

# LENT

Thoughtfulness. Thankfulness.  
Giving away. Giving to others. Giving to God.  
Rejuvenation. Reflection. Repentance. Renewal.

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*The Parish Caller Weekly Newsletter April 7, 2019*



*Christ in the House of Simon by Dieric Bouts*

As Lent nears its end and Jesus prepares to begin his journey to the cross, the lectionary gives us a text about Mary's lavish expression of love for Jesus, and also foretelling his burial (John 12:1-8). Mary and Judas are contrasted. Lavish devotion or stinginess on display. So

much of our lives are lived calculating the cost. We err on the conservative side. Nothing wrong with that, but Mary reminds us that generous and extravagant acts may be our best legacy. The heroes of the Bible are at their best when they lived out their faith excessively. Noah builds an ark without a cloud in the sky. Abraham ventures out without a map. David picks up five stones. Rosa Parks refuses to give up her seat. Many of the people who go too far are eventually called saints. Mary was raised clear out of arithmetic into love. Maybe a good preparation for hearing about Mary's lavish gift would be to watch the movie *Babette's Feast*. Check it out.

God bless,

Jay

## EVERYBODY'S HOMETOWN



## A DIALOGUE ON RACE IN PRESCOTT

**WHERE HAVE WE BEEN?  
WHERE ARE WE NOW?  
WHERE ARE WE GOING?**

**A TOWN HALL**

**WITH COMMUNITY LEADERS, HISTORIANS, AND  
MEMBERS OF THE ARIZONA COMMISSION OF  
AFRICAN-AMERICAN AFFAIRS**

**SPONSORED BY:**

ST. LUKE EBONY CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

**TIME AND PLACE:**

**FRIDAY, APRIL 12 AT 6:00 PM**

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
216 EAST GURLEY STREET, PRESCOTT**

**EVERYONE IS WELCOME – JOIN US!**

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*Leave the world for a while – join us for quiet music,  
meditation, and a little peace and quiet.*

**Taizé Vespers Service  
April 17, 2019**

**Simple Soup Supper – 5:45 pm  
Service begins at 6:30 pm**

**First Congregational Church,  
United Church of Christ  
216 E. Gurley Street, Prescott**

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**MAUNDY THURSDAY & TENEBRAE SERVICE APRIL 18  
SOUP MEAL & COMMUNION 6PM**

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**EASTER SUNDAY BRUNCH**

Join us for an Easter Brunch after worship on Easter Sunday. A sign-up sheet for food to bring is in Perkins Hall. All are welcome!

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**CHURCH CALENDAR**

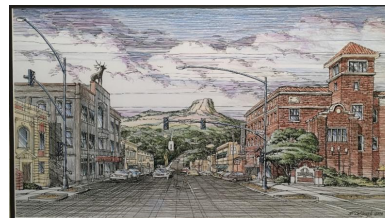


April 3 St. Luke Ebony Christian Church joins us for Bible Study, 6pm  
April 5-6 Southwest Conference Annual Meeting - First Congregational Church, Phoenix  
April 12 "Everybody's Hometown" - A Dialogue on Race in Prescott, 6pm - Perkins Hall  
April 17 Taize' Service - 5:45 pm Soup Meal; 6:30 pm Service  
April 18 Maundy Thursday 6pm  
April 21 Easter Sunday 10:30am  
April 24 Member in Discernment Committee Training 5pm  
April 28 Holy Humor Sunday  
May 5 Cinco de Mayo  
May 12 Mother's Day  
May 19 Beatles Sunday  
May 26 Alter-Notes in Worship  
June 15 Art Fair

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**CELEBRATING GOD'S GIFT OF ART  
SATURDAY, JUNE 15 10AM-5PM  
PERKINS HALL**

We will have an art fair for our resident artists and some others from the community. We have a good number of artists in our midst! Plan to come and bring your friends. No entry fee. Artists may have items for sale.



Anyone interested in participating in "ART" and showing your work may contact Julie at the Church office or Barbara McCollough at [cbmc4re@gmail.com](mailto:cbmc4re@gmail.com) , 951-297-8311.

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**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

The fellowship time after our service is an extension of our 'Extravagant Welcoming.' We all agree that Debbie Staats does a wonderful job. But, we are needing a rotation of men or women (1) to help set up/clean up each Sunday just to help Debbie a bit. Please sign up to be there by 10am and leave or not by 12pm. Sometimes she may not need your help, it's up to her. THANK YOU.

Pancake Breakfast lovers are encouraged to be on the committee to organize the Annual Pancake Breakfast. This is a FCC UCC tradition. The first meeting would be to decide if this will continue/change and when etc. An informational binder was made last year to follow. A SIGN UP SHEET will be available or you can call or email Co-Moderators Patty Lantrip (480-227-2170, [palantrip@gmail.com](mailto:palantrip@gmail.com)) or Rev. Ralph Wagner (585-733-9772, [puritan720a@gmail.com](mailto:puritan720a@gmail.com))  
THANK YOU

