

The Parish Caller

"No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here."

June 19th, 2015

First Congregational
Church, United
Church of Christ,
Prescott



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This Week At First Congregational Church...

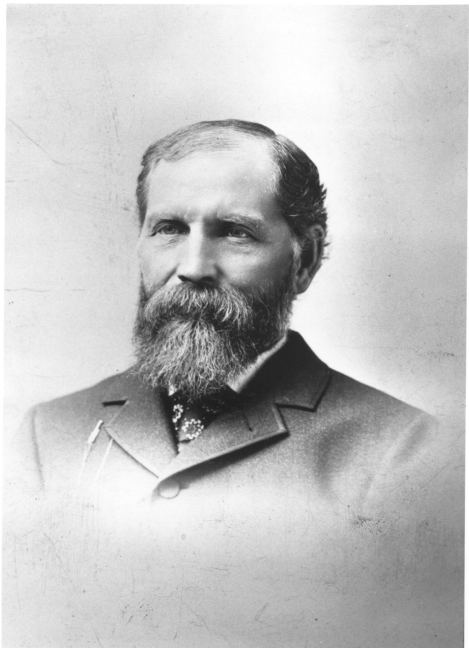
- ◆ Choir practice will be starting at 9:30 before Sunday Service. Summer schedule has begun. See page three for details.
- ◆ Exploring Faith Monday night discussion class meets at 6:30 pm in the church Library.
- ◆ Called to Care Ministry meets Tuesday June 23rd from 2:00 to 4:00 pm in the church office conference room.
- ◆ Cabinet Meeting meets Thursday evening, June 25th at 6:30 pm in the church office conference room.

A History of First Congregational Church Part 4 By Jay Eby

Second on each list of members is Theodore Weld Otis. He was a descendent of our Patriot father James Otis of New York. He was a graduate of Oberlin College, had served in the Army, and was a school teacher. He came with his family to Prescott in 1874 from New York and established a grocery. His business building at Union and Cortez Streets as well as his home at 112 North Pleasant Street are still with us.

He and others on our list had belonged to a Presbyterian congregation in Prescott that had not survived. It was to Brother Otis that this Presbyterian Congregation left the deed to the property on Gurley Street where the first of our church buildings was built facing the Territorial Capital Building.

Brother Otis served his community as Judge, Coroner, and Postmaster and in 1895 he and Rev. McLean began a school for the Chinese men in our town. We have a photograph of some of the participants in this school taken inside the white frame church building.



Theodore Weld Otis 1874

The school building was down on Granite Street near the creek. There was a Mrs. Elizabeth Clark Fisher that taught with them at the school as well as Rev. McClain's sons who read to these men each evening after their school was out.

Brother Otis also donated to the community a portion of the land that is now Citizens Cemetery.

Stay tuned for more. Jay Eby

Testing the Old –Trying the New: Together by Rev. Dr. Barbara Doerrer-Peacock

Nine months ago, four Scottsdale-area UCC pastors and one youth ministry director sat around a table looking at each other and asking: *Is confirmation dead?* We all knew that confirmation as we've known it has been getting harder and harder to pull off – too few kids in any one church...the kids (and parents) that might be interested are already scheduled up the wazoo, so a "church meeting" automatically gets relegated to a lower priority in comparison to the rigors of team sports, and already-scheduled school activities, and of course the sanctity of the very rare family vacation.

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“If confirmation is dead, how will we pass on the faith to next generations? Should we just include youth in our regular new member orientations for adults? Is there another model we could use?”

This article was brought to you by the South West Conference.

Continued from page 1 “Testing the Old –Trying the New”

Immediately we pondered such questions as, *If confirmation is dead, how will we pass on the faith to next generations? Should we just include youth in our regular new member orientations for adults? Is there another model we could use?*

In an effort to test the old waters of confirmation, Shepherd of the Hills UCC, Scottsdale Congregational UCC and Black Mountain UCC banded together to try something new. We all had between one and five likely prospects for a sixth to ninth grade confirmation program. What would it be like to try to join together for such an endeavor?

