

December 15th 2017



# The Parish Caller

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

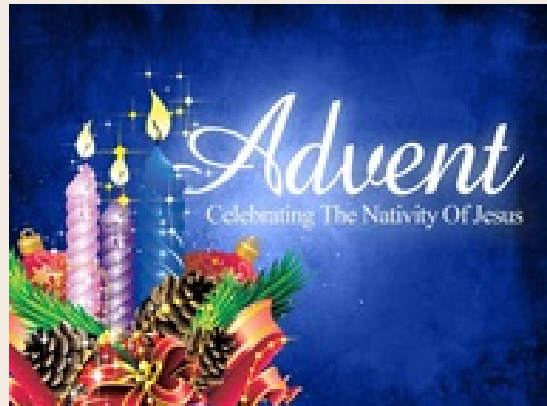
## *This Week at a Glance...*

- Chancel Singers Rehearsal: Sunday 9:00 a.m.
- Sunday Worship: 10:30 a.m.
- Alter-Notes Rehearsal: Sunday 12:00 p.m.
- Tuesday Prayer Chapel: 11:00 a.m. Meeting Room 2
- Pastor's Bible Study: Thursday 9:30 a.m. Chapel
- Bell Choir Rehearsal: Thursday 11:00 a.m. Hazeltine Room
- Thursday Chancel Singers Rehearsal: 5:00 p.m. Chancel

## FROM THE PASTOR

### From the Pastor

Sunday is about that odd pink candle in the Advent wreath – "Gaudete" (Latin for rejoice) Sunday. Advent used to be a more penitential season, so by the third Sunday some relief was in order! Everyone was given a break to experience some Christmas joy. We no longer experience Advent in this way, but a few vestiges remain, such as some churches not singing Christmas carols during Advent. That is not us!



John the Baptist continues to prepare the way for Jesus in Sunday's text – John 1:6-8, 19-28. He will bear witness to the Light of the World. We are in the dark time of the year. The Winter Solstice is next week. Join us Sunday as we let the Light shine in our darkness!

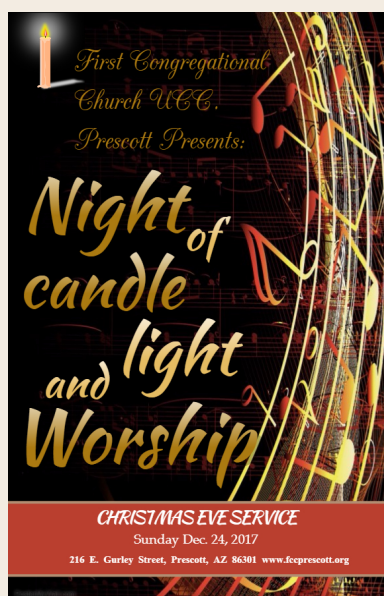
Jay



**Christmas Potluck  
December 17th after  
worship service**

Bring a dish to share!  
Sign-Up Sheet in Perkins  
Hall  
RSVP 445-4555

We also need volunteers to arrive early to receive the food in the kitchen and to clean up and put away.



**This year Christmas Eve  
Services  
10:30 a.m. Worship and  
7:00 p.m. Candlelight  
Service**



**Sunday Dec 10th,  
Pastor Jay and  
"Childrens' Time"**



Thank you to all of the many volunteers who donated goodies, set up the luminaries, hosted the hundreds of guests and cleaned up on Acker Night. It was a huge success!

## 2018 STEWARDSHIP UPDATE



- TOTAL NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO HAVE PLEDGED: 64
- MEMBERS: 53
- FRIENDS & REGULAR ATTENDERS: 11
- TIME AND TALENT SHEET: 9
- TOTAL FUNDS PLEDGED: \$95,420

No pledge is too small -  
Help us plan the 2018 budget.

[DOWNLOAD YOUR PLEDGE CARD HERE](#)

## Elkanah Riley's graduation



Elkanah Riley's graduation ceremony from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University will be held Saturday, December 16, 10:00 AM, at the Prescott Valley Event Center. Elkanah is extending an open invitation for anyone from our church family to attend. Elkanah has been a beloved and active member of our congregation. We pray for God's guidance as his future unfolds.

## MISSION NEWS

With "Family Christmas" disbursements happening this week, this Sunday is the last day for contributions. Thank you for all who have already donated. Until the end of this month, we will continue to receive donations to the denomination's "Christmas Fund" supporting retired clergy/families living on limited retirement funds. Also, the denominational headquarters has established a So. California Fire Relief Fund. Checks can be made payable to our church, with the memo line of: "Fire Relief Fund".

