



# 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 21th, 2017

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## This Week at a Glance...

- ♦ **Sunday Worship:** 10:30 a.m. **Musical Guest:** Sarah and John Huff
- ♦ **Alter-Notes Rehearsal:** Sunday 12:00 p.m. in the Hazeltine Room
- ♦ **Pastor's Bible Study:** Thursday 9:30 a.m. in the Maggie B. Room
- ♦ **Cabinet Meeting:** Thursday 6:00 p.m Church Office Conference Rm.

## FROM THE PASTOR

Monsoon has arrived and the plants and trees are happy – and so are the weeds! This Sunday's parable from Jesus seems well-timed: the parable of the wheat and the weeds or the wheat and the tares (Matthew 13:24-43). Jesus tells the story of a farmer who sows good seed in his field, but while he slept, an enemy sowed weeds among his wheat. At that time, the weed was the dreaded "bearded darnel." Before modern sorting machinery made it easier to separate real wheat from this false wheat, the two had to be left to grow together until harvest, when finally darnel turned another color and the ear appeared that helped distinguish between them.

Jesus teaches that just as wheat and weeds grow together, so it is in his church and the world. And, so it is in us. There does seem to be "an enemy" at work, infecting everyone and everything so that love, justice, and perfection cannot be reached. Jesus says we must wait until the end of time to have everything sorted out.

The title of the sermon is "Living with Ambiguity." I think it is a mark of spiritual maturity for sure, and a part of maturity in general. Whether looking at our church, our families, our politicians, our world, or ourselves, the wheat and the weeds do grow together. How do we live with this ambiguity?

Let's think about it on Sunday.

Jay

- ♦ **Sunday Worship:** 10:30 a.m. **Musical Guest:** Sarah and John Huff

## PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDY

We meet on Thursday mornings at 9:30 a.m. downstairs in the Hazeltine room. Pastor Jay gives us a preview of the readings from the lectionary for the next Sunday. Join us as we study and discuss these verses in the context of the text.



Heinrich Füllmaurer, Circa 1540, Kunsthistorisches Museum, Vienna, Austria.

SUMMER MINISTRY SCHEDULE

VAN MINISTRY

Our Van Ministry is up and running! Bill Rouse has volunteered to head up this vital ministry. If you need a ride to church, please give him a call by Saturday. Bill Rouse: 602-769-5770 Our many thanks to Bill for this ministry!



“FAIR START” BACK TO SCHOOL PROGRAM

This Sunday will be the last Sunday for you to bring your school supplies and backpack donations to our church for the CCJ "Fair Start" event which happens on Saturday, July 29th. If you desire, after this Sunday, supply donations can be taken to Esther Hall at the Methodist Church. "Fair Start" volunteers and staff will begin set-up work on the mornings of July 27 and 28.



Thank you for your support of our ministries of compassion and justice. Gary Gard

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ANNIVERSARIES

Karla & Bobbi Sue Goly 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

Summer Choir and Music Schedule

July  
23 John Huff  
30 Bound 4 Glory

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

EVERYWEEK COMMUNION

Communion is available in the front of the sanctuary after worship on Sunday’s other than the first Sunday of the month where it will be served during our regular congregational communion service.



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



BOUND 4 GLORY

WE HOPE THAT YOU’LL COME JOIN US AT OUR 10:30 A.M. WORSHIP SERVICE ON SUNDAY, JULY 30. INVITE ALL OF YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS! IT WILL BE A GREAT TIME OF INSPIRING GOSPEL QUARTET SONGS. YOU WON’T WANT TO MISS IT!



# Parish Stewardship

## Offerings

	July	YTD
Offerings	\$5,421	\$59,770
Facility	\$1,382	\$6,763
Foundation		\$29,453
Other		\$5,509
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$6,803</b>	<b>\$101,495</b>

## Expenses

	July	YTD
Expenses	\$19,201	\$158,741

## Famine Relief

Received \$795.00

## Church World Service

Received \$233.00

## Our Great Hour of Shareing

Received \$1,683.00

## Outreach Gifts

	2016	2017
Jan	Prescott Comm.	
	\$490	
Feb	PASS	
	\$140	
March	Habitat for Humanity	
	\$165	
April	One Great Hour Share	
	\$1,183	
May	Church World Service	
	\$319	
June	Strengthen the Church	
	\$280	
July	Pancake Breakfast	
	\$2,995	

