

A Message from Pastor Jay

CHURCH ANNUAL MEETING RESULTS

2021 BUDGET APPROVED
FINANCIAL SECRETARY POSITION APPROVED
2021 SLATE OF OFFICERS APPROVED

CABINET MEMBERS

Co-Moderators Melissa Gates and Bill Bryant

Treasurer Julie McCurdy

Clerk Suzanne Broussard

Pastor Jay Wilcher

Ralph Wagner for Called to Care

Tom Macy for Physical Resources

Gary Gard for Outreach

Cabinet Members-at-Large Henry Dahlberg, Alice Kring , and Diane Mares

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 7

This Sunday we have a timely focus on "rest for the weary." Isaiah 40:21-31 and Mark 1:29-39 are the texts. Prepare your elements for communion. Tom, Brian, Jane, Wendy, and Ervie provide music. JJ soars with the Eagles.

ZOOM BIBLE STUDY SATURDAY 10:00 AM

ZOOM SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP 10AM

BULLETIN

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

February 7, 2021

GATHERING TO WORSHIP GOD

Prelude: "I've Got Peace Like a River" Smule

Words of Welcome – Announcements - Passing of the Peace

Call to
Worship

Come to Jesus, all you who are weary and heavy laden,
Come and find rest and renewal here.

Come to Jesus, all you who have been worn out and
tired, Come and find strength and refreshment in the
Spirit. Come to Jesus, all you who feel the weight of the
world on your shoulders, Come and be filled with
Christ, who renews our spirits. Come and worship, and
be raised up in Christ. Amen.

Hymn: "Be Still My Soul" Deana & Brian

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

A Time for Children of All Ages - JJ

Hebrew Scripture Reading: Isaiah 40:21-
31

Gospel Reading: Mark 1:29-
39

Sermon: "Strength for the Weary" Pastor
Jay

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper (Communion is
open to all)

Communion Music: "I Come with Joy" Tom & Brian

Prayer for Strength and Healing

Holy One, our lives are often like an emotional rollercoaster in a runaway car. We sometimes feel our lives are out of control, and so we often try to get control. And then we give up. It is times like these that we need you. We need to commune with you, to become centered and whole. We need to draw close to you, to experience your healing touch. We need the support of one other, the love of one another, the encouragement of one another to remind us of your presence. It is times when we commune with you that we are lifted- up on eagles' wings and gain power for our faintness. Then we gain strength for our weariness. Then we who are wounded find healing. Then we find hope in your steadfast love. And when we have received our healing, may we then be a vessel for you to use to heal others. May our households of faith be a gathering of those in need of healing and forgiveness. Amen

RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE

Anthem: "With a Shepherd's Care"

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

Offering of Ourselves and our Gifts

Prayer of
Dedication

God of all that is, all we have, all we are – we give. We give these gifts as we reach across the thresholds of our concerns. We give these gifts, knowing that they will give so much more through Jesus Christ. Amen.

Hymn: "Precious Lord, Take My Hand"

Benediction - Pastor Jay

Postlude: "Pues si Vivimos" (Mexican Melody)

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

**First Congregational Church of Prescott
United Church of Christ**

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Founded September 26, 1880

FEBRUARY MISSION NEWS

Mission Outreach Update: Our Mission Outreach emphasis for February is the **Prescott Area Shelter Services (PASS)**. As you know, our church family provides a monthly hot meal along with miscellaneous snack, cleaning and personal hygiene items for the women and children sheltered at the Prescott Area Shelter Services (PASS). The following letter, excerpted from this month's newsletter, was written by Carmen Frederic, the Executive Director of PASS:

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!

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.

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.

TREASURER'S REPORT

END OF 2020 UPDATE

Treasurer's note for Parish Caller January 2021

I don't have all the data yet to report fully on the December financials, so here's a preliminary report of how things are looking at the close of 2020.

At the time of this writing income for the year is at \$184,000 which exceeds the budget by more than \$16,000. Expenses are at \$176,000, exceeding the expense budget by less than \$1,000. Year-to-date income exceeds expenses by \$8,000.

You can expect a much fuller report of 2020 finances in the Treasurer's Annual Report which will be made available to you in the coming weeks. Stay tuned!

And, as always, I thank you for your continued support of our church.

Julie McCurdy, Treasurer

SERMON SCHEDULE

January 31 Mark 1:21-28 Modern Demonic Actions
February 7 Mark 1:29-39. Strength for the Weary
February 14. Mark 9:2-10. Moving From Head to Heart
February 21. Mark 1:9-15 Facing White Fragility
February 28 Mark 8:31-38. Denying White Supremacy

Ash Wednesday

A Zoom Ash Wednesday Service will be held at noon on February 17. The Zoom invite will go out next Friday, the 12th. This year we will use glitter ash. Make your own or order from parity.nyc. The worship service is also online at 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.

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, 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 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](#)

Celebrating YOU!!!
