

# The Parish Caller February 12, 2021

## A Message from Pastor Jay

### SUNDAY FEBRUARY 14

This Sunday we celebrate Valentine's Day and Transfiguration of the Lord Sunday. Mark 9:2-9 is the gospel reading. These two special days come together in words of love from God to Jesus - "This is my Son, the Beloved" and "listen to him." Love is expressed in communication and listening. We are called to listen to Jesus - to his words and the actions of his life. This happens in the pages of Scripture but also as we listen for the "still speaking God." More light continues to come from the Word. Our stained glass window reveals how the Word was applied to bring justice and freedom in our past. We continue to listen in this past year as the still speaking God teaches us about the preciousness of life and our continued struggle for a more perfect union in racial and economic justice.

ZOOM BIBLE STUDY SATURDAY 10:00 AM

ZOOM SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP 10AM

ZOOM Ash Wednesday SERVICE FEB 17 NOON  
Zoom Invite Will Be Sent Out Sunday

**Andree Shrimpton passed away last week**

### EMAIL SCAM

Our church and others are experiencing fake emails being sent with an email just a little off from what it ought to be - for example, adding a 1 or deleting another letter. Information is taken from the website and not a personal email. They are not getting into my personal email but creating one close to mine. **I will never ask you for a favor or money!** Check the email closely for the right address.

## BULLETIN

### TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY

February 14, 2021

## **GATHERING TO WORSHIP GOD**

Prelude: “Gather Us In” Marty Haugen 10-25-20 #1

Words of Welcome – Announcements - \*Passing of the Peace

Call to Worship – Melissa Gates

Gathering in this sacred place we anticipate new wonders each week. Wherever two or three are gathered to worship, Christ is present. Open our eyes to witness the fantastic love and wondrous joy waiting to be revealed, even this day, even in this place. We will want to linger and camp in this sanctuary but when we leave today may our hearts be open to all the wonders of God’s beautiful world. Let Us Worship God!

Hymn: “Gather Us In” by Marty Haugen

## **PROCLAIMING GOD’S WORD**

A Time for Children of All Ages - JJ

Transfiguration Prayer – Melissa Gates

Holy One, on mountaintops and valley floors you reveal to us the light of your love. Our hearts desire is to bask in the amazing glory of the divine presence. With each encounter, we are changed and transformed. Draw us nearer that we might receive a double portion of your Holy Spirit. Help us, O Holy One, to live our lives as a reflection of divine glory. May we walk among our brothers and sister as a blessing, bearing light into dark places, hope to displace despair, and love that casts out hate. Our world is hurting and we need the followers of Jesus to follow more closely. Maybe then we will hear your voice speaking to us and saying, ... “listen to my Child, the Beloved!” Amen.

Gospel Reading: Mark 9:2-10 Melissa Gates

Hymn: "You Are Salt of the Earth, O People"

Sermon: "Transfiguration –  
Moving from Head to Heart" Pastor Jay

## **RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE**

Anthem: "Set Your Heart on the Higher Gifts" by  
Steven Warner

Prayers of the People / The Lord's Prayer (use trespasses)

Offering of Ourselves and our Gifts - Melissa Gates

Prayer of Dedication – Melissa Gates

With these gifts we proclaim not ourselves but Jesus  
and commit ourselves to follow a way that leads to love  
and life. May our gifts be witness to our love for each  
other and the God who loves us all. Amen

Postlude: "When the Saints Go Marching In" 11-1-20  
#8

Benediction - Pastor Jay

## **Serving the Church**

Ministers All the People of the Church  
Pastor Rev. Dr. Jay Wilcher  
Pastor Emeritus Rev. Robert Bradstreet  
Worship Leader Melissa Gates  
Alter Notes Director Melissa Gates  
Organist Brian Moore  
Co-Moderators Melissa Gates & Bill Bryant  
Minister of the Building Rev. Bill Linson  
Facilities Coordinator Tom Macy  
Video Technician James Logsdon

**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**

## FEBRUARY MISSION NEWS

**Mission Outreach Update:** We have received the following “Thank You” from Kendra Hobson, pastor of the St Luke Ebony Christian Church (SLECC) in Dewey.

