

First Congregational Church Prescott, UCC

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

The Parish Caller Weekly Newsletter February 8, 2019



from Jay's Desk

Canterbury cathedral, Ministry of Jesus window

, The Miraculous Draft of Fish

This Sunday the Epiphany light shines on Peter. Jesus asked him to "cast out into the deep" and the result was a great catch of fish and Peter's life being transformed (Luke 5:1-11). We will consider our personal epiphanies in the light of Peter's experience of Jesus.

These words attributed to Sir Francis Drake reveal the importance of epiphanies stretching our boundaries and fears:

Disturb us, Lord, when we are too well pleased with ourselves;

When our dreams have come true because we dreamed too little;

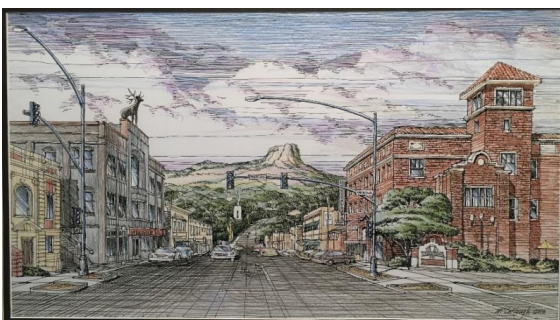
When we arrived safely because we sailed too close to shore...

*Disturb us, Lord, to dare more boldly, to venture on wider seas
where storms will show your mastery; where losing sight of land,
we shall find the stars. We ask you to push back the horizons of our hopes;
and to push into the future in strength, courage, hope, and love.*



The title of the sermon is "God's disturbing, irritating presence." I wish we had an outside board to advertise this! I imagine it would raise some eyebrows. Who wants to be disturbed and irritated? Our lives depend on it!

Jay



"Celebration of God's Gift to Art"

The Church is planning an Art Fair here on June 15th and would like to invite any members interested in showing their work or would like to help plan and work at the event to attend a planning meeting after Church on February 17th.

Pastor Jay has organized similar events in the past and is enthusiastic about opening the Church to the community for the event. Pastor Jay suggested the theme to be "Celebration of God's Gift to Art"



First Congregational Church Library

Here are three new ones for a variety of readers (or browsers, or if you like to skim and read a little at a time):

"Who does not want to have the last word?" If you do, glance through this: *The Last Word*:

A Treasury of Women's Quotes, compiled by Carolyn Warner. The original foreword is by Erma Bombeck and the updated foreword is by The Honorable Sandra Day O'Connor. There's an interesting mix! The book's chapters are, for example, Ability, Age, Courage, Faith, Humor, Politics, and Vision. When you need to have the last word, pick up this book.

Denial is My Spiritual Practice, by Rachel Hackenberg and Martha Spong (Bishop Spong's cousin).

These clergywomen have blogs and also put together this book, each writing on a relevant topic. The table of contents include "You should

Anyone interested may contact Julie at the Church office or Barbara McCollough at cbmc4re@gmail.com , 951-297-8311

Many THANKS and KUDOS go out to HENRY DAHLBERG for his vision and work on MOVING the Hazeltine plague "BLOOM WHERE YOU ARE PLANTED" to a more visual space along the Gurley St. side of our church.....AND also for researching and purchasing the correct plant (Nandina) and planting it in a new pot as we enter off Alarcon. Thank you Henry!



feel this pain," "Silence in the sanctuary," "My chai runneth over," and "Love at a funeral." These are light-hearted and yet take on some serious faith issues. Rachel is a United Church of Christ minister and Martha is a Presbyterian minister.

Why do we have a comma after "God is Still Speaking,"? *Beyond the Comma:*
Life at the intersection by Robert Chase handles this question in an accessible and thoughtful way. Through the lens of God is still speaking, Chase addresses gratitude, listening, race, truth, forgiveness, and beyond death. This book is praised by Rabbi Naamah Kelman (dean of Hebrew College); Rev. Dr. James Forbes (former senior pastor at Riverside Church in New York City); Rev. Dr. Nancy Wilson of Metropolitan Community Church; Ambassador Akbar Ahmed, Islamic Studies, American University; and Sulome Anderson, journalist and professed agnostic. That's quite a crew! The author is a United Church of Christ minister.



"MAKE NEW FRIENDS AND KEEP THE OLD"

Here's how at First Congregational: We are initiating a new fun way to make friends with congregants you may not know well---yet!

