



The Parish Caller

"No matter who you are or where you are in 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
- Acker Night (Dec. 8): "South of Winslow" 5:30 p.m.

FROM THE PASTOR

From the Pastor

Apocalypse depicted in Christian Orthodox traditional fresco scenes in Osogovo Monastery, Republic of Macedonia

This Sunday is the first Sunday of Advent. And the first Sunday of Advent is always an apocalyptic day! The text is "Mark's little apocalypse." (Mark 13:24-37) For we moderns, the word apocalypse is usually connected to eschatology and weird end-time images and beliefs. But Mark's apocalyptic interest is exposing the falsehoods of his time and revealing Jesus' invasive new order. So on the first Sunday of Advent, we hear the call of Jesus to be awake and alert to the lies of our culture and how far removed we are from the vision of Jesus. The barrage of daily news regarding sexual abuse and the tribalism of our politics shout to us that there is something wrong with how we have chosen to construct our society. Maybe we need some apocalyptic messages after all!



Matt Skinner gives us some helpful insights in how to understand and apply apocalyptic thought:

Mark originally was -- and still is -- a Christian contribution to "the war of myths" that is waged to dictate how each of us will determine what's real, what's healthy, and what's possible. That war of competing myths -- the stories and explanations a culture tells itself to claim and reassert its values -- raged in its own way among Mark's ancient audiences. As the temple lay in ruins and Christ-followers wondered how long they could wait for Jesus to return, they needed to determine which explanation of reality should prevail among them. Should they buy into the evergreen imperial myths that despise the weak, that scoff at resistance, and that perpetuate all manner of slavery? Did believers have to surrender to the weaponsmith's lie that only more weapons can ensure peace and security? Or could the community of Jesus' followers live by a counter narrative, one that saw the reign of God growing almost imperceptibly -- difficult to see with ordinary vision but there nevertheless?

For today's audiences, we might use different language to portray Mark's vision of the emergence of a new state of affairs. In other words, we may opt for images other than divine intrusion, cosmic warfare, and cultural battlefields. After all, there have been changes over the decades in the specific ways that myths about winning, values, greatness, security, and strength have been spun. Denouncing the particular rhetoric of the current myths and our generation's mythmakers requires bold ingenuity, occasional subtlety, bravery, and persistence.

But, as always, the myths remain there to be exposed, full of bluster and falsehood. The myths that Jesus calls out in Mark are still recognizable. They reject the inherent value of all people. They leave people without access to health and wholeness, cheated out of the possibility of a living wage, and denied the hope of real refuge from real threats. They blame victims for the abuse they endure. They mock courage. They steal joy.

As long as myths like those endure, conflict will remain part of gospel ministry -- our ministry. Denouncing false construals of reality -- so that the reign of God might be announced and visible in word and deed -- still causes trouble.



ELKANAH RILEY is graduating from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical in December. He has been a beloved and active

part of our church family, but will soon be leaving to explore employment opportunities elsewhere. Join us in Perkins Hall this Sunday following worship to wish him well in the journey ahead.



It's fun watching Abigail Ramirez & Fay Wilson enjoy decorating the Christmas tree.



Thanks to Daniel - we now have a working Christmas tree in Perkins Hall!

Marion Richards

March 2, 1918 - November 26, 2017

Celebrating the life of Marion A. Richards

Visitation Friday, December 1st, 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (today)

Service Saturday, December 2nd, 11:00 AM
Ruffner-Wakelin Prescott Chapel Funeral Home
303 S. Cortez St.

Graveside Saturday, December 2nd, 12:00 PM
Mountain View Cemetery
1051 Willow Creek Rd.

Marion A. Richards, age 99, passed away at home on November 26, 2017. She was born on Staten Island, New York, on March 2, 1918, the daughter of Clarence and Irene (Simonson) Cole.

Marion was a graduate of Port Richmond High School on Staten Island and was later employed as a civilian employee by the Department of the Army for 28 years in Washington D.C., Staten Island, and New Jersey, retiring in 1979.

In 1985, she and her husband George moved to Prescott. Marion was a volunteer at the County Fair for 21 years, acting as Superintendent of the Tiny Tots Division. She was an avid doll and antique collector, exhibiting at the Fair each year and was known around town as the "Doll Lady". She was a charter member of the Prescott Doll Club and also a member of the Prescott Two Steppers Round Dance group and performed on the Courthouse Square for many years. Marion also enjoyed genealogy and especially doing flowers arrangements for which she won many awards at the county and state fairs.

Marion is survived by her son, Kenneth (Jo Ellen) Fuller, son-in-law, James Moriarty, grandchildren; Robert Moriarty, Karen (Darrin) Batchelor, great grandchildren; Jamie Moriarty, Sarah Jo Batchelor, Melissa (Donald) Moriarty Shahan, great great grandchildren; Lilly, Savannah, Donald IV, and Hunter. She is also survived by her step-daughter Rebecca (Richards) Arnott and numerous great and great great step-grandchildren. Marion is preceded in death by her husband George Richards and her daughter Barbara Moriarty.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in Marion's name to either the American Cancer Society or Yavapai Humane Society.