“Please express my gratitude to the First Congregational/UCC Church in Prescott. I’m humbled at your church family’s selfless love,-expressed through this financial donation. This will go towards mortgage number two, for our church classrooms. With this donation, we will move closer to implementing our vision statement. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.”

Our **January** mission emphasis projects highlighted both SLECC and the Prescott Community Cupboard. Following your donations, a \$625 was sent to the SLECC, and a \$665 check was sent to the Prescott Community Cupboard. Additionally, per donor wishes, a \$500 check was sent to the Prescott Area Shelter Services (PASS).

**PASS is our February mission emphasis project.** As you know, our church family provides a monthly hot meal along with snacks, cleaning supplies, and personal hygiene items for women and children staying at the PASS shelter. The following is excerpted from the PASS newsletter, written by Carman Frederic, PASS Executive Director.

### **Wishing You a Safe and Happy New Year!**

I was in the drive-thru the other day after ordering my coffee and a breakfast sandwich; I had received a gift card and thought I would treat myself. But when I got to the window the lady said, “Oh! Your order was paid for by the car in front of you!” I was thrilled to no end! I had a huge smile, and I looked to see if I could wave at the car, but it was gone. I felt like I won the lottery! My next thought was how very kind; I wondered what that person was like. I wondered if they had a smile doing that gesture for me, a total stranger. I asked the woman at the window who was behind me, and if I could pay for their order as a gift, but there was no one behind me in line at that time. I felt a little bit guilty but drove away, still with a smile and drinking my special coffee. This small act of kindness had brightened my day to no end and I had made up my mind that the next time I go through the

drive-thru to use my gift card, I would pay for the person behind me!

I often think about the women and children that come through the shelter when they are in need. They are in a stressful situation, looking for any support they can find. The stress and worry clouds their minds and it is hard to make decisions.

Before arriving they may have been getting by day-by-day as they are not sure what the next day will bring. Then, something special happens, and they reach out for help at the shelter, and we can be that support system for them. The first week or two at the shelter is difficult. They move in with all of our other guests, who are strangers to them, and they have to learn our rules and expectations, and to work with staff and volunteers. But, they have a warm shower, a home cooked meal, and a nice bed. Someone is always available to talk, listen and to support them. This process begins a time of healing for people. They may slowly begin to trust, and these small acts of kindness gives them the same feeling I had when a total stranger bought my coffee. We do these things as a way to show love and care for others because we believe in the innate worth and value of every single person, and we continue to work towards our vision of imagining a community without homelessness.

**Being a part of the shelter, as a staff member, volunteer, or donor, provides immeasurable aid to people in need.** Not only does it help women and children heal, it truly helps them feel cared about, sometimes for the first time in their life. **I want to thank everyone who was involved with PASS in 2020. Even though it was an extremely challenging year for everyone, the generosity and thoughtfulness still shined at the shelter through all of the support we received.** I would like to thank all the donors for making it possible financially to continue to help the most vulnerable; we could not do it without the financial support. I would like to thank our volunteers, and Board of Directors for working so diligently to operate such an effective shelter and programs. I hope that 2021 brings as much kindness as I saw here at the shelter in 2020.

Carmen Frederic  
Executive Director

### What A Difference a Volunteer Makes

We will never be able to put into words how grateful we are for the community support we receive! It is because of YOU that we are able to serve women and children in need. Thank you for your time, your monetary donations, your talents, and everything you do to help ensure our guests success! Below are our volunteer stats for 2020, what a difference you have made!

*The value of a volunteer, according to the independent sector is \$27.20*

**Evening Advocate:** 7 nights a week, one volunteer a night, three hours each night= 1095 hours a year, valued at \$29,784. Endless support for PASS guests=Priceless

**Meal Providers:** 7 nights a week, 2-5 hours per meals: 730-1825 hours a year, valued at \$19,856 - \$49,640. A full stomach of delicious and nutritious food=Priceless

**Office Hours:** 5 mornings a week, 3 hours each morning=780 hours, valued at \$14,144. Having a consistent presence in the community=Priceless

**Overnight Advocate:** 6 hours a night= 2190 hours a year, valued at \$59,568. Having someone

at the shelter in case of an emergency=Priceless.

