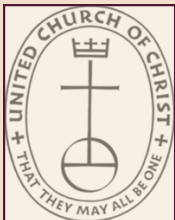


The Parish Caller

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

December 16, 2016

First Congregational
Church, United
Church of Christ,
Prescott



FEATURED THIS ISSUE

PAGE ONE:

- ◆ This Week at a Glance
- ◆ Message from Pastor Jay
- ◆ This Sunday Potluck

PAGE TWO:

- ◆ We welcome Rev. Harry Strong this Sunday
- ◆ Knit Wits Annual Projects to date
- ◆ Go and Do the Same Campaign

PAGE THREE:

- ◆ Calendar
- ◆ Announcements
- ◆ Restoration Update

PAGE FOUR:

- ◆ Message to packers for Prescott Community Cupboard volunteers
- ◆ Bulletin Board

This Week at a Glance...

- ◆ **Choir Rehearsal:** Sunday 9:00 am
- ◆ **Worship Service and Fellowship time:** Sunday 10:30 am
- ◆ **Church wide Family Christmas Pot Luck:** 11:30 after worship service
- ◆ **Knit Wits:** Tuesday at 1-3 pm
- ◆ **Cabinet Meeting:** Thursday 6:30 pm
- ◆ **Christmas Eve Carol Sing and Candle Light Service:** Saturday 4:00 and 7:00 pm

FROM THE PASTOR

I am in Jenner, California as you read this, celebrating my 60th birthday at a very special place for me – Timber Cove Inn. It sits right on the ocean, and you are far removed from civilization. But the ambiance is not the main reason I decided to be here for this big birthday. While there in July of 2013, I had one of life’s epiphanies sitting on a bench looking out at the ocean. We had two houses and a townhouse for sale at the time, one in Louisville, one in Colorado Springs, and one in Denver. It’s a long story as to why we owned all three. We needed to sell all three and consolidate. I was feeling the pressure of the real estate burden and how it might all unravel. I shared my anxiety with God, and in truly human fashion, I prayed one of those foxhole prayers – “if all three of these houses sell, I promise to devote the rest of my life to being a pastor and preaching; no more banking or investments, just the church.” I know, how lame. But, believe it or not, I think I got an “ok” back. Within three months, all three properties sold. And that began the process by which we eventually moved to Prescott, and the rather providential way I ended up at First Congregational Church. Jenner and Timber Cove Inn will always be special for me.



I was not the only one who was pondering life while in Jenner. Roscoe appears to have had a few epiphanies himself.

Merry Christmas to all! Jay



This Sunday, December 18 we will be gathering in Perkins Hall after worship service for our Annual Christmas Potluck. Bring a dish to share and join in the fellowship!

WELCOME REV. HARRY STRONG

REV. HARRY STRONG

We welcome Rev. Harry Strong as our guest preacher this Sunday while Pastor Jay is out of town. Harry will present this Sunday's sermon as "Joseph of Nazareth." "Joseph" is one of 18 Biblical characters that Harry has portrayed over the past 35 years in a variety of worship settings across the country. Harry, a retired Presbyterian (PCUSA) pastor, and his wife, Anna, joined FCC this fall. On five Wednesday evenings during Lent in 2017, Harry will be leading a study entitled "Yesterday's Voices/Today's Choices." The classes will feature Harry's video portrayals of Judas Iscariot, Pontius Pilate, Barabbas, Simon of Cyrene, and the Centurion, followed by a time for discussion.



In this photo Rev. Harry Strong is dressed as the Centurion

****DON'T MISS****

Please See the
Prescott
Community
Cupboard
Packer Team
Schedule on
Page 4.

****DON'T MISS****

THE KNIT WITS HAVE BEEN VERY BUSY THIS YEAR!

- We have donated 46 blankets for kids along with the blankets we included 2 children's sweaters and 7 stuffed animals
- The Woman's Shelter received 51 hats and scarves.
- CCJ received 5 large blankets for the shelter



The Knit Wits meet the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month at 1 pm in the church office. We are a very active group and would really enjoy having your join our group!

