

# The Parish Caller January 1, 2021

## A Message from Pastor Jay

### CHURCH ANNUAL MEETING JANUARY 31, 2021 VOTING DONE BY MAIL AND EMAIL

#### SUNDAY JANUARY 3

This Sunday we will focus on Epiphany (January 6). We have a tradition of beginning the service with this collect:

*Epiphany ("manifestation") is both a day, January 6<sup>th</sup>, and a season of the church year that ends at the start of Lent. Epiphany Day celebrates the coming of the Magi to visit Jesus, and these Gentiles illustrate how the revelation of Christ will come to all nations. As we begin a new year and a new journey together, we will ponder the Magi deciding to return home by another way. Sometimes life forces us to go down roads we did not expect, and sometimes we decide in January to get out of our rut and venture down some new paths. Either way, we need God to enlighten us, to help us have needful epiphanies to change our minds and ways. The Magi remind us to avoid Herod and all the schemes that would return us to darkness. Sometimes it is best to "go home by another way."*

COVID has forced us to go down new paths. We are definitely going another way into 2021! Brian, Deana, and Ervie provide music. The sermon begins with the annual use of two reminders of how hard it is to change - "14 frogs on a log" and "a guy goes to a bar each day and orders 3 shots." Deana sings a version of James Taylor's song "Home By Another Way." JJ hangs out with the Magi in the front of the sanctuary and learns a thing or two.

## BULLETIN

### SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

January 3, 2021

## GATHERING TO WORSHIP GOD

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Prelude: “Home By Another Way” James Taylor (Deana Wilson)

Opening Prayer

**God of wonder and mystery, today we remember how you surprise us in every age. Into the gloom of fear and want, you bring light; into emptiness, you bring abundance; into the cold, you bring warmth. Into the hardness of the world, you bring the greatest power we have known, in the seemingly powerless form of an infant. Enter now, Holy One, among us and within us, and move us to joyful adoration of your mystery and wonder.**

Hymn: “Go, Tell It on the Mountain” African-American Spiritual NCH #154 - Deana on Smule

### PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

A Time for Children Of All Ages  
JJ

Gospel Reading: Matthew 2:1-12 Pastor Jay

Hymn: “Angels of Glory” by JoAnn LaFleur Faber Ervie & Brian ]

Sermon: "Resolutions and Assumptions" Pastor Jay

### RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE

Anthem: Mary, Did You Know” with Dana and friend on Smule:[Mary, Did You Know ? | Smule](#)

Prayer of Confession

O God of the Exodus, of liberation and new life, We come to you in prayer naming the “old things” to which we cling: stereotypes based on race; unearned privileges that are ours because of gender or skin color; unwillingness to speak out against racism and all that diminishes other human beings; internalized racism that keeps us from acknowledging our cultural and ethnic gifts. O God, we confess our complicity in racism, whether we participate intentionally or not. We live in societies, institutions

and churches built on structures that privilege one group over the others. The word “racism” is difficult for us to hear and to speak. Open our eyes so we may understand that this is not your desire or vision for us. We come with contrite hearts, longing to have new hearts created within us, seeking the waters of righteousness that will overturn injustice and create new ways of living faithfully together that honor the dignity of each person. We long for right relationships, O God, for abundance of life within you. In your grace, heal and transform us and our institutions that the rainbow of humanity may be fully reflected, gloriously alive in you. In all things we pray, through the fully Human One, Jesus the Christ, Amen. (The Rev. Jennifer Janzen-Ball )

#### Invitation to Communion

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. We come bearing treasures—some hidden, some apparent. We come with our own life histories, our ethnic and linguistic histories, our spiritual and religious histories. We come hungry for racial justice—in all its intersections of gender identity, class, ability and language, in ways not yet articulated. We come with a hunger for life budding along the margins and for right relationships among us. People of God come, let us commune together in the name in which we are all made one.

#### Holy Communion

#### Prayers of the People / The Lord’s Prayer

#### Offering of Ourselves and our Gifts

#### Prayer of Dedication

**God of every good gift, here we present our offerings. There is money here, fulfilling our pledges to support the ministries we do in your name. And there are other gifts, not physically on this table but held in the altar of our hearts. God, we offer them all to you. We ask your blessing on all that we give, so that your loving care reaches into us and out to all the world, ever more deeply and gracefully. We ask it in Jesus’ name. Amen.**

“What Child is This” combined with “Child of the Poor” Deana and friend on Smule

#### \*Benediction - Pastor Jay

By the grace of God, we pledge to support each other in our personal and communal journey to struggle for racial justice. We will read, study, pray and meet together with persons and communities of color. We will draw on the Spirit for wisdom and learn skills of analysis, to help us become more vigilant in our discernment of racism, and more emboldened to expose it and resist it. We promise to support each other in the difficult yet joyous privilege of loving all members of the human family. This we pledge by faith, in the name and way of Jesus

