

A Message from Pastor Jay

My thanks to Rev. Gary Gard for delivering a powerful sermon on inclusion last Sunday. It was timely for the week that remembered the horrible lynching of George Floyd and the horrible Tulsa Black Wall Street massacre a hundred years ago. We decided it was a good week to put our "Black Lives Matter" banner out once again. And like last time, it lasted a few days before mysteriously disappearing.

This Sunday, June 6, we lighten the mood by considering the ant (Proverbs 6:6-11). As I took a daily walk during the early days of COVID lockdown, I was amazed at the number of ants on the sidewalk. I recalled Proverbs 6 and its admonition to consider the ant and learn how to live. JJ introduces us to a few of his ant buddies. "Joyful Noise" returns to worship to provide music. Ann, Caleb, and Marty serve as worship leaders.

**WELCOMING EVERYONE BACK
TO WORSHIP AT 10:30 AM!**

**Per CDC Guidelines, Masks are Optional,
Social Distancing Measures Have Been
Lifted, But Individuals May Still Choose To
Distance As Desired.**

**Nursery and Sunday school at the 10:30am
service**

ZOOM BIBLE STUDY SATURDAY 10AM

ZOOM SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP 2:00 PM

**Let us know if you want to be added to these
Zoom invitations**

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

June 6, 2021

10:30 a.m.

GATHERING TO WORSHIP GOD

Architect of the Universe, we know that your love knows no bounds. We know that there are no borders in which your love cannot go, whether it be heaven or on earth or the farthest place imaginable, You are still there. Your Creative love cracks through the strongest boundaries. Your grace and mercy peel away the deepest layers. You overwhelm us and the world with your love that grows beyond death into new life. Guide us on this journey of faith to be border-crossers, boundary-testers, and even at times, wall-breakers. In the name of Jesus, who gave his life to end the ultimate boundary of death, so that we might know his love eternally, we pray. Amen.

Gathering Music: "Go, Make a Difference" by Angrisano/Tomaszek

A Time for Children of All Ages - JJ

Words of Welcome - Announcements

*Passing of the Peace

Choral Call to Worship: "I Was Glad" Central American Traditional, Arr. John Bell

The Call to Worship (based on Psalm 146)

Leader: Happy are those whose hope is in God, maker of heaven and earth--

People: for God keeps faith forever! God executes justice for the oppressed **and gives food for the hungry.** God sets the prisoners free and opens the eyes of the blind. **God lifts up those who are bowed down.** God watches over the strangers and upholds the orphan and the widow. People of God, sing praise to the One who is your help—for God keeps faith forever!

Prayer of Invocation

Faithful God, you draw near to us in our joy and in our grief, in our hope and in our despair. When we are bowed down, you raise us anew. We turn to you now in search of your healing touch. God of compassion and love, move among us this hour. Open our eyes, dispel our fears, and show us the real life you have to offer. We pray this in the name of the Risen One, Jesus the Christ. Amen.

*Hymn: "Amazing Grace"

New Century Hymnal #547

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

Hebrew Scripture Reading: Proverbs 6:6-11

*Hymn: "I'm Pressing on the Upward Way" (Higher Ground)

New Century Hymnal #442

Sermon: "Sermon on Six Legs"

Pastor Jay

RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE

Prayer of Confession

We confess, O God, that the burdens which weigh us down also narrow our vision. Fear of scarcity makes us focus on our own survival. We regard strangers with suspicion and find it difficult to share. We speak words that we regret and keep silent when we need to speak. Weariness and discouragement sap our energy and our faith. We wonder how there could be good news that is not of our own making. We, whom you call to be an Easter people, are in need of resurrection.

Assurance of Pardon

In the person of Jesus, God invites us to discover the freedom and new life that God offers us. God's forgiveness heals us. God's grace dispels our weariness and discouragement. God's love clears our vision. God's compassion lifts our burdens. We are made new!

All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

We come to the Lord's Table. All are invited to come forward down the middle aisle and return to your seat by the side aisle.

Communion Music: "Sweet, Sweet Spirit" by Doris Akers

A Litany of Intercession

New Century Hymnal #878

The Lord's Prayer

Offering of Ourselves and our Gifts

Prayer of Dedication

*Hymn: "Go, Make a Difference" by Angrisano/Tomaszek

Sing! Prayer and Praise #199

Benediction

First Congregational Church of Prescott

United Church of Christ

216 E. Gurley Street

Prescott, AZ 86301

www.fccprescott.org

www.facebook.com/FccUccPrescott

928-445-4555

Founded September 26, 1880

JUNE MISSION NEWS

Mission Outreach Update for June:

Our June mission outreach emphasis will help fund two programs.

[1] Our denomination's "**Strengthen the Church**" offering which supports new church development, creative ministries directed to youth and young adults, spiritual development ministries, and projects engaging today's challenging issues.

[2] **The Yavapai Food Bank (YFB)** The YFB provides food boxes for approximately 400 families weekly. Additionally, YFB will once again be providing school supplies and backpacks for students in grades K-12. If you would like to donate, please make your check payable to the church, with the memo of "STC" or "YFB". Mission checks which are not designated to a particular project will be disbursed at the discretion of our mission outreach team.

Our year-round 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 our mission outreach team.

