

2020

First Congregational Church

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



Several people asked for a copy of the autobiography I quoted in the worship service last week. It is by Portia Nelson. The following details are taken from Wikipedia:

Nelson was a cancer survivor, having conquered breast cancer after a mastectomy in 1973.^[1] Four years later, Popular Library published Nelson's milestone book, *There's a Hole in My Sidewalk: The Romance of Self-Discovery*. (Beyond Words Publishing reissued it in 1993.) Its cover appears on a poster displayed in the office

of Sean McGuire, the fictional psychologist portrayed by Robin Williams in the film *Good Will Hunting* (1997). Nelson turned the book into an off-Broadway musical, presented at the York Theatre in Manhattan. One of her poems, "Autobiography in Five Short Chapters", went on to become a highly popular self-help and recovery text:

Chapter I

I walk down the street.
There is a deep hole in the sidewalk.
I fall in.
I am lost ... I am helpless.
It isn't my fault.

It takes me forever to find a way out.

Chapter II

I walk down the same street.
There is a deep hole in the sidewalk.
I pretend I don't see it.
I fall in again.
I can't believe I am in the same place.
But it isn't my fault.
It still takes a long time to get out.

Chapter III

I walk down the same street.
There is a deep hole in the sidewalk.
I see it is there.
I still fall in ... it's a habit.

My eyes are open.
I know where I am.
It is *my* fault.
I get out immediately.

Chapter IV

I walk down the same street.
There is a deep hole in the sidewalk.
I walk around it.

Chapter V

I walk down another street.

The poem (which was often uncredited to Nelson) was adopted by motivational speakers and reprinted in *The Tibetan Book of Living and Dying* by Sogyal Rinpoche,^[2] as well as in the foreword of TV actress Roseanne Barr's autobiography, *My Lives*.^[3] Jazz singer Dianne Reeves set the poem to music and recorded it as "The First Five Chapters" on her live CD *In the Moment* (2000).

2020 ANNUAL MEETING

**JAN 26 @ 11:30
BRING A DISH
BRUNCH**

ANNUAL MEETING



Mission Update: Thanks to your generous contributions, during the month of December checks were distributed to support multiple mission projects. Those included: [1] Christmas gifts for local low income families [2] low income retired clergy [3] Operation Deep Freeze for the homeless [4] The Launch Pad, tutoring and programming for teens [5] School supplies for low income families [6] Border ministries for migrants; including shelter, food, clothing, counseling, and legal services. Monetary totals will be reported in our Annual Report this January.

This month's mission outreach emphasis is the **Prescott Community Cupboard [PCC]**. PCC provides non-perishable food for low income families and for those who are homeless. You may deposit your donated items throughout the year in the box found in the front of the sanctuary. Checks may be made payable to the church, with the memo, Community Cupboard. For many years, Al Beeson has served as captain of our church's team of volunteers who help to pack the food bags. While Al recovers from his treatment of cancer, our co-captain, Angela Imbierowicz has assumed Al's duties. If you would like to volunteer as a food bag packer, please contact Angela [708-712-1448].

On the third Wednesday of each month, our church provides a hot meal for homeless women staying at the Prescott Area Shelter Services [PASS]. If you would like to volunteer, please sign your name to the sign-up list found in Perkins Hall. Questions may be directed to our PASS coordinator, Patty Gard [928-460-3042].

As always, thank you for remembering that we have been blessed to be a blessing [Genesis 12:2]. Questions/suggestions may be made to our Mission Outreach committee members: Becky & Bill Bryant, Helaine Berman, Patty Gard, Linda Moore, Staci Robbins, Gary Gard, chairperson.

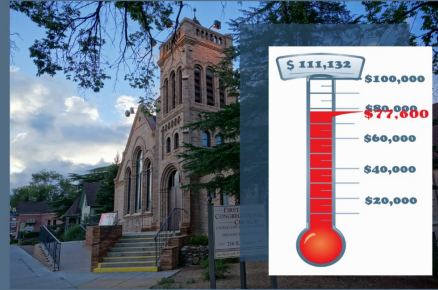
Stewardship Update

We are still collecting "Estimate of Giving" Cards. Help us plan our budget for 2020. No Pledge is too small.

Click on the link and download your pledge card. Place in the box in Perkins Hall or mail to 216 E. Gurley Street, 86301

[2020 Stewardship](#)

2020 Estimated Gifts Goal



	2017	2018	2019	2020
Pledge Units (individuls & couples)	38	46	64	29
# of Members that Pledged	55	54	47	34
# of Friends & Regular Attendees that Pledged	8	12	17	7
Total Amount Pledged	\$ 65,462	\$ 97,020	\$ 97,274	\$ 77,600



For the week of December 16 -20, the Community Cupboard packer volunteers representing the FCC were: Kathy and Don Stephens, Linda and David Foote, Patty Brenner and Randy Cook, Pete Norum and Jim Christopher, and Bill Linson and Marti Garrison.