A visitation will take from 4-6:00pm Friday, December 1, 2017 at the Ruffner Wakelin Prescott

Chapel, 303 S. Cortez St., Prescott, AZ 86303. Service at 11:00am Saturday, December 2, 2017 at the Ruffner Wakelin Prescott Chapel followed by a brief committal at the graveside, 12 noon, at Mountain View Cemetery, 1051 Willow Creek Rd., Prescott, AZ 86301.



**Acker Night
"South of Winslow"
Dec. 8, 5:30 - 8:30**

We need volunteers!
This year we will be working in shifts, so volunteers can go out and enjoy Acker Night as well.

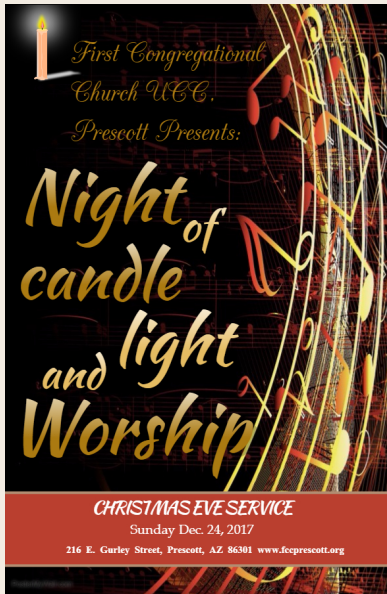
1. Sidewalk luminaries set up
2. Goody Table, set up and heat cider
3. Donate goodies
4. Hosts, working in 1-hour shifts
5. Clean up, end of the evening



**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 Candlelight
Service -- Sunday
Dec. 24th, 7:00 p.m.**



We have
several
sign-up
sheets

**that need your
attention!**

Coffee Hour goodies
P.A.S.S. meal
Acker Night
Christmas potluck

[Download your Acker Night Music Schedule Here](#)

2018 STEWARDSHIP UPDATE



- NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO HAVE PLEDGED: 49 (40% of members)
- TIME AND TALENT SHEET: 9 (8%)
- TOTAL FUNDS PLEDGED: \$72,860

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

[DOWNLOAD YOUR PLEDGE CARD HERE](#)

**BOUNDARY TRAINING FOR THE UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST: WHAT WE NEED TO KNOW**

By Rev. Marti Garrison

I attended a UCC boundary training workshop in Phoenix on November 17, the last step of my "transfer of standing" from Iowa to Arizona. These trainings are required for all UCC clergy and spiritual teachers. The workbook, "Healthy Boundaries," is written by Rev. Dr. Marie M. Fortune and published by FaithTrust Institute, whose mission is "working together to end sexual & domestic violence." This workbook covers the joy and theology of boundaries, power and

vulnerability, social media, sexual and financial violations, and self-care, as well as particular boundary issues for African-American, Asian and Pacific Islander, Jewish, Latina and Latino, and Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgendered communities.

Boundary training is critical for everyone in every congregation and denomination. Power abuse in all forms has long been a transgression of trust in the church, primarily between clergy and congregants, but also between any person who uses power to mistreat the vulnerable relying on him or her for guidance.

Chapter 1 defines the fundamental principles of healthy boundaries: maintaining the integrity of the ministerial or teaching relationships and protecting those who are vulnerable such as congregants, clients, employees, students, and staff. Clergy are also vulnerable and learn how to incorporate safety measures to protect themselves against those who would violate *their* boundaries or make false accusations. When considering violating boundaries, we should ask ourselves what is the impact and potential harm to the individual, the church and community, and our mission.

Now out in mainstream news are examples of men who have abused women who are vulnerable in many ways: keeping their jobs (and income), moving up the ladder in their professions, and feeling they must maintain silence out of guilt, shame and fear. The church is part of this global culture of male domination going on everywhere for thousands of years. Reading the statistics, we see this is not an exaggeration.

How do we in our church stay alert to a abuse of power, not only by gender, but in terms of how we honor privacy while being transparent? One way to start is by understanding boundary issues and boundary training.

In the workshop the 25 attendees from the Southwest UCC region discussed, among many topics, the joy and theology of boundaries and how we define keeping or violating them. Recognizing the false and the true shepherds keeps us all safe. We come to understand what power means and how each of us is vulnerable to someone who may exploit his or her power to victimize another. Power in itself is a neutral fact of life; it is a measure of our resources. Everyone has some kind of power. Being vulnerable implies we have fewer resources but it does not necessarily mean we are abused.

A theological definition of hospitality and entitlement I particularly like is: “The Hospitality Code in Hebrew scripture is not about charity. It is about empathy, caring for those with the least because we too were ‘slaves and strangers.’ We have been vulnerable before and we will be vulnerable again, so we must remember this when we have the resources to protect those who need us.” (p. 34)

We are most familiar with sexual and monetary abuses of power. While we do have systems set up to safeguard against both, it comes down to being able to communicate with and trust those who may use this kind of power to hurt others. This is where we must be transparent and honest and not afraid to speak up if we have concerns. Clergy are rigorously trained to honor another person’s privacy and integrity of both their minds and bodies (verbal and physical violations). Systems are in place to ensure the safety of those who deal with finances in any way because those we trust with money should be protected against false accusations. Naturally, those who give want to be sure their pledges and donations are treated respectfully.

