

**A Message from Pastor Jay**

**CHURCH ANNUAL MEETING JANUARY 31, 2021  
VOTING DONE BY MAIL AND EMAIL FOR CHURCH  
BUDGET, SLATE OF NOMINEES FOR CABINET  
AND FOUNDATION, AND AMENDING THE  
CONSTITUTION TO CREATE THE POSITION OF  
FINANCIAL SECRETARY**

**REPORT AND BALLOT COMING TO YOU SUNDAY**

If you are a member who has moved and we do not have your email address, please call the church office and let us know.

**LET US PRAY FOR OUR NATION DURING THESE TIMES**

**SUNDAY JANUARY 17**

On Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday weekend, Pastor Kendra Hobson of St. Luke Ebony Christian Church joins the worship service to read the scripture and share in the sermon. The title of the sermon is "A Dupe and a Dream."

Pastor Jay speaks to the dupe regarding the election and Pastor Kendra shares a message of unity and hope in the midst of the virus and the hate speech of recent weeks. JJ sits on a garbage can to remind us what led up to the assassination of Dr. King. Brian, Deana, Ervie, Tom, and Francheska provide music. A portion of Dr. King's "I Have a Dream" speech can be viewed at the end of the recorded service.

**ZOOM BIBLE STUDY SATURDAY 10:00 AM**

"Come and See" Philip said to Nathanael. Do your own research about Jesus. The "dupe" of a rigged election teaches us to do the work of research regarding what we believe. We will share personal examples of times we changed our minds about beliefs or matters of our faith after doing our own research. I have several examples to share - rapture, women's ordination, LGBTQ. And on this MLK, JR. weekend, my changing view of the extent of racism in my country.

**ZOOM SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP 10AM**

## BULLETIN

### SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

January 17, 2021

#### GATHERING TO WORSHIP GOD

Prelude: "I've Got Peace Like a River" African American Spiritual

Words of Welcome – Announcements - Passing of the Peace

Opening Prayer – Pastor Jay

O God, all people are your Beloved, across races, nationalities, religions, sexual orientations and all the ways we are distinctive from one another. We are all manifestations of your image. We are bound together in an inescapable network of mutuality and tied to a single garment of destiny. You call us into your unending work of justice, peace and love. Let us know your presence among us now: Let us delight in our diversity that offers glimpses of the mosaic of your beauty. Strengthen us with your steadfast love and transform our despairing fatigue into hope-filled action. Under the shadow of your wings in this hour may we find rest and strength, renewal and hope. We ask this, inspired by the example of your disciple, Martin Luther King, Jr. and in Jesus' name. Amen.

Hymn: "Amen, Amen" NHC #161

**PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD**

A Time for Children of All Ages - JJ

Prayer of Confession – Pastor Jay

**God of Justice and Mercy, we confess that we have silenced our prophets. We have covered our ears to those who speak out for justice because it makes us uncomfortable. We ignore calls to end oppression and violence because it is inconvenient for us. We avoid the looks of the poor because they embarrass us. Forgive us, Lord, for not learning from the mistakes of our ancestors, who ignored and killed their prophets. Forgive us when we follow their steps instead of following Your ways. In the name of Christ, who forgives us, we pray. Amen.**

Blessing/Assurance of Pardon – Pastor Jay

God's faithfulness endures forever. God forgives, renews, and restores. God's mercies are new every morning. We are called to seek the restoration and healing of others in our own forgiveness. Go with this good news, that God loves you deeply, and calls you into new life. Amen.

