



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."

February 10, 2017



IN THIS ISSUE

Page 1

- ♦ This Week at a Glance
- ♦ Message from Pastor Jay

Page 2

- ♦ Announcements

Page 3

- ♦ Letters to Josh Taylor
- ♦ From the UCC.org

Page 4

- ♦ From the UCC.org continued

This Week at a Glance...

- ♦ **Choir Rehearsal:** Sunday 9:00 am
- ♦ **Sunday Worship Service and Fellowship time:** 10:30 am
- ♦ **Bell Choir Practice:** Thursday 11:00 am
- ♦ **Foundation Meeting:** Thursday 6:00 pm

FROM THE PASTOR

1 Corinthians 3:1-3

And so, brothers and sisters, I could not speak to you as spiritual people, but rather as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. ² I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for solid food. Even now you are still not ready, ³ for you are still of the flesh. For as long as there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not of the flesh, and behaving according to human inclinations?

Seen any adult babies lately? The Apostle Paul dealt with some in the Corinth church. The title of Sunday's sermon is "Teething with First Corinthians 3." (1 Corinthians 3:1-9)



I will be travelling to San Antonio for a few days this next week, representing our church and The Coalition for Compassion and Justice. I will be going with city and nonprofit representatives to visit a "sobering center." CCJ and the city are looking at this need for roughly 15 clients per night who do not fit into the homeless shelter as they need too much attention. They often end up in the jail since there is no current alternative. CCJ's commitment to be client-centered has identified this need that no one else is fulfilling in our city. As always, I am grateful for the opportunity to represent all of you in our love and concern for those on the margins of society.

God bless, Jay



**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.



**EVERYWEEK
COMMUNION
10:00—10:25
SUNDAYS OTHER
THAN FIRST
SUNDAYS OF THE
MONTH
10:00— 10:20
PRAYER CHAPEL
10:20 IN PERKINS
HALL**

LAS FUENTES

Worship Service Sunday, 3:00 pm

PASS MEAL

Prescott Area Shelter Services will receive our monthly dinner donation this Wednesday at 5:00 pm in the church parking lot. – Sign-up sheet in Perkins Hall

FOUNDATION MEETING:

Feb 16 Thurs 6 pm conference

OUTREACH:

Our mission emphasis for February is the Prescott Area Shelter Services (PASS). PASS provides shelter for homeless women with children and or homeless families. In addition to providing shelter, PASS helps to network clients with area social services, helps clients pursue their employment and permanent housing goals. If you would like to help support PASS, please make your check payable to the church, with the memo line note, "PASS".

In addition to our monetary support, our church provides an evening meal once a month. We need more volunteers. If you can help, please contact our PASS meal co-captains; Andrea (928-710-5427) or Tawnya Worthington (928-533-0046).

Following our mission emphasis for January, a \$270 check is being sent to the Prescott Community Cupboard. In addition, throughout the year, we encourage your donation of canned goods using the donation box found in the front area of the sanctuary. If you would like to help pack food bags, please contact our Community Cupboard captain, Al Beeson (928-277-9784). Thank you for your support of outreaching to those in need.

JAZZ VESPERS:

Cool Azul will be entertaining us here as we enjoy another evening filled night of Jazz and wine! Join us Wednesday evening Feb 22 at 6:30 pm.

CABINET MEETING:

Thursday evening, 6:30pm Feb 23rd.

JAZZ WORSHIP:

Denise Nasso will be coming Sunday Feb 26th.

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE:

5:30 pm, March 1st –Rev Harry Strong.

LENTEN SERIES BEGINS

Wednesday night 5:30 pm March 8—Rev. Harry Strong.



**Congratulations
Jody Hoitt!!**

Christopher Lennox
Hoitt, was born
1/27/2016, 7lbs 8 oz.

