

The Parish Caller

“No matter who you are or where you are on life’s journey, you are welcome here.”

July 24, 2015

First Congregational
Church, United
Church of Christ,
Prescott



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This Week at First Congregational Church...

- ◆ Exploring Faith Monday night discussion class meets at 6:30 pm.
- ◆ Caring for Creation Education Workshop meets Tuesday July 28th at 6:00 pm.
- ◆ Pastor Jay will be “Out of the Office” again, and at Prescott College, Thursday July 30th from 9-11 am

Caring for Creation Education and Action Opportunity

Tuesday, July 28th, 6:00pm Perkins Hall

Chuck Budinger Speaking

Chuck works for the Department of Transportation as their Environmental Coordinator. He will be speaking on what is happening in the Prescott area with our local environmental issues. He will guide us as we form an Action Group, providing insight and education that will set our church on a more sustainable course.

Topics presented will include:

- ⇒ Issues on the upcoming ballot
- ⇒ Ways we can implement a sustainable program for our church
- ⇒ Opportunities to learn more and get involved in what is happening in our local community. **We invite you to join us, and expand your awareness!**

From Pastor Jay

Matthew 7:7 Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you.

James 4:2 You do not have, because you do not ask.

I know what you are thinking. I have as much doubt about these words as you do. I can come up with all kinds of arguments for why they do not ring true, and I certainly, like you, can give all kinds of personal examples of how they have failed me. And yet, there does seem to be plenty of disciples of their truth across a broad spectrum: sales experts, spiritualists, metaphysicalists, and success gurus. I love the simple truth my sales manager used to tell us all the time: “Ask for the sale! What are the possible outcomes? Yes, no, or maybe so. But you know what? When you ask, the odds of a yes go up!” Indeed!

The reason I bring all this up is to let you know I pray daily for God to bring people to our church: nudge them, plant a seed of motivation in them, direct them, all the mysterious ways God works on all of us. And the strange (or not so strange) result is people come. We have received two calls at the office in recent weeks inquiring about our church and expressing an interest in coming. Our “open and affirming” stance is the reason behind the interest. Another came because of the beauty of our building. That probably happens more than we know. I think others come because I asked God to send them! So, I invite you to join me in the prayer. It goes something like this: “Loving God, there are people out there who need this church. They will find this to be home for whatever the reasons. Tug at their hearts and plant a thought in their minds to visit us. And help us to extend an extravagant welcome!”

Of course, as we are praying, we could ask a friend or neighbor to come as well. Funny how the odds go up when you ask! God bless, Jay

Pastor Jay is out of the office!

In an effort to be out and about and more accessible (less cloistered), Jay will be keeping office hours at local places. It's a chance for you to stop by with anything that is on your mind. This Thursday, from 9-11 am, he will be hanging out at Crossroads Cafe at Prescott College.

Moderator's Message

Chancel Renovation Proposed

When we come together to worship God, our visual focus is to the front of our church. What we see in the chancel shapes our experience.

Over the years the look of our chancel has changed several times. Some of the changes have been long standing (the placement of the choir pews), some have been temporary (placement of banners and the dressing on the communion table) and some permanent (the Rose Window).

Each of these changes have been brought on by the changing needs of our congregation and the ways we do worship.

Our current needs are for more flexible space that allows for a diversity of musical presentations that enhance worship. The challenges we face are the varying size of our choir, the placement of the instruments, and the focal point of the communion table.

A Chancel Renovation group has been commissioned with proposing an option to address our current and future needs. It is recommended that the choir pews be removed. We would replace them with chairs designed for choirs. This will allow us to arrange the chairs, instruments and communion table as needed. It will also allow us to adjust the number of chairs to the size of the choir for each Sunday.

I feel that this proposal is appropriate to our needs and will sustain the aesthetic of our sanctuary and enrich worship. I'm open to your comments and suggestions.

John McCurdy, Moderator jamc58@cableone.net

Pastor Jay's family gathers for his Installation Service



Top Left:

Lyndsie Milisen,
Dr. Rob Milisen,
Hayden Milisen,
Pastor Jay

Second Row:

Finley Milisen,
Cherie Wilcher,
Quinton Wilder,
Dan Wilder,
Joey Wilcher

Front:

Bo and Matty Milisen

Baby Landon's Baptism

Landon Worthington's Baptism

Andrea and Tawnya Worthington stand together as proud parents as Rev. Jay Wilcher baptize baby Landon this past Sunday, July 19th.



Thank you from
Sherry Hager

Thank you from Sherry Hager

Dear Called to Care and those who sent who sent us a card expressing your thoughts and prayers, My Mom and I are very grateful for your thoughts and prayers as we transition from hospital to Las Fuentes Care to home care. Mom had unfortunately experienced her 2nd challenge of pneumonia and because of her extreme determination to conquer all, is back home with me after weeks of exercise and will power at the age of 94! We are on a rigid schedule of medication, inhaler treatments, in addition to home support of nurses, physical and occupational therapists. She is amazingly strong-willed and so we hold our own! Thanks so much for your prayers & support! You have no idea what wonderful comfort this is!

Sincerely, Sherry Hager

Evolved Christianity: Quote for today by Philip Gulley

“An evolved Christianity will not insist we believe the absurd, affirm the incredible, or support a theology that degrades humanity. It will be a friend of science, working joyfully alongside the best minds in the world on a common mission to embrace and enhance life. This Christianity will talk less and act more. “

ANNOUNCEMENTS

August Missions
Focus:

Announcements and Ways to get Involved

Outreach Ministry: August Focus and Food Donations

The Prescott Community Cupboard is always in need of donations, whether canned or boxed foods or money. First Congregational Church has always been a staunch supporter of this community project. For the month of August we ask that you contribute macaroni and cheese. This is a favorite of our neighbors in need. There are baskets at each entry for your donations. Please help. Thank you!

