

The Parish Caller August 14th 2020

On Call Pastor

for

August 3rd thru 16th, Jane Cheek, 928-830-7699

for

August 17th thru 30th, Harry Strong, 719-291-0779

Parish Caller Submissions

If you would like an article or information posted in the Parish Caller, please email it to Staci Robbins, StaciRobbins@outlook.com, by Noon on Thursday. Thanks!

A Message from Jane Cheek

Knowing Good and Evil by Molly Baskette
July 31, 2020

But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die; for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." - Genesis 3:4 (NRSV)

(Psst, white folks. This one's for you.)

The white colonizers who came to the land we live on now invariably thought themselves to be good guys wielding peaceful tools: a cross, a hoe, an oar. They maintained that they came here for religious freedom, or to grow food and escape poverty, or to explore and tame the wilderness from sea to shining sea.

But crosses, hoes and oars can also be used as hammers. And to a hammer, they say, everything looks like a nail. Genocide, kidnapping, enslavement, and forced conversion are the shadow side of our sunny history in the UCC.

If you can trace your lineage back to Pilgrim and Puritan forebears, to German farmers and crafters, maybe you've known all along that your ancestors were hammers. Maybe you are just coming into fuller

awareness, and it's painful to trade ancestral pride for shame.

As uncomfortable as it is to face the evil embedded in the origin story of our country, it is even more painful to face the evil in ourselves – the complicity, cowardice, materialism, and racial bias that persist – especially when we, like our ancestors, need to understand ourselves as only good, rather than as the mixed bag that is every human being.

This myth of the serpent convincing Eve to eat the fruit of the tree of good and evil is just that: a myth. We don't yet fully know the difference between good and evil, particularly in ourselves.

But if the last few months are any indication, perhaps we whites are finally daring to take a bite of that forbidden fruit to awaken to a new consciousness. It is a bitter fruit, but it won't kill us – the serpent was right about that. It is, rather, good and healing medicine.

It won't make us God, but it will bring us closer to heaven.

Prayer: God, help me to bear the discomfort of examining the myths of the past and of this present, even if it means finding out that I am not as good as I thought I was. Release me into the freedom to accept my whole nature: good and bad, mixed together, always beloved, and able to do better now that I see more like you do. Amen.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR Molly Baskette is Senior Minister of First Congregational Church UCC in Berkeley, California, and the author of the best-selling *Real Good Church*, *Standing Naked Before God*, and her newest baby, *Bless This Mess: A Modern Guide to Faith and Parenting in a Chaotic World*.

Mandala Prayer Rock



Mandala Rock Instructions

Materials:

Acrylic paints in several colors OR nail polish in several colors

Clear nail polish

A flat rock – wash and dry. (About 2 – 3 inches wide... Small is better

to put in your pocket!)

Wooden toothpicks; cut the points of some of them – these are what you use to make perfect, round dots.

A small brush to paint the center dot (or, a **foam stamp** if you have one). A **Q-tip** will also work!

- Using the photo above as a guide, start in the middle: either paint a larger round dot, or stamp one. Let it dry a little, then, add some colored dots around the inside of it. . (I recommend that you spread some of the paint on a piece of foil, that way you can dip a little blob with the flat end of the toothpick, then do a “straight up, then down” tap where you want to paint – practice on a piece of paper before you actually paint your rock).

- Paint a ring of dots around the large one using another color – try to keep them spaced as evenly as possible. Do another ring of dot in different colors – this time, try to do a pattern of them (large, small, large, small) Follow the example above for ideas – you should be able to put dots in the open spaces left by the previous ring

- Keep adding rings until you run out of space. Then, get creative with the area around your mandala, or leave it blank. . The idea is to fill in as many evenly spaced rings of dots as you can on your rock.

- Let the paint dry, then coat the whole top of your rock with the clear polish. Let the first coat dry, and put a second coat on it. This should protect your painting, and help it last a long time.

Have fun, and have your prayer rock ready for next Sunday's worship!

Dear Friends,

In these days of uncertainty and worry, it's good to be reminded that we truly aren't alone. This group of young people live in New York City; the ages range from 7 - 18 years. Please click on the link, watch their young faces sing with true feeling, and enjoy a few minutes of God's Presence through their song.

