



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 28th, 2017



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This Week at a Glance...

- ♦ **Sunday Worship:** 10:30 a.m. **Bound 4 Glory**
- ♦ **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

Here is the title of Sunday's sermon: "The Subversive Kingdom – or, if you think all this Christianity stuff is strange, Jesus agrees with you, and you are welcome here!"

In our text for Sunday, Jesus continues to tell parables that show us what the Kingdom of Heaven is like (Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52). Stories about mustard seed, leaven, treasure, a pearl, and a net. I imagine Jesus telling them with a twinkle in his eye or a smile on his face because they are subversive, counter-intuitive, and disruptive.

Jesus' parables are supposed to be weird. Their atypical elements are supposed to rattle us — not simply because strangeness possesses motivational shock-value, but because what Jesus announces is genuinely unsettling. The parables, like a poem wielding a poignant metaphor, rouse our creativity from the patterns imposed by normal expectations, especially religious ones. Jesus' parables make us consider life and our place in it differently. They make us dream of outcasts getting seats at lavish banquets, and the trouble this can cause. Their point isn't to summon us to the heights of a single, otherworldly meaning. In lively and even uncontrollable ways, Jesus' parables prompt us to imagine how God, in the here and now, surprises and even subverts our regular perspectives and convictions about what's possible. And all this usually strikes people as rather absurd. (Matthew Skinner)

The Kingdom of Heaven or God's Reign is not a location, such as a place called heaven. It is what Jesus came to inaugurate – what life would look like under God's rule. It is "already" in the sense that it is in-breaking, beginning with the ministry of Jesus and continuing in the ministry of the church, but it is "not yet" in terms of being fully realized in this sinful world.

It exists most of the time in a hidden way right next to the "real" stuff of life. Love and justice, and expressions of love and justice are Kingdom activities.

Selfish pursuits and materialism grab the most attention.

Barbara Brown Taylor makes a good observation about the "hiddenness" of the reign of God in these stories, all of them, and what that hiddenness may teach us about our own seeking: that in the most ordinary, everyday things and experiences are "clues to all the

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FROM A MUSTARD
SEED...



Continued from page 1

holiness hidden in the dullness of our days....[it is possible] that God decided to hide the kingdom of heaven not in any of the extraordinary places that treasure hunters would be sure to check but in the last place that any of us would think to look, namely, in the ordinary circumstances of our everyday lives..." (*The Seeds of Heaven*).

See you Sunday as these parables rattle us and offer another perspective on life.
Jay



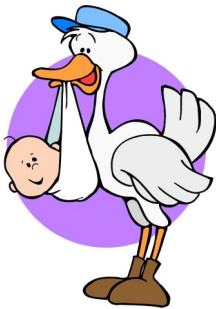
BOUND 4 GLORY

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!

Congratulations!



Grand Baby
#2 Miles Scott
Ely born May
31st.



Luke David
Steele born
July 17th Judy
and Bret Ely's
grandson



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.

CHANCEL CHOIR

If you like to sing, the choir is eager to increase its membership. Contact Jane Osborn 928-713- 4752

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

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!



Van Ministry

JEWISH — CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

On Friday evening, August 18th, our congregation is invited to join with members/friends of Temple B'rith Shalom. Beginning at 5:15 there will be a Oneg ("Original Sabbath" also known as "Sabbath Delight"). The Oneg features appetizers and fellowship. Immediately afterwards there will be a worship celebration, which usually concludes around 7:00 PM. The Temple address is 2077 Brohner Way, Prescott. Brohner Way is a short street located behind the Hughes Supply Building at the roundabout intersection at Hwy 89 and Willow Lake Road.



Temple B'rith Shalom

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.

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, for 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.

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, Asst. to the Director at Coalition of Compassion and Justice



PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDY

This Thursday mornings at 9:30 a.m. when we meet, we will continue to explore the parables of Jesus. 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.

Parish Stewardship

Offerings		
	July	YTD
Offerings	\$7,403	\$61,752
Facility	\$1,382	\$6,763
Foundation	\$13,423	\$42,876
Other		\$5,509
Total	\$22,208	\$116,900

Expenses		
	July	YTD
Expenses	\$21,204	\$362,300

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
	\$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	
	\$650

Total	\$3,227
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Attendance; Monthly Average	
January	102
February	89
March	89
April	108
May	101
June	79
July	92

The Goodwin Fire and the SWC Disaster Ministries

July 20, 2017 in UCC Conference News

written by Phil Shea, SWC Disaster Ministries Coordinator

During the Arizona Goodwin Fire in late June, we kept in touch with Pastor Thomas at Faith United Community Church in Dewey. While their church community fared well during the fire, along with some understandable anxiety, they were concerned for a friend in Humboldt who operated a Certified VA Medical Foster Home which had to be evacuated. Thankfully, all appears to have turned out well for them. This event reminds us of the threats and dangers of the fire season in Arizona and New Mexico and how it can impact our UCC Congregations and our neighboring communities. We want to be aware and stand with all our congregational communities in Arizona, New Mexico and El Paso. Please let me know when you have disaster emergencies or disaster threats to your communities.



The UCC Disaster Ministries and SWC Conference Disaster Ministries stand ready to support and assist your congregations and your communities in time of disaster. Because of the many first responders and agencies already equipped to assist with initial disaster relief, UCC/SWC Disaster Ministries helps congregations connect with those resources but focuses on assisting with the needs of long-term recovery.

If a disaster need arises in your congregational community, you can contact our Conference Minister and me to assist you with your response. A disaster may not impact your congregation directly, but you may see an opportunity to minister to your community neighbors during a disaster or the recovery aftermath. My contact information is philip.o.shea@justicestar.org and 602-663-5065. Please feel free to contact me any time of day or night.

UCC Disaster Ministries can assist our Conference with expertise, small grants, and help organizing work teams and resources to support church and community recovery. Contact me if you would like more information about UCC Disaster Ministries. Additionally, I work at the same facility that houses the Arizona Division of Emergency Management and regularly interact with the Arizona Volunteer Agency Liaison for disaster relief. The SWC also belongs to the Voluntary Organizations Assisting in Disaster (VOAD). The Regional Red Cross Director for Arizona, New Mexico and El Paso is the Arizona VOAD Director. We are connected when we need help.

Finally, I ask all of you to pray for our congregations and their communities during the fire season.

Phil Shea, SWC Disaster Ministries Coordinator 2-663-5065

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.