We extend special thanks to these volunteers for donating their time during the hectic week before Christmas. Our next designated packing week is February 3-7, 2020.

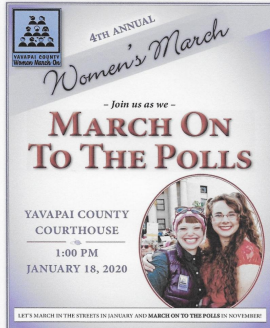


FELLOWSHIP SCHEDULE	2020
Hal & Ronda Hatfield	1/12/2019
Jim Christopher-Christy Dinsman	1/19/2019
CHURCH MEMBERS -Pottluck	1/26/2019
Henry & Linda Dahlberg	2/2/2019
Staci Robbins -Andre Shrimpton	2/9/2019
Patty Lantrip & Muri Preble	2/16/2019
Gary & Patty Gard & Kathy Stephens	2/23/2019
Paula Parker & Mike Ortogus	3/1/2019
Lloyd Evans & Alice Kring	3/8/2019
Dave Deville & Patty Lantrip	3/15/2019
Julie Jaquette & Sandra Johns	3/22/2019
Dennis & Barbara McCollough	3/29/2019

Experience Taizé

A Service of Prayer, Song, and Contemplation

Due to our heavy Holiday schedule here at the church, Taize will resume in January on the 15th of the new year. Join us at 6:30 p.m. 1/15/2020



Sat. January 18 1pm
At 1pm we will gather near Bucky's statue, Prescott Courthouse Plaza. The songs [here](#) will be sung by the Justice Choir (find all on Youtube so you can practice), dance to "One Million Rising - Break that Chain" - read about the [history of the song](#) and what it has inspired. Practice the dance. Hear some "March On" words of wisdom from local speakers-- short, but inspirational. Please join us as we march around the plaza with our signs - Yavapai County Women March On to the Polls.

SAVE THE DATE
1/20/20

MLK DAY
PEACE & JUSTICE MARCH

March starts at 10am on Monday, Jan 20th
Meet at Western & Grove
For more info contact: kenthobi34@gmail.com
To Donate: <http://yavapatecj.org/tg/donate/>
Choose ODF, specify MLK Committee

I STILL HAVE A DREAM

For info regarding AZ Service projects scan code:

The Music of Romance

\$15 suggested donation at the door
To benefit the Prescott Community Cupboard Food Bank

Sunday February 9th at 3 PM
1st Congregational Church
216 E. Gurley Street
Prescott, Arizona

Presented by
The Granite Mountain Bel Canto Singers
For more information email: granitesingers@gmail.com

2020

New Office Hours
m-th: 9-2 f: 9-1

Anniversaries

Suzanne Broussard 02/12
Suzy & Harold Lobaugh 02/19
John & Julie Mccurdy 04/18

Birthdays

Brent Walker 01/10
Darcy Walker 01/10
Nitaray Thomas 01/15
Paula Jo Parker 01/16
Jane Cheek 01/25
Julie Jaquette 01/28
Rebecca Bryant 02/02
Susan Lemons 02/04
Brian Moore 02/04
Phil Preble 02/11
Harry Strong 02/19
Barbi Beeson 03/02
Betty Corn 03/13
Kathy Stephens 03/13
Patty Gard 03/18
Bret Ely 03/26
Andree Shrimpton 03/28
Susan Wilson 03/30

- **EVERY-WEEK COMMUNION**

We have communion each week right after worship at the front of the sanctuary, everyone is welcome to participate.

- **MONTHLY 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 Prescott Area Shelter Services, the third Wednesday of the month.

- **CABINET MEETING**

Meets the 4th Wednesday of each month at 5:30 p.m. in the Office Conference Room unless otherwise announced.

- **BELL CHOIR REHEARSAL**

We will train you! We meet for rehearsal at 9:00 am. On Thursdays in the Hazeltine Room downstairs.

- **CHANCEL SINGERS**

We meet Sundays at 9:00 a.m. before worship service to rehearse. All are welcome.

- **ALTER-NOTES**

We meet at 12:00 p.m. on Sunday after Coffee Time in the Sanctuary Chancel. Contact Melissa if you are interested in joining: 207-391-3276

- **SUNDAY SCHOOL**

Janet Steven 04/08
Deana Wilson 04/27
Tom Lloyd 04/28

Children may participate with Sunday School downstairs after
"Children's Time".