Thank you for remembering that we have been blessed to be a blessing [Genesis 12:2] Our Mission team members are: Becky and Bill Bryant, Helaine Berman, Patty and Gary Gard.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WE ARE REOPENING!

June will be our official month to celebrate opening up again after the COVID-19 year. You will see our colorful doors out in front of the sanctuary announcing "God's Doors Are Open To All." Our thanks to Melissa and Elizabeth for all the work in creating them. The colors remind us that this is PRIDE month - June 27 will be "Open and Affirming Sunday."

Congregational singing of the hymns will return this Sunday! Most of us have been vaccinated at this point, so we will follow the science and celebrate our safety. Masks are still optional for those who are not quite ready, those not yet vaccinated, and those with other health

issues. The sanctuary is a "no judgment zone." Mask or no mask - All are welcome!

We will also return to wearing our name tags. Lots of new people to get to know! Please get yours in Perkins Hall. If you need a new one, you can create your own on the table by the name tag board in Perkins Hall.

JUNE WORSHIP

June 6

"Consider the Ant" Proverbs 6

June 13

"Juneteenth Remembered"

June 20

Father's Day

"A Loving Father For All"

June 27

PRIDE Sunday

"Love is a Many Gendered Thing"

TREASURER REPORT

Income as of May 31 is \$60,696.

Total expenses are \$57,278.

Net income is \$3,418.

Year-to-date income is at 50% of the income budget of \$122,450.

Year-to-date expenses are at 39% of the expense budget of \$146,905.

JUNETEENTH

Juneteenth is the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration of the ending of slavery in the United States. Dating back to 1865, it was on June 19th that the Union soldiers, led by Major General Gordon Granger, landed at Galveston, Texas with news that the war had ended and that the enslaved were now free. Note that this was two and a half years after President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation – which had become official January 1, 1863. The Emancipation Proclamation had little impact on the Texans due to the minimal number of Union troops to enforce the new Executive Order. However, with the surrender of General Lee in April of 1865, and the arrival of General Granger's regiment, the forces were finally strong enough to influence and overcome the resistance. Later attempts to explain this two and a half year delay in the receipt of this important news have yielded several versions that have been handed down through the years. Often told is the story of a messenger who was murdered on his way to Texas with the news of freedom. Another is that the news was deliberately withheld by the enslavers to maintain the labor force on the plantations. And still another is that federal troops actually waited for the slave owners to reap the benefits of one last cotton harvest before going to Texas to enforce the Emancipation Proclamation. All of which, or none of these versions could be true. Certainly, for some, President Lincoln's authority over the rebellious states was in question. Whatever the reasons, conditions in Texas remained status quo well beyond what was statutory.

One of General Granger's first orders of business was to read to the people of Texas, General Order Number 3 which began most significantly with:

"The people of Texas are informed that in accordance with a Proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free. This involves an absolute equality of rights and rights of property between former masters and slaves, and the connection heretofore existing between them becomes that between employer and hired laborer."

The reactions to this profound news ranged from pure shock to immediate jubilation. While many lingered to learn of this new employer to employee relationship, many left before these offers were completely off the lips of their former 'masters' – attesting to the varying conditions on the plantations and the realization of freedom. Even with nowhere to go, many felt that leaving the plantation would be their first grasp of freedom. North was a logical destination and for many it represented true freedom, while the desire to reach family members in neighboring states drove some into Louisiana, Arkansas and Oklahoma. Settling into these new areas as free men and women brought on new realities and the challenges of establishing a heretofore non-existent status for black people in America. Recounting

the memories of that great day in June of 1865 and its festivities would serve as motivation as well as a release from the growing pressures encountered in their new territories. The celebration of June 19th was coined “Juneteenth” and grew with more participation from descendants. The Juneteenth celebration was a time for reassuring each other, for praying and for gathering remaining family members. Juneteenth continued to be highly revered in Texas decades later, with many former slaves and descendants making an annual pilgrimage back to Galveston on this date.

Today, Juneteenth is enjoying a phenomenal growth rate within communities and organizations throughout the country. Institutions such as the Smithsonian, the Henry Ford Museum and others have begun sponsoring Juneteenth-centered activities. In recent years, a number of local and national Juneteenth organizations have arisen to take their place along side older organizations – all with the mission to promote and cultivate knowledge and appreciation of African American history and culture. Juneteenth today, celebrates African American freedom and achievement, while encouraging continuous self-development and respect for all cultures. As it takes on a more national, symbolic and even global perspective, the events of 1865 in Texas are not forgotten, for all of the roots tie back to this fertile soil from which a national day of pride is growing. The future of Juneteenth looks bright as the number of cities and states creating Juneteenth committees continues to increase. Respect and appreciation for all of our differences grow out of exposure and working together. Getting involved and supporting Juneteenth celebrations creates new bonds of friendship and understanding among us. This indeed brightens our future – and that is the Spirit of Juneteenth.

COVID-19 UPDATE FROM CABINET

Worship Will Be At 10:30am Each Sunday

Per CDC Guidelines, Masks are Optional, Social Distancing Measures Have Been Lifted, But Individuals May Still

Choose To Distance As Desired. Congregational Singing
Will Begin June 6.

Nursery and Sunday school at the 10:30am service

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.
- Make 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

Watch Services
Here