



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."

December 23, 2016

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This Week at a Glance...

- ♦ **Choir Rehearsal:** Sunday 9:00 am
- ♦ **Worship Service and Fellowship time:** Sunday 10:30 am
- ♦ **Knit Wits:** Tuesday 1-3 pm Church Conference Room

FROM THE PASTOR

Epiphany is today! This Sunday we will focus on epiphanies as we begin the new year. As the Magi went home by another way (Matthew 2:1-12), so we need to go down some new paths in 2017.

This Sunday's sermon is extremely important! Sounds kind of self-serving, I know, and you may wonder what I think about the other sermons. Good point. 😊 But if you have made new year's resolutions or wish to lose weight or make other changes in your life, and you find it is not working very well, then this is the sermon for you.

Resolve to be here Sunday, and I promise to provide an answer to this problem:

A recent study showed that when doctors tell heart patients they will die if they don't change their habits, only one in seven will be able to follow through successfully. Desire and motivation aren't enough: even when it's literally a matter of life or death, the ability to change remains maddeningly elusive. Given that the status quo is so potent, how can we change ourselves and our organizations?

God bless,

Jay

Annual Meeting and Pot Luck

Sunday January 22

After Worship Service.

This is an important meeting to start off the new year. We will be reporting on 2016, members will be voting on the 2017 budget and new leadership team members. Everyone is welcome!

Pot Luck signup sheet in Perkins Hall

OUTREACH NEWS

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.

Thanks to your generous participation, in December \$861 was contributed to the denomination's "Christmas Fund" supporting low income retired clergy, \$585 was donated to the local CCJ "Family Christmas", and \$105 was contributed to the Prescott Community Cupboard. From a recent communication from the Coalition for Compassion and Justice [CCJ] we have received a recap of projects held this fall and winter. These are each projects our congregation generously supported with both material and monetary donations.

"Fair Start" supplied 1,340 school children (K-12) with needed school supplies and backpacks

- (1) (2) "Warm for Winter" provided over 500 men, women, and children with warm coats, caps, and blankets.
- (2) "Family Christmas" brightened the lives of 1,156 children with Christmas gifts, while another 315 adults received gift bags, and 55 homeless people received Christmas stockings filled with "treasurers" and enjoyed a Christmas morning breakfast.

Starting this new year, January's mission emphasis is the Prescott Community Cupboard. This program services local impoverished families with grocery items. We help by:

- (1) canned good donations
- (2) monetary donations and
- (3) volunteering as helpers to pack the grocery bags. Thankfully, we have had recent new volunteers, but we need more helpers. If you can help, please call our team captain, Al Beeson.

NEW MEMBERS WILL BE JOINING DURING WORSHIP JANUARY 22

If you are interested, please speak with pastor Jay.

ANNUAL MEETING JANUARY 22 AFTER WORSHIP SERVICE

This is an important meeting to start off the new year. We will be reporting on 2016, members will be voting on the 2017 budget and new leadership team members. Everyone is welcome!

JAZZ VESPERS JANUARY 25

Opus will be our guest at 6:30 pm.

CHURCH RENOVATION PROJECT OPEN HOUSE - JANUARY 29

We will celebrate our renovation project with all who helped make it happen and the public on January 29, from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm. During worship from 10:30 – 11:30, acknowledgements will be made for all involved, and the time before and after worship allows the public to come by and see what has been accomplished.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR THE NEW YEAR

Thank you to the many volunteers that signed up to help me in the office! Your help is much appreciated! This coming year we have a few projects underway that need some helping hands

- ◊Remove snow off church walkways and steps
- ◊Organize and sort Sunday school room supplies
- ◊Host: Movie "13th"

If you are interested in helping with any of these projects, or would like more details about them, see Julie J. in the office. 928-445-4555 or email: fccprescott@gmail.com

WEDNESDAY NIGHT LENTEN SERIES BEGINS MARCH 8

Featuring Rev. Harry Strong.



**EVERY WEEK COMMUNION 10:00-10:25 BEGINS THIS SUNDAY!
ON SUNDAYS OTHER THAN FIRST SUNDAYS OF THE MONTH
10:00 - 10:20 IN THE CHAPEL DOWNSTAIRS
AND 10:20 - 2:25 IN PERKINS HALL**

MARTIN LUTHER KING Jr. WEEK OF EVENTS

♦ **BOOK DISCUSSION**

Thursday, January 12th from 6-8 pm Book Discussion at Prescott College.

♦ **FREEDOM RIDERS**

Friday, January 13th from 6:30 – 9pm Movie "Freedom Riders" at Sacred Heart Church.

♦ **NON-VIOLENCE COMMUNICATION WORKSHOP**

Saturday, January 14th from 10 am – 1 pm Cultural Appreciation Potluck at PC. 10 – 11:30 am March Song Practice & 6:30 – 8:30 pm Non-violence communication workshop both at Granite Creek Unitarian Universalist Congregation.

♦ **MOVIE "13TH"**

Sunday, January 15th at 6 pm Movie "13th" at First Congregational Church.

♦ **PEACE AND JUSTICE MARCH**

Monday, January 16th MLK Day at 10 am starting at PC Parking lot. 10:30 am Prescott United Methodist Church – Breakfast; Ceremony; Children's Program and Interactive Area.

SPONSORED BY:

- Quad City Interfaith Council
- Prescott United Methodist Church
- Granite Peak Unitarian Universalist Congregation,
- Temple B'rith Shalom
- Sacred Heart Catholic Church
- First Congregational Church Prescott
- College Black Student Union

Progressive Theology Seminar feat. John Dominic Crossan



Dr. John Dominic Crossan will present THE CHALLENGE OF THE CHRISTIAN BIBLE/How to Read the Bible and Still Be a Christian: Struggling with Divine Violence from Genesis through Revelation.

John Dominic Crossan is generally regarded as the leading historical Jesus scholar in the world and the author of several bestselling books. He is a gifted speaker that combines humor with scholarly insights and skillfully engages Bible scholars and lay people alike.

He has lectured widely around the world to lay and scholarly audiences and has written twenty-seven books on the historical Jesus, the apostle Paul, and earliest Christianity.

Through four comprehensive lectures, Dr. Crossan will unpack the themes of his 2015 book entitled, How to Read the Bible and Still Be a Christian: Struggling with Divine Violence from Genesis through Revelation. Some of the questions he will engage are:

*Is the God of the Christian Bible violent?

*Is the historical Jesus, Rider on the Peace-Donkey of Gospel, or the apocalyptic Jesus, Rider on the War-Horse of Revelation, the norm, criterion, and discriminant of the Christian Bible?

*Is the violence and disorder of our current world connected to that of the Bible?

For more information, call the Jackie Smith (520) 256-5826 or jackiesmithaz@aol.com