



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."

July 14th, 2017



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This Week at a Glance...

- ♦ **Sunday Worship:** 10:30 a.m.
- ♦ **Alter-Notes Rehearsal:** Sunday 12:00 p.m. in the Hazeltine Room
- ♦ **PASS:** Wednesday 5:00 p.m. church parking lot
- ♦ **Pastor's Bible Study:** Thursday 9:30 a.m. in the Maggie B. Room

From the Pastor

I hope you enjoy the historic art on the front of the bulletin on most Sundays. I enjoy finding it and looking up the museums or historic places the art resides. An appreciation of art and history informs our faith. This Sunday we will hear Jesus tell the parable of the sower, so van Gogh's

"The Sower" is on our bulletin cover. The other interesting choice could have been the sower that resides on top of the Nebraska state capital building, representing the state's agricultural heritage. You can see what obscure facts I learn about searching for art!

Atop the 400 foot tower of the Nebraska State Capitol stands a figure casting the seeds of life to the winds...the Sower. The statue of the Sower, modeled after the traditional method of hand sowing grain for planting, is a symbol of the importance of Agriculture to the development of civilization. Agriculture is the foundation upon which Nebraskans have built a noble life. The monumental sculpture, with its 12 and 1/2 foot pedestal of shocks of wheat and corn and 19 1/2 foot tall figure, was created by New York sculptor, Lee Lawrie. Lawrie represents this timeless symbol of Agriculture as a barefoot man, shirt sleeves and pant legs rolled up as he works, wearing a sun hood. The 3/8 inch thick bronze sculpture is reinforced by an interior steel framework and weighs nearly 9 1/2 tons.

In Matthew 13, Jesus tells a parable about a farmer throwing seeds all over the place, and how they fall on the path, the rocks, among the thorns, and on good soil. Jesus gives an interpretation that compares us with these four types of soil. It is an invitation for us to consider what type of soil we are. We will examine this Sunday.



The Sower, June 1888, Kröller-Müller Museum, Otterlo by Vincent van Gogh



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ANNIVERSARIES

Karla & Bobbi
Sue Golay 14-Jul

Harry & Anna
Strong 14-Jul

BIRTHDAYS

Staci Lee
Robbins 1-Jul

Patsy Jo Huff 13-Jul

Martie Dial 10-Jul

Jean Woodburn 16-Jul

PASTOR'S BIBLE
STUDY

We are continuing to enjoy the weekly adult Pastor's Bible Study. We meet on Thursday mornings at 9:30 a.m. in the old library downstairs, the Hazeltine room. The group will decide on topics— Lectionary readings for Sunday; a study of Revelation; a study of the life of David; etc.

ALTER-NOTES

Alter-Notes, an alternative music group, singing on occasional Sundays, needs singers and instrumentalists. Folk, pop, Celtic, spirituals and anything else. Rehearsal at noon on Sundays. Contact Melissa Gates, 207-391-3276

Summer Choir and
Music Schedule

July

16 Joell Gall
23 John Huff
30 Bound For Glory



Monday Prayer
Chapel at
11:00 am in the
Church Library

Until then, I leave you with some words and ideas of Thomas Merton. Having lived in Louisville, Kentucky, I became familiar with the writings of this Roman Catholic monk:

Every moment and every event of every person's life on earth plants something in her or his soul. For just as the wind carries thousands of winged seeds, so each moment brings with it germs of spiritual vitality that come to rest imperceptibly in the minds and wills of men and women. Most of these unnumbered seeds perish and are lost, for such seeds as these cannot spring up anywhere except in the good soil of freedom, spontaneity and love.

Merton goes on to suggest we introduce toxins into our inner soil through our fear, anxiety, and selfishness.

We gather on Sunday mornings to allow God to till our soil!

See you then

Jay

CALLED TO CARE

Next Called to Care Training Begins September 26th, 11:00 AM- Noon

Pastor Jay and Called to Care would like to invite each of you to share our call and role as caregivers in our Called To Care program. Come to refresh and strengthen your skills and begin further training toward becoming Official First Congregational Church Caregivers. Pastor Jay will commission us during worship upon completion of this training, quite like Pastoral Care classes in Seminary and worth our time.



There is reading for pre-training prep to complete: Christian Perspectives on Caregiving (refresher on scriptures on loving) and Guidance for Caregivers (preparing to visit, during, ending and after the visit) for Session 1. Session 2 is on Communicating and Nurturing reading which includes active listening, crisis intervention, confidentiality, faith-sharing, knowing one's limits, prayer, families, nurturing one's self to name a few of the guiding points.

There are also handouts, and resources for many situations found in life and how to care compassionately for each...e.g. Alcoholism, Alzheimer's, death of a child, depression, refugees, grief, mental illness, PTSD, addiction, death and dying, widows/widowers, sexism, unemployment, retirement, hearing loss, advanced directives, chronic illness, suicide, rape, homelessness, eating disorders...and more.

