



# First Congregational Church

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

## THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE...

- Chancel Singers Rehearsal: Sunday 9:00 a.m.
- Worship Service: **HOLY HUMOR SUNDAY** -- 10:30 a.m.
- Alter-Notes Rehearsal: Sunday 12:00 - 12:45 p.m.
- Prayer Chapel: Tuesday 11:00 a.m. Meeting Room 2
- Pastor's Bible Study: Thursday 9:30 a.m. Chapel downstairs
- Bell Choir Rehearsal: Thursday 11:00 a.m.

## FROM THE PASTOR

Holy Humor Sunday is here! There will be several joke breaks during the service, so find your best joke to share and come ready to share the laughs! Proverbs 17:22 - "A cheerful heart is good medicine."

Churches in 15th century Bavaria used to celebrate the Sunday after Easter as Risus Paschalis ('God's Joke,' or 'the Easter laugh'). Priests would deliberately include amusing stories and jokes in their sermons in an attempt to make the faithful laugh. After the service, people would gather together to play practical jokes on one another and tell funny stories. It was their way of celebrating the resurrection of Christ - the supreme joke God played on Satan by raising Jesus from the dead. The observance of Risus Paschalis was officially outlawed by Pope Clement X in the 17th century. Perhaps people were having too much fun! In the Orthodox tradition, people still gather on Easter Monday to tell jokes and funny stories, and to dance and eat together.

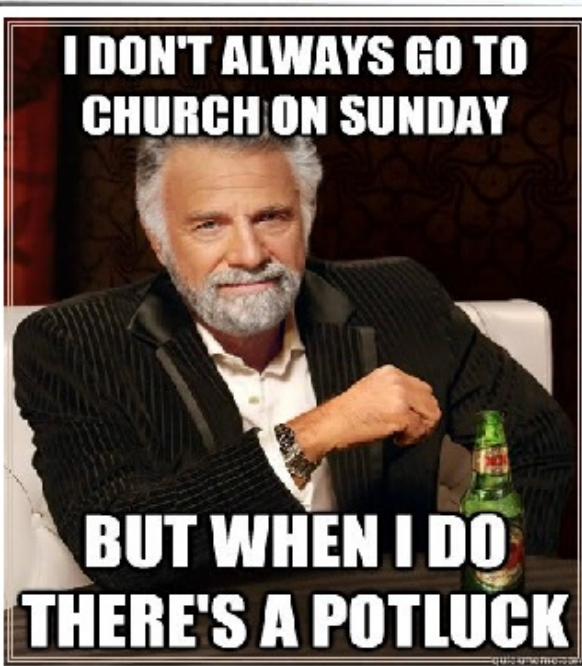
Jay



[Listen to Jay's Sermons](#)

Apr. 8      Holy Humor Sunday  
Apr. 15     Beatles Sunday  
Apr. 18    DACA Presentation  
Apr. 25     Denise Nasso & Opus - Potluck and Dancing

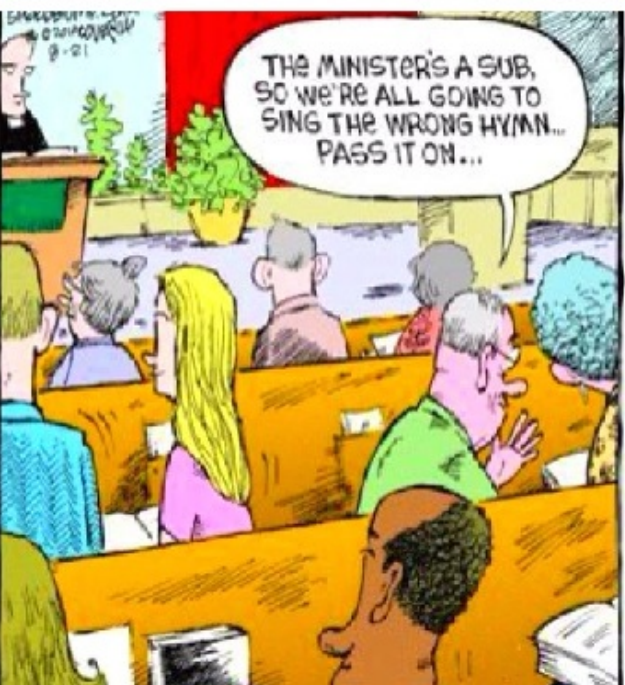




"If telemarketers call, invite them to church."



After 39½ years of wandering in the desert, Mrs. Moses secretly asks for directions.



Prov.17:22

Emma was never shy with her prayer requests.

