



The Parish Caller

First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, Prescott Established 1880

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

December 23, 2016



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This Week at a Glance...

- ♦ **Choir Rehearsal:** Sunday 9:00 am
- ♦ **Worship Service and Fellowship time:** Sunday 10:30 am
- ♦ **Knit Wits:** Tuesday 1-3 pm Church Conference Room

"GO AND DO THE SAME" — Message from John McCurdy

We are in the middle of the season of celebration of family, friends and faith. It sometimes seems overshadowed by the trappings of society but it is always there. Giving us those moments of fulfillment.



I have found that my circle of family, friends and faith have developed further at First Congregational Church. I strive to contribute to the growth and support of this community. It has brought me great challenges and satisfaction that has made me a more complete person.

I hope that if you have a talent that you will use it for this community.

If you have some time that you will contribute it.

I ask that you share some of your treasure with us.

If you have made a pledge of time, talent and/or treasure, thank you. If you have not, please consider supporting this faith community. There are many challenges we face together and there is great satisfaction in working together. Let us develop this community as we move forward.

I hope for you the best experiences with your family, with your friends and in your faith. Have a great New Year!

John McCurdy
Moderator

FROM THE PASTOR — Winter at the 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. It 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.

Progressive Theology Seminar feat. John Dominic Crossan

Crossan is widely known for his work with the Jesus Seminar, for which he was Co-Chair 1985-1996 as it met to debate the historicity of the life of Jesus in the gospels. He was Chair of the Parables Seminar 1972-76, and 1993-1998 was Chair of the Historical Jesus Section within the Society of Biblical Literature.



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. You may also contact Pastor Jay, Marilyn Kerstine, Rev. Shirley or another Called to Care minister to add your request.

Dr. John Dominic Crossan will present THE CHALLENGE OF THE CHRISTIAN BIBLE/ How to Read the Bible and Still Be a Christian: Struggling with Divine Violence from Genesis through Revelation.

John Dominic Crossan is generally regarded as the leading

historical Jesus scholar in the world and the author of several bestselling books. He is a gifted speaker that combines humor with scholarly insights and skillfully engages Bible scholars and lay people alike.

He is a native of Ireland, was educated both there and in the United States. He was a member of a 13th century Roman Catholic religious order 1950-1969, and an ordained priest 1957-1969. He taught at DePaul University, Chicago, 1969-1955, and is now a Professor Emeritus in its Department of Religious Studies.

He has lectured widely around the world to lay and scholarly audiences and has written twenty-seven books on the historical Jesus, the apostle Paul, and earliest Christianity.

Through four comprehensive lectures, Dr. Crossan will unpack the themes of his 2015 book entitled, *How to Read the Bible and Still Be a Christian: Struggling with Divine Violence from Genesis through Revelation*. Some of the questions he will engage are:

- *Is the God of the Christian Bible violent?
- *Is the historical Jesus, Rider on the Peace-Donkey of Gospel, or the apocalyptic Jesus, Rider on the War-Horse of Revelation, the norm, criterion, and discriminant of the Christian Bible?
- *Is the violence and disorder of our current world connected to that of the Bible?

Seminar Schedule

Friday evening:

7 PM Registration & Refreshments

7:30 PM "Original Sin": Sexual Temptation or Escalatory Violence?

Saturday morning

8:30 AM Registration & Refreshments

9 AM Covenantal Law: Human Destiny or Divine Sanction?

10:45 AM God's Kingdom: Violent Revolt or Non-Violent Resistance?

1:30 PM Christianity's Criterion: Historical Jesus or Biblical Christ?

Registration Form

Please complete one form per person and print your information.

Name (as desired on name tag) _____

Address: _____

City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____

email address: _____

Phone: _____

Friday/Saturday \$60 per person _____

Friday only: \$20 per person _____

Saturday only: \$40 per person _____

Saturday lunch: \$10 _____

Make checks payable to: The Good Shepherd UCC, indicating "Crossan Seminar" on the memo line. Mail to: The Good Shepherd UCC, 17750 S. La Cañada Dr., Sahuarita, AZ 85629

For more information, call the Jackie Smith (520) 256-5826 or

jackiesmithaz@aol.com



CONTACT US:

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Administration Office Hours
 Monday-Thursday 9:00 - 4:00
 Friday: 9:00 - 1:00
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 Monday - Thursday
 9:00 - 1:00
 Other times by appointment
 Cell: 928-899-9066
jayfccprescott@gmail.com

**WHATS
HAPPENING****PASS MEAL**

Once a month 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.

CHOIR PRACTICE

Meets 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

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/Chapel. See Julie J. for more details.

KNIT WITS

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

EXPLORING FAITH

Discussion Group
 Looking into new topics, please let Pastor Jay if you are interested
 ~And~
 Monday Evening Discussion Group
 6:30 pm in the Church Chapel.

**VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED!**

Called to Care
 Music
 Van Ministry
 Congregational Care
 Ministry of the Building

JUST ASK!!!**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR THE NEW YEAR**

Thank you to the many volunteers that signed up to help me in the office! Your help is much appreciated! This coming year we have a few projects underway that need some helping hands

- ◊ Remove snow off church walkways and steps
- ◊ Organize and sort Sunday school room supplies
- ◊ Host: Movie "13th"

If you are interested in helping with any of these projects, or would like more details about them, see Julie J. in the office. 928-445-4555 or email: fccprescott@gmail.com

MARTIN LUTHER KING Jr. WEEK OF EVENTS♦ **BOOK DISCUSSION**

Thursday, January 12th from 6-8 pm Book Discussion at Prescott College.

♦ **FREEDOM RIDERS**

Friday, January 13th from 6:30 – 9pm Movie "Freedom Riders" at Sacred Heart Church.

♦ **NON-VIOLENCE COMMUNICATION WORKSHOP**

Saturday, January 14th from 10 am – 1 pm Cultural Appreciation Potluck at PC. 10 – 11:30 am March Song Practice & 6:30 – 8:30 pm Non-violence communication workshop both at Granite Creek Unitarian Universalist Congregation.

♦ **MOVIE "13TH"**

Sunday, January 15th at 6 pm Movie "13th" at First Congregational Church.

♦ **PEACE AND JUSTICE MARCH**

Monday, January 16th MLK Day at 10 am starting at PC Parking lot. 10:30 am Prescott United Methodist Church – Breakfast; Ceremony; Children's Program and Interactive Area.

ANNUAL MEETING JANUARY 22 AFTER WORSHIP SERVICE

This is an important meeting to start off the new year. We will be reporting on 2016, members will be voting on the 2017 budget and new leadership team members. Everyone is welcome!

CHURCH RENOVATION PROJECT OPEN HOUSE – JANUARY 29

We will celebrate our renovation project with all who helped make it happen and the public on January 29, from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm. During worship from 10:30 – 11:30, acknowledgements will be made for all involved, and the time before and after worship allows the public to come by and see what has been accomplished.

SWC PROGRESSIVE THEOLOGY SEMINAR — FEAT. DOMINIC

CROSSAN, February 17-18th, Good Shepherd UCC, Dr. John Dominic Crossan will present THE CHALLENGE OF THE CHRISTIAN BIBLE/How to Read the Bible and Still Be a Christian: Struggling with Divine Violence from Genesis through Revelation. For more information, go to page 2