

I am constantly observing my actions, words, and behaviors while processing what my being white has done to affect certain responses and outcomes. The same is true of observing how others interact with me. How does my being white affect what they say and do to me, and how they behave around me?



It is an important part of my commitment to actively dismantle the white skin privilege that persists in America today. While I remain much invested in the ongoing work of deconstructing institutional injustice and systemic racism, I am also committed to being hyper-aware of and hyper-sensitive to how I am manifesting and/or receiving privilege. I believe justice requires both. I also believe I can't condition myself to see or to rebel against institutional privilege if I can't first see them in myself.

I don't pretend to be able to notice or catch all of my privileged behavior, and recognize that this is going to have to be a lifetime commitment. Getting it right

Continued on page 4

From UCC.org
Rev. John
Dorhauer

today doesn't end my investment in whiteness; nor does it guarantee that whatever getting it right today gained won't be lost when I forget tomorrow to repeat those behaviors.

In this ongoing discourse with myself and with others, I can't help but notice a division that is emerging between privileged whites and traumatized black leaders. Specifically, I refer to reactions to the Black Lives Matter movement, which itself is a response to an increasingly militarized police force whose proclivity for racial profiling is costing black and brown lives.

Privilege is the divide that distinguishes the responses of one community from the other. On the white side of the divide, community leaders not only conditioned by but also rewarded for their white privilege operate with a foundational assumption that police are there to protect us, and that we should not jump to conclusions – even in the face of overwhelming evidence – about a police officer's criminality. Palpable grief and concomitant rage erupt in the black community as one life after another is snuffed out under circumstances that do not seem to occur when the law officer and the suspect are both white.

Privilege doesn't engender that kind of rage and grief in white leaders. It inoculates whites from feeling the kind of trauma that has black and brown parents fearing for their children's lives. At best, white leaders mobilize as advocates not from the gut punch that rage produces, but from a commitment to live in a better, more just world. Their participation in the Black Lives Matter movement is important, it may even be necessary – but it comes from a very different place.

As America is forced to come face to face once again with its ongoing investment in whiteness, I hope and pray that white leaders everywhere watch, listen, and conform to the needs of those whose stake in this are far higher than their own – and do so with awareness that it will compromise their privileged status.

The Rev. John C. Dorhauer is the General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ.

Contact Us:

216 E. Gurley Street
Prescott, AZ 86301
928-445-4555

fccprescott@gmail.com

Administration Office Hours

Mondays: 9:00 - 4:00
Tuesday - Friday: 9:00 - 1:00
Pastor Jay
Monday - Thursday
9:00 - 1:00

Other times by appointment
Cell: 928-899-9066
jayfccprescott@gmail.com

WHATS HAPPENING AT FCC
Try our SignUpGenius on our website: www.fccprescott.org

PASS MEAL is a once-a-month ministry where we provide a meal for the Prescott Area Shelter Services the 3rd Wednesday of every month at 5:30 pm. Sign-up sheet is in Perkins Hall.

Funky Friday Game Night
Hosted by PFLAG
Everyone Welcome!
7-9 pm
1st Friday of every Month

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

CHOIR PRACTICE 9 am before worship on Sundays. See Jane Osborn if you would like to join the choir!
BELL CHOIR PRACTICE at 11 am on Thursdays

CALLLED TO CARE MINISTRY meets the 2th Tuesday of every month from 2-4 pm in the Office Conference Room. If you are interested in being part of this ministry, see Marilyn Kerstine.

PFLAG SUPPORT GROUP meets the 3rd Friday of every month at 6:30 pm in the Church Library. See Julie J. for more details.

EXPLORING FAITH
Living the Questions Study Group
Looking into new topics, please let Pastor Jay if you are interested
~And~
Monday Evening Discussion Group 6 pm in the Church Library

CABINET MEETING meets the 4th Thursday of every month at 6:30 pm in the Office Conference Room.

LAS FUENTES
1035 Scott Dr., Prescott
SPIRITUAL LIVING Class is held the 3rd Thursday of every month at 10 am, led by Called to Care Ministry.
~And~
Worship Service is also held the 2nd Sunday of every month at 3 pm, led by Pastor Jay.

BE THE CHURCH
Protect the environment.
Care for the poor.
Forgive often.
Reject racism.
Fight for the powerless.
Share earthly and spiritual resources.
Embrace diversity.
Love God.
Enjoy this life.