Until the return of our Coffee Hour Hostess, Debbie Staats, we need volunteers to help: (1) set-up & take-down tables/chairs (2) set-up refreshments/coffee (3) provide snacks [this is an on-going need] (4) clean-up kitchen area following Coffee Hour. If you can help, please sign your name to the Coffee Hour Help List found in Perkins Hall.

As always, thank you for your support of our outreach to people in need. We are blessed to be a blessing. Gary Gard, Chairperson [928 910 2455](tel:9289102455)

## At Christmas, Love Wins

December 11, 2017  
Written by **John Dorhauer**

*In his Christmas Message, United Church of Christ General Minister and President the Rev. John C. Dorhauer invites all in the wider church to commit to*





*making sure that 'Love Wins', no matter the season.*

I greet you all in the name of our Risen Savior.  
Merry Christmas to each and all!

In this last year the United Church of Christ has been asking what it means to share a common purpose: "to love the Lord our God with our whole heart, soul, mind, and strength; and our neighbor as ourselves."

It was Jesus who taught us what love of God incarnated looked like. We are his disciples. Our own devotion to God and to Jesus manifests itself in our love for others. Jesus once was asked, "When did we see you hungry and feed you; or naked and clothe you?" His answer was not only tenderly beautiful, it was fully instructive: "Whatsoever you did to the least of these, you did unto me."

Therefore, as a means of taking our purpose to love God seriously the United Church of Christ has entered into a season of what we are calling our 3 Great Loves: love of children ("bring them unto me, for to such as these belongs the Kingdom of God"); love of neighbor ("...whom you shall love as you love yourself"); and love of creation ("when I consider Your heavens, the work of your hands, the moon and the stars which you have made — who are we that you are mindful of us? Yet you have made us little lower than the gods, and entrusted to us care over the work of your hands.").

What better time than this season to commit to our own acts of love for God's children, our neighbor, and the handiwork of God's vast imagination — our mother Earth?

In this past year, I have borne witness to what your own commitments to love incarnated look like. I have seen your acts of kindness and compassion change lives.

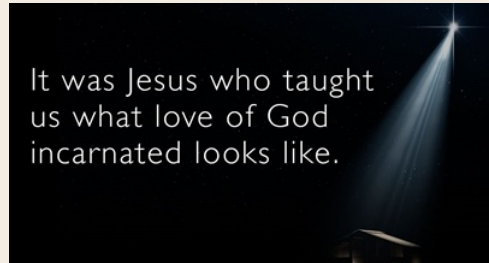
In Maine, I sat in a church/restaurant where once a week members present a fine dining experience to about 85 homeless residents. In Colombia, I met with peace activists who serve as our co-mission partners and who worked with the government and rebel factions to negotiate a peace settlement that has helped end the longest armed conflict on the globe. In Italy, I met with Reform partners who daily receive refugees from Africa landing on their shores in search of food and freedom. And in Standing Rock we demonstrated with first nation peoples for water rights.

This baby Jesus we will soon celebrate the birth of inspires in all of us an impulse to love. Borne of God's love for us, we extend that love daily to those most in need of our acts of compassion and kindness. Our own lives are daily transformed by the kindness and compassion of others.

This Christmas, love wins.

May the joy of this season inspire you to know the love of God, incarnated once in Jesus and today in your acts of love — of children, to neighbor, and for creation.

Merry Christmas everyone!



It was Jesus who taught us what love of God incarnated looks like.

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## KEY DATES

- **Elkanah Riley Graduation:** Dec. 16th
- **Christmas Potluck:** Dec. 17th after worship service.
- **P.A.S.S.:** Dec. 20th
- **Christmas Eve Services:** 10:30 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.
- **Annual Reports Due:** Dec. 31st
- **Annual Meeting:** Jan. 28th after worship service.

## CHURCH SAFETY & SECURITY

The Cabinet is reviewing our security in light of the Texas church shooting.

- Entry doors may be locked - please come to the Gurley Street sanctuary entrance door after worship begins.
- We are looking into **ALICE** (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate) security training for our church. If you are interested in being part of a team, let Julie J. in the office know. 928-445-4555

## CALLED TO CARE HEALING SERVICE

**Tuesday, Dec. 19, 11:30 am Sanctuary**

This special worship service for healing will include prayer and the opportunity to be anointed with oil. There are many types of healing: physical, mental, emotional, relational and spiritual. You are invited to come either to ask God for healing for yourself or to be a channel of God's healing for someone else. Or come just to soak in the healing Presence of God and to pray for those seeking God's healing power.

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**To have a "Daily Devotional" like this one in your inbox, click here.**

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GREETERS FOR DECEMBER

Yoichi Matsumoto  
Chuck Budinger  
John, Sonja and Amy Wilson

If you would like to become a greeter, see Anne Solt.

ALARCON LANDSCAPING

Our thanks to John McCurdy for coordinating the finish to our landscaping on Alarcon Street!