## Undesignated Missions

\$475

**Total \$3,052**

## Attendance; Monthly Average

January	102
February	89
March	89
April	108
May	101
June	79
July	85

## CALLED TO CARE

This coming Tuesday at 11:00 a.m. we will be meeting in the Church Office Conference room. Please email me any items you wish to discuss, include. 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. There are many ways you can participate, note and card writing, visiting the home bound or joining us in prayer on Monday mornings in our Chapel. If you have already been a Caregiver, come to refresh and strengthen your skills and begin further training toward becoming Official First Congregational Church Caregivers.



## JEWISH — CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Members of our congregation and Temple B'rith Shalom will visit each other's worship services in August: August 13 at 10:30 a.m. here and August 18 at the temple. All who are interested are invited to join us.



Temple  
B'rith Shalom

## 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. The Mayor and others will speak. There will be refreshments and music from the "Wicky Wacky Woos" Ukulele Players! We will move

to Perkins Hall in the case of rain. Stay tuned, we will have more information for you soon on how you can participate or help!

## COALITION FOR COMPASION 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. You may bring food to the shelter after 10 a.m. Fresh veggies, fruit, and dishes bought at store. They have no way to cook food and the health department does not allow home-prepared meals.



Coalition for  
Compassion & Justice

### Could you help?

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

- Cooked meats – ham, deli meats (not sliced)
- Cooked sausage like kielbasa, etc.
- Frozen vegetables that can easily be heated in our heated servers
- 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*

**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.

**ALARCON STREET  
COMPLETION CELEBRATION**

**Wednesday, August 9<sup>th</sup>**

**10:30 A.M.**

**Alarcon Street at Gurley Street**

**United Church of Christ Parking Lot – 216 E. Gurley St.**



**Before**



**During**



**After**

**In appreciation of your patience and understanding over the duration  
of the project, the City of Prescott invites you to a celebration. Light  
refreshments will be served.**

**In the event of rain, the event will be held in the Perkins Hall of  
1<sup>st</sup> Congregational United Church of Christ – 216 E. Gurley St.**

**Please RSVP to (928) 777-1653**

**NO MATTER WHO YOU ARE OR WHERE YOU ARE ON LIFE'S JOURNEY, YOU ARE  
WELCOME HERE!**

All are welcome here. But, we extend a special welcome to those who are single, married, divorced, gay, lesbian, transgender, filthy rich, dirt poor, yo no habla Ingles. We extend a special welcome to those who are crying newborns, skinny as a rail or could afford to lose a few pounds. We welcome you if you can sing like Andrea Bocelli or like our pastor who can't carry a note in a bucket. You're welcome here if you're "just browsing," just woke up or just got out of jail. We don't care if you're more Catholic than the Pope, or haven't been in church since little Joey's Baptism. We extend a special welcome to those who are over 60 but not grown up yet, and to teenagers who are growing up too fast. We welcome soccer moms, NASCAR dads, starving artists, tree-huggers, latte-sippers, vegetarians, junk-food eaters. We welcome those who are in recovery or still addicted. We welcome you if you're having problems or you're down in the dumps or if you don't like "organized religion," we've been there too. We endorse all people but we make it a point not to promote any particular politician. If you need a church that does or a minister who screams and yells from the pulpit about how everybody who doesn't believe as he believes (or, she believes) is going to hell... well, you're probably not going to like this church. Here, you can be Democrat, Republican, Independent... heck, even a Socialist. You'll understand, we're sort of struck with Jesus and, especially, his teachings. The way we figure it — if we follow his teachings, the world will be a happier and healthier place for everybody. Healthier and happier, too, for those not interested in religion, not even ours. If you blew all your offering money last night at the dog track, tough luck for us. You're still welcome here. We offer a special welcome to those who think the earth is flat, work too hard, don't work, can't spell, or because grandma is in town and wanted to go to church. We welcome those who are inked, pierced or both. We offer a special welcome to those who could use a prayer right now, had religion shoved down your throat as a kid or got lost in traffic and wound up here by mistake. We welcome tourists, seekers and doubters, bleeding hearts ... In short, we welcome you!