Over the next couple of months, the five of us (myself, Chuck and Patti Aurand, Jayne Hubbard and Michele Mellott) met and formulated a Confirmation program that consisted of three Friday night to all day Saturday retreats: in November, January and March. We called it “*Faith Quest*”, and the topics were divided into themes for the three retreats: “*Stories of Faith*” (Exploring the power of story, the biblical story and our own stories), “*Practices of Faith*” (personal spiritual practices, corporate faith practices such as the sacraments & worship, creating space and symbols), and “*Community of Faith*” (the importance of being a part of community, about the UCC, our own local churches).

We took turns hosting the overnight retreats at each of our churches, which afforded us opportunities to highlight both our differences and similarities. We had a group of eight confirmands, and also invited special guests to each of our retreats to share their expertise with us: specifically storytelling and spiritual direction.

As I write this in May...I know both Shepherd of the Hills and SCUCC are holding “Confirmation” Sundays this

month. Black Mountain – which had only one participant (but whose enthusiasm was monumental!), decided to wait until Christmas.

We still experienced the challenges of personal and family schedules, we struggled with building a sense of ownership and community in the group, and consistency and momentum in learning. Content often covered in weekly Confirmation meetings had to be drastically abbreviated. But, our students, I believe, did get a sense of the diversity of our UCC – even among those sister churches closest to us. It is very clear such assumptions like everyone knows and says the Lord’s Prayer, or knows that the Bible is divided into two parts, or even knows some of the most basic stories of Jesus, are not getting communicated to younger generations in ways that “stick.”

We still don’t know if *Confirmation is dead*. But, I think we all learned something about each other as sister churches, we learned some things about trying something new and building on each other’s strengths, and banding together in our weaknesses.

For myself, in conversation with one of our SCUCC “confirmands” – I realized that rather than expecting a “confirmation” of faith from our young people in traditional ways, our Sunday is now called “Affirmation Sunday” – when the purpose is for our youth to share statements simply of *where they understand themselves to be in their faith journey right now*.

Our purpose as a congregation is to celebrate them, be grateful and proud of them, bless them in their future endeavors that likely will take them away from us, and to *affirm that ‘no matter who they are or where they are on life’s journey, they are always welcome here.’*

New Directory Scheduled to Print in late June

Julie McCurdy, our Church Clerk will be conducting an audit of our Church Directory. In order to ensure that our directory is complete, we would like to update it and provide copies to our congregation.

Ways you can help with directory updates

- *Email: fccuccprescott@gmail.com your address and phone number(s).*
- *Julie M. will be contacting each of you in the congregation and auditing our records.*
- *Fill out your info on the “Weekly Caller” update form in Perkins Hall*
- *Don’t want to wait? Simply call the church office and verify your information.*

Announcements
& ways to get
involved

Get to know our New Pastor
Lunch/Dinner Opportunities

Summer Choir

July 4th Annual Pancake
Breakfast needs Volunteers
*Many hands are needed to
make this event successful!*

July 12th The Church is
Receiving New Members

John Dorhauer’s Farewell
Service to be held at Church
of the Red Rocks, Sedona
July 16th at 7:00 pm

Pastor Installation Service

June Missions Focus:
*We will also explore how our
SW Conference has used
Strengthen the Church funds
in our local churches. Stay
tuned...*

June Food Donations
*Just place your donations in
the basket by the front door
of the Church.*

Get to know our New Pastor Lunch/Dinner Opportunities

Many thanks to those who have volunteered to host a lunch or dinner with Pastor Jay! We have two dinners and one lunch scheduled so far (and more to come over the next couple of months). If you would like to attend one of the events listed below, 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).

Date	Time	Host(s)	Location	Available Seats
Saturday, June 27	Dinner - 5:30 pm	John & Julie McCurdy	Prescott	4
Thursday, July 02	Dinner - 5:30 pm (Patio Fish Fry)	Alice & Charlie Kring	Prescott	10
Friday, July 24	Lunch - 12:00 pm	Judy Daly	Prescott - Las Fuentes Retirement Community	8

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 at 9:30 before Sunday Service 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.

Our Annual Pancake Breakfast is Saturday, July 4th.

Many thanks for those that have signed up to help with this annual event. There is still room for more helping hands! *There is a sign-up sheet in Perkins Hall. See John Huff for details. Thank You!*

We will be receiving new members on Sunday, July 12...

Those who have an interest in becoming a member of First Congregational Church should let us know in the church office 445-4555. We have a brochure for you and can answer any questions you have. There will be orientation classes meeting in the church office, after worship June 21 or June 28.