NINE 'n DINE FOR MARCH, 2019

This is a great opportunity to share hospitality and meet congregants both recent and established over an informal meal at a host's home. Your host will contact you about a convenient date and ask that each person bring a side dish. The host will provide the main dish.

Sign up in Perkins for an evening (or brunch) of good food and good discussion at this get-to-know-you. It's sure to be fun! Please sign up before the end of February. Questions? See Marti at church or email garrisonmarti@gmail.com.

Anniversaries	
Geri Lyons	02/03
Suzanne Brouard	02/12
Suzy & Hal Lobaugh	02/19
Birthdays	
Susan Lemons	02/04
Brian Moore	02/04
Phil Prebble	02/11
Dan Bradstreet	02/12
Harry Strong	02/19
Barbie Beeson	03/02
Betty Corn	03/13
Kathy Stephens	03/13
Any Wilson	03/15
Patty Gard	03/18
Bret Ely	03/26
Andree Shrimpton	03/28

MISSIONS NEWS

This month's mission emphasis is the Prescott Area Shelter Services (PASS). Pass first opened its doors to homeless women and women with children (children 12 and under) in December 2007. The shelter usually operates at its full capacity of 25 guests. In addition to providing shelter, PASS works with other area agencies to provide counseling, job assistance and other support services.



This summer, they hope to begin construction of two additional rooms which will increase their capacity to 33 guests, including children 18 years and younger. In addition to financial donations, our church provides a monthly hot meal. Volunteers are always welcome to help provide these meals. There is a PASS volunteer sign-up sheet kept on a table in Perkins Hall.

Questions or comments can be directed to our PASS meal coordinator, Patty Gard (Phone 928-460-4032 or email gpgard@cableone.net). As always, thank you



February
Patty Brenner
Bill Rouse
Randy Cook
Sue Parker-Hodge - February 10, 17th
Martie Dial - February 24th


March
Sandra Johns
Liz Spence
Gilges: Cheryl and Ralph

First Congregational Church Packer Team Schedule, Feb 25-Mar 1, 2019
Mon 25: Don & Kathy Stephens
Tue 26: Patty Brenner
Marie Kissel
Wed 27: Jan & Wm Mauck
New Sue Parker
Thurs 28: Linda & Dave Foote
Fri Mar 1: Jim Christopher
Patty Landtrip

for your support of our church’s mission outreach. Our Mission Outreach Team welcomes your questions or comments. Becky and Bill Bryant, Patty Gard, Staci Robbins, Gary Gard (chairperson). We are blessed to be a blessing. (Genesis 12:2)



christian education



Adult Opportunities for Learning and Sharing
Meeting in the Church Library, downstairs below Perkins Hall

Our Spiritual Journeys, Monday, Feb. 18, 12-1:00 is for us to share individual and unique spiritual journeys through life: questions we have, doubts, joys, changing beliefs through life stages and how we learn from each other.

Social Justice, Sunday, Feb. 10, 12-1:00. How does our church and how do we personally enact social justice? How is God calling you to rise up and act?

“God is Still Speaking,” What Does that Mean for Us? Wednesday, Feb. 13, 4:30-5:30. Why does “God is Still Speaking,” end with a comma? “Never place a period where God has placed a comma” (Gracie Allen). What will you do this year to slow down and make space for God so you can be more engaged with your spiritual self and with our church?

Embracing an Adult Faith Today, Thursday, Feb.14 - Community; 12:30-1:30. What are the stages of faith? Where have we grown and changed over time? Pete Norum will lead this discussion using DVDs featuring author and Bible scholar Marcus Borg.

The Bible and the United Church of Christ, Sunday, February 24 and March 3, 9:15-10:15. We will use UCC materials as well as selected readings from our library to delve into how our church, part of the national UCC, opens the Bible for us.

Coming up: Parables Perusal, Saturday, March 16, 11-3, led by several ministers in our midst. Each will select a parable to get us wondering: what *did* Jesus mean? Lunch provided.

Women's Gathering in April. Get ready for lively times and deeper looks into how women are presented in the Bible. Who are they? How do we relate...or not?



REGULARLY SCHEDULED PROGRAMMING

- 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.

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.

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 9:00 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).

ADMINISTRATION
Monday - Thursday: 9:00-4:00
Friday 9:00-1:00
928-445-4555
fccprescott@gmail.com
juliefccprescott@gmail.com



PASTOR JAY
Monday - Thursday: 9:00-1:00
928-899-9066
Jayfccprescott@gmail.com