

The Parish Caller

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

August 7, 2015

**First Congregational
Church, United
Church of Christ,
Prescott**



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This Week at First Congregational Church...

- ◆ Las Fuentes Service held this Sunday at 3:00 pm, led by Pastor Jay
- ◆ Agape Soup gathers for dinner at 5:30 in Perkins Hall this Wednesday
- ◆ Jay is "Out of the Office" this Thursday and will be at the Wild Iris from 9-11
- ◆ Bell Choir Rehearsal meets at Thursday at 11:00 am

"Meet the Pastor" Luncheon at Las Fuentes



From Pastor Jay

I am excited that we are going to try to do a Wednesday night program (5:30-7:30pm), beginning September 16th and continuing each Wednesday night for 10 weeks. I have seen this be very successful in the past, and it is happening in churches all over the country in the present. The components are usually the same: a shared meal, a time for Bible learning, and a time for fun. Think of it as intergenerational vacation Bible school or a one-room schoolhouse. Why do we need to do this? If we desire to have children in the church, then we need to provide programs and entry points for youth other than Sunday morning. Adults enjoy it as well. It is another way to experience shared meals, fellowship, learning and fun. It becomes a mid-week oasis from the regular routine. And a chance to not stress about what's for dinner! So, give it a try. I have also seen people not currently attending church find this to be their entry point to the congregation, so invite others to join us. Our thanks to Tawnya Worthington for being willing to serve as a co-coordinator for this ministry. Linda Foote has agreed to help out as well. We need all of you to help out in some way. More to come...

We are quietly working on the beginnings of an environmental ministry in the church. It will be our focus on Wednesday night, September 30th during our Wednesday night program. We had an initial meeting about a week ago where our own Chuck Budinger led us in a discussion of local water concerns. Peter Pierson of Prescott Creeks was also at the meeting. I have recently met with Grace Burford of Prescott College. She was formerly the religious studies professor and is now shifting to a role as the college chaplain. We talked about how she might help bring some students to the

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From Pastor
Jay

From Pastor Jay Continued

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meeting on the 30th. And in talking with Peter and Chuck, our hope is to have a “hands-on” service project ready a week or two after the meeting to allow the students to participate – Prescott Creeks will help us with that. My vision is that we eventually broaden our tent through the interfaith group and become a large “caring for creation” group in the city. We shall see where it all goes, but at least we are trying to respond to our mandate to “exercise dominion over the earth” (care and responsibility). We will also look at our church practices as well – moving away from plastics, etc. If environmental ministry and environmental justice are of interest to you, please plan to join this task group.

I also met this week with Christine Mack, public relations liaison with Habitat for Humanity. She told me of our long history of support and partnering with Habitat. I think our own Joanne Lussier was in on the initial founding of our local chapter. North of 70 homes have been built in our area through the years, and there are plans for many more in coming years. All sorts of volunteer opportunities are available in addition to helping in the building process. I would like to see us get more personally involved with Habitat, so if this is an interest of yours, please let me know.

We will have a booth at the new student orientation event at Embry Riddle Aeronautical University on Thursday, August 20, from 1:00-3:00 p.m. This is a chance to introduce our church to the first year parents and students. If you have a connection with the school or an interest in helping us out that day, please let me know.

The ceiling in Perkins Hall is being secured and painted this week. It may take another week or two to finish, so please be careful as you spend time in the room. The finished panels look quite bright and fresh. Not to mention safe and secure! Thanks to the trustees for getting this done in August.

I continue to listen and learn as your new pastor. I am grateful for the gifts and talents of our staff and members. We are blessed in so many ways. Our friendliness during the passing of the peace and at our coffee time in Perkins Hall after worship are signs of a healthy church.

God bless, Jay



The old adage to “count your blessings” is still good advice. As Charles Dickens said, “Reflect upon your present blessings, of which every man has many, and not on your past misfortunes, of which all men have some.” And why? Because whatever you focus your energy on, your blessings or your misfortunes, is what you will inevitably draw more of into your life.

