

The Parish Caller

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

August 7, 2015

First Congregational
Church, United
Church of Christ,
Prescott



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This Week at First Congregational Church...

- ◆ **Knit Wits** meet Tuesday from 1-3 pm in the church conference room
- ◆ **PASS** meal will be delivered to the church parking lot at 5 pm on Wednesday
- ◆ Pastor Jay will **"Out of the Office"** from 9-11 am this Thursday
- ◆ **Spiritual Living** at Las Fuentes gathers at 10 am this Thursday
- ◆ **Embry Riddle Orientation Booth** Thursday 1-3
- ◆ **Bell Choir Rehearsal** meets at 11 am this Thursday

From the Admins' Office

Julie Jaquette

Today marks the first anniversary of my employment here at this church. When I reflect on this I realize what a fast year it has been! I love this church and everyone here. I love my job! Thank you to everyone that has been patient with me while I find my way around all of the many aspects of church organization.

It has been a pleasure working with our new minister, Rev. Jay Wilcher. What a good listener and friend he has been to me and my family! We are truly blessed to have him here at First Congregational Church. He brings a wealth of experience and knowledge with him that I value immensely. He is very dedicated to us all and works hard every week looking for new and fresh ways to reach out to the community we live in. I frequently hear of and witness the "extravagant welcome" being used in all aspects of his work.

I am excited about all of the new activities we are introducing here at the church. There are exciting opportunities for everyone to participate and explore. We can always use extra help so if something looks good to you, please feel free to jump in and offer a hand. Also, I would love any ideas and suggestions. Thanks for making this a great first year! ~Julie Jaquette

Here are some of the upcoming activities:

We will have a booth at the new student orientation event at Embry Riddle

Aeronautical University on Thursday, August 20, from 1-3 pm. This is a chance to introduce our church to the first-year parents and students. If you have a connection with the school or an interest in helping us out that day, please let me know.

The Emergent Chapter of PFLAG, (Parents, Family/Friends of Lesbians and

Gays) has been meeting here on the third Friday of each month in the church Library for a few months now and the group is growing! Together with them, our church is hosting a "What is PFLAG?" forum on the evening of September the 23rd. This is a chance to come and ask questions and show support to this program. They also will be holding a "Funky Friday Bingo Night" fundraiser on the 28th of August at 7pm. Everyone is welcome to attend both of those nights. *PFLAG envisions a world where diversity is celebrated and all people are respected, valued and affirmed inclusive of their sexual orientation and gender identity and expression.*

Intergenerational Wednesday night program (5:30-7:30pm), beginning

September 16th and continuing each Wednesday night for 10 weeks. The components are usually the same: a shared meal, a time for Bible learning, and a time for fun. Think of it as intergenerational vacation Bible school or a one-room schoolhouse.

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From the Admin's Office

From the Admin Office

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Why do we need to do this? If we desire to have children in the church, then we need to provide programs and entry points for youth other than Sunday morning. Adults enjoy it as well. It is another way to experience shared meals, fellowship, learning, and fun. It becomes a mid-week oasis from the regular routine. And a chance to not stress about what's for dinner! So, give it a try. Often times people not currently attending church find this to be their entry point to the congregation, so invite others to join us. Our thanks to Tawnya Worthington for being willing to serve as a co-coordinator for this ministry. Linda Foote has agreed to help out as well. We need all of you to help out in some way. More to come...

Christine Mack, public relations liaison with Habitat for Humanity told Pastor

Jay of our long history of support and partnering with Habitat. Around 70 homes have been built in our area through the years, and there are plans for many more in coming years. All sorts of volunteer opportunities are available in addition to helping in the building process. Pastor Jay would like us get more personally involved with Habitat, so if this is an interest of yours, please let us know.

