



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

## FROM THE PASTOR

*The death of Absalom,  
hanging from a tree by his hair  
(14th-century German miniature).*

As a child, if you heard about the story of Absalom's hair getting caught in a tree, it was hard to forget. The story is part of David's family troubles - one son rapes his half-sister; another son kills the rapist; and his son Absalom rebels against David and tries to take over his kingdom. Absalom eventually is killed and David's grief for his son is described in 2 Samuel 18:

31 Then the Cushite arrived and said, "Good news, my master and king! God has given victory today over all those who rebelled against you!" 32 "But," said the king, "is the young man Absalom all right?" And the Cushite replied, "Would that all of the enemies of my master the king and all who maliciously rose against you end up like that young man." 33 The king was stunned. Heartbroken, he went up to the room over the gate and wept. As he wept he cried out,

O my son Absalom, my dear, dear son Absalom!  
Why not me rather than you, my death and not yours,  
O Absalom, my dear, dear son!

The title of the sermon is "When You Are at Your Lowest" (2 Samuel 13-18). We will see what David did at his lowest point and learn some lessons for our own low points.

God bless,

Jay

### DAVID SERMON SERIES CONTINUES

2 Samuel 14-15	Family Troubles
2 Samuel 16-18	When You Are at Your Lowest
2 Samuel 22	David: Fully Alive to God
2 Samuel 23	The Blessing of Communion
1 Chron. 28-29	Facing Death



## UCC Churches, Conference in Phoenix offer hospitality to migrant families released by ICE

*From right: Susan, Herb, Mike  
and Barb in the kitchen  
at Shadow Rock!*

A United Church of Christ congregation in Phoenix that provides a safe space for migrants seeking asylum in the United States has been extremely busy since Monday, offering an extravagant welcome to more than 100 people. Busloads of immigrant families who have been released by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) are routinely dropped off at Shadow Rock UCC for a meal, clothing, supplies and a place to stay while they try to connect with relatives and friends around the country.

"Hospitality is one of the ideals we hold as people of conscience in this country," said the Rev. Ken Heintzelman, Shadow Rock pastor.

Scores of immigrants waiting to have their cases heard have come through Shadow Rock, bussed in by ICE, since 2016 - but never more than a few dozen at a time. And not with a lot of advance notice.

"We got a call on Friday that they wanted us to take 100 people," said Abeth Spencer, the church's director of communications. "We had a weekend to get organized before they arrived Monday night, and they all stay here until we take them to the Greyhound Station."





As of Wednesday morning, October 10, the Shadow Rock group had dwindled to about 20 people. The numbers welcomed to the church campus skyrocketed this week because ICE is releasing several hundred migrants in Arizona as the agency seeks to comply with legal restrictions on the length of time people seeking to enter the U.S. may be held at detention centers.

“Roughly 700 people are being released in Arizona this week,” said the Rev. Bill Lyons, Conference Minister of the Southwest Conference UCC. “There are also more than 150 people waiting in Nogales at the Border to be processed because they aren’t taking anybody in – there isn’t any room for them in detention.” Shadow Rock lunch volunteers

The families seeking asylum usually have no local place to go – ICE holds them until they are processed. After that ICE often contacts churches to harbor migrants, so they have nourishment, a place to sleep and safety as they wait to connect with relatives and friends.

It’s been a huge task the last few days trying to find safe refuge for that many people all at once. ICE has even tapped faith communities that work with immigrants, but aren’t usually equipped to take overnight guests. Spencer noted that that First Church UCC in Phoenix had some families arrive Tuesday night, where Lyons said they were literally sleeping in the pews.

Lyons noted that while ICE has released three times the usual number of detainees this week, UCC faith communities, partnering with the Disciples of Christ Regional office and congregations, and ecumenical partners including Jews for Justice, welcomed, housed, fed, and blessed on their way more than 250 people in the last three days.

“Host congregations send them off to their families on the bus, and if they need those tickets we help with phone calls,” Lyons said. “We do currency exchange for them, and we have medical folks on hand for care.”

