

**Lent**  
a season of reflection, preparation & renewal

# First Congregational Church UCC, Prescott

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

*The Parish Caller Weekly Newsletter March 31, 2019*

## THANK YOU AGAIN

Song of the Pines -- Another wonderfully uplifting musical program shared with the congregation last Sunday!



The word “prodigal” is not used much these days. The parable of the prodigal son in Luke 15 may be the only reference we have for the word. Therefore, it has a negative connotation, as in “wasteful.” The prodigal son wasted his inheritance in riotous living, the text suggests. The word “prodigal” means wasteful, extravagant, lavish. There are all kinds of ways of looking at this story told by Jesus. It has been told from the viewpoint of the younger son, the older son, the father, the missing mother and daughters (who keep everything together and roll their eyes while the father and sons do their power plays). Some



The Return of the Prodigal Son (1773) by Pompeo Batoni

have even suggested telling it from the viewpoint of the pigs or the fatted calf! This Sunday we will look at it from the angle of three prodigals - younger son, elder son, and father. Spinning “prodigal” in a positive sense, we will see that perhaps the father (like God) is the most prodigal of all! And maybe we have a prodigal congregation.

See you Sunday,

Jay

Would you like to grow your knowledge about United Church of Christ? If so, we have openings for 2 more Delegates to attend the Southwest Conference Annual Meeting. The theme for this year is Church Growth, so it should be interesting! The dates are Thursday and Friday, April 5-6th. While the conference starts on Thursday, it is not required you be there the full day. The registration fee is reimbursable and you will be responsible for your lodging and meals. Please contact Ralph Wagner, [Puritan720a@gmail.com](mailto:Puritan720a@gmail.com), or Patty Lantrip, [palantrip@gmail.com](mailto:palantrip@gmail.com) for details.

## LENTEN “CELEBRATING DIVERSITY” EVENTS

Wednesday, April 3, at 6pm - Members of St. Luke Ebony Christian Church visit our Lenten Bible Study

Friday, April 12, at 6pm - "Everybody's Hometown" - A Dialogue on Race in Prescott

Members of St. Luke Ebony Christian Church will come to our church on Wednesday, April 3. The purpose of these gatherings is to get to know each other and begin times of fellowship together.

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On Friday, April 12, at 6pm, we will offer to the community a town hall - a dialogue on race in Prescott: Where we have come from - where we are now - and where we would like to go.

## **TAIZE' VESPERS SERVICE APRIL 10 5:45pm SOUP MEAL / 6:30pm SERVICE**

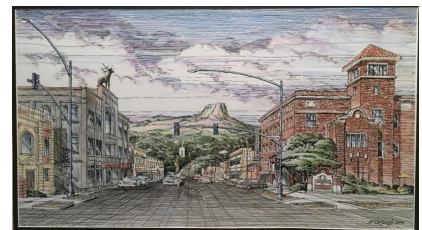
### **CHURCH CALENDAR**

March 31	Alter-Notes in Worship
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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### **"Celebration of God's Gift to Art"**

The Church is planning an Art Fair here on June 15th and would like to invite any members interested in showing their work. Pastor Jay has organized similar events in the past and is enthusiastic about opening the Church to the community for the event. Pastor Jay suggested the theme to be "Celebration of God's Gift to Art"



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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### **EASTER SUNDAY BRUNCH**

We have had an Easter brunch after worship on Easter sometimes in years past. We will be asking for a show of hands this Sunday to gauge interest.

### **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



Update: Following our mission emphasis for February, a check for \$370 is being sent to the Prescott Area Shelter Services (PASS).

Thank your support of this ministry. In addition to what we donate financially, each month we prepare/deliver an evening meal for the women and children staying at the shelter. Thank you, again, to our “helping hands” who provide this meal ministry. Without you, this ministry would not be possible. We have posted a “Thank You” note in Perkins Hall from the PASS staff, which reads: “Dear FCUCC meal provider volunteers; volunteers do not necessarily have time, they just have the heart. Thank you for all your nutritious meals for women and children in need. You make a huge difference and we are so grateful for your support. Carmen (Director) and Katee.”

Our mission emphasis for March is the Prescott Area Habitat for Humanity (PAHH). Since its founding in our area in 1989, over 90 low income families have been helped into their own homes. Presently, there is a new PAHH home under construction in Chino Valley with another one on the drawing boards. There is a home being rehabbed in Prescott Valley, and two new homes here in Prescott. You may make a donation by making your check payable to the church, with the memo line, PAHH. Additionally, if you would like to participate in a home construction project, contact Gail Martin at 928-445-8003.

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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.



Questions and Suggestions: see Marti Garrison in church or at [garrisonmarti@gmail.com](mailto:garrisonmarti@gmail.com)

## 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,

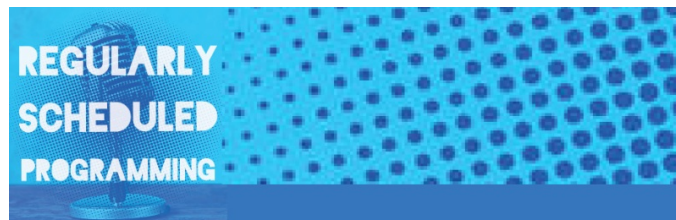
Or that they don't matter because they don't happen here.

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 Thursday 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