**In 2019/2020, PASS experienced a growth in services of 172.7%** , this was in large part because of the completion of our expansion project, and the two transitional houses we started. PASS has maintained an 87% transition rate, even with the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. We continue to make adjustments that allow us to support women and families in need. Maintaining healthy housing per the CDC COVID- 19 recommendations is a priority. Our integrated programming allows us to work with guests and create a plan for their successful move to permanent housing. Current programming includes: Case Management and Advocacy Program; Wheels to Work; Homeless Transition Project; Education to Employability Program; and PASS Transitional Housing Program. Our recent challenge is that it is taking additional time and resources to stabilize our guests as they face the challenges of today's world.

**Our goals for 2021 include:** putting in a playground with a fence, to re-do the shower room and main bathroom, and to paint the outside of our main building so it ages at the same rate as our expansion rooms. There are plans for a mentorship program pairing guests with AAUW mentors as added support and one-on-one care for the guests. Additionally, we will start a Smile with Confidence Program that will supplement payments for our guests who need dental work and cannot afford it. If you have any ideas or suggestions on how we can improve our services, please let us know!

Thank you for helping us help others!

Prescott Area Shelter Services | 336 N. Rush Street , Prescott , AZ 86301

If you would be able to help with the PASS meal for Wednesday, February 17, please contact our PASS team captain, Patty Gard, at 928-460-3042 or email [gpgard@cableone.net](mailto:gpgard@cableone.net).

Thank you for remembering that we have been blessed to be a blessing. [Genesis 12:2) For more information, contact any of our team members. Becky and Bill Bryant, Helaine Berman, Patty Gard, Linda Moore, or Gary Gard, chairperson.

## CHURCH FOUNDATION

The congregation of the First Congregational Church established and incorporated the **FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH FOUNDATION (FCCF)**, as a separate legal entity, on **March 24, 1993**, as a **not-for-profit corporation**. The sole member of the FCCF is the **First Congregational Church**, and the Church granted the FCCF full authority to administer the funds of the FCCF.

As of the 2021 Annual Meeting of the Church, the following are the nine members of the Board of Directors: David Foote, Susan Lemons, James Christopher, Julie McCurdy, Patty Lantrip, Sue Hodge-Parker, Alice Kring, Tom Macy, and Rev. Jay Wilcher.

To fund the FCCF, the members of the Church made legacy gifts to provide monies for it to continue its mission into the future. There are presently eleven (11) funds, ten (10) of which are “memorial endowment funds” and five (5) of which contain restrictions relating to the usage of the funds and/or the time of each expenditure. These funds are used to support the religious, educational and charitable purposes of the church and to support the needs of the church which are not encompassed in the church’s budget. The FCCF manages these funds.

The FCCF is a vehicle for church members to invest in the church’s future. These legacy gifts may take any one of a number of forms from memorials, testamentary trusts, living trusts, charitable donations, bequests, etc. In the coming weeks, The Caller will include information on legacy gifts for your consideration.

## ZOOM LENTEN STUDIES SAT. 10AM

DURING LENT, WE WILL USE THE BOOK "WHITE FRAGILITY" BY ROBIN DIANGELO AND AND THE BOOK "CASTE - THE ORIGINS OF OUR DISCONTENTS" BY ISABEL WILKERSON, ALONG WITH THE GOSPEL TEXTS FOR EACH SUNDAY

FEBRUARY 20 10AM - FACING WHITE FRAGILITY  
FEBRUARY 27 10AM - DENYING WHITE SUPREMACY

### SERMONS:

February 21 Mark 1:9-15 Facing White Fragility  
February 28 Mark 8:31-38. Denying White Supremacy

Ash Wednesday

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A Zoom Ash Wednesday Service will be held at noon on February 17. The Zoom invite will go out this Sunday, the 14th. This year we will use glitter ash. Make your own or order from [parity.nyc](http://parity.nyc). The worship service is also online at [parity.nyc](http://parity.nyc).

### WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS?

The public face of Christianity is often a face of intolerance -- especially toward LGBTQia people. There are millions of Christians who believe that the Gospel commands us to love, not hate. Glitter ashes are a witness to an inclusive Christian message.

It is commonly believed that the God of Christianity condemns LGBTQia people. This is Christian “fake news” not the Good News of Jesus.

Christian condemnation is toxic, doing vast damage to queer people, especially to queer youth—and to their families who are told they should reject their children.

By becoming visible, we show our faith in God who empowers us and wants us to repent of hurting each other.

Glitter+Ash is an inherently queer sign of Christian belief, blending symbols of mortality and hope, of penance and celebration. Ash Wednesday is the beginning of Lent, a season of repentance. During Lent, Christians look inward and take account in order to move forward with greater health. At this moment in history, glitter ashes will be a powerful reminder of St. Augustine’s teaching that we cannot despair because despair paralyzes, thwarting repentance and impeding the change that we are called to make.

Glitter+Ash exquisitely captures the relationship between death and new life. We do not live in fear of ash - of death - we place it on our foreheads for the world to see. We know that fear will rise, cramping our hearts. We also know that God specifically calls us not to project that fear onto the Other, the alien, the stranger in our midst. God insists that we look for the spark of life, of hope, in ourselves and one another. This Ash Wednesday, we will make that spark easier to see. We will stand witness to the gritty, glittery, scandalous hope that exists in the very marrow of our tradition.

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## VOLUNTEERS FOR COMMUNITY CUPBOARD

**Many thanks to the following church members and friends who packed at Prescott Community Cupboard during the week of January 11-15, 2021. Your generous service has been of tremendous assistance to the needy of our community:**



**Don & Kathy Stephens, Patty Brenner & Marie Kissel, Sue Hodge-Parker & Patty Lantrip, Dave & Linda Foote, and Alice Kring & Barbara Frank**

**Please help the church expand its list of volunteers. Your service would consist of three (3) hours (1:30 to 4:30 p.m.) on only one day during the week assigned to the FCC, which is every seven weeks. Our next week is March 1-5. Angela Imbierowicz will call volunteers usually 10-14 days before the FCC's week and ask you on which day you will be able to pack. Whether you are available to volunteer during that week is up to you. You are NOT required to serve every 7 weeks -- just when you are available. On your first day of packing, I (or another volunteer) will work with you to show you the procedure. We do not communicate with the public directly -- we only pack the food, and it is distributed by others. We require everyone in the facility to wear masks.**

**Please contact me if you are available: Angela Imbierowicz, [angelaprescottaz@gmail.com](mailto:angelaprescottaz@gmail.com), 708-712-1448.**

**Thank you.**

## **COVID-19 UPDATE FROM CABINET**

**We will continue to worship virtually into 2021. We will monitor virus spread and vaccine distribution and decide what month we will open in 2021**

## **SUPPORT YOUR CHURCH DURING CORONAVIRUS!**

- **Online – go to our website: [www.fccprescott.org](http://www.fccprescott.org) and look for the tab on the front page**

- You can set up regular, ongoing giving or one-time giving.
- Use your credit card and get some points!
- Your bank may have free online bill pay. You find the tab on your online account, fill in the details of the check as you would a regular check, and the bank mail will mail it for you! You can set up a one-time check or recurring scheduled check amount.
- Make a check out to the church and mail it to: 216 East Gurley Street, Prescott, AZ 86301

The church office is closed going forward, However, someone will pick up the mail on a daily basis to place checks into the safe.

[Visit our website](#)

[Watch Services Here](#)

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## TREASURER REPORT

**As of January 31 total income is \$8,159**

**Total expenses are \$10,101.**

**Total Expenses exceed Income by \$1,942.**

**Year-to-date income is at 7% of the income budget of \$122,450.**

**Year-to-date expenses are at 8% of the expense budget of \$146,905.**

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