Shadow Rock is one of a coalition of churches and faith based organizations that consistently steps up to meet the needs of people fleeing violence in their home country and looking for a better life. And word of that welcome offered by the UCC congregation has spread south of the border.

Heintzelman tells the story about a man who arrived a few months back who kept asking if he was at Shadow Rock – because he was told in Guatemala if he made to Shadow Rock he would be okay.

The pastor also shared a comment from a man who was putting up shelves in the church, and got involved in the hospitality being offered to dozens in need of assistance. “He said it was the deepest experience of Christian service he ever had.”

Many of the migrants in transition are also comforted by the chance to embrace their faith. When their guests arrive, Heintzelman said, many times one of the first places they want to go, right off the bus, is to the sanctuary. After they take time to pray, they go take their showers and have a meal.

Spencer said that Shadow Rock doesn’t often publicize this work for obvious reasons, but once word leaked out to the media on Monday, the church started receiving a number of offers of assistance. “We want to respect the safety and privacy of our guests. But we have taken a lot of calls. A lot of people in the community want to know how they can help out. People who have seen us and are coming forward to assist. It’s been really been awesome.”

Usually the church needs the most assistance finding people to help with translation. Volunteers also make time to take people to the buses, to get food on the table, to provide jackets and other warm clothes—and most importantly, to give of themselves.

“I remember a woman who sat for three hours and spoon-fed a child out of a stupor,” Heintzelman said. “Our vision – that there will be 1,000 churches that would offer sanctuary. That this crisis of conscience would lead to immigration reform.”

Until then, Lyons said, UCC Churches should be ready to stand with our migrant brothers and sisters. “I believe in our covenant and our belief in welcome and hospitality,” he said. “I give our guests my business card, and tell them if they need help, to find one of our churches, and tell them Bill from the Southwest sent them.”



**OCTOBER**

This month’s mission emphasis we will be focusing on two missions. first is our denomination’s national “Our Church’s Wider Mission” (OCWM). Donations to the OCWM help support education, mission, and administrative planning and programing. Second, our local “People Who Care”.



**NOMINATING COMMITTEE MINISTRY POSITIONS**

Donations to PWC enable the ministry of local volunteers who help those in need with such services as; transportation, shopping, doctor/dental appointments, home repair, and fellowship. Checks may be made payable to our church, with the memo line designating your preference.If you note only “mission”, donations will be used at the discretion of our Mission Outreach committee. If you would like to explore being a PWC volunteer, please phone the Prescott PWC at 928-445-2480.

For the month of September, your mission contributions enabled us to send a \$1,718 check to our denomination’s “Neighbors in Need”. Among the NIN projects is the “Hope Station”, a newly forming border ministry with a planned shelter in Nogales, Mexico for immigrants arriving from the south and immigrants newly deported from the United States (including DACA students whose renewal applications were denied). As always, thank you for your support of ministries reaching out to those in need of love, justice, and compassion. We have been blessed to be a blessing (Genesis 12:2). For information about any of our mission projects, contact our Mission Outreach chairperson, Gary Gard at 928-910-2455.

On the third Wednesday of each month volunteers from our church provide a hot meal for women and children staying at the Prescott Area Shelter Services (PASS). If you would like to help, there is a sign-up sheet on the round table in Perkins Hall. Thank each of you who so faithfully participate in this ministry. For more information or questions, please contact our PASS meal coordinator, Patty Gard at 928-460-3042.

**Birthdays**

- WILSON, John September 28
- GATES, Elizabeth October 21
- LOBAUGH, Harold October 22
- LOBAUGH, Suzy October 23
- LANTRIP, Patty October 25
- DUFFY, Buz October 26

We are now upon that time of year when we reach out to the congregation and request three to four volunteers to serve on the Nominating Committee. Their challenge will be to find ‘willing and able’ members to fill the positions of current officers whose cabinet term is coming to an end. Some have spent years in their position because they have felt the call to do so. But now we need to fill some.

