

The Parish Caller August 28, 2020

On Call Pastor

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

A Message from Moderator Ralph Wagner

Pastor Jay will be returning from his Sabbatical next week. It will be good to have him back amongst us. We, as a congregation, have also been on a Sabbatical. A time away from our Pastor's leadership. A time of reflection on who we are and who we want to be as a congregation.

It is becoming clear to me that the Holy Spirit is clearly leading us toward certain objectives. Every service this summer, to some extent, has called us to display compassion toward those suffering the most in our culture, particularly people of color. Pastor Jay has shared with me that his theme for the coming year will be in the same vein. I don't think it's a coincidence that our worship leaders this summer and Pastor Jay are on the same page but that it is the directive of God.

I know some of you want to get back to in person worship soon because you see that other churches in town are opening. Safety is our major concern but opening up is, of course, our desired goal, the sooner the better. For some of us, including myself, we will not return to an hour-long gathering within a closed space until a vaccine is available. Be assured that the Cabinet is working on this and many other problems and searching for the wisest and best solutions. Please email or call me if you have any concerns or suggestions.

Sincerely, Ralph O Wagner, Moderator

A Message from Lloyd Evans

"Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good."
Matt. 12:21

When Karl Barth wrote his commentary on the book of Romans he began his discussion of Chapter 12 with an essay titled, "The Problem of Ethics".

The apostle Paul is outlining to his readers a way or path of behavior we should be following as a disciple of Christ. We know that God created heaven and earth and that it is stated as being good. But then we are introduced to the element of evil in the form of the snake that tempts humankind. Evil becomes the enemy of God. This is why Paul tells the followers of Christ not to conform to a world that is dominated with evil but to have a transformed outlook based on what Jesus shared with us.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer in his book on "Ethics" states, "The news that God has become man strikes at the very heart of an age in which both the good and the wicked regard either scorn for man or the idolization of man as the highest attainable wisdom." (p.11) It is only through God being made man that it is possible to know the real man and not despise him. According to Bonhoeffer the real man is a person who is willing to follow what Christ has presented to us. "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God – what is good and acceptable and perfect." (Rom. 12:2) It follows therefore that we do not fashion ourselves according to the present form of this world, but according to its transformation.

Karl Barth was a product of the early 20th century. The reality of a depression, two world wars and the chaos they created was a challenge to Barth's thinking. He was very upset that the sovereign God and his Word would be so misused by the contemporary church as to support the political horror of war. In our present world situation we are confronted with the same dilemma that theologian Barth faced. Paul's words and the concept to love one another, to live in harmony with one another and to show humility are before us as our way to make this world a better place to live.

Efforts are still underway to co-opt religious faith for political ends. Recently there was an effort by a political group to form a coalition co-opting a religious group and their first target was here in Arizona. A large number of members of the targeted group sent a letter to the editor of the *Arizona Republic* condemning this political move. In their letter they stated, "For us this election is not about parties and tribalism. It is about reclaiming our core values. I am sure Karl Barth would have applauded this ability by people who are willing to stand up for church-state separation. We are also seeing some members of conservative evangelical groups speak out about being co-opted by the political process.

For us as members of a faith community we can only do our best by following the precepts set down by the apostle Paul in Romans chapter 12. Eugene Peterson's translation of the beginning of Romans 12 should be our guide. "So here is what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life – your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life-and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-informed maturity in you."

May God's love and peace be with you as we confront the issues of our everyday lives.

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, September 16th. Both Angela Imbierowicz (PACC team captain) and Patty Gard (PASS team coordinator) thank you for your service as volunteers.

Carmen Frederic, PASS Executive Director, has extended the following invitation to our church family: Please remember to join us for our 5th annual Open House on Wednesday, October 28th from 1-4 PM to see the finished new construction and the changes we made to the dorm! Location: Prescott Area Shelter Services | 336 N. Rush Street, Prescott, AZ 86301 | phone: 928-778-5933

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]

Thank you to our wonderful volunteers who packed at Prescott Community Cupboard during the week of August 17-21.

Monday - Lee Danaher and Jim Christopher

Tuesday - Patty Brenner and Marie Kissel

Wednesday - Sue Hodge-Parker and Anne Robinson

Thursday - Kathy and Don Stephens

Friday - David and Linda Foote

I am pleased to welcome two new volunteers to our team:
Lee Danaher and Anne Robinson.

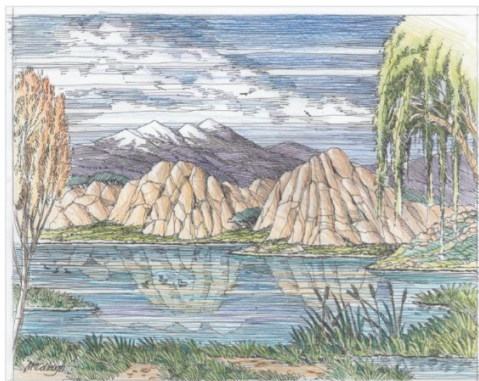
Additional volunteers are always welcome. Please contact me for details.

Angela Imbierowicz

angelaprescottaz@gmail.com

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

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 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](http://www.fccprescott.org)

- 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

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

