

The Parish Caller June 26th 2020

On Call Pastor for

June 15th thru 28th, Rev. Gary Gard, 928-910-2455

June 29th thru July 12th, Rev. Lloyd Evans, 928-499-7493

Parish Caller Submissions

If you would like an article or information posted in the Parish Caller, please email it to Staci Robbins, StaciRobbins@outlook.com, by Noon on Thursday. Thanks!

A Message from Ralph Wagner

When God Got Involved in the “Black Lives Matter” Movement It was a long time ago, a very long time ago...

Moses was married to the same woman all his life. She must have been an incredible woman since Moses had a stressful job, was prone to take big risks and was known to spend months away from home, usually all alone on mountain tops.

Moses met his lovely bride after fleeing Egypt as a criminal. He ended up living with Jethro who was the priest of Midian and evidently a Monotheist like Moses. They bonded like father and son causing Jethro to offer his daughter Zipporah in marriage. Zipporah was obviously the apple of Jethro's eye. Her name in English was “beautiful bird” which I suspect she incarnated well. Jethro and her daughter were Cushite's or Ethiopians (blacks).

So we pick up the story when Israel was still wandering in the desert. Moses' sister Miriam and older brother Aaron began criticizing Moses for being married to Zipporah the Cushite implying it was inappropriate or downright wrong. The scripture actually says in

parentheses (“for he had indeed married a Cushite woman”, Numbers 12:1b). Indeed. An interesting aside, a few lines later the text says, “Now the man Moses was very humble, more so than anyone else on the face of the earth.” (Number 12:3) Oh that we could have a few more Moses’ today.

Out of this incident comes God’s “Black Lives Matter” demonstration. He/She appears in a pillar of cloud before the tabernacle and calls Miriam and Aaron to come to him/her. Listen you two; Moses is my man, “I speak to him face to face, not in riddles.” (Numbers 12:8) I’ve chosen him to speak for me so him and his wife stay. (My paraphrasing) The pillar of cloud left and Miriam had become leprous, “as white as snow”. (Numbers 12:10) It seems as if God is saying to Miriam, You like being light skinned? I’ll make you snow white. Could it be that he/she is also implying that racism, like leprosy, is a disease?

The Jewish race had just left Egypt where they were treated as less than human because of both their race and religion and then two of their leaders turned around and declared Zipporah unworthy because of her race alone.

Then God made it clear, Black Lives Matter!

Racial Awareness

In 2018, Bill Bryant led members of our congregation in a group study on the topic “White Privilege.” Now, we have an opportunity to use the tools we were given to help create equal justice for people of color and all Othered people.

A new group is forming in Prescott. Led by musician and social activist Jonathan Best, a Committee to Raise Racial Awareness in Prescott is working with other organizations to raise the conversational bar around race in Prescott. By so doing, we increase the safety for People of Color and all Othered peoples to be a part of this town. We are talking about social growth.

One of the group’s end-goals is for Prescott to have a diversity reflective of the country at large. The focus of the group will be primarily on strategies for change.

Please come and join the conversation every Thursday night at 7PM. Copy and paste the following link into your browser and click on it.
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8437924381>

Alternatively, you may join the Facebook group: A Committee to Raise Racial Awareness in Prescott. The meeting invitation is posted on that page. Just click

on the Zoom link.

Submitted by Michele McFadden

A MESSAGE FROM CHRISTINE MACK, PRESCOTT AREA HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

I would like to share with you an update since last writing May 13 about activities and news at Prescott Area Habitat for Humanity:

- Work continues at three PAHH construction sites: 238 and 242 Meany Street in Prescott and 1430 Palo Verde Drive in Chino Valley. Rebar has been laid at the Palo Verde Drive site, and we are waiting for the concrete finishers so that we can start framing this house within the next 2 weeks. The house at 242 Meany Street is ready for the flooring to be installed. Taping and texturing will soon begin at 238 Meany Street;
- The PAHH admin office continues to be closed to the public, and staff members are meeting by Zoom calls;
- The ReStore continues to be open Monday/Wednesday/Friday from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.; and
- I am participating in the first-ever Bike and Build online book club, and the book we are currently reading is “Evicted” by Matthew Desmond. (This is also one of the titles on HFHI’s suggested reading list re: racism in America.) For the first time in 18 years, Bike and Build has cancelled their summer trip offerings that would have fielded teams of young adults bicycling across the U.S. to raise awareness about, and financial support for, affordable housing issues and organizations. The Bike and Build staff will continue their work on behalf of affordable housing throughout the U.S.

JUNE MISSION NEWS

Our Next PASS meal is July 15th and we are short of volunteers. If you can help provide a dish for that evening's meal, please contact Patty Gard.

Our June Mission Emphasis will help support two projects.

