



## A MESSAGE FROM THE TREASURER

Significant revisions to our 2020 Budget

The cabinet met by zoom last weekend to address the \$32,000 budget deficit. It had been voted by the congregation at our Annual Meeting in January to accept an out-of-balance budget, which anticipated expenses exceeding income by more than \$32,000. The cabinet also promised at that time to review the situation and report back to the congregation with a revised budget.

Our zoom meeting was long, difficult, and stressful for all of us. Some important decisions had to be made. We reviewed each item of the budget, line-by-line. The results of our task required some significant changes, especially regarding payroll expenses. We made the decision to lay off several people from our staff. Those people have been notified.

By committing to a bare-bones budget we can greatly reduce the deficit. And if income from congregational giving continues to remain strong, we could end the year with a deficit of less than \$7,000. If necessary, the needed funds to supplement the budget will be withdrawn from reserve funds in our investment accounts for the Payne Fund or the Ashenfelter-Embertson Building Fund.

Prayerfully and gratefully,  
Julie McCurdy, Treasurer, and FCC cabinet members



## A note from Pastor Jay

As I start my sabbatical tomorrow, I am grateful to you for this opportunity to refresh and renew. I hope to research and study the new ways of doing church going forward. I hope to plan the liturgical year and sermons for late 2020 and into 2021. Most trips have been cancelled because of the virus. We are going to Denver to take a car to Dan and Anden - their family has now expanded with the birth of a daughter about a month ago. Two small children will now be in car seats, so we are taking them a larger car. Other than that trip, it will be a sabbatical like the desert mothers and fathers of old - inward and isolated.

The virus has caused all of us some level of grief. We are mourning the loss of the life we expected. While I cannot claim to understand fully the loss small business owners have experienced, in my own way I mourn the loss of five years of the building up of our congregation. We had come a long way in rebuilding our church. And the virus has left us in limbo. It is the right time to rethink what church life should be. As one pastor put it, "I do not want to go back to normal since normal for us was running an \$80,000 deficit." Whatever "normal" looks like when we come out the other side of this virus, I think it will not be going back to the way things were. Another pastor suggested he used to think of the church as a building that happens to have an online presence. Now, he thinks of the church as an online presence that happens to have a building. We have more people watching our online services than used to come to the sanctuary. What does that mean in the way we do church in the future? How do we incorporate our online and in-person congregation into our new reality?

Lots of questions without easy answers because we are in uncharted territory. We are facing an adaptive challenge requiring us to discover new things and experiment with new methods. How many of us paid much attention to Zoom before now? The illustration often used with this concept of adaptive challenge is of Lewis and Clark carrying a canoe to the top of the Rocky Mountains expecting to find the ocean on the other side. They had to leave the canoe behind and adapt to the new situation before them. What are we going to have to leave behind? We may not be able to return to business as usual or just tinker with a few adjustments. I placed a chart I find helpful at the end of this email.

Regarding when we will return to worship, our website has the five-phase approach we are using from our conference. Eight weeks of declining COVID-19 cases in Yavapai County (remember covidactnow.org to track it) enables us to have 50 persons in worship - with masks and physical distancing and cleaning between services. Some churches are taking reservations - talk about an adaptive challenge - who ever heard of making a reservation for church! We may have to open in that way and move to 2 services to accommodate everyone. To give you all something to ponder, I found something our conference minister said to be very helpful: Everyone wants to know **when** we are reopening. The first question should be **why?** And the second **how?** And then you can answer the **when?** I would add to these reflecting on the way of Jesus - should we open for the healthy and young and tell the others to stay home until it is

## Guest Pastor

Ralph Wagner will be "on call"  
June 1-14 for our pastoral needs.

puritan720@gmail.com (Ralph)  
585-733-9772 (Ralph cell)

Watch Worship Services  
Here

safe? Or would it be more in line with Jesus to wait until all can safely return? Questions to ponder.

I thank all our ministers who are covering the pulpit and pastoral care this summer. Rev. Ralph Wagner has the first two weeks of June. And I would like to thank the Sabbatical Committee and congregation for the gifts I received. They can be viewed on today's recorded worship service.

And now may grace, peace, and safety be yours this summer,

Jay

Info on Coronavirus and the Church

## SUPPORT YOUR CHURCH DURING CORONAVIRUS!

### SUPPORT YOUR CHURCH DURING CORONAVIRUS!

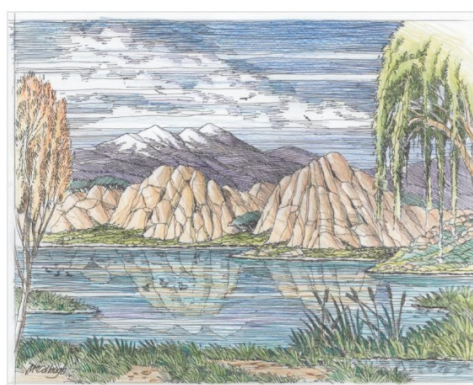
- Online – go to our website: [www.fccprescott.org](http://www.fccprescott.org) and look for the tab on the front page
- You can set up regular, ongoing giving or one-time giving.
- Use your credit card and get some points!
- Your bank may have free online bill pay. You find the tab on your online account, 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

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

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

Paper copies of the brochure will be available; please call the church office to get a copy mailed to you. Peace, Staci  
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
- Michael Friday (Ralph's professor friend from New Jersey via recording) - fourth and fifth Sundays of August