The first session meets in the church office on September 26th, at 11:00 AM. Please sign up in Perkins Hall or RSVP to Marilyn Kerstine (771-1452 or mkerstine@mac.com) so we have all the resources available for you.

Bring your questions and experiences as we learn more together with God's love and help. If you prefer to audit the class without becoming official caregivers, we encourage that also! Feel free to ask the members for more information about what we each do and how you might help with one or more of our needs. We visit and call our Homebound, hospitalized and to those as Pastor Jay directs; share Communion after service & at home; pray weekly at Prayer Chapel; Send weekly Homebound mailings and birthday & anniversary cards; facilitate Las Fuentes Spiritual Living Class monthly; prepare & deliver seasonal Goody Bags to our Homebound, provide grief counseling and drive the van. Come & join the Joy!

Shalom, Nancy Blevins, Patty Lantrip, Carole Sue Linson, Barbara McClure, Yoichi Matsumoto, Wendy Michael, Kathy Stephens, Rev. Shirley Williams, Pastor Jay Wilcher and Marilyn Kerstine, Chair.

July Missions Focus

With schools starting in early August, the Coalition for Compassion and Justice is once again holding it’s annual “Fair Start” event. Local impoverished families family's having children in grades K-12 will be able to receive free backpacks and school supplies. “Fair Start” is our mission emphasis for July.

There is a need for backpacks and classroom items. A donation box is in the front of the sanctuary with a list of needed items can be found on the literature table in Perkins Hall. If you prefer, a check can be written to the church, with the memo line, “Fair Start” Thank you for your support of our church’s outreach to ministries of compassion and justice. Gary Gard, Chairperson (928-2455)



Jewish— Christian Fellowship

Members of our congregation and Temple B’rth Shalom will visit each other’s worship services in August: August 12 at 10:30 a.m. here and August 18 at the temple. All who are interested are invited to join us.



Alarcon Street Ribbon Cutting & Celebration

August 9th at 10:30 we will be gathering in our parking lot to join with the City of Prescott, in with the Alarcon Street Ribbon Cutting and street opening celebration. Stay tuned, we will have more information for you soon.

Coalition of Compassion and Justice

Dear Supporters and friends,
As most of you know, the Stagger Straight Emergency Shelter on Miller Valley, next to Napa, opened in November 2016. We serve 45 meals per night, 7 nights per week, 365 days per year. We rely on donations solely to feed our shelter guests. Also, we rely solely on guests volunteers to prepare the nightly meal, so it needs to be easy and quick for them.



Could you help?

We need prepackaged, prepared meals or easily heated or prepared food.

- Cooked meats – ham, deli meats (not sliced) – we can slice it and it will preserve longer than the sliced meats
- Cooked sausage like kielbasa, etc.
- Frozen vegetables that can easily be heated in our heated servers – we don’t have a stove or oven
- Large bags of salad mix and dressing
- Gallons of Milk, Butter, Cheese, Coffee, Dry Creamer & Sugar

Gail Haugland, Assistant to the Director at Coalition of Compassion and Justice

Parish Stewardship

Offerings		
	July	YTD
Offerings	\$4,414	\$58,764
Facility	\$642	\$6,023
Foundation		\$29,453
Other	\$-	\$5,509
Total	\$5,056	\$99,749

Expenses		
	July	YTD
Expenses	\$9,996	\$150,876

Famine Relief		
Received	\$795.00	

Church World Service		
Received	\$233.00	

One Great Hour of Sharing		
Received	\$1,683.00	

Outreach Gifts		
	2016	2017
Jan	Prescott Comm. Cupb.	
	\$490	

Feb	PASS	
	\$140	

March	Habitat for Humanity	
	\$165	

April	One Great Hour Share	
	\$1,683	

May	Church World Service	
	\$319	

June	Strengthen the Church	
	\$280	

July	Pancake Breakfast	
	\$2,995	

Undesignated Missions		
	\$475	

Total	\$3,052	
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Attendance; Monthly Average		
January	102	
February	89	
March	89	
April	108	
May	101	
June	79	
July	95	

Pastor’s Bible Study

We are continuing to enjoy the weekly adult Pastor’s Bible Study. We meet on Thursday mornings at 9:30 a.m. in the old library downstairs, the Hazeltine. room. The group will decide on topics— Lectionary readings for Sunday; a study of Revelation; a study of the life of David; etc.



CONTACT US:

216 E. Gurley Street
Prescott, AZ 86301
928-445-4555
fccprescott@gmail.com

Administration Office Hours

Monday-Thursday
9:00 - 4:00

Friday: 9:00 - 1:00

Pastor Jay

Monday - Thursday
9:00 - 1:00

Other times by appointment
Cell: 928-899-9066
jayfccprescott@gmail.com

Regularly
Scheduled

PASS MEAL

Once a month we provide
a meal for the Prescott Area
Shelter Services the 3rd
Wednesday of every
month at 5:00 pm.
Sign-up sheet is in
Perkins Hall.

