



First Congregational Church Prescott

United Church of Christ

a just world for all

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

FROM PASTOR JAY

How sad to hear the news this week from Pennsylvania regarding the abuse of one thousand children by at least 300 Roman Catholic priests. And that is just one state! I thought it was a good time to let you know that we take our safe church policy seriously. It is not easy because it costs money, but how do you measure the cost of even one abused child? We have four teachers downstairs each Sunday so there are always two adults with the children at all times. We employ teachers from Discovery Gardens Preschool, thus being sure they have been vetted by our local school system. We have security measures in place to keep the children safe during their time here on Sunday mornings, and often there is a police officer stationed outside. I attend yearly boundary training required by our conference, and I am committed to maintaining proper boundaries in all pastor-parishioner relationships. It is hard to hear the stories from abuse victims in Pennsylvania. The church should be the last place one is violated.



**Making our Church
Safe for All**

This Sunday we look at a story from David's life that is pure gospel - good news of grace and mercy. It will remind you of Jesus' ministry (1 Samuel 30). Denise Nasso will be our musical guest. She will sing a Billie Holiday song.

Grace and Peace,

Jay

1 Samuel 30	Receiving Grace and Mercy
2 Samuel 1	David: A Model of Dealing with Pain and Loss
2 Samuel 2-4	Dealing with Difficult People and Situations
2 Samuel 5	Discerning God's Direction and Timing
2 Samuel 6	Encountering the Holy
2 Samuel 7	When God Says No
2 Samuel 9	David and Mephibosheth
2 Samuel 11-12	A "Me Too Moment" - Abuse of Power
2 Samuel 14-15	Family Troubles
2 Samuel 16-18	When You Are at Your Lowest
2 Samuel 22	David: Fully Alive to God
2 Samuel 23	The Blessing of Communion
1 Chron. 28-29	Facing Death

LOCATION CHANGE: PASTOR BIBLE STUDY EVERY THURSDAY, 9:30-10:30 AM
Pastor Jay leads a weekly Bible Study on Thursdays at 9:30 am in the conference room in the church office.

COMMENTARY: AN IMMIGRANT'S STORY

August 16, 2018

Written by Talitha Arnold

This story has been difficult to write because it doesn't yet have an ending, and in all likelihood, it will not be a happy one.

Two weeks ago Juan, a friend of several people in the United Church of Santa Fe (including me), left his house to go to work at a job site. He stopped to get gas and a few minutes later, he was picked up by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and transported to a detention center in El Paso, Texas, three hundred miles away. Because his cell phone was confiscated, he had no way of contacting his wife and children for several days.

Although the city of Santa Fe has declared itself a Sanctuary City, Juan and his family live in Santa Fe County because it's affordable. It's also less safe from ICE pickups.

Juan has lived and worked in New Mexico for twenty-five years. Originally from Mexico, he crossed the U.S. border as a twenty-something to find work. And work he did, first as a day laborer and then as a handyman who taught himself to install drywall and do stucco repair. He met and married his wife Lucia, who was a U.S. resident. Together they raised three children and bought a fixer-upper house in Santa Fe.



Both daughters earned academic scholarships at the University of New Mexico. The older one is applying for medical school. Juan's son was to leave soon for the University of Wisconsin.

Because Juan initially came without papers, he worked with an immigration lawyer several years ago, who assured Juan everything was in order for him to stay. Thirty thousand dollars later, the lawyer skipped town, leaving Juan's immigration status in limbo. A few years back, several friends helped Juan find another lawyer. Again, he thought things were settled.

Juan's English is about as good as my Spanish, which means communication, especially around legal issues, can be difficult. Moreover, U.S. immigration laws and practices are confusing at best, and it's unclear what prompted ICE's action. What is clear is that a man who has worked hard all his adult life to care for his family and be a solid, contributing member of his adopted country, now sits in a cell three hundred miles away, awaiting likely deportation. What's also clear is that one more family is being split apart by our draconian immigration policies and practices.

There is much more to be said about immigration and border issues, particularly since our most of our Southwest Conference congregations are composed primarily of persons who have also migrated here from other parts of the U.S. But that's a conversation for another day.

I would have included a picture of Juan and his family with this article, but we don't want to put them in further jeopardy. Instead, here is a picture of an ecumenical "Witness at the Border" two years ago. As UCC members gather in Arizona August 26-30 for this month's "Faithful Witness at the Border," please keep in prayer the people of New Mexico and Chihuahua, along with other states on both sides of the border. And please pray for Juan and his family.

The Rev. Talitha Arnold is Senior Pastor of the United Church of Santa Fe, a UCC congregation in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

RINGING BELLS REHEARSAL TIME IS MOVING TO 9:00 THURSDAYS

We are looking for new ringers that would like to come and try with us. It is necessary that you read treble clef music.

Call if you are interested. Director Carole Sue Linson M.M. 928 717 4494



BORDER MISSION TRIP UPDATE - WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 6PM, PERKINS HALL

Rev. Gary and Patty Gard will give an update on their trip to the border with our conference group.

NEW MEMBERS WILL BE RECEIVED DURING WORSHIP ON SEPTEMBER 16

If you are interested in learning more about joining the church, please see Pastor Jay or our co-moderators: Patty Lantrip and Rev. Marti Garrison

PRAYER CHAPEL - TUESDAY

On Tuesdays at 11:00 A.M. in meeting room #2, Called to Care continues a weekly Prayer Chapel open to whomever wishes to pray with us.