Another way to help is to bag orders. Our church does this once every six weeks. We work in teams for one week. If you are interested in helping with this job please see Al Beeson. He is our church representative for Community Cupboard. The more the merrier.!

Two New Dates Set
for “Meet the Pastor”
Lunch/Dinner

“Meet the Pastor” Dinner and Lunch

We have had great success with participation and a lot of fun with the “Meet the Pastor” Dinners and Lunches. Get to know Pastor Jay and his wife Cherie in a more intimate setting. **2 More Dates Set!** If you would like to attend one of the events or host one of your own, please sign up in Perkins Hall after church, or contact Judy Daly (Phone: 928-237-9577 or 858-883-9596; Email: jdaly59@gmail.com).

Saturday, August 15th at 5:30 pm
Hosts: Ronny and Mike de Jong
Six seats for Dinner

Sunday, August 16th at 1:00 pm
Hosts: Anne and Ron Solt
Six seats for Lunch

PFLAG Panel
Discussion

PFLAG Awareness Forum September 23rd

Our church is hosting a PFLAG Forum to build awareness. This event will be promoted to the community

PFLAG Vision: PFLAG envisions a world where diversity is celebrated and all people are respected, valued, and affirmed inclusive of their sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression.

PFLAG Mission: By meeting people where they are and collaborating with others, PFLAG realizes its vision through:

- Support for families, allies and people who are LGBTQ
- Education for ourselves and others about the unique issues and challenges facing people who are LGBTQ
- Advocacy in our communities to change attitudes and create policies and laws that achieve full equality for people who are LGBTQ

MORE INFORMATION TO COME!

<div>Bell Choir Rehearsal Resumes</div> <div>Summer Choir</div> <div>Called to Care</div> <div>Facebook</div>	<div>Bell Choir Rehearsal Resumes August 6th... Practice is held on Thursday mornings at 11:00. If you are interested in joining see Carole Sue Linson, 928-717-4494 or cslinson@yahoo.com.</div> <div>Do you enjoy singing? Then SUMMER CHOIR is for you! July and August, the Chancel Choir invites you to join us for Sunday morning worship. We will meet before the worship service at 9:30 for a half hour practice and sing two responses and an easy hymn for the anthem. No choir robes! Just come and enjoy singing with us. For more information, please contact Jane Osborn, 713-4752 or prescottsong@hotmail.com.</div> <div>Called to Care is seeking interested people... Called to Care is seeking compassionate individuals interested in participating in our Ministry. Please see Marilyn Kerstine.</div> <div>Do You Like Social Media... We are looking for members of our church community who want to help us build our church's Facebook following. You don't have to be too tech-y for this, just willing to log onto the church's Facebook page a few times a week and post interesting articles and memes to our page. See Julie in the office for details.</div>
<div>ONGOING AND WEEKLY EVENTS AT THE CHURCH</div>	<div>EXPLORING FAITH GROUPS Sunday morning class is currently on Summer Break and will resume after Labor Day. ~But~ Monday evening discussion group continues to meet weekly at 6:30 pm in the Church Library. DVD Series on Genesis with Bill Moyers. All are welcome!</div> <div>CHOIR PRACTICE SUMMER SCHEDULE CHANGE: Sunday 9:30 am in the Sanctuary. See Jane Osborn if you would like to join the choir!</div> <div>BELL CHOIR PRACTICE resumes August 6th, Thursday mornings at 11:00 am in the Sanctuary. See Carole Sue Linson for details.</div> <div>OUTREACH MINISTRY meets the 3rd Thursday of every month at 10:30 am in the Office Conference Room.</div>
<div>Ways to Subscribe to the Weekly Parish Caller:</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">Send the office an email verifying your email addressFill out the Weekly Caller Subscribe Sheet in Perkins Hall</div>	<div>CALLED TO CARE MINISTRY meets the 4th Tuesday of every month from 2:00 to 4:00 pm in the Office Conference Room. If you are interested in being part of this ministry, see Marilyn Kerstine.</div> <div>PASS MEAL is a once-a-month ministry where we provide a meal for the Prescott Area Shelter Services the 3rd Wednesday of every month at 5:30 pm. Sign-up sheet is in Perkins Hall.</div> <div>KNIT WITS meets the 1st & 3rd Tuesdays of every month at 1:00 to 3:00 pm in the Office Conference Room.</div>
<div>First Congregational Church of Prescott, UCC 216 E. Gurley Street Prescott, AZ 86301 928-445-4555 fccprescott@gmail.com</div> <div>Administration Office Hours Mondays: 1:00 - 4:00 Tuesday - Friday: 9:00 - 4:00</div> <div>Pastor Jay Monday - Thursday 9:00 - Noon Other times by appointment Cell: 928-899-9066 jayfccprescott@gmail.com</div>	<div>LAS FUENTES SPIRITUAL LIVING SERVICE is held the 3rd Thursday of every month at 10:00 am, led by Called to Care Ministry. ~And~ Service is also held the 2nd Sunday of every month at 3:00 pm, led by Pastor Jay. Address: Las Fuentes Resort Village 1035 Scott Dr. Prescott.</div> <div>AGAPE SOUP SUPPER meets the 2nd Wednesday of every month at 5:30 pm in Perkins Hall. Sign-up sheet is in Perkins Hall.</div> <div>CABINET MEETING meets the 4th Thursday of every month at 6:30 pm in the Office Conference Room.</div> <div>PFLAG SUPPORT GROUP meets the 3rd Friday of every month at 6:30 pm in the Church Library. See Julie J. for more details.</div> <div>LADIES' FRIENDLY goes out to dinner after church the 2nd Sunday of every month. Currently on Summer Break.</div>