This is not only a request for several volunteers but also a plea to actually consider serving in one of these ministries OR giving us some feedback as to who you know that may be interested. We can’t do this without your help.

*Here are the Ministry/Officer positions open for 2019:*

**Co-Moderator** - Attend Cabinet Meetings, recommend formation of committees, appoint non-elected Ministry members as necessary, with cabinet approval, communicate regularly with Minister

**Treasurer** - Creator of Budget and maintains accurate account of funds received, disbursed, or invested in the name of the church

**Ministry of Physical Resources** - maintaining, preserving, and improving the church facilities and grounds

**Clerk** - Records business at Cabinet Meetings and distributes

**Members-at-Large** - maintains open dialogue with congregation and reports to Cabinet

Need those interested in service on the following committees:  
**Nomination Committee** -  
**Welcoming Committee** -

Thank you for any consideration you may have in filling a position.  
Please email or call for ANY QUESTIONS you may have.

Your Faithful Co-Moderator  
Patty Lantrip 480-227-2170 [palantrip@gmail.com](mailto:palantrip@gmail.com)  
Marti Garrison - 928-231-7664  
Gary Gard 928-445-7763

**TALENT, WILLING PARTICIPANTS,  
HUMBUG--ites AND HOLIDAY LOVERS NEEDED!! BE  
PART OF THE HOLIDAY MAGIC THIS SEASON**

**AUDITIONS FOR EBENEZER SCROOGE RADIO DRAMA  
TO BE HELD  
NOVEMBER 10TH 10 a.m. - 12:00**

**SIGN UP SHEET IS IN PERKINS HALL**

**NEEDED:  
VOICE CHARACTER ACTORS**

**BEHIND THE SCENES AND SOUND EFFECTS**

**FOR MORE DETAILS, CHECK THE SIGNUP SHEET IN PERKINS HALL OR SEE  
BRIAN MOORE**





OCTOBER

Andree Shrimpton and Randy Cook will be at the Alarcon Street entrance.



Paul Monska and James Olney will be at the front door.

**RADIO DRAMA - EBENEZER SCROOGE**  
TALENT WANTED - AUDITIONS FOR DECEMBER RADIO DRAMA TO BE HELD  
NOVEMBER 7<sup>TH</sup> 6:00-7:00 PM SANCTUARY  
NOVEMBER 10TH 10 AM - 12:00PM SANCTUARY  
RADIO DRAMA PERFORMANCE: DECEMBER 5TH 7:00 p.m.

**PRAYER CHAPEL - TUESDAY**  
Prayer chapel is transitioning at this time and not meeting at the church - prayers continue at homes - please leave your requests in the box in Perkins Hall.

**PASTOR BIBLE STUDY EVERY THURSDAY, 9:30-10:30 AM**  
Pastor Jay leads a weekly Bible Study on Thursdays at 9:30 am in the church office.

**RINGING BELLS REHEARSAL TIME IS MOVING TO 9:00 THURSDAYS**  
We are looking for new ringers that would like to come and try with us. It is necessary that you read treble clef music. Call if you are interested. Director Carole Sue Linson M.M. 928 717 4494

**ACTIVITY BAGS**  
To help your little ones pass the time before the Children’s Time, you will find colored activity bags hanging on the entry doors of the sanctuary for the children to enjoy. Please leave these activity bags in the pews when the children leave for Sunday school.

ALTER-NOTES

Would you like to sing or can play an instrument in a fun and crazy group?Anything goes-- pop, folk, blues, spirituals, African, calypso, jazz and even classical. We play in full group or break-out groups, as well as instrumentalists.



Contact Melissa Gates phone:207-391-3276  
Alter-Notes is an alternative music group that meets at 12:00 for rehearsal on the Chancel each Sunday.

Regularly Scheduled

PASTOR’S BIBLE STUDY

An informal study group meets on Thursday mornings at 9:30 a.m. in Conference 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

THE RINGING 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 membership. We meet Sundays at 9:00 a.m.before worship services.

ALTER-NOTES

Alter-Notes is an alternative music group that meets at 12:00 for rehearsal on the Chancel 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