



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."

This Week at a Glance...

- ♦ **Sunday Worship:** 10:30 a.m.
- ♦ **Alter-Notes Rehearsal:** Sunday 12:00 p.m. in the Hazeltine Room

June 23, 2017

IN THIS ISSUE

Page 1

- ♦ This Week at a Glance
- ♦ From the Pastor

Page 2

- ♦ From the Pastor, Cont'd
- ♦ Terros Health Open House
- ♦ Pancake Breakfast

Page 3

- ♦ Letter from Josh Taylor
- ♦ Outreach Mission
- ♦ Contact Us



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

From the Pastor:



By the Rivers of Babylon by Gebhard Fugel. 1920.

Psalm 137- Lament over the Destruction of Jerusalem

¹ By the rivers of Babylon— there we sat down and there we wept
when we remembered Zion.

"It is OK to Lament" is the title of Sunday's sermon (Psalm 86).

Lament psalms were used individually and in worship by the Israelites to share their burdens with God. Psalm 44, Psalm 60, Psalm 74, Psalm 79, Psalm 80, Psalm 85, and Psalm 90 are examples. We can pray them ourselves during times of trouble and anguish. Theologians note that we have lost our connection to lament in the modern age.

Walter Brueggemann makes the case that without lament our faith and life give way to pretense:

"One loss that results from the absence of lament is the loss of genuine covenant interaction, since the second party to the covenant (the petitioner) has become voiceless or has a voice that is permitted to speak only praise and doxology. Where lament is absent, covenant comes into being only as a celebration of joy and well-being. Or in political categories, the greater party is surrounded by subjects who are always "yes-men and women" from whom "never is heard a discouraging word." Since such a celebrative, consenting silence does not square with reality, covenant minus lament is finally a practice of denial, cover-up, and pretense, which sanctions social control."


Brueggemann, Walter. "The Costly Loss of Lament." In *The Psalms: The Life of Faith*, edited by Patrick D. Miller. Minneapolis: Fortress, 1995, pp. 98-111. Originally published by the author in JSOT 36 (1986) 57-71.

Continued on page 2

I have been thinking about the loss of lament in the church, particularly in worship where in many churches “praise choruses” and “praise bands” leave no room for the congregation to express lament to God. Given the realities of human life, one does not always come to worship in good spirits. The ability to express all emotions to God is to live and worship in an authentic and real way. The hymns this Sunday allow those in good spirits to enjoy “I Sing the Mighty Power of God” and “Leaning on the Everlasting Arms.” The other hymn will be a moving lament from the Iona Community, “O Lord, My God.” This hymn allows those going through tough times to share their emotions with God.

See you Sunday! Alarcon Street is getting close to being done – thank you for finding your way here through all the construction challenges.

Jay



JOIN US...

for our


**Prescott
Mobile Crisis
Open House &
Ribbon Cutting Event**

June 29, 2017

1:30 – 3:30 PM

8128 E. Hwy. 69 Ste. 101
Prescott Valley, AZ 86314

Enjoy food and refreshments while
learning about how Terros Health is
Inspiring Change for Life
by providing Mobile Crisis Services in
Prescott and Prescott Valley.



Parish
Stewardship

Offerings

	June	YTD
Offerings	\$8,584	\$54,388
Facility	\$448	\$5,199
Foundation	\$-	\$29,453
Other	\$-	\$5,507
Total	\$9,032	\$94,547