Postlude: “Joy to the World” – Organ and Brass

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  
Guest Singer Ervie Isom  
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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928-445-4555  
**Founded September 26, 1880**

## JANUARY 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 The Prescott Community Cupboard (PCC) and the St. Luke Ebony Christian Church (SLECC) in Dewey. With the on-going pandemic, PCC is helping an even greater number of clients needing help to feed their families. We are grateful for our team of volunteers who help to pack food bags. If you'd like to help, contact our PCC team captain, Angela Imbierowicz. Remembering that our nation celebrates Martin Luther King Jr Day in January, we want to stand with our sisters/brothers at SLECC in this time. Thank you for whatever help you may decide to offer 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 20th. 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.

## 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, Liturgist  
Jan. 24 - "Jonah: A Message to Privileged Christians"  
Jan. 31 - "Modern Demonic Actions of Injustice"

## STEWARDSHIP

### **WHAT IS A STEWARD? WHO IS A STEWARD? HOW DO I BECOME A STEWARD?**

The answers to these questions are easy: A steward is a person who, with regard to a property both physical and functional, keeps it, cares for it, watches over it. As to who is a steward, well, we're hoping YOU are, or that YOU will want to become one. How you become a steward involves the act of you giving to our church of your time, your skills and/or your finances.

There is another question to be answered. Why give to our church? First Congregational Church occupies a unique position in Prescott. We are the only historically rooted and progressive congregation in the City that follows the way of Jesus. We are both open and affirming to all. Our sanctuary evokes historic church connections and the presence of God. The God one finds here is the One Jesus modeled for us – a God of love and grace. Many have given testimony to finding healing here from other church experiences, where God was presented as judgmental and exclusionary. Other churches have retreated to locations out of town. We have remained here on Gurley Street, downtown, easily seen, accessible and welcoming to all.

### **IMMEDIATE NEED**

Another answer to why you would want to give to your church revolves around need, both yours and this Church's. You obviously have any number of personal reasons or needs that lead you into church participation here, where you find those needs met. Your church also has needs and right now those needs are financial. We are in unprecedented times. How do we create a church budget for 2021 with so many unknowns? How do you decide what to give to this church for 2021? When will we be able to fully open our church and return to worship? These questions have no immediate answers, so our church budget and your offer of financial giving are not set in stone. They are estimates. Your estimate of giving for 2021 will help us begin to understand what might be possible for the next year. So, with a thankful heart full of hope we are asking you to help us right now, to get through our 140th year here, in Prescott, by completing the enclosed gift card indicating your estimate of giving, be it weekly, monthly, or

annually.

## LEGACY ANSWERS THE LONG TERM NEED

Our church is blessed to have THE FOUNDATION as a safety net. It was formed in 1992 to manage legacy gifts from our members and friends. Legacy giving is not about death. It's about giving and continuing life. It's an affirming experience that celebrates the people, values, and goals that you cherish most. You don't have to be rich to make a bequest or legacy gift. With a will or legacy gift you can give the way you want to live, by making a better or sustained future for your loved ones and a lasting impact on your faith community. If you are interested in leaving a legacy to our church, or have questions or concerns, you can indicate so on the enclosed gift card and a member of the Foundation will contact you.

IT'S ALL ABOUT STEWARDSHIP.  
PLEASE BE OUR STEWARD!

May God bless you and our church,

## 140TH ANNIVERSARY OF OUR CHURCH

### FCC History

At the top of every list of members is one Woman. She always signed in as Maggie B. She was Margaret Forman Bashford Burmister. The daughter of Coles Bashford, former Governor of the state of Wisconsin, a member of the Governor's party, secretary to the first Territorial Governor, and Arizona's first Representative to the U.S. Congress. She was wife to Robert H. Burmister who, with her brother Levi Bashford, ran the B&B Mercantile.

She taught music and was the organist for the Church. There is no doubt in my mind that she was the driving force in this effort. Besides organizing our Women's Fellowship she was active in the History and Poetry Club and the Monday Club and also active in the Arizona's Federated Women's Clubs. Maggie B. was not able to attend the organizational meeting held at the Otis' home. She was confined at home awaiting the birth of her third child. Immediately at the close of the meeting a message was sent to her that the Congregational Society of Prescott, AZ had been formed.

Robert Henry Burmister was a merchant, a principal in the Prescott and Arizona Central Railroad, and a member of the first Board of Trustees for our Church; also in 1901 Mayor of Prescott. The Burmister's had three children and their home was, and still is, at the corner of South Mount Vernon and Gurley Streets. History of First Congregational Church, by Jay Eby

# 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

Celebrating YOU!!!