## Youth, allies issue nationwide demand for gun control during March for Our Lives

March 26, 2018

Written by Connie Larkman





## Youth, allies issue nationwide demand for gun control during March for Our Lives

March 26, 2018

Written by *Connie Larkman*

In Washington, D.C., and in scores of cities across the country on March 24, the youth of America and their allies delivered a very powerful, very definite message: enough is enough! UCC advocates, urging 'Faith over Firearms,' came out by the hundreds during the 'March for Our Lives' to demand gun reform.



By noon on Saturday, 400 people gathered at the denomination's D.C. office at the United Methodist Building, preparing to march as one united church down Pennsylvania Avenue.

Two youth delegations from the Southwest and the Minnesota Conferences United Church of Christ were front and center.

"As 'kids' we're used to being pushed away from 'adult' issues, now as young adults, we're being pushed into them," said Stori Jergens, representing Desert Palm UCC, in Tempe, Ariz. "It's all so overwhelming. Kids have gone from being told what to do to having this incredible voice."

"'Overwhelming' is what I have to say about this experience but in the greatest way possible," said Trevor Lee from Black Mountain UCC, in Scottsdale, Ariz. "We all felt really well connected to come and make a change. The overwhelming experience that I'm talking about is that by having over 800,000 students/teens coming together to make change is gonna be history. By coming together our voices can be heard. Usually teens are silent but now we are the new influencers. I feel that as a teen myself the effluence and energy during the March for our lives will stop gun violence."

The student-led voice demanding lawmakers pass stronger gun-control legislation was visibly supported by a large number of religious advocates. On Saturday in D.C., the UCC contingent was joined by marchers from the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Methodists. Quakers and Muslims from the Islamic Society of North America joined the group during the commissioning prayer.

"To be engaged in this advocacy work is to demonstrate that the faith community is relevant to the concerns of our young people and their parents and all who accompany them on their journey," said the Rev. Barbara Kershner Daniel, senior pastor of the Evangelical Reformed United Church of Christ (ERUCC) in Frederick, Md. Her church sent two full school buses to the march in D.C. Several Jewish friends of ERUCC, from Congregation Beth Shalom and Congregation Kol Ami of Frederick, were in the group of 70 people.

"I am grateful that we had so many of our young people from our church travel along with their friends," Kershner Daniel said. "I hear their stories of fear and anxiety and the challenges they face every day trying to

manage that fear and anxiety in the world in which we live. To be able to participate in this advocacy work for the church means so much to them. The adults who accompany them on the journey are a witness that we hear their stories. To have their church acknowledge their stories helps them to find some agency in taking actions that can create a different world. We are saying that we believe them and we believe in them."

"Sometimes it takes bold new voices to remind us that what has come to feel like the 'new normal' isn't new and isn't normal," said Sandy Sorenson, director of the UCC Washington, D.C. office. "I pray that we have the wisdom as a society to listen to these voices. They refuse to believe that a world without gun violence is possible. They refuse to believe that greed, guns and money mean more than their lives. On this Saturday before Palm Sunday, their hosanna was 'enough is enough.' They refuse to stop - and so should we."

That hosanna was echoed around the country in smaller marches in several cities. In Cleveland, a contingent from the UCC national offices, led by General Minister and President the Rev. John Dorhauer, represented the denomination in the rally on Public Square.

"One of our newer members said to me that her former church talked a lot but didn't put that talk into action," Kershner Daniel said. "This was the first time she had ever done anything like this in terms of attending the March. And she expressed why she was so grateful to be a part of the United Church of Christ where we put our speech into action."

That action began in D.C. on the Friday before the march when Sorensen accompanied the young people from Minnesota Conference to the offices of Sen. Klobuchar and Sen. Smith of Minnesota. "They were well-prepared, clear and innovative in their thinking about ways to prevent gun violence, and courageous in telling their stories about the ways gun violence and easy access to guns has affected their lives. They are committed to going home and staying engaged."

So are the students of the Southwest Conference. The young people from First Congregational UCC in Albuquerque, N. M. already have plans to help lead gun violence workshops over several weeks.

"Having been involved in faith-based policy advocacy in Washington for nearly 30 years, it was tremendously powerful and heartening to witness this revived spark of engagement in public policy advocacy," Sorensen continued. "Thanks to the courageous, bold leadership of children and youth, people are realizing that the public narrative can be changed if we stay engaged, stay persistent, stay true to our vision. As I moved among the crowd lining Pennsylvania Avenue, listening to spell-binding speeches, taking in the passionate, urgent messages expressed on signs carried by people of all backgrounds, I felt a sense of hope that I haven't truly felt in some time."

