

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**

Ballots Due Back By January 31

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 24

This Sunday the focus is on the book of Jonah. Often thought of as a children's story about Jonah and a whale, it actually speaks an important message to these times of hate and division. Linda Foote serves as worship leader and also joins Brian in providing music. JJ joins me in acting out the story of Jonah. He asks why he had to be Jonah - getting tossed from the ship and swallowed by a whale. I am amazed how often I find the right prop for the children's time in our church building. I found something I could use for the whale in our nursery. As always, an imagination is required!

ZOOM BIBLE STUDY SATURDAY 10:00 AM

ZOOM SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP 10AM

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

January 24, 2021

GATHERING TO WORSHIP GOD

Prelude: “No Matter” by Roger P. Miller - Deana

Words of Welcome – Announcements - *Passing of the Peace

Call to Worship – Linda Foote

We gather to respond to the call of God’s love - thankful that someone cared enough to share this good news with us. May we be compassionate enough to share this divine presence with others. Love, when shared, is not divided but multiplied. Love, given away, is not diminished but expanded. May our gathering beckon and welcome those near and far to know the love of this divine presence; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Hymn: “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You” New Century Hymnal #4

PROCLAIMING GOD’S WORD

A Time for Children of All Ages - JJ

Litany and Confession Introducing Jonah – Linda Foote

From the time of Creation to now, our God redeems,
Always saving, always transforming, always forgiving...
At the heart of God is grace, mercy, and an abounding
love, Always accepting, always lenient, always
embracing...The burden of anger is gone, the need for
punishment is no more, Always peaceful, always
relenting...

The end of the story of the prophet Jonah reveals a

jealous and angry prophet who is not nearly as forgiving as the God who sent him to Nineveh in the first place. Jonah is jealous, angry and stubborn. How much are we like Jonah? Why are we stubborn enough to die in our anger rather than live in peace? Why are we so prepared to direct our ire at the little things instead of opening our eyes to the infinite blessings you provide? Forgive us, Lord. Perhaps you see in us more than we see in ourselves. Even Jonah had to admit this: God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing.

Believe the Good News made real in Christ Jesus: We are forgiven people. Let us live in peace!

Hebrew Scripture Reading: Jonah 3 – Linda Foote

Hebrew Scripture Reading: Jonah 4 – Pastor Jay

*Hymn: “Draw the Circle Wide” Sing! Prayer and Praise #123

Sermon: "More Than a Whale Tale – Stretching Our View of God" Pastor Jay

RESPONDING TO GOD’S GRACE

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

Offering of Ourselves and our Gifts

*Prayer of Dedication – Linda Foote

May these gifts, given to these ministries of grace, be a blessing to friends and strangers, those like us and those not, those deserving and those not, for in this way the love of God reaches all of God’s beloved. Amen.

*Hymn: “We Limit Not the Truth of God” NHC #316

*Benediction Pastor Jay

*Postlude: “No Matter” (Piano) - Brian Moore

Serving the Church

Ministers All the People of the Church
Pastor Rev. Dr. Jay Wilcher
Pastor Emeritus Rev. Robert Bradstreet
Worship Leader Linda Foote
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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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 20th. If you can help, please contact our PASS team captain, Patty Gard (928-460-3042 or email at 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.

Pastor Kendra Hobson

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!

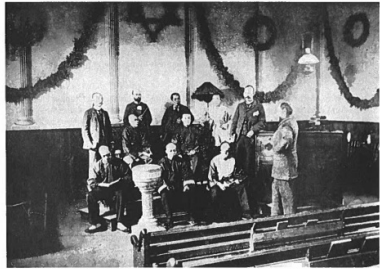
And, as always, I thank you for your continued support of our church.

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"

140TH CHURCH ANNIVERSARY YEAR



This photo is of persons involved with the Chinese School. I believe that it was taken at Christmas time 1895. It is the interior of the frame structure that served the First Congregational Church from 1881-1905. The pews are those made by a Prescott man and are still in use at the church, the lighting has not been replaced yet by electricity² and the baptismal fount is quite in evidence. The men standing are undoubtedly the sponsors of the school. Without the support of these Chinese business men it is doubtful that there would have been any attendance at the

school. On the left is Charlie Jan Wann, second is Rev. McLean, Third and fourth are not identified, fifth is Joe Ah Jew, and sixth is Bro. Otis.

This description of the event is undocumented although it sounds like a news paper report:

"The Congregational church was packed to its fullest capacity last evening with Prescott's ladies and gentlemen, to witness the entertainment given by the Chinese school of the church. The entertainment was gotten up entirely by the Chinese pupils, and the programs arranged by them. By way of introduction, T. W. Otis, superintendent of the school, made a statement giving a brief history of the school. It was started last March with ten pupils, and this number has increased during the year to thirty-five. The prime object of the school has been to teach the pupils the English language, but where it was agreeable to them, religious instruction has also been given to a voluntary choice of pupils. The programme included the singing of two hymns in the Chinese language by the school, led by Rev. T. D. McLean, who mastered enough of the Chinese language, to sing them. They were "There is a Happy Land" and "Stand up for Jesus", the tunes being familiar American ones.

Lon Slung, a nineteen-year old boy, read a portion of a chapter from the New Testament in English and then read the same in Chinese, giving some of his views of it in Chinese also. His reading was quite distinct and clear, and showed remarkable rapid progress in the language, considering the fact that he has been less than a year acquiring his knowledge of it.

Charley Wan, a well known Chinaman, gave a reading and also told a Chinese story about Mon Gee Hing in English, according to his own translation. The latter was particularly interesting, as some of his

translations were particularly modern, and was in English as it is spoken, rather than written. An illustration being that in describing Mon Gee Hing's anger he stated that "he got hot" and other similar import.

The Chirography of Lon Shung and Charley Wan is particularly good, being far better than that of the average American. Kim Sam received an encore from the audience for a selection played on a Chinese harp, an instrument of quite sweet tones, although the music was peculiarly Chinese. Chen Chung, Lou Dick, and Quen Long Hing gave an orchestrated selection on a Chinese fiddle, a banjo, and flute.

After the exercises were over a very elaborate lunch consisting of ice cream, cake, nuts, and oranges was served to all present. ³

The last we hear from the school, other than individual expressions of memories, is from the Arizona Journal Miner, August 12, 1919:

'The Methodist Church mission school established 25 years ago by T. W. Otis, merchant, "to uplift the Celestial population of Prescott by means of Church endeavors" (heathen pot wrestlers and laundry men) was sold and dismantled.' The article says that they petitioned the court for permission to sell.

Jay Eby

2021 ANNUAL MEETING

The annual report for 2020 has been sent via email and 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 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 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!!!