VAN MINISTRY

Bill Rouse has agreed to be one of our van drivers to pick up and take home those needing a ride to church. If you would like the church van to pick you up Sunday morning, please let Bill know by Saturday. His number is 602-769-5770. Our thanks to Bill for this ministry.

| DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS |                   |       |
|--------------------|-------------------|-------|
|                    | John Mccurdy      | 12/03 |
|                    | Mac Macalister    | 12/05 |
|                    | Tommie Wildman    | 12/06 |
|                    | Carole Sue Linson | 12/08 |
|                    | Sandra Talbot     | 12/08 |
|                    | Richard Unkenholz | 12/11 |
|                    | Rodger Payne      | 12/13 |
|                    | Randy Jay Wilcher | 12/17 |
|                    | Pete Norum        | 12/18 |
|                    | Charlie Hille     | 12/19 |
|                    | Jay Eby           | 12/24 |
|                    | Dillan Osborn     | 12/25 |
|                    | Don Stephens      | 12/25 |
|                    | Christopher Hoitt | 12/27 |



THE CHANCEL SINGERS

You do not have to be able to read music or be a great singer to join us! The Chancel Singers are seeking people who love to sing. Anyone interested is invited to join us on Sunday mornings at 9:00 in the Chancel. We also practice on Thursday evenings at 5:00. You may attend one of both of these times, depending on what suits you.

For more information, please contact the Music Director, Jane Osborn, at 928-713-4752 or [prescottsong@hotmail.com](mailto:prescottsong@hotmail.com).

ALTER-NOTES

Do you like to sing? Do you play an instrument? Would you like to be a part of bringing alternative styles of music to our worship service? Come join Alter-Notes! We rehearse at 12 p.m. on Sundays, after social time. Music styles vary - calypso, spirituals, folk, celtic, pop, rock, and everything in between. Show up and/or call Melissa Gates, [207-391-3276](tel:207-391-3276).

STEWARDSHIP

| Offerings           |           |           | Attendance<br>Monthly<br>Average |     | Outreach Gifts        |          |                      |          |                                      |            |
|---------------------|-----------|-----------|----------------------------------|-----|-----------------------|----------|----------------------|----------|--------------------------------------|------------|
| December            |           | YTD       | January                          | 102 | January               |          | July                 |          | Undesignated Missions                |            |
| Offerings           | \$ 5,611  | \$102,136 | February                         | 89  | Prescott Comm. Cupb.  | \$ 590   | Pancake Breakfast    | \$ 1,337 |                                      | YTD \$ 975 |
| Facility Use        | \$ 1,093  | \$ 12,318 | March                            | 89  | February              |          | August               |          | OCWM                                 |            |
| Foundation          | \$ 6,500  | \$ 67,798 | April                            | 108 | PASS                  | \$ 140   | Discovery Gardens    | \$ 65    |                                      | YTD \$ 350 |
| Other               |           | \$ 5,511  | May                              | 101 | March                 |          | September            |          | Coalition for Compassion and Justice |            |
| Total               | \$ 13,204 | \$187,763 | June                             | 79  | Habitat for Humanity  | \$ 165   | Neighbors in Need    | \$ 495   |                                      | YTD \$ 354 |
| Expenses, Actual    |           |           | July                             | 96  | April                 |          | October              |          | Famine Relief                        |            |
|                     | December  | YTD       | August                           | 91  | One Great Hour Share  | \$ 1,683 | Warm for Winter      | \$ 160   | Special Offering                     | \$ 795     |
| Expenses            | \$ 10,655 | \$272,598 | Sept                             | 90  | May                   |          | November- December   |          | Hurricane Relief                     |            |
| Annual Budget Needs |           |           | Oct                              | 91  | Church World Service  | \$ 319   | CCJ Family Christmas | \$ 465   | Special Offering                     | \$ 4,600   |
|                     | Annual    |           | Nov                              | 103 | June                  |          | December             |          | Fire Relief                          |            |
| Expenses            | \$        | 254,276   | Dec                              | 130 | Strengthen the Church | \$ 280   | UCC Christmas Fund   | \$ 10    | Special Offering                     | \$ 200     |

HELP US BUILD OUR SOCIAL MEDIA IMPACT WITH OUR COMMUNITY, LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!



REGULARLY SCHEDULED

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

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

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

If you like to sing, the Chancel Singers are eager to increase its membership. We meet Sundays at 9:00 a.m. before worship services and Thursday nights at 5:00 p.m. Come when you can.

**ALTER-NOTES**

Alter-Notes is an alternative music group that meets at 12:00 for rehearsal in the Hazeltine Room 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).

## 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

*God is still speaking,*  
**UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST**



## SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE 10:30