If you knit, crochet, quilt, weave or you have always wanted to learn, you are welcome!

Donations of yarn is always welcome!

"GO AND DO THE SAME"

Many of you have turned in your "Pledge" and "Time & Talent" cards, thank you! If you have not turned yours in yet, there is still time. There are blank copies in the foyer next to Perkins Hall on Sunday. The budget committee will be meeting soon to outline the programs and budget for 2017. This is the time to prayerfully consider how you can be a part of the many important ministries here at the First Congregational Church.

Thank you to those that have turned in your 2017 "Pledge Cards" & "Time and Talent" cards. It isn't too late, see Julie J. for more info.



ANNOUNCEMENTS



Christmas Eve Carol Service - 4:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve Service of Lessons and Carols – 7:00 p.m.

Christmas Day Worship Service – 10:30 a.m.

First Congregational Church of Prescott

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
216 E. Gurley Street
Prescott, AZ 86301
www.fccprescott.org

www.facebook.com/FccUccPrescott
928-445-4555

Founded September 26, 1880

First Congregational Church of Prescott, United Church of Christ, is an Open and Affirming congregation. We include all persons without regard to age, race, gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity, gender identity, faith, marital status, or personal ability. We welcome all to share the celebrations and challenges of our congregation. No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

Restoration update:

For the most part all of the big projects are completed. We still have work to be done on the stage – mural repaired, some painting and the black stage curtains to be hung. The Cory Room has been a catch all while we have been deciding where to hang pictures etc. We plan on reorganized and just general clean up soon on that room. The stage will start in January. There are some detail items that still need attending to and by the time you read this the wood shutters in back of the sanctuary/Cory Room should have been installed. (Install date scheduled for December 18th). Should you have any questions, concerns please let Tom or I know.

Respectfully submitted, Marilyn Skovgard

ON THE CHURCH CALENDAR:

- Dec 18 Congregation Christmas potluck meal after worship service.
- Dec 24 Christmas Eve Carol Sing 4:00 pm
- Dec 24 Christmas Eve Candle Light “Lessons & Carols” 7:00 pm
- Dec 25 Christmas Day, worship service 10:30 am
- Jan. 22 Congregation Annual Meeting after worship service
- Jan. 29 Church Open House, Celebrate Restoration Project, 10am-2pm (Worship 10:30-11:30)

CALLED TO CARE NEW WEEKLY PRAYER CHAPEL OPEN FOR PRAYER

Called to Care is meeting for weekly prayer at 10:00 am Mondays in the Prayer Chapel (downstairs). This is open to whomever wishes to pray with us. Please see the Prayer Box in Perkins Hall for open or anonymous requests. Our Bulletin Prayer list and other known needs will be prayed among us each week. You may also contact Pastor Jay, Marilyn Kerstine, Rev. Shirley or another Called to Care minister to add your request.

PASS MEAL

The PASS meal is Wednesday, December 21st at 5:00 pm. Our church provides a monthly meal for Prescott Area Shelter Services, a home for women in transition. We need several items of food for that Wednesday. The meal items are brought to our parking lot at 5:00 pm.

WINTER AT CHURCH

Cold weather has arrived. Our church has six furnaces that are set on programs to cycle on and off at certain times/days. The default temperature is 55 degrees, so it may feel cold if you come in early or late, but we save a lot of money by doing this. The system will come on if you raise the temperature on the screen, and then automatically revert to the program after a few hours. This prevents a furnace from running continually or overnight. Again, money saved. If you think a furnace is not working, or notice any other building related issue, please call John McCurdy (no calls after 7:00 pm unless an emergency).

Should we have snow on Sunday morning, we have contracted with a snow removal company to do the parking lot and sidewalks, and several members make sure our entrances are cleared. t would probably take 10 + inches of snow for us to consider cancelling worship, but please use wisdom when deciding whether you should venture out in any amount of snow. Better safe than sorry.