CHOIR PRACTICE

On Summer Break

ALTER-NOTES

Meets at 12:00 for
rehearsal in the Hazeltine
Room after worship
service.

BELL CHOIR PRACTICE

Meets for rehearsal at 11:00
am on Thursdays

PRAYER CHAPEL

Called to Care weekly prayer
group meets at 11:00 am on
Mondays
in the Chapel

CABINET MEETING

Meets the 4th Thursday of
every month at 6:00 pm
in the Office
Conference Room.

PFLAG SUPPORT GROUP

Meets the 3rd Friday of
every month at 6:30 pm in
the Church Library/Chapel.
See Julie J. for more details.

KNIT WITS

Meets the 1st & 3rd Tuesdays
of every month from 1-3 pm in
the Office Conference Room.

COMMUNION

An informal "Every Sunday
Communion" will be in the
sanctuary after worship on
Sundays except the first
Sunday of the month which is
our regular communion time.

PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDY

An informal study group
meets on Thursday mornings
at 9:30 a.m. in the Hazeltine
room. All adults are welcome.

Declaring the Earth is the Lord’s, UCC calls for environmental
imperatives for a new moral era

July 04, 2017

Written by **Tim Kershner**

The United Church of Christ, noting both the urgency of climate change and the continued debate over its existence, is "raising its prophetic voice" to urge the "healing of the Earth."

On Monday, July 3, the delegates of the General Synod passed a resolution that calls on clergy across the life of the church to preach about the moral obligation to protect God's creation, and appeals to its members to lead efforts to educate and advocate for legislation to reduce the human impact on the environment.

"The climate crisis is an opportunity for which the church was born," said Rev. Jim Antal, president and conference minister for the Massachusetts Conference United Church of Christ, and the author of the resolution. "This sets the stage for engagement and hope. This is a proclamation of truth and the love of God's gift."

The resolution, "The Earth is the Lord's-Not Ours to Wreck," which passed with more than 97% of delegates in favor, was first adopted by the denomination's Southern California Nevada Conference at its June meeting in response to the United States withdrawal from the Paris Climate Accord. Since then, more than 16 additional regional conferences endorsed the resolution at their annual meetings.

"No resolution has arrived to General Synod with this much momentum," Antal said.

While addressing climate change, the action primarily calls attention to efforts, often politically motivated, to belittle the science behind climate change and deny what climate supporters say are obvious impacts on the environment. "The truth is under attack," says Marilyn Kendrix, chair of the Synod committee that considered the resolution. "It is up to us to reclaim truth."

The resolution relates the Bible's description of the encounter between Jesus and Pilate. When asked, "So you are a king?" Jesus responds by declaring to Pilate, "I came into this world to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice."

Science, Kendrix adds, has no political opinion or bias. "Science is the basis of our understanding of climate change, and science is under attack. [This resolution] is about the truth."

The Rev. Denise Mason Bullitt, interim conference minister of the Central Atlantic Conference, agreed. During the Synod committee process, she said, "Science has everything to do with our responsibility and accountability to address climate change. Scripture tells us we have a firm foundation in the truth."

The resolution calls on UCC clergy, churches and members to speak from the pulpit and in the "public square," and to set an example "through words and actions." In the committee process, specific references to the current U.S. administration were changed to reference to the "powers that be." Kendrix says this added a more "biblical focus" and recognized that criticism of climate change can happen with future U.S. administrations as well as other governments around the world.

The committee also added language to recognize impact of climate change on poor communities, communities of color, and indigenous people.

Other General Synods have addressed environmental concerns, with 19 previous resolutions, beginning with the second General Synod in 1959, and most recently including a measure adopted in 2015 calling for responsible stewardship of the outer space environment. John Lof, a delegate from the Iowa Conference, says he voted for that resolution and supports the action the UCC is taking in 2017.

He called on delegates to "go home and put this resolution to work."

Pam Arifian, Connecticut Conference, reminded delegates of a previous presentation calling on the church to focus on its three great loves: love of children, love of neighbor, and love of creation. "This is a natural extension of our witness and our three great loves."

Emphasizing that he may be "speaking to the choir," Phil Porter, a delegate from Northern California Nevada Conference, urged the church to "sing together loudly."

Reflecting on how quickly this resolution came together with the cooperation of conferences throughout the country, Southern California Nevada Conference Minister Rev. Felix Villanueva says this "proves what happens when we network with one another."

"Let's work together now to save the world."

Tim Kershner, celebrating his 13th Synod as a newsroom volunteer, is associate vice president of marketing & communication at Centenary College of Louisiana.