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**MISSIONS NEWS**

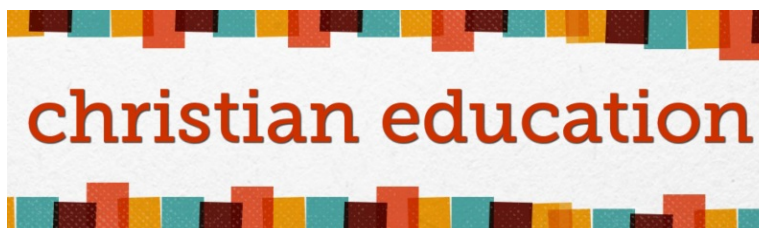


Our Mission Outreach emphasis for April is the denomination's One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS). Almost daily we read about the plight of people uprooted from their homes by the violence of storms, famine, or social unrest. We read of families needing tools to rebuild their lives. The foundation stones of our faith call us to respond with compassion. OGHS funds are used to support education programs, health initiatives, agricultural development projects, natural disaster relief, and aid for refugee camps worldwide. You may make your donation payable to the church, with the memo "OGHS". Following your response to last month's mission emphasis, a check for \$482 has been sent to the Prescott Area Habitat for Humanity.

Just a reminder, - on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month, volunteers from our church family provide a hot meal for women and children staying at the Prescott Area Shelter Services facility (PASS). There is a volunteer sign-up sheet in Perkins Hall. Questions can be directed to our PASS meal coordinator, Patty Gard. Anyone from our Mission Outreach team would be glad to address any of your comments or questions. Thank you for remembering that we have been blessed to be a blessing. (Genesis 12:2) Becky and Bill Bryant, Patty Gard, Staci Robbins, and Gary Gard, chairperson.

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**Women's Gathering in April.**  
Get ready for lively times and deeper looks into how women are presented in the Bible. Who are they? How do we relate...or not? Date, time, and place TBA.



## CHILDREN'S QUESTIONS FOR LENT



### *Third Sunday*

**Children** ~ We give up the idea that we are not responsible for our environment,  
That it has always been and will always be.  
We will stop taking our Earth for granted and begin to hear her voice.  
We give up the idea that worship only happens indoors and behind stained glass.  
We will remember that our daily bread comes from God through a living, healthy planet and that we must care for her as she cares for us.

#### **How will you help us?**

**Congregation** ~ We will delight in the moon and the stars, we will look for God in the oceans and hear Spirit's voice in the winds. We will walk gently, buy and eat locally, and reduce our consumption of all things non-renewable. We will worship among the trees and rocks more often and we will bring you with us. We will see all life as sacred and will join with you in preserving our Earth.

**All** ~ For the kingdom of God is at hand.

### *Fourth Sunday*

Children ~ We give up the idea that even though we are healthy, sickness does not affect us,  
That we do not have a responsibility to act as healers through prayer and touch and action.  
We give up the fear of disease, especially the fear that causes us to look away.  
We let go of the idea that illnesses like AIDS and Malaria and Dysentery are unavoidable,  
Or that they don't matter because they don't happen here.  
We refuse to believe that healthcare must be for only a few.

#### **How will you help us?**

Congregation ~ We will take on the role of healers, however we are best suited to do so. We will fund research to find cures and will support health education in impoverished nations. We will respond swiftly to natural disasters that threaten to bring new diseases to already battered people. And when sickness occurs in our midst we will not fear it. Through it we will pray and we will touch, and we will be present for each other.

All ~ For the kingdom of God is at hand.



#### **PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDY**

An informal study group meets on Thursday mornings at 9:30 a.m. in Conference room. All adults are welcome.

#### **EVERY WEEK COMMUNION**

"Every Sunday Communion" takes place in the sanctuary after worship on Sundays. Communion is open to all.

#### **ONCE A MONTH COMMUNION**

Our regularly scheduled communion is held  
the first Sunday of each month. Communion is open to all.

#### **PASS MEAL**

Once a month we provide a meal for the Prescott Area Shelter Services  
the 3rd Wednesday of every month at 5:00 p.m.

Sign-up sheet is in Perkins Hall.

#### **CABINET MEETING**

Meets the 4th Wednesday of every month at 6:00 pm  
in the Office Conference Room.

#### **THE RINGING BELL CHOIR PRACTICE**

If you would be interested in playing with us, we will train you!

This is a fun and rewarding contribution to our worship.

We meet for rehearsal at 9:00 a.m. on Thursdays.

#### **CHANCEL SINGERS**

If you like to sing, the Chancel Singers are eager to increase membership.

We meet Sundays at 9:00 a.m. before worship services.

#### **ALTER-NOTES**

Alter-Notes is an alternative music group that meets at 12:00 for  
rehearsal on the Chancel each Sunday.

If you like to sing or can play an instrument,  
we are looking for new members.

We play folk, pop, Celtic, spirituals and anything else.

Contact Melissa Gates phone: 207-391-3276

#### **SUNDAY SCHOOL OPTIONS**

Parents may take children to Sunday school downstairs  
before the service begins,

or wait until the children's time with the pastor and then go to  
Sunday school. Children are also welcome to stay in the worship  
service at the discretion of the parent(s).

ADMINISTRATION  
Monday - Thursday: 9:00-4:00  
Friday 9:00-1:00  
928-445-4555  
fccprescott@gmail.com  
juliefccprescott@gmail.com



PASTOR JAY  
Monday - Thursday: 9:00-1:00  
928-899-9066  
Jayfccprescott@gmail.com