MISSION OUTREACH NEWS

December’s mission emphasis will address both national and local needs. On the national scene, we will participate in the denomination’s Christmas Fund, which supports low-income retired clergy and their families. Special Christmas Fund offering envelopes can be found in the pew racks. Or, you can simply make your check payable to the church with a memo line marked, “Christmas Fund”. Additionally, our local mission emphasis will be the CCJ “Family Christmas”. A donation box for toys and clothing is in the front of the sanctuary. Or, you may make a check payable to the church with a memo line of, “Family Christmas”.

Good morning:

CHRISTMAS EVE LESSON READERS

Thanks to those that have signed up for doing readings on Christmas Eve! We have room for 2 more A sign-up sheet is in Perkins Hall for anyone who would like to read one of the lessons on Christmas Eve. Write your name next to the reading of your choice.

OFFICE HELP VOLUNTEERS

Thank you to the many volunteers that signed up this week! Your help is much appreciated!

PRESCOTT COMMUNITY CUPBOARD PACKERS



Below is listed our first FCC Packer Team service week (with wonderful volunteers listed) for 2017. We also welcome some new volunteers who will see their first service day..... pls see below. The schedule below has you working with packing experts.

Our scheduled FCC service weeks for year 2017 are: Jan 2-6, Feb 21-24, Apr 1-14, May30-Jun 2, Jul 17-21, Sept 5-8, Oct 23-27, Dec 11-15.

The lock box code remains 197308 and the first person listed is asked to go to Catholic Charities on Summit St to pick up the list. Service hours ate 1:30pm to 4:30pm.

I rec'd the following message this week: The annual meeting and Installation of new officers

will be held Saturday, Jan 14th at American Lutheran Church. The Board meeting will be at 10:30 followed by the installation of the new Board and light refreshments. We would like as many volunteers to come to get an update on the activities and meet the Board Members. PLEASE invite all your packers to attend.

I add you are all invited to observe a PCCFB BOD Mtg and to attend the installation etc.,

It will give you real insight on "what it take" to make all this happen.....52 weeks a year.



We again thank those that volunteers that help those in need for our local community.

Many Thanks, Al Beeson, FCC Team Captain, 717-9915, CP# 277-9784

WHATS HAPPENING AT FCC

Try our SignUpGenius on our website: www.fccprescott.org

Contact Us:
216 E. Gurley Street
Prescott, AZ 86301
928-445-4555
fccprescott@gmail.com
Administration Office Hours
Monday-Thursday 9:00 - 4:00
Friday: 9:00 - 1:00
Pastor Jay
Monday - Thursday
9:00 - 1:00
Other times by appointment
Cell: 928-899-9066
jayfccprescott@gmail.com

CABINET MEETING meets the 4th Thursday of every month at 6:30 pm in the Office Conference Room.

PFLAG SUPPORT GROUP meets the 3rd Friday of every month at 6:30 pm in the Church Library. See Julie J. for more details.

Ministries you can get involved with:
CALLED TO CARE
MUSIC
CONGREGATIONAL CARE
MINISTRY OF THE BUILDING
JUST ASK!!!

EXPLORING FAITH
Living the Questions Study Group
Looking into new topics, please let Pastor Jay if you are interested
~And~
Monday Evening Discussion Group
6:30 pm in the Church Library

Prayer Chapel Open for Prayer and Prayer Requests Monday mornings 10 am. Locked prayer request box in Perkins Hall

CHOIR PRACTICE
9 am before worship on Sundays. See Jane Osborn if you would like to join the choir!
BELL CHOIR PRACTICE at 11 am on Thursdays

KNIT WITS meets the 1st & 3rd Tuesdays of every month from 1-3 pm in the Office Conference Room.

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 5:00 pm. Sign-up sheet is in Perkins Hall.