

# The Parish Caller August 21st 2020

## On Call Pastor

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

## A Message from Rev. Dr. Michael Friday

### Reflective Faith

Last month I challenged you about keeping faith. We all live by faith. The moment you get up and step onto your floor, you're exercising faith that your floorboards won't cave in and break beneath you. You get into an aircraft, unconcerned about the pilots' training, because you *trust* the airline has diligently taken care of that. During the flight, should you become nauseous, you take the pill the pharmacist gave you without checking to see if it's cyanide or poison. We live by faith. Not everyone we know lives by *religious* faith, but they live by faith, every one of them, and us.

Let's call those various versions of faith I've just described, *reflexive* faith, as opposed to *religious* faith. The two are not that far apart. We all live by *reflexive* faith: actions we take with little or no thought to inform the action. We don't debate the decisions; we don't pray about the actions; we just *do* them. Through habit, we've come to somehow know, even without thinking of it, that all will be well.

Religious faith, though, involves measures of contemplation, meditation, and deliberation. Religious faith can therefore also be called *reflective*. One kind of faith is *reflexive*, and another is *reflective*. But there is something that both share: *responsibility*. Whether you do something reflexively or reflectively, you should be responsible. Even though you get on a plane *reflexively* without checking pilot credentials, you do make sure to check in at the right gate and with the right airline to a selective destination! And even though a narrative in a holy book blames genocide on God, responsible people of religious faith know that there is never a reason to go out and slaughter people.

We Christians live by both versions of faith. Our Christian heritage trains us in reflection, whether it is in quiet times of meditation, or participating in corporate prayer while in public worship, or in listening to a sermon or in the debate and discussion of a study group or setting. This serves to better inform our reflexive faith, supposedly making our decisions more spiritually and biblically centered than our non-religious neighbor. The journey of faith, made by the characters of the Bible, or the classical writings of faith journey-makers like Chrysostom, Kierkegaard, a Kempis, Teresa of Avila or Catherine of Siena, Sadhu Sundar Sing, or Martin Luther King, Jr., offer ample fodder for reflective faith.

We assume that your pastor has been doing much of that kind of reflection during his sabbatical. My last settled ministry assignment came to an unhappy end two weeks after my sabbatical ended. This was due chiefly, to complications arising from some key parishioners' failure to engage in the same kind of deep reflection during my sabbatical (though encouraged to do so). Given that experience, I urge you, in these remaining days, to reflect deeply on who you are and whose you are. Do this, so to be ready to warmly and enthusiastically welcome back with readiness to continue this great ministry, the leader-partner God has given you. You owe it to him, to God, to yourselves, and to the city of Prescott and beyond that awaits your resumed partnership.

Rev. Dr. Michael P. Friday  
Bristol, CT.  
August 11, 2020.

## Five Finger Prayer

This Five Finger Prayer was introduced during Children's time last week. It can also be a great tool for children of any age!

### FIVE FINGER PRAYER

*Who can I pray for today?*

#### Leaders

Lord Jesus, today we pray for our leaders. Whether they are leaders in our class, our school or our community, each of them need God's guidance. Support them in their important roles.  
Amen

#### Teachers

Heavenly Father, today we pray for those who teach us, instruct us and heal us. Please give them support and wisdom to give direction to others.  
Amen

#### Loved Ones

Dear Lord, today we pray for those who are closest to us, our friends and family. May they remain safe, happy and healthy. Watch over them as they go about their day.  
Amen



#### Sick & Poor

Loving God, today we pray for those who are in need. Please look after them, heal them and guide them in your love.  
Amen

#### Me

Dear God, today I pray for myself. Help me to make good choices, to make the most of my learning and to be grateful for all I am lucky to receive.  
Amen

## 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 19<sup>th</sup>. Both Angela Imbierowicz (PACC team captain) and Patty Gard (PASS team coordinator) thank you for your service as volunteers.

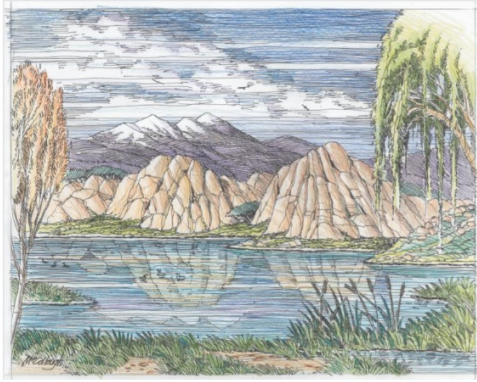
On behalf our Mission Outreach Committee (Helaine, Berman, Becky and Bill Bryant, Patty Gard, Linda Moore, Staci Robbins, and Gary Gard, chairperson) thank you for remembering that we have been blessed to be a blessing. [Genesis 12:2]

Update on other Church Mission Outreach projects. (1) The Prescott Community Cupboard reports that since the start of the pandemic in March, 3,730 food bags have been distributed serving 7,116 people. (2) The Prescott Area Habitat for Humanity is nearing completion of its 95th home for a low-income family in Chino Valley.



## PASTOR JAY'S SABBATICAL

*A TIME TO SLOW DOWN FOR REFLECTION*



Pastor Jay will continue with his planned 2020 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/sabatical>.

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

## SUPPORT YOUR CHURCH DURING CORONAVIRUS!

- Online – go to our website: [www.fccprescott.org](http://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 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