---

## DACA

For those wanting to discover more about the plight of DACA youth (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals), our church is hosting a special evening on Wednesday, April 18, 6:30 P.M. in Perkins Hall. Three local DACA students will present their stories about their arrival in this country, their struggles, worries, and dreams. After their presentations, there will be time for questions/answers. Questions may be directed to the chairperson of our Mission Outreach Committee, Gary Gard, 928-910-2455.



**ALL YOU NEED  
IS LOVE  
LOVE IS ALL  
YOU NEED**

**BEATLES SUNDAY  
(April 15th)**

## MISSIONS AND OUTREACH NEWS

Each month, we highlight a particular mission. Thanks to your support of our March mission project, a check for \$275 is being sent to the Prescott Area Habitat for

Humanity [PAHH]. PAHH sends 10% of undesignated monetary donations to support a Habitat project in a Kenyan village. For the month of April, our mission emphasis is the One Great Hour of Sharing [OGHS]. OGHS donations support nation/global programs which fund: (1) Health, Educational, Agricultural projects (2) Disaster Relief and (3) Refugee settlements. Thank you for helping us heed God’s call; “You are blessed to be a blessing” (Genesis 12).

---

ANNIVERSARIES	
John & Julie McCurdy	04/18
Don & Kathy Stephens	05/20
Melissa & Elizabeth Gates	06/03
Al & Barbi Beeson	06/23
BIRTHDAYS	
Kristin Steele	04/04
Wesley Bradstreet	04/05
Sandra Palacios	04/09
Steven Landkamer	04/12
Ron Solt	04/13
Cindy Feuerriegel	04/17
Tom Lloyd	04/28
Gerri Lyons	05/03
Matt Ely	05/04
Sarai Payne	05/04
William Bryant	05/05
Doris Hille	05/10
Nancy Blevens	05/18
Anne Solt	05/18
Lisa Sandberg	05/19
Joanne Lussier	05/25
Beth Bradstreet	05/26
Sara Huff	05/26
Sarah Andrews	05/28
Anna Strong	05/28
Gary Gard	06/04
Kelli Jo Bradstreet	06/06
Laramie Jarvi	06/06
Alice Kring	06/08
Linda Foote	06/18
Sylvia Staats	06/19

**ALTER-NOTES**

Do you like to sing? Do you play an instrument? Would you like to be a part of bringing alternative styles of music to our worship service? Come join Alter-Notes! We rehearse at 12-12:45 p.m. on Sundays, after social time. Music styles vary -- calypso, spirituals, folk, Celtic, pop, rock and everything in between. **Show up and/or call Melissa Gates, [207-391-3276](tel:207-391-3276).**

**THE CHANCEL SINGERS**

You do not have to be able to read music or be a great singer to join us! The Chancel Singers are seeking people who love to sing. Anyone interested is invited to join us on Sunday mornings at 9:00 in the Chancel.

For more information, please contact the Music Director, Jane Osborn, at 928-713-4752 or [prescottsong@hotmail.com](mailto:prescottsong@hotmail.com).

**VAN MINISTRY**

Bill Rouse has agreed to be one of our van drivers to pick up and take home those needing a ride to church. If you would like the church van to pick you up Sunday morning, please let Bill know by Saturday. His number is 602-769-5770. Our thanks to Bill for this ministry.

---

**STEWARDSHIP**



Offerings			Attendance Monthly Average		Outreach Gifts									
April		YTD	January	81	January		July			Undesignated Missions				
Pledges	\$ 2,120	\$ 29,730	February		Prescott Comm. Cupb.	\$ 325					YTD	\$ 475		
Non-Pledge	\$ 3,865	\$ 12,323	March		February		August			OCWM				
Facility Use	\$ 170	\$ 3,328	April		PASS	\$ 320					YTD	\$ 75		
Foundation		\$ 27,862	May		March		September							
Memorials			June		HABITAT	\$ 275								
Total	\$ 6,155	\$ 73,243	July		April		October							
Expenses, Actual			August		OGHS	\$203								
	April	YTD	Sept		May		November- December							
Expenses	\$ 612	\$ 60,926	Oct											
Annual Budget Needs			Nov		June		December							
	Annual		Dec											
Expenses	\$249,300													



## HELP US BUILD OUR SOCIAL MEDIA IMPACT WITH OUR COMMUNITY, LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!

### REGULARLY SCDEDULED

#### PASTOR’S BIBLE STUDY

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



SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE 10:30 a.m.