Gospel Reading: John 1:43-51 Pastor Kendra Hobson

Hymn: "Dream God's Dream" Sing! Prayer and Praise  
#120

Sermon: "A Dupe and a Dream"

"A Dupe" Pastor Jay

"God's Dream of Hope and Unity" Pastor Kendra

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

Song: "Here I Am, Lord" G671

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

Offering of Ourselves and our Gifts

Prayer of Dedication – Pastor Jay

Hymn: “I Am the Light of the World” NHC #584

Benediction - Pastor Jay

Postlude: “We Shall Overcome” NCH #570 (piano)

### **Serving the Church**

Ministers All the People of the Church  
Pastor Rev. Dr. Jay Wilcher  
Pastor Emeritus Rev. Robert Bradstreet  
Guest Preacher Pastor Kendra Hopson,  
St. Luke Ebony Christian Church, Dewey, Arizona  
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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Prescott, AZ 86301  
[www.fccprescott.org](http://www.fccprescott.org)  
[www.facebook.com/FccUccPrescott](https://www.facebook.com/FccUccPrescott)  
928-445-4555

**Founded September 26, 1880**

## **JANAURY MISSION NEWS**

**Mission Outreach Update:** Thank you for your support of our **December** mission emphasis projects. Checks were sent to The Yavapai Food Bank (Family Christmas Fund) and to the denomination’s Christmas Fund.

**In January,** we have the opportunity to support two mission projects.

The first is project is the **Prescott Community Cupboard (PCC)**. With the on-going pandemic, PCC is helping an even greater number of clients needing help to feed their families. Over 15,000 people were served from March through December.

Remembering that our nation celebrates Martin Luther King Jr Day in January, and wanting to stand with our sisters/brothers at **St Luke Ebony Christian Church (SLECC)** in Dewey, our second mission project for January is SLECC. Their pastor, Kendra Hobson spoke during our worship service on January 17th. Thank you for whatever you may choose to donate to either (or both) of these projects.

**A PASS Reminder:** As you know, we provide a monthly hot meal for the women and children sheltered at the Prescott Areas Shelter Services (PASS). We still need volunteers to help provide this month's meal on Wednesday, January 20<sup>th</sup>. If you can help, please contact our PASS team captain, Patty Gard (928-460-3042 or email at [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.

From Pastor Kendra:

*Thank you Pastor Jay and First Congregational Church for adding St. Luke Ebony Christian Church as your mission for January 2021. I'd like to let you know what our mission and vision statement are, as this is our main focus for existing. The beginning of our journey begins with paying off our mortgages on our main building (our current sanctuary) and the additional classroom and prayer room. The money that is donated to St. Luke ECC will help us pay off our mortgages so that we can then fully concentrate on funding our vision statement. I appreciate the relationship our churches share.*

*Mission Statement:*

*We exist to love, Worship and serve God by declaring and demonstrating the liberating power of the Gospel through love, evangelism, studying and knowing God's word, so that we are equipped and empowered rto make disciples for the Kingdom of God. (Matthew 28:19-20) (Mark 16:15-16)*

*Vision Statement:*

*To see people saved, healed, delivered and set free from life's woes (Luke 19:10) so they can become equipped, empowered, and serving disciples to first build up the kingdom of God. Then in doing so, by the grace of God we will serve those that Christ called the least of these (Matthew 25:36-40) by providing food, clothing, shelter, affordable housing, training, jobs childcare, all in a spirit of compassion and Love.*

*Thank you again for showing the love of Christ.*

## 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

## JANUARY WORSHIP SERIES

Jan. 3 - Epiphany Service - "Home By Another Way"  
Jan. 10 - Baptism of Christ - Rev. Gary Gard Preaching  
Jan. 17 - MLK, Jr. Remembrance - Pastor Kendra Hobson, Guest Preacher  
Jan. 24 - "Jonah: A Message to Privileged Christians"  
Jan. 31 - "Modern Demonic Actions of Injustice"

## JANUARY 6 ATTACK ON CAPITAL

### Capitol violence response

January 8, 2021

Dear Siblings in Christ,

As bishops and judicatory heads of churches in Arizona, we are compelled to speak after the violent assault on the United States Capitol building and our electoral process Wednesday. There is much that can and will be said and done in the days ahead, but we wish to elevate a few key thoughts that relate to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We have one savior, who is Jesus. We believe that there is no human being, institution, or group that can be elevated to a position equal to or higher than our Lord. Jesus preached a non-violent Gospel. He chose to die on the cross rather than take up arms. And yet he changed everything. We believe that non-violence is the legitimate form of protest.