Expenses

	June	YTD
Expenses	\$20,159	\$139,145

Famine Relief

Received \$795.00

Church World Service

Received \$233.00

Our Great Hour of Sharing

Received \$1,183.00

Attendance; Monthly Average

January	102
February	89
March	89
April	108
May	101
June	69

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

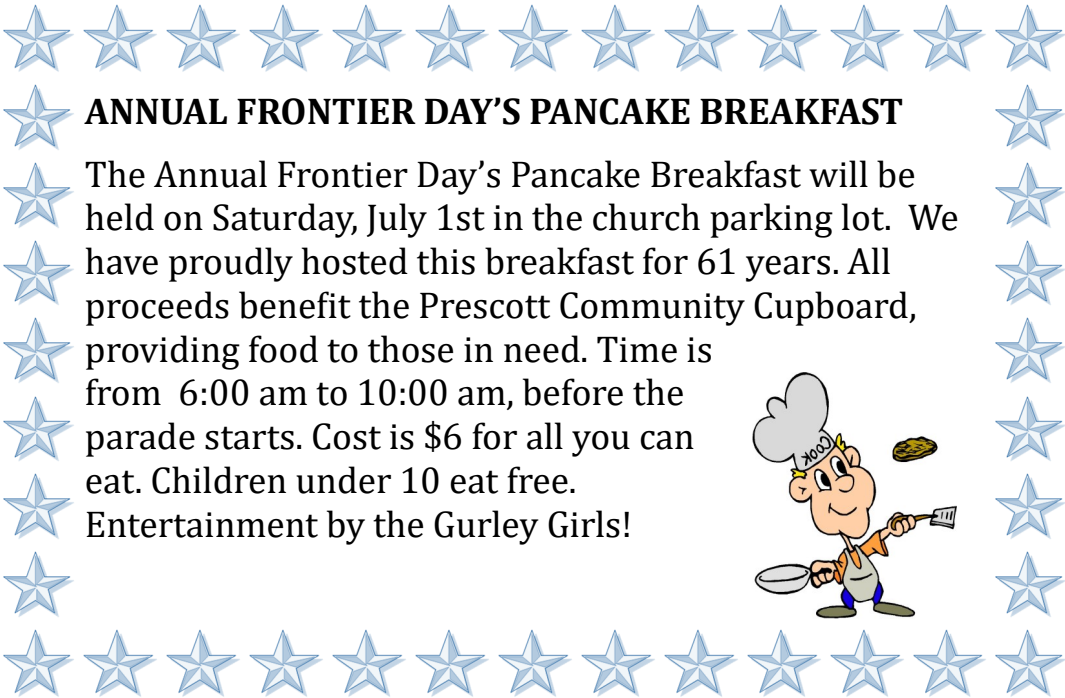
Summer Choir and
Music Schedule

June

25 Denise Nasso


July

2 Alter-Notes
9 Song of the Pines
16 Joell Gall
23 John Huff
30 Bound For Glory



ANNUAL FRONTIER DAY’S PANCAKE BREAKFAST

The Annual Frontier Day’s Pancake Breakfast will be held on Saturday, July 1st in the church parking lot. We have proudly hosted this breakfast for 61 years. All proceeds benefit the Prescott Community Cupboard, providing food to those in need. Time is from 6:00 am to 10:00 am, before the parade starts. Cost is \$6 for all you can eat. Children under 10 eat free. Entertainment by the Gurley Girls!



Letter from Josh Taylor (A long-time member, Sunday School Teacher, Summer Camp Director, overseer of the facilities, rented the room above the Annex, and left us to join the Marines):

Hello My Church Family,

Thank you for all the letters, they make my days a little more joyous. By the time you get this it may be July. If so; please hold the rest of your letters as I am not likely to receive them before I leave (incredibly slow mail). So let's see ... since my last letter we have had many sandstorms and high heat. Luckily we are protected from both by always having a light jacket on. Just after my last letter we had a MASSIVE rain storm, it flooded our command building and we "earned our Sea Service Ribbon" by all hands bailing out the water. Took around 4 hours to just be damp. On the plus side, no more carpets to vacuum. So that was nice.

We have had all manner of higher -ups and VIPs come through. I think Trump was floating around somewhere but I work nights so I never see anybody; and I'm OK with that.

What can I say about my job without violating OPSEC? I build and maintain servers (Email, Chat, Security-type and a neat one that uses maps and cell phone interfaces). It's sometimes fun and challenging, other times dull and tedious, but I strive to always learn new things. I have been placed on a shift by myself for one of two reasons: either I'm "competent" or I "don't play well with others!" Still trying to figure which reason they chose. We don't get off base at all to see the "outside" but the Airforce people seem to think it's cool. I have read a ton of books. One I recommend is called "Moment Maker" by Carlos Whittaker. Very good book.

I'm glad to hear the family is growing and Sunday School is picking up. I'm sorry to see some of our family has moved away, but I'm glad they are on to new adventures!

Well, I'm about out of time. Thank you all.

HUGS!! And BEHAVE YOURSELVES (you know who you are).

Love and best wishes,

Cpl. Taylor :-)

MISSION OUTREACH DONATIONS

Because of your generous giving, we recently sent \$795 to help address the famine stricken nations in Africa and in Yemen. Unlike some governmental programs whose efforts are sometimes sabotaged by corrupt local officials, the church uses trusted local personnel to oversee the distribution of materials and dollars. In addition to our donation of funds for famine relief, 25 school bags are being sent to the Church World Service for distribution in refugee camps and impoverished global villages. Also, a check in the amount of \$280 will be issued to the UCC headquarters earmarked for their "Strengthen the Church" program. These donation funds help support new church development and programs which reach out to youth and young adults. Thank you for your support of our church's outreach to ministries of compassion and justice locally, nationally, and globally.

Gary Gard, Mission Outreach Chairperson.

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.