



# 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

*"Death of King Saul", 1848 by Elie Marcuse  
(Germany and France, 1817-1902)*

Sunday's text is 2 Samuel 1 - "David: A Model of Dealing with Grief and Loss." The David story gives us a chance to explore topics that are part of all human experience. What to do about revenge? What to do with our grief? David is certainly a magnanimous figure in this chapter. A good model for us. We do not get to see many magnanimous public figures these days. The acapella singing group "Womansong" will be our musical guests this Sunday.

See you then,

Jay

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.

## "WHAT MATTERS" SERIES

- When was a time that you felt especially welcomed?
- What did people do to make you feel welcome?
- Have you known a time when it was tough to be hospitable to another?
- When did your church especially demonstrate an extravagant welcome?

What Matters to Us" Jesus didn't turn people away, neither do we." When you're gutsy enough to make such a claim, it's not always easy to make good on it. Following Jesus' lead, the United Church of Christ strives to keep doors open to all. By God's grace—in the past and today—we do what needs to be done to be bold people of God's welcome.

Jesus lived and breathed gracious hospitality. Even though there were powerful people who opposed Jesus' extravagant welcome, he still embraced those who were often shunned. In the reign of God that Jesus spoke of, he declared there is room for all—children (Luke 18:15-17) and those who are hungry, thirsty, homeless, ill, poor, grieving, persecuted, and in prison (Matthew 25: 31-46 and Luke 6:20-26). Jesus put faith and hospitality together: "Whoever receives one whom I send receives me" and those who received Jesus, embraced God (John 13:20).

This kind of hospitality is characteristic of both God's faithfulness and, at our best, our faithfulness. God welcomes, and also feeds the hungry, forgives sins, stands with those who are poor and oppressed, comforts the suffering, and becomes home for those who wander. In gratitude, faithful people welcome strangers. A surprise in the Bible is the way you welcome a stranger expresses how you embrace the very presence of God (Genesis 18:1-8 and Luke 23:28-35).

The church, since its beginning, continues to "extend hospitality to strangers (Roman 12:13)." The church, after all, is a blessed company of strangers held together by the grace of God. UCC churches express God's extravagant welcome in a variety of ways. Our welcome embraces both those we invite to participate in our congregations, as well as those outside the church, with whom we work for God's justice and compassion. That is our prayer, our hope.

Who is welcome? Our churches are among those whose doors are open to God's children of different cultures, races, genders, ages, sexual orientations, abilities, economic situations, and theological traditions. It isn't always easy to be so open. Each UCC congregation prayerfully discerns and expresses how wide their doors and arms are open. Some state it this way, "We are a multicultural and multiracial, open and affirming, accessible to all, and just peace church." Wow, that's a mouthful, but check out the links to those words to discover the meaning, heart, and history behind the terms.

Once one enters the door, it's not a matter of "sit back, be quiet, speak only as we do." You, your



heart's questions and your gifts, are vital to the congregation. Both we and you grow together in faith and witness. Your distinct story of faith joins with centuries of stories that make up the Church, and specifically the United Church of Christ. In God's grace, you change: we change. We make a holy difference in each other's lives, and, together, in the world.

In gratitude, because God welcomes us, we are called to make bold stands. In behalf of and along with those who remain oppressed, suffering, alienated, and poor in God's world, we speak and act . "It's not an extravagant welcome to an 'anything-goes' religion, a comfortable form of Christianity, but to a costly form of discipleship," says John Thomas, current president and general minister of the UCC. Thomas calls this kind of discipleship "evangelical courage." It's the other side of the "extravagant welcome" coin. You see this risky faith expressed throughout our history that at times has been hidden. Inspired by God's gift of hospitality, we work for God's welcoming world of love and justice.

- Who do you pray might walk through your church's door?
- If they entered, what difference might it make to your church, to you, to them?
- What is God calling your church and you to do or say to create a more welcoming and just world?

**NEXT WEEK: WE BELONG TO CHRIST**

**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

# Wisdom cries out!

Just Peace Sunday | September 16, 2018



The Thirtieth General Synod called on the congregations of the United Church of Christ to mark the Sunday preceding September 21 (which the United Nation recognizes as the “International Day of Prayer for Peace”) as Just Peace Sunday.