We are quietly working on the beginnings of an environmental ministry in

the church. It will be our focus on Wednesday night, September 30th during our Intergenerational Wednesday night program. We had an initial meeting about two weeks ago where our own Chuck Budinger led us in a discussion of local water concerns. Peter Pierson of Prescott Creeks was also at the meeting and so was Grace Burford of Prescott College. She was formerly the religious studies professor and is now shifting to a role as the college chaplain. We talked about how she might help bring some students to the meeting on the 30th. Pastor Jay has been talking with Peter and Chuck, and wants to have a "hands-on" service project ready a week or two after the meeting to allow the students to participate – Prescott Creeks will help us with that. The vision is that we eventually broaden our tent through the interfaith group and become a large "Caring for Creation" group in the city. We will also look at our church practices as well – moving away from disposables. If environmental ministry and environmental justice are of interest to you, please plan to join this task group.

ON THE HORIZON:

- **Recovering Fundamentalist Group**
- **Theology on Tap**

Ministry Opportunities

At our recent cabinet meeting, several opportunities for member involvement were identified. We need volunteers to help in the following areas:

- **Habitat for Humanity Church Liaison** — Volunteer to represent our church
- **Kitchen Coordinator** — *Lillian Morales has filled this position! Thanks Lillian!*
- **Dress the Church** — banners, flowers, etc. for Sundays
- **Gardeners** — *We already have two volunteers!*
- **Intergenerational Night Co-Coordinator** — to work with Tawnya Worthington on our Wednesday night program September to November
- **Youth/Christian Education** — *We have three applicants for this position!*
- **Vitality Expanded** — Vitality is the name we give to our visitor outreach efforts. Thanks to all of you that reach out to the visitors of our church! As we grow we need help connect with all of the many visitors that have been coming. Simple note cards, calls and sharing information goes a long way.
- **Social Media Building** — Post on Facebook to build followers

Ministry Opportunities

Broken Bootstraps

Broken Bootstraps

Written by Linda Jaramillo From the UCC.org Website

"Making it big" in this country means being worth a lot of money. It is not easy to get rich (in money) if you do not have wealthy parents or grandparents. It is doubtful that someone who was born and grew up in poverty can become wealthy. The assumption that a person "came from poverty, but worked hard and pulled themselves up by their bootstraps and made it big" is an unlikely reality in our current economic system. The problem is our capitalistic culture regularly measures our importance and success by how much money we make rather than the moral and ethical values by which we live our lives.



A Pew Research Study found that a child in the lowest income range has only a 4% chance of changing that to the highest range when he or she becomes an adult. There are more than 16 million children who live below the federal poverty level now and this number has grown by 23% since 2007. Pulling ourselves up the by the bootstraps is a myth, because bootstraps in this country are not only weak, they are broken.

The National Center for Children in Poverty at Columbia University indicates that 22% of children in the United States are part of families whose incomes are less than \$23,550 a year for a family of four. Basic expenses like housing, nutritious food, transportation, and health care and child care cost twice that much annually. Taking these basic needs into consideration, this translates into the fact that 45% of children live in low income families. The most vulnerable are children under the age of 6 years old; 48% of children at this age are in low-income families.

Sadly, we often blame the situation on parents. We accuse them of either not working hard enough or not managing their money well. The truth is that many of these parents are working in jobs, often more than one that pay very low wages and are part-time or unstable. It is very difficult to make ends meet under these circumstances and impossible to manage money you don't have. Bootstraps are broken and the children we say we value are paying the price.

Research also proves that poverty is the single greatest threat to the well-being of children. To turn the tide on the tragedy of childhood poverty, we must demand that every child's basic needs are met regardless of their family's income. Every child must have access to early childhood education programs and quality public schools, no matter where they are located. They must have nourishing food and safe shelter to thrive rather than just survive. We cannot just take care of our own little neighborhood or community. We must invest in the future of ALL our children if we are to claim that we are a moral and just society.

