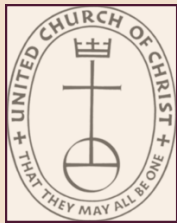


The Parish Caller

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

December 9, 2016

First Congregational
Church, United
Church of Christ,
Prescott



FEATURED THIS ISSUE

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This Week at a Glance...

- ◆Acker Night Musical Showcase **CANCELLED!!!!**
- ◆Choir Rehearsal: Sunday 9:00 am
- ◆Worship Service and Fellowship time: Sunday 10:30 am

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 not singing Christmas carols during Advent. I love the carols so much I could never do that. The sermon Sunday is titled “How Can We Rejoice?” and is based upon Isaiah 35:1-10 and Matthew 11:1-11. I will be using Handel’s Messiah as an interpretive lens through which to look at these texts and the hope they provide in tough circumstances. I invite you to refresh your understanding of the Messiah, particularly Part III where Handel seeks to provide Biblical grounding for how we live between “the already and the not yet.” Thanks to YouTube, there is a full version from Kings College, Cambridge on the web. See you Sunday!

Jay



George Frideric Handel by Balthasar Denner

THIS SUNDAY WE WELCOME WOMANSONG

Thank you for coming: Abby Brill, Elaine Jordan, Donna Grossi, Wendy Robertson, Leslie Quenichet, Megan Letchworth, Laurel Freeman, Joy Sewell, Diane Thornbrugh, Lila Witt, Cheryl Berry, Lissa Tilousi, Laurie Silver and Grace Burford, Director

CHRISTMAS EVE LESSON READERS

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

During this busy season, I periodically need help in the office to stuff bulletins, envelopes, file documents etc. Let me know if you are interested in helping, I will write or call you. Julie J.

FAMILY CHRISTMAS POTLUCK

CONGREGATION CHRISTMAS POTLUCK

December 18 we will be gathering in Perkins Hall after worship service for our Annual Christmas Potluck. Please sign up in Perkins Hall to let us know what you are bringing so we can make sure to have enough of various food items.



CHRISTMAS SPECIAL SERVICES

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.

ON THE CHURCH CALENDAR:

- Dec. 18** **Congregation Christmas potluck meal after worship**
- Dec. 24** **Christmas Eve Carol Sing (Pat & Carol Sue Unkenholtz Leading)**
- Dec. 24** **Christmas Eve Service of Lessons & Carols 7:00 pm**
- Dec. 25** **Christmas Day Worship 10:30 am**
- Jan. 22** **Congregation Annual Meeting After Worship**
- Jan. 29** **Church Open House, Celebrate Restoration Project, 10am-2pm (Worship 10:30-11:30)**

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”.

One of our on-going local mission programs is the Community Cupboard. The Prescott Community Cupboard serves many of the impoverished families living in our community. Our FCC team packs food bags every 7 weeks, from 1:30-4:30. Thanks to those that have volunteered, but we could use a few new hands!! Please See Al Beeson 928-277-9784.

If you have any questions about any of our mission endeavors, please contact me (Gary Gard) 928-910-2455.

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.

RESTORATION UPDATE

We are coming down to the final stretch of the restoration project! Just waiting on a few items to arrive. We have ordered wood shutters for the back of the sanctuary and Cory Room. They are projected to arrive soon and be installed next week. Waiting on the completion of the riser, round tables and oblong table covers in Perkins Hall. (will be finished soon). Will be hanging historical pictures in the back of the sanctuary to create a gallery effect....easier for people to visually see the history of our church. Waiting for replacement lights on outside of church.





REV. HARRY STRONG WILL PRESENT NEXT WEEKS SERMON AS JOSEPH OF NAZARETH. “Joseph of Nazareth” will step out of the Nativity Scene and deliver the morning message here at First Congregational Church/UCC next Sunday, December 18. “Joseph” is one of 18 Biblical characters that Rev. Harry Strong 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.

“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.



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

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.

Funky Friday Game Night
Hosted by PFLAG
Everyone Welcome!
7-9 pm
1st Friday of every Month

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

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

CALLLED TO CARE MINISTRY meets the 2nd Thursday of every month at 12:15 pm in the Office Conference Room. If you are interested in being part of this ministry, see Marilyn Kerstine.

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

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

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

LAS FUENTES
1035 Scott Dr., Prescott
SPIRITUAL LIVING Class is held the 3rd Thursday of every month at 10 am, led by Called to Care Ministry.
~And~
Worship Service is also held the 2nd Sunday of every month at 3 pm, led by Pastor Jay.