**Observe Just Peace Sunday on September 16, 2018: Wisdom Cries Out!**

Just Peace is not a destination, but a path requiring awareness and constant vigilance to resolve existing and developing conflict in ourselves, our families, our communities, our institutions, and our world. This path requires non-violence when possible and even when impossible to engage in love and restraint. Just Peace envisions a renewed, vibrant, diverse, and sustainable world free of violence.

Just Peace is grounded in God's activity in creation; God’s covenant patience and provision in the wilderness; in the reconciling activity of Jesus Christ; in the presence of the Holy Spirit; and in the community of reconciliation. Shalom is the vision that pulls all creation toward a time when weapons are made into ploughs and all creatures lie down together without fear; where all have their own vine, fig tree, and dwell secure from want. As Christians, we offer this conviction to the world: Peace is possible!



**ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC  
HELD IN PERKINS HALL  
SEPTEMBER 30 AFTER  
WORSHIP SERVICE**



**TALENT WANTED  
AUDITIONS FOR DECEMBER  
RADIO DRAMA TO BE HELD  
NOVEMBER 10TH 10 a.m. -  
12:00**



**RADIO DRAMA  
PERFORMANCE  
DECEMBER 5TH 7:00 p.m.**





United  
Church of  
Christ

### BEATITUDE BLESSING FOR ALL WHO WORK FOR JUSTICE

Blessed are you, in your emptiness and in your desperate cries to God,  
For yours is the Grace of God,  
the Love that surpasses all understanding.

Blessed are you who cry for your own pain and for the suffering you witness.  
For the Holy Spirit is promised to you,  
groaning herself where words fall short.

Blessed are you who respond in nonviolence  
For you belong to God and one another,  
and life will flourish where you seek to protect it.

Blessed are you who ache and fast for justice,  
For you will witness the Love of God  
acting upon this earth.

Blessed are you who are led by empathy, quick to listen and slow to judge.  
You will sow gentleness, kindness and mercy.

Blessed are you who push deeper into your faith.  
You will be refreshed to go on.

Blessed are you who work for justice.  
You will know the binding Love of God in your life.

Blessed are you who suffer for that work.  
You make way for Resurrection.

Beatitude Blessing for All Who Work for Justice was written by the Rev. Tracy Howe Wispelwey

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#### 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

#### Bell Choir



#### 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 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.

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#### 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”.

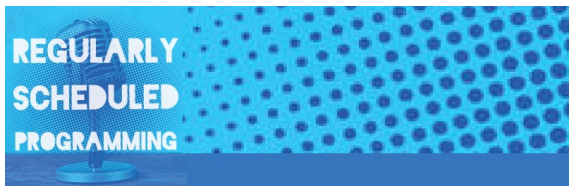


Thank you for remembering that we are blessed to be a blessing. (Genesis 12:2)

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).

Stewardship

Offerings			Attendance Monthly		Outreach Gifts					
	August	YTD	January	93	January		July		Undesignated Missions	
Pledges	\$ 5,130	\$ 57,611	February	113	Prescott Comm. Cupb.	\$ 325	CCJ Fair Start	\$ 970		YTD \$ 1,225
Non-Pledae	\$ 1,567	\$ 22,323	March	101	February		August		OCWM	
Facility Use	\$ 585	\$ 9,615	April	114	PASS	\$ 320	Discovery Gardens	\$ 640		YTD \$ 225
Foundation		\$ 79,065	May	104	March		September			
Memorials			June	102	HABITAT	\$ 275	Neighbors in Need		DACA	\$460
Total	\$ 7,282	\$159,664	July	111	April		October			
Expenses, Actual			August	110	OGHS	\$607				
	August	YTD	Sept		May		November			
Expenses	\$ 11,205	\$158,466	Oct		Rainbow Acres	\$ 355				
Annual Budget Needs			Nov		June		December			
	Annual		Dec		Pancake Breakfast (PCC) Strengthen The Church	\$ 2,876				
Expenses	\$249,300					\$ 559				



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

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).

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



# CONTACT US

**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