This is a problem with our economic system and not the fault of our children. In the current flurry of political positioning by presidential candidates, I want to hear them describe how they will address this national tragedy of childhood poverty that is growing by leaps and bounds each year. I don't want to hear about how hard work helps you get rich. It's not about pulling up your bootstraps at all. It's time for us to commit to the well-being of all families.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Outreach for August

Outreach Ministry: August Focus and Food Donations

The Prescott Community Cupboard is always in need of donations, whether canned or boxed foods or money. First Congregational Church has always been a staunch supporter of this community project. For the month of August we ask that you contribute macaroni and cheese. This is a favorite of our neighbors in need. There are baskets at each entry for your donations. Please help. Thank you!

Another way to help is to bag orders. Our church does this once every six weeks. We work in teams for one week. If you are interested in helping with this job please see Al Beeson. He is our church representative for Community Cupboard. The more the merrier!

Child Care	<p><i>Our Church is Growing...</i></p> <p>Anyone interested in helping with our child care for preschool-aged children during worship can sign up in Perkins for a Sunday or two. Crafts, materials, and books are also available for more structured fun. This is a needed and fun ministry. Please see Julie Jaquette in the church office. Thanks!</p>
Called to Care	<p><i>Called to Care is seeking interested people...</i></p> <p>Called to Care is seeking compassionate individuals interested in participating in our Ministry. Please see Marilyn Kerstine.</p>
Bell Choir	<p><i>Bell Choir Rehearsal held August 6th...</i></p> <p>Practice is held on Thursday mornings at 11 am. If you are interested in joining see Carole Sue Linson, 928-717-4494 or cslinson@yahoo.com.</p>
Summer Choir	<p><i>Do you enjoy singing? Then SUMMER CHOIR is for you!</i></p> <p>July and August, the Chancel Choir invites you to join us for Sunday morning worship. We will meet before the worship service at 9:30 for a half hour practice and sing two responses and an easy hymn for the anthem. No choir robes! Just come and enjoy singing with us. For more information, please contact Jane Osborn, 713-4752 or prescottsong@hotmail.com.</p>
ONGOING AND WEEKLY EVENTS AT THE CHURCH	<p>EXPLORING FAITH GROUPS</p> <p>Sunday morning class is currently on Summer Break and will resume after Labor Day. ~And~</p> <p>Monday evening discussion group is taking August off, and will resume on Labor Day.</p>
	<p>CHOIR PRACTICE SUMMER SCHEDULE CHANGE: Sunday 9:30 am in the Sanctuary. See Jane Osborn if you would like to join the choir!</p>
	<p>BELL CHOIR PRACTICE meets Thursday mornings at 11:00 am in the Sanctuary. See Carole Sue Linson for details.</p>
	<p>CALLED TO CARE MINISTRY meets the 4th Tuesday of every month from 2:00 to 4:00 pm in the Office Conference Room. If you are interested in being part of this ministry, see Marilyn Kerstine.</p>
	<p>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.</p>
Ways to Subscribe to the Weekly Parish Caller:	<p>KNIT WITS meets the 1st & 3rd Tuesdays of every month at 1:00 to 3:00 pm in the Office Conference Room.</p>
First Congregational Church of Prescott, UCC 216 E. Gurley Street Prescott, AZ 86301 928-445-4555 fccprescott@gmail.com	<p>LAS FUENTES SPIRITUAL LIVING SERVICE is held the 3rd Thursday of every month at 10:00 am, led by Called to Care Ministry. ~And~</p> <p>Service is also held the 2nd Sunday of every month at 3:00 pm, led by Pastor Jay. Address: Las Fuentes Resort Village, 1035 Scott Dr., Prescott.</p>
	<p>AGAPE SOUP SUPPER meets the 2nd Wednesday of every month at 5:30 pm in Perkins Hall. Sign-up sheet is in Perkins Hall.</p>
	<p>CABINET MEETING meets the 4th Thursday of every month at 6:30 pm in the Office Conference Room.</p>
	<p>PFLAG SUPPORT GROUP meets the 3rd Friday of every month at 6:30 pm in the Church Library. See Julie J. for more details.</p>
	<p>LADIES' FRIENDLY goes out to dinner after church the 2nd Sunday of every month. Currently on Summer Break.</p>
Administration Office Hours	
Pastor Jay	