PLEASE SHOWER JOSH TAYLOR WITH LOVE, CARDS AND LETTERS

Josh is now a Marine Corporal deployed to Saudi last December. For anyone who doesn't know him, Josh was our beloved staff Childcare provider for years, our dedicated staff security guard who lived in the church parsonage and our compassionate one who was always "there" with a smile and a hug whenever any of us had a need. Now he needs, not our care packages, but our caring notes, letters and cards from home to cheer his "Mail Call" moments! Just let him know how you are doing, what's happening, or introduce yourself! Fun cards are great too! Military rules are strict so please address all mail like this with first class postage:

CPL TAYLOR, JOSHUA R
SPMAGTF 17.1 CE
UNIT 89033
FPO AP 96610-0001



Best practices to amplify the UCC's voice for progressive Christianity

February 04, 2017

Written by **Anthony Moujaes**



The voices of people of faith, from the United Church of Christ and other progressive Christian denominations, are now more important than ever. A heightened sense of advocacy, to protect people in the margins threatened by new governmental policies, is seen as not only as necessary by church leaders, but critical to the UCC call to love our neighbor as our self, and to create a just world for all.

And, by putting forth some insight on best practices, they are asking the entire church to join the effort.

"The reason faith voices are so important now is having a moral grounding and moral voice for what we think the world could and should be," said Sandy Sorensen, director of the UCC's

advocacy office in Washington, D.C., "That's what faith people bring to justice work."

The Rev. Kelly Burd, pastor of Pilgrim Congregational UCC in Cleveland, is focusing her church's outreach in a "12 in 12" strategy. Burd is asking each of the members of her church to commit to participate to 12 hours of justice advocacy or community service in the next 12 months.

While Pilgrim Congregational is coordinating for members future opportunities for public witness in the region, there should be plenty of circumstances. Already in the last two weeks in Northeast Ohio, hundreds of demonstrators gathered at Cleveland Hopkins Airport to oppose the White House's travel ban, welcomed newly-naturalized citizens at a federal courthouse downtown, and rallied in a public park to publicly support immigrants and refugees.

The strategy is one Burd believes could gain traction throughout the

Continued on page 4

Continued from page 3

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

**Regularly
Scheduled****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!!!

denomination and beyond.

"If even 90 people in our congregation opt in and follow through as a means to be the church in the world in a new way, the wider community would benefit from 1080 hours of our collective involvement," Burd said. "This is something tangible and measurable to help us wrap our minds around the call of Christ and the collective impact of our response on behalf of Pilgrim Congregational United Church of Christ."

Jessie Palatucci, a communications specialist who works in the D.C. office, pointed out some easy ways UCC members can ramp up their advocacy efforts.

"The first and easiest thing is to make phone calls to Congress, to talk about why an issue matters to you. If you tell a compelling story, those can get passed on to staffers and elected officials themselves," she said. The U.S. Capitol Switchboard (202-224-3121) can connect callers with their elected representatives.

Palatucci suggests that people already making calls looking to ramp their advocacy to the next level could consider writing letters to the editor of their local newspapers. "Congressional staff track mentions of elected officials in the press carefully. They often clip the letters and forward them to elected officials themselves, so even getting published in a small weekly has a big impact," she said. "All it takes is 150 words."

Advocacy doesn't necessarily mean a trip to Washington, D.C., to meet with a senator or representative. Some of those in-person visits can happen right near home. "There are in-state and in district offices for Congressional members in every state," Palatucci said. "Staff are usually excited to meet one-on-one with constituents. And a lot of members of Congress do in-state town halls frequently — if you are on Senator's mailing list, you can get notified and show up when they hold a local town hall or a listening session. Prepare your questions, bring a friend, spread out in the crowd and you'll double your chance to get your concerns heard during the Q&A time."

Sorensen believes that advocacy begins by building relationships with key players in federal, state and local government, and members of the media.

"When you contact members of Congress, or state legislatures or even city council — decision-makers at all levels — the key thing is to establish a relationship," Sorensen said. "It's more than one phone call or letter. Find out what issues they are passionate about, and offer yourself as a resource. If someone is active on affordable housing, and that's a part of your congregation's ministry, then offer that experience."

"Introduce yourself to media people — local television, radio and newspaper reporters — as a potential source on matters of faith and politics," she added.

Sorensen also suggested seeking out other faith groups and organizations doing justice work in local communities, and attending those meetings and introducing yourself. There are frequently faith-based coalitions and grassroots organizations already addressing issues of racial justice, poverty, immigration and refugee issues, LGBT equality and more.

"Don't overlook the importance of prayer and spiritual practice in all this," Sorensen said. "Find people who share the same concerns, pray together, stay rooted in your faith. That will nourish your work and it will make your work that much stronger. It's a marathon, not a sprint — change takes time."

Learn more about the scope of the UCC's justice work online.