August Birthdays

Al Beeson	8/3	Roland Wood	8/22
Murl Preble	8/8	Sharon Larson	8/26
Jane Osborn	8/12	Tawnya Worthington	8/26
Mike de Jong	8/21	Craig Pitcher	8/30
Lillian Morales	8/21	Paul Sandstrom	8/30
Tarah Jones	8/22		

Ministry Opportunities

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At our recent Cabinet meeting, several opportunities for members to get involved were identified. We need volunteers to help in the following areas:

- A Kitchen Coordinator – **Lillian Morales has graciously volunteered to fill this position! Thanks Lillian!**
- Sunday – banners, flowers, etc.
- Gardeners to tend to the grounds out front on Gurley – John McCurdy will work with you on plantings.
- A co-coordinator to work with Tawnya Worthington on our Wednesday night Program September to November.
- A paid Youth/Christian Education part-time staff member working Sunday morning and Wed. night. **We have three applicants so far for this position!**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Announcements and Ways to get Involved

Pre-School Children’s Church needs helpers

Our Church is Growing...

Anyone interested in helping with our child care for pre-school aged children during worship can sign up in Perkins for a Sunday or two. Crafts, materials, and books are also available for more structured fun. This is a needed and fun ministry. Please see Julie Jaquette in the church office. Thanks!

Outreach for August

Outreach Ministry: August Focus and Food Donations

The Prescott Community Cupboard is always in need of donations, whether canned or boxed foods or money. First Congregational Church has always been a staunch supporter of this community project. For the month of August we ask that you contribute macaroni and cheese. This is a favorite of our neighbors in need. There are baskets at each entry for your donations. Please help. Thank you!

Another way to help is to bag orders. Our church does this once every six weeks. We work in teams for one week. If you are interested in helping with this job please see Al Beeson. He is our church representative for Community Cupboard. The more the merrier!

“Meet the Pastor” Dinner and Lunch

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We have had great success with participation and a lot of fun with the “Meet the Pastor” Dinners and Lunches. Get to know Pastor Jay and his wife Cherie in a more intimate setting. **2 More Dates Set!**

Saturday, August 15th 5:30 pm
Hosts: Ronny and Mike de Jong
Six seats for Dinner

Sunday, August 16th at 1:00 pm
Hosts: Anne and Ron Solt
Six seats for Lunch

If you would like to attend one of the events or host one of your own, please sign up in Perkins Hall after church, or contact Judy Daly, 928-237-9577 or 858-883-9596 or jdaly59@gmail.com.

PFLAG Explained: Come and hear a presentation on what Parents, Families/Friends, Lesbians and Gays organization means and how it supports through education.

PFLAG (Parents, Families/Friends of Lesbians and Gays) Awareness Forum

Our church is hosting a PFLAG Forum to build awareness. This event will be promoted to the community. The date is tentatively set for September 23rd, time TBA.

PFLAG Vision: PFLAG envisions a world where diversity is celebrated and all people are respected, valued and affirmed inclusive of their sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression.

PFLAG Mission: By meeting people where they are and collaborating with others, PFLAG realizes its vision through:

- Support for families, allies and people who are LGBTQ
- Education for ourselves and others about the unique issues and challenges facing people who are LGBTQ
- Advocacy in our communities to change attitudes and create policies and laws that achieve full equality for people who are LGBTQ

More Information to Come!