Law enforcement should have the resources to protect the nation's capitol, and the legislative branch of our government. We observe that the police resources deployed for Wednesday's violent actions were substantially fewer than those deployed in the summer of 2020 during mostly peaceful protests for racial justice. We also observe that those attacking the capitol Wednesday were mostly White; while the protesters over the summer included many people of color. We join other civic voices in asking for answers as to why this is so, and an examination of the policies that left our government so vulnerable to Wednesday's attack.

For those who committed or incited Wednesday's violent acts, the Gospel requires repentance, accountability, and justice. Repentance is internal work—it is up to each individual to wrestle with their conscience and their faith about how they have sinned. Accountability and justice are external. Those require the work of the institutions of government and society. We call upon local law enforcement, the Justice Department, and our elected officials to ensure that those who committed crimes Wednesday are held to account.

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o that end, let us offer our own first step of repentance: we, as leaders, have sometimes chosen the easier path in not publicly denouncing words and actions that we saw as contrary to the Gospel. We did not want to be accused of bringing partisan politics into the church; we did not want to alienate our members. Our silence has

enabled the escalation of rhetoric and violence. Neither the rule of law, nor the following of Jesus are partisan endeavors; and we pledge to speak and act more courageously on behalf of the Gospel today and in the days ahead.

Finally, as leaders of faith communities we are reminded that hope and love are linked together as necessary steps in this journey. Therefore, we proclaim our hope that the shocking events of Wednesday will call us all--beginning with ourselves--to walk the way of love not only with friends but also enemies, not merely with neighbors but also strangers. It is past time that we relearn how to speak the truth in love to one another both for naming injustices as well as asserting the God given dignity of all persons. May we, Christ's Church, lead the way toward rebuilding our democratic institutions as a nation through active participation in open, transparent and respectful dialogue. January 6 was the Feast of the Epiphany in our traditions—the day we remember the three Wise Men bringing gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh to the baby Jesus. But the story is not just about Jesus and the Wise Men—it is also a story of King Herod. Matthew's Gospel says that Herod was so enraged and threatened by the prospect of an infant rival that he killed all the babies in Bethlehem under the age of two out of fear. The Epiphany is a story about how the love of God and human evil exist in our world at the same time.

In our lives, we are faced daily with choices about whether we will side with the love of God, or with human evil. Our Gospel and our faith teach us the right answer to that question. And we call upon our members and Christians throughout Arizona to stand up and take non-violent action to protect the life and freedom that we have been given in this nation.

Faithfully,

The Rev. Jay R. Hartley  
Regional Minister and President  
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Arizona

The Rev. Dr. Robert T. Hoshibata  
Resident Bishop  
The Desert Southwest Conference  
The United Methodist Church

The Rev. Deborah K. Hutterer  
Bishop, Grand Canyon Synod  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

The Rev. Dr. William M. Lyons  
Conference Minister  
Southwest Conference of the United Church of Christ

The Rev. Brad Munroe  
Pastor to the Presbytery  
Grand Canyon and de Cristo Presbyteries  
Presbyterian Church USA (PCUSA)

The Rt. Rev. Jennifer A. Reddall  
Sixth Bishop of Arizona  
The Episcopal Church

Dr. Warren H. Stewart, Sr.



## 2021 ANNUAL MEETING

**The annual report for 2020 will be sent to all members by January 17 either by email or regular mail. Voting on the 2021 budget, 2021 slate of officers and amending our constitution to add a financial secretary position will be conducted by mail or email also. If you are not a member and want to receive the annual report, please call the church office and let us know.**

## 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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**Celebrating YOU!!!**

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