PASTOR BIBLE STUDY EVERY THURSDAY, 9:30- 10:30 AM

Pastor Jay leads a weekly Bible Study on Thursdays at 9:30 am in the conference room in the church office.

SECURITY TEAM

Do you have an interest in security matters? We are looking for new team members to help with our churches security protocol each Sunday.



August 19 - Denise Nasso will be our musical guest
August 26 - Womansong will be our musical guests

GREETERS

Sunday August 19: Angela, Christy and the tMcColloughs

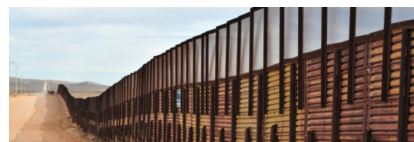
Sunday August 26: Angela, Christy and the McColloughs.

ACTIVITY BAGS

To help your little ones pass the time before the Children's Time, you will find colored activity bags hanging on the entry doors of the sanctuary for the children to enjoy. Please leave these activity bags in the pews when the children leave for Sunday school.

WITNESS AT THE BORDER

Many of you have asked what more can be done to respond to government policies that detain and separate families. The Southwest Conference UCC, acting with Justice and Local Church Ministries, is issuing two calls to action:



- Join us for a Faithful Witness AT the Border on August 26 - 30, 2018 - This experience will include a humanitarian mission to the Mexican side of the border to visit and take supplies to asylum-seekers, solidarity actions at detention facilities, advocacy training, and more.
- Join our Faithful Witness FOR the Border - Can't come to the border? Congregations and conferences are invited to host their own local events that might include: Beginning the process for becoming an Immigrant-Welcoming Congregation, organizing and attending town halls and candidate forums, raising money and collecting supplies for humanitarian relief at the border, and more.



ALTER-NOTES

Would you like to sing or can play an instrument in a fun and crazy group? Anything goes-- pop, folk, blues, spirituals, African, calypso, jazz and even classical. We play in full group or break-out groups, as well as instrumentalists.

Contact Melissa Gates phone: 207-391-3276
Alter-Notes is an alternative music group that meets at 12:00 for rehearsal on the Chancel each Sunday.

MISSIONS AND OUTREACH NEWS

Mission Notes: Our August mission emphasis is the Discovery Gardens Preschool (DGP). The DGP student body includes students who are developmentally challenged as well as those whose parents are living at or below the federal poverty level. In addition to receiving donated classroom supplies, we are supporting a DGP scholarship fund. This fund will help enable the attendance of children whose parents need financial assistance. If you would like to participate in this month's project, please make your check payable to the church, with the memo, "Discovery Gardens".

Thank you for remembering that we are blessed to be a blessing.
(Genesis 12:2)

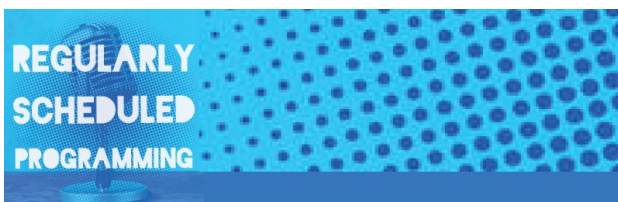
From August 26-30, there will be a week of events and discussion hosted by the Southwest Conference at the Good Shepherd UCC church in Sahaurita (SE of Tucson). The week will include: visiting a shelter in Nogales, Mexico, observing an immigration court hearing in Tucson, learning more about ministering to those seeking asylum and refuge. If interested in attending, contact our Mission Outreach chairperson, Gary Gard (928-910-2455).



"A JUST WORLD FOR ALL" NAME TAG CAMPAIGN

We are updating our name tags to support the UCC's emphasis of Justice for all.

You get a choice of lanyard or the new clip-on. Stop by Perkins Hall to update your Name Tag with the new UCC logo card to include "a just world for all".



PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDY

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

EVERY WEEK COMMUNION

"Every Sunday Communion" takes place in the sanctuary after worship on Sundays. Communion is open to all.

ONCE A MONTH COMMUNION

Our regularly scheduled communion is held the first Sunday of each month. Communion is open to all.

PRAYER CHAPEL

Called to Care holds a weekly prayer time at 11:00 am on Tuesdays in the Chapel downstairs. Place your prayer requests in the prayer box in Perkins Hall.

PASS MEAL

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

CABINET MEETING

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

VAN MINISTRY

If you need a ride to church on Sunday mornings, please let Bill Rouse know by the Saturday before. 602-769-5770

THE RINGING BELL CHOIR PRACTICE

If you would be interested in playing with us, we will train you! This is a fun and rewarding contribution to our worship. We meet for rehearsal at 11:00 a.m. on Thursdays.

CHANCEL SINGERS

If you like to sing, the Chancel Singers are eager to increase membership. We meet Sundays at 9:00 a.m. before worship services.

ALTER-NOTES

Alter-Notes is an alternative music group that meets at 12:00 for rehearsal on the Chancel each Sunday. If you like to sing or can play an instrument, we are looking for new members. We play folk, pop, Celtic, spirituals and anything else. Contact Melissa Gates phone: 207-391-3276

SUNDAY SCHOOL OPTIONS

Parents may take children to Sunday school downstairs before the service begins, or 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).

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
PRESCOTT, UCC
216 E. Gurley Street, Prescott, AZ 86301
Office: 928-445-4555
Pastor Jay: 928-899-9066
Julie: 928-710-1379

ADMINISTRATION
Monday - Thursday 9:00 - 4:00
Friday 9:00 - 1:00
PASTOR JAY
Monday - Thursday 9:00 - 1:00
other times by appointment

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