<p>Called to Care</p> <p>Bell Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>Summer Choir</p> <p>Build our Facebook Following</p>	<p><i>Called to Care is seeking interested people...</i> Called to Care is seeking compassionate individuals interested in participating in our Ministry. Please see Marilyn Kerstine.</p> <hr/> <p><i>Bell Choir Rehearsal held August 6th...</i> Practice is held on Thursday mornings at 11:00. If you are interested in joining see Carole Sue Linson, 928-717-4494 or cslinson@yahoo.com.</p> <hr/> <p><i>Do you enjoy singing? Then SUMMER CHOIR is for you!</i> July and August, the Chancel Choir invites you to join us for Sunday morning worship. We will meet before the worship service at 9:30 for a half hour practice and sing two responses and an easy hymn for the anthem. No choir robes! Just come and enjoy singing with us. For more information, please contact Jane Osborn, 713-4752 or prescottsong@hotmail.com.</p> <hr/> <p><i>Do You Like Social Media...</i> If you haven't already "Liked" our church page on Facebook, please do! Lets build a strong following! ⇒ We are also looking for someone in our church community who wants an active roll helping with posting announcements, UCC articles, and memes to our page. You don't have to be too tech-y for this, just willing to log onto the church's Facebook page a few times a week and follow up with responses. See Julie in the office for details.</p>
<p>ONGOING AND WEEKLY EVENTS AT THE CHURCH</p>	<p>EXPLORING FAITH GROUPS Sunday morning class is currently on Summer Break and will resume after Labor Day. ~And~ Monday evening discussion group is taking August off, and will resume on Labor Day.</p> <hr/> <p>CHOIR PRACTICE SUMMER SCHEDULE CHANGE: Sunday 9:30 am in the Sanctuary. See Jane Osborn if you would like to join the choir!</p> <hr/> <p>BELL CHOIR PRACTICE meets Thursday mornings at 11:00 am in the Sanctuary. See Carole Sue Linson for details.</p>
<p>Ways to Subscribe to the Weekly Parish Caller:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Send the office an email verifying your email address• Fill out the Weekly Caller Subscribe Sheet in Perkins Hall <hr/> <p>First Congregational Church of Prescott, UCC 216 E. Gurley Street Prescott, AZ 86301 928-445-4555 fccprescott@gmail.com</p> <p>Administration Office Hours Mondays: 1:00 - 4:00 Tuesday - Friday: 9:00 - 4:00</p> <p>Pastor Jay Monday - Thursday 9:00 - Noon Other times by appointment Cell: 928-899-9066 jayfccprescott@gmail.com</p>	<hr/> <p>OUTREACH MINISTRY meets the 3rd Thursday of every month at 10:30 am in the Office Conference Room.</p> <hr/> <p>CALLED TO CARE MINISTRY meets the 4th Tuesday of every month from 2:00 to 4:00 pm in the Office Conference Room. If you are interested in being part of this ministry, see Marilyn Kerstine.</p> <hr/> <p>PASS MEAL is a once-a-month ministry where we provide a meal for the Prescott Area Shelter Services the 3rd Wednesday of every month at 5:30 pm. Sign-up sheet is in Perkins Hall.</p> <hr/> <p>KNIT WITS meets the 1st & 3rd Tuesdays of every month at 1:00 to 3:00 pm in the Office Conference Room.</p> <hr/> <p>LAS FUENTES SPIRITUAL LIVING SERVICE is held the 3rd Thursday of every month at 10:00 am, led by Called to Care Ministry. ~And~ Service is also held the 2nd Sunday of every month at 3:00 pm, led by Pastor Jay. Address: Las Fuentes Resort Village, 1035 Scott Dr., Prescott.</p> <hr/> <p>AGAPE SOUP SUPPER meets the 2nd Wednesday of every month at 5:30 pm in Perkins Hall. Sign-up sheet is in Perkins Hall.</p> <hr/> <p>CABINET MEETING meets the 4th Thursday of every month at 6:30 pm in the Office Conference Room.</p> <hr/> <p>PFLAG SUPPORT GROUP meets the 3rd Friday of every month at 6:30 pm in the Church Library. See Julie J. for more details.</p> <hr/> <p>LADIES' FRIENDLY goes out to dinner after church the 2nd Sunday of every month. Currently on Summer Break.</p>