Jane Cheek

You'll Never Walk
Alone

AUGUST MISSION NEWS

Mission Outreach News: For August, our DACA Fund will be our mission emphasis. Donations will help our DACA

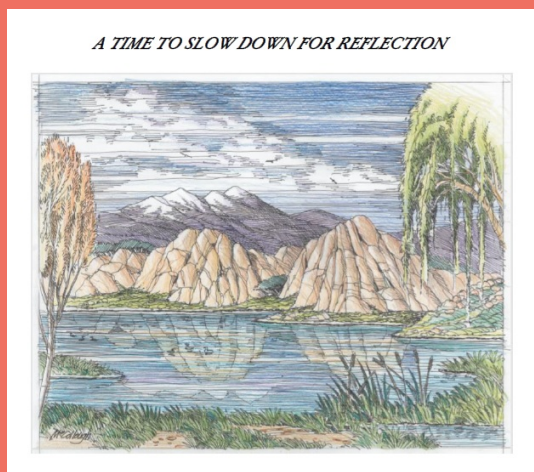
family to meet their educational expenses. Franceny is continuing her studies at Prescott College, expecting to earn her degree in sociology/psychology in December 2021. Her older brother, Francisco, is a senior at the U of A. He has only 2 classes remaining before his graduation, either this December or next May. Franceny's younger brother, Fernando, will be pursuing his studies in Construction Management at Yavapai College.

Donations last month (July) went to the Yavapai Food Bank in support of their "Start Right" program. "Start Right" will host upwards of 2,000 K-12 children from impoverished families needing school supplies.

Thanks to your contributions, we support multiple mission projects throughout the year. This includes the on-going work of our church volunteers who regularly pack food bags for the Prescott Area Community Cupboard (PACC) and provide meals to the women and children sheltered at the Prescott Area Shelter Services (PASS). Our next PASS meal will be delivered on Wednesday, August 19th. Both Angela Imbierowicz (PACC team captain) and Patty Gard (PASS team coordinator) thank you for your service as volunteers.

On behalf our Mission Outreach Committee (Helaine, Berman, Becky and Bill Bryant, Patty Gard, Linda Moore, Staci Robbins, and Gary Gard, chairperson) thank you for remembering that we have been blessed to be a blessing. [Genesis 12:2]

PASTOR JAY'S SABBATICAL



Pastor Jay will continue with his planned 2020

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

sabbatical over the summer months. The sabbatical committee has prepared a brochure to share information about his sabbatical. It will also be helpful in answering your questions about how church will operate in his absence.

A digital copy of the brochure is available on the Church website, in the Resources area, <http://www.fccprescott.org/sabbatical>.

Paper copies of the brochure will be available; please call the church office to get a copy mailed to you.

Here is a look at the summer ahead:

- Sabbatical Schedule of Sundays - Guest Preachers
- Lloyd - first 2 Sundays of July
- Bill - last 2 Sundays of July
- Harry - first Sunday of August
- Jane - second and third Sundays of August
- Rev. Dr. Michael Friday (Ralph's friend from Connecticut via recording) - fourth and fifth Sundays of August

you! You can set up a one-time check or recurring scheduled check amount.

- Mail 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

More info on Pastor Jay's Sabbatical



Celebrating YOU!!!

Anniversaries

WAGNER, Ralph & Susan Lemons	09/05
GILGES, Ralph & Cheryl	09/09
BRYANT, Bill & Becky	09/22
JAQUETTE, Julie & Sandra Johns	09/24
FONE, DJ & Marita Callaway	09/28

Birthdays

BEESON, Al	08/03
BRUHN, Mary	08/03
PREBLE, Murl	08/08
CHRISTOPHER, Jim	08/10
IMBIEROWICZ, Angela	08/11
OSBORN, Jane	08/12
WALKER, Brent	08/18
JONES, Tarah	08/22
GILGES, Cheryl	08/27
SANDSTROM, Paul	08/30
BROUSSARD, Suzanne	09/06
DINSMAN, Christy	09/07
MCCOLLOUGH, Dennis	09/09
MACY, Tom	09/14
MATSUMOTO, Yoichi	09/18
RELTH, Arlene	09/22
WILSON, John	09/28
KAUL, Linda	09/29