1. **The Yavapai Food Bank**—they are providing food boxes for approximately 400 families/week. Additionally, through their “Start Right” program, they will be providing school supplies for students K-12.
2. Our denomination’s **“Strengthen the Church”** offering. Donations support new church development, creative ministries directed to youth, to spiritual development, and to projects engaging today’s challenging issues.

On-going ministries: We are grateful for the volunteers of our church family who regularly help pack food boxes for the Prescott Community Cupboard. Angela

Imbierowicz is our captain. So too, are we thankful for those who monthly help to provide an evening meal for women and children being sheltered at PASS. Patty Gard is our captain.

As always, thank you for remembering that we are blessed to be a blessing. (Genesis 12: 2) Questions or comments can be directed to; Becky or Bill Bryant, Helaine Berman, Linda Moore, Patty Gard, Staci Robbins, or Gary Gard, chairperson.

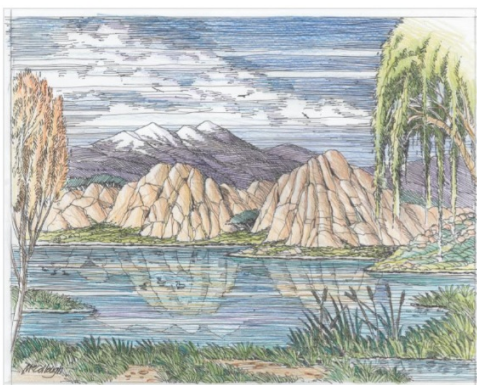
DACA Update

In addition to this month's two mission emphasis projects, we have a DACA Fund to which we gratefully receive donations throughout the year. We celebrate with our "adopted" DACA student, Franceny, and her family over the good news coming from this week's Supreme Court ruling. On a 5-4 vote, the Court ruled that the DACA program can remain in place. There are mountains yet to climb, but this week's ruling brings relief and hope to 100's of thousands of DACA families. We continue to pray for meaningful immigration reform leading to more compassionate laws and policies.

We rejoice also in the Supreme Court's ruling which prohibits job and health care discrimination based upon a person's sexual identity. When in the Lord's Prayer we pray, "...thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven" we are praying that the love and grace we picture in heaven will become a reality here on earth. As people of faith, this is the goal toward which we work.

PASTOR JAY'S SABBATICAL

A TIME TO SLOW DOWN FOR REFLECTION



Pastor Jay will continue with his planned 2020 sabbatical over the summer months. The sabbatical committee has prepared a brochure to share information about his sabbatical. It will also be helpful in answering your questions about how church will operate in his absence.

A digital copy of the brochure is available on the

SUPPORT YOUR CHURCH DURING CORONAVIRUS!

- Online – go to our website: www.fccprescott.org and look for the tab on the front page
- You can set up regular, ongoing giving or one-time giving.
- Use your credit card and get some points!
- Your bank may have free online bill pay. You find the tab on your online account, fill in the details of the check as you would a regular check, and the bank mail will mail it for you! You can set up a one-time check or recurring scheduled check amount.
- Mail a check out to the church and mail it to 216 East Gurley Street, Prescott, AZ 86301

Church website, in the Resources area, <http://www.fccprescott.org/sabatical>.

Paper copies of the brochure will be available; please call the church office to get a copy mailed to you.

Here is a look at the summer ahead:

- Sabbatical Schedule of Sundays - Guest Preachers
- Ralph - first 2 Sundays in June
- Gary - last 2 Sundays of June
- Lloyd - first 2 Sundays of July
- Bill - last 2 Sundays of July
- Harry - first Sunday of August
- Jane - second and third Sundays of August
- Rev. Dr. Michael Friday (Ralph's friend from Connecticut via recording) - fourth and fifth Sundays of August

The church office is closed going forward, however, someone will pick up the mail on a daily basis to place checks into the safe.

[Visit our website](#)

[Watch Services Here](#)

[More info on Pastor Jay's Sabbatical](#)



Celebrating YOU!!!

Anniversaries

GATES, Melissa & Elizabeth	06/03
BEESON, Al & <u>Barbi</u>	06/23
STRONG, Harry & Anna	07/14
WILSON, John & Sonja	07/23

Birthdays

GARD, Gary	06/04
BRADSTREET, Kelli Jo	06/06
JARVI, Laramie	06/06
KRING, Alice	06/08
FOOTE, Linda	06/18
STAATS, Sylvia	06/19
MCCOLLOUGH, Barbara	06/30
ROBBINS, Staci	07/01
MOORE, Linda	07/02
CORTEZ, Jennifer	07/05
DIAL, Martie	07/10
HUFF, Patsy Jo	07/13
ELY, Luke	07/17
SANDBERG, Mary Alice	07/19
LLOYD, Mary	07/22
JORDAN, Bruce	07/25
FLANAGAN, Ann	07/29
ROBINSON, Anne	07/31