Farewell Service for John Dorhauer...

Everyone is invited Thursday, July 16th at 7:00 pm at the Church of the Red Rocks in Sedona. This will be an opportunity for our UCC congregations to get together and be part of Pastor Dorhauer’s send-off to our National Headquarters. **Let Julie know in the office if you want to carpool.**

Pastor Installation July 18th at 11:00 am

We are holding a special Installation Service to welcome Reverend Jay Wilcher as our new minister. All of the SW conference churches will be invited along with local pastors from the Presbyterian churches in the Prescott area. Please join us as we rejoice and begin a new chapter in our church’s life. If you would like to help *there is a sign-up sheet in Perkins Hall. Thank you!*

June Missions Focus:

Strengthen the Church is the program designed to invest donation money into:

- ◆ New Church Starts
- ◆ Helps existing churches incorporate new ideas
- ◆ Assist with programs to develop spiritual life in youth and young adults
- ◆ Programs to promote Lay and Pastoral leadership

Further information will be found in the handouts enclosed in the Sunday bulletin. You will find offering envelopes in the pews and mark your donation with “Strengthen the Church”.

June Food Donations...

This month we are collecting canned meat. **Tuna, Chicken, Spam, and any other kinds of canned meat.** Prescott Community Cupboard appreciates all the donations we can give. Those in need receive a variety box once a month, and protein is always especially needed.

Called to Care is seeking
compassionate individuals

Monday Night Exploring Faith

Annual Calendar is up and
active

Ongoing Weekly and
Monthly Events

First Congregational Church
of Prescott, UCC
216 E. Gurley Street
Prescott, AZ 86301
928-445-4555
fccprescott@gmail.com

Administration Office Hours
Mondays: 1:00 - 4:00
Tuesday - Friday: 9:00 - 4:00

Pastor Jay
Monday - Thursday
9:00 - Noon
Other times by appointment
Cell: 928-899-9066
jayfccprescott@gmail.com

Ways to Subscribe to
the Weekly Parish
Caller:

- Send the office an email
verifying your email
address
- Fill out the Weekly Caller
Subscribe Sheet in Perkins
Hall
- Tell Julie McCurdy, our
church Clerk when she
audits your address
information

Email Subscription
Drive

We want everyone to have
access to the Weekly Caller so
be sure that we have your
email address.
For those who prefer to have
a paper copy, there will be
printed copies made
available in Perkins Hall. See
the Caller Subscribe Sheet in
Perkins Hall.

Called to Care is seeking interested people...
Group needs caring and compassionate individuals to participating in our
Ministry. Please see Marilyn Kerstine.

Monday Night Exploring Faith Discussion Group, 6:30 pm...
Our new topic is Genesis. We will be using a Bill Moyers series titled ‘Genesis: A
living conversation’.

Annual Calendar is up and active...
In Perkins Hall you will see a large annual calendar on the bulletin board. Pastor
Jay is asking the congregation to get involved by placing on the calendar all of
the church’s yearly events. This will include Prescott’s events that have an
impact on the needs of our congregation. Help us get organized!

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!

CHOIR PRACTICE SUMMER SCHEDULE CHANGE: Sunday 9:30 am in the
Sanctuary. See Jane Osborn if you would like to join the choir!

BELL CHOIR PRACTICE is held Thursday mornings at 11:00 am in the Sanctuary
but is **currently on Summer Break.** See Carole Sue Linson for details.

OUTREACH MINISTRY meets the 3rd Thursday of every month at 10:30 am in
the Office Conference Room.

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.

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.

KNIT WITS meets the 1st & 3rd Tuesdays of every month at 1:00 to 3:00 pm in
the Office Conference Room.

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.

AGAPE SOUP SUPPER meets the 2nd Wednesday of every month at 5:30 pm in
Perkins Hall. Sign-up sheet is in Perkins Hall.

CABINET MEETING meets the 4th Thursday of every month at 6:30 pm in the
Office Conference Room.

PFLAG SUPPORT GROUP meets the 3rd Friday of every month at 6:30 pm in the
Church Library. See Julie J. for more details.

LADIES’ FRIENDLY goes out to dinner after church the 2nd Sunday of every
month. **Currently on Summer Break.**