However, an issue of boundary abuse we also discussed is how social media and the internet are used, whether by clergy or congregants. A case study we analyzed was that of a pastor who not only (wrongly) dated a congregant but who also posted pictures of them together on Facebook! This seems like an obvious transgression (and not very smart), but as we know, people who have power somehow start to think they are immune to the rules. This pastor either forgot his training or he did not think about how his actions affected the trust of the congregation and how the church presented itself to the community. One could call him a false and foolish shepherd.

A poem in the last pages of the workbook illuminates how trusting our leaders to do the right thing is so important to this unique relationship based on theology. This could be about any leader, but it applies so well to churches. We can substitute the word “covenant” for “contract.”

“The Contract: A Word from the Led”

And in the end we follow them—
not because we are paid,
not because we might see some advantage,
not because of the things they have accomplished,
not even because of the dreams they dream
but simply because of who they are:
the man, the woman, the leader, the boss
standing up there when the wave hits the rock,
passing out faith and confidence like life jackets,
knowing the current, holding the doubts,
imagining the delights and terrors of every landfall:
captain, pirate, and parent by turns,
the bearer of our countless hopes and expectations.
We give them our trust. We give them our effort.
What we ask in return is that they stay true.

By William Ayot, from *Leading from Within*, 2007, Jossey-Bass Publishers.



KEY DATES

- **Elkanah Riley Graduation:** Dec. 16th (more details to come)
- **Christmas Potluck:** Dec. 17th after worship service.
- **P.A.S.S.:** Dec. 20th
- **Annual Reports Due:** Dec. 31st
- **Annual Meeting:** Jan. 28th after worship service.

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.

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

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.

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



ORDER YOUR 2017 ADVENT DEVOTIONAL

Check out Watch: 2017 Advent Devotional from the Stillspeaking Writers' Group. These devotions will satisfy your need for something different while providing a fulfilling Advent journey you won't soon forget.

[CLICK HERE FOR THE ADVENT COLLECTION.](#)

[CLICK HERE FOR THE STILLSPKING WRITERS' GROUP COLLECTION.](#)

[800-537-3394](tel:800-537-3394) | uccresources.com

GREETERS FOR DECEMBER

Yoichi Matsumoto
Chuck Budinger
John, Sonja and Amy Wilson

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

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 1 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).

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.

ALARCON LANDSCAPING

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

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

MISSION NEWS

We have identified both local and national Mission Outreach projects for December.

- **LOCALLY**, we are participating in the CCJ's "Family Christmas" project for children K-12. A donation box is in place to receive new toys, gift cards, new clothing items, etc. (a take-home list of items can be found in Perkins Hall). If you prefer to write a check, please do so by December 17th and make it payable to our church with the memo line " Family Christmas".
- **NATIONAL project is "The Christmas Fund"**. This fund aids retired clergy families living on very restricted retirement income. Checks written for this fund will be received through December 31st.

PASS MEAL--Prescott Area Shelter Services provides shelter for homeless women and women with children. On the third Wednesday of each month, volunteers from our church provide a hot meal with

side dishes and dessert. If you have questions, contact our PASS MEAL coordinator, Patty Gard (928 910 3042). There is a volunteer sign-up list in Perkins Hall.

COMMUNITY CUPBOARD has an on-going need for canned food donations. We maintain a donation box throughout the year in our sanctuary. If you would like to help pack food bags periodically, contact our project coordinator, Al Beeson (928 717 9915).

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)

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



STEWARDSHIP

Offerings			Attendance Monthly Average		Outreach Gifts					
November		YTD	January	102	January		July		Undesignated Missions	
Offerings	\$ 8,121	\$ 96,524	February	89	Prescott Comm. Cupb.	\$ 590	Pancake Breakfast	\$ 1,337		YTD \$ 975
Facility Use	\$ 774	\$ 11,225	March	89	February		August		OCWM	
Foundation		\$ 61,298	April	108	PASS	\$ 140	Discovery Gardens	\$ 65		YTD \$ 350
Other		\$ 5,511	May	101	March		September		Coalition for Compassion and Justice	
Total	\$ 8,895	\$174,558	June	79	Habitat for Humanity	\$ 165	Neighbors in Need	\$ 495		YTD \$ 354
Expenses, Actual			July	96	April		October		Famine Relief	
	November	YTD	August	91	One Great Hour Share	\$ 1,683	Warm for Winter	\$ 160	Special Offering	\$ 795
Expenses	\$ 29,260	\$260,998	Sept	90	May		November- December		Hurricane Relief	
Annual Budget Needs			Oct	91	Church World Service	\$ 319	CCJ Family Christmas	\$ 345	Special Offering	\$ 4,600
	Annual		Nov	103	June		December		Fire Relief	
Expenses	\$	254,276	Dec		Strengthen the Church	\$ 280	UCC Christmas Fund		Special Offering	\$ 200

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 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

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 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

