

The Parish Caller March 12, 2021

A Message from Pastor Jay

SUNDAY MARCH 14

This Sunday we listen to cries for justice. God told Cain that Abel's blood cried out from the ground. Whether from concentration camps, lynching trees, genocide locations, or a myriad other locations and situations, people have cried out for justice. This past year we have heard cries for justice from victims of racism. International Women's Day was March 8. Women around the globe continue to cry out for justice and equality. God is listening. Are we? Rev. Bill Linson serves as worship leader. Music is provided by Brian, Ervie, Deana, and on Smule - Steph from North Carolina and Andrew from Malaysia. JJ has his ear to the globe, listening for cries for justice. He introduces a couple friends with different skin colors.

ZOOM BIBLE STUDY SATURDAY 10:00 AM

ZOOM SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP 10AM

let us know if you would like to be added to these email invitations

WORSHIP LEADERS NEEDED

If anyone would like to be worship leader some Sunday, please call the office and let us know: 928-445-4555. Recordings are done Sunday morning at 10:30

BULLETIN

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

March 14, 2021

GATHERING TO WORSHIP GOD

Prelude: Shepherd Me Gathering Rite by Marty Haugen v. 4

Invocation – Rev. Bill Linson

Mothering God—whose wisdom created us, whose strength sustains us, whose compassion guides us—open us this day. Open our ears so we may hear the words of our sisters from across space and across time. Open our eyes so we may see the places our lives connect. Open our hearts so the redeeming power of Christ may renew our relationships with those we may never meet. Open our lives, so you may infuse us fully with your passion and grace. In Christ's name, Amen.

Song: “Wonderful, Merciful Savior” Deana & Steph – North Carolina (CCLI)

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

A Time for Children of All Ages - JJ

Lenten Prayer of Confession – Rev. Linson

Loving God, you made us a people to dwell together. But we confess, something happened. We have distanced ourselves from your love. We have built walls between each other. In your generous diversity, we have formed division—divisions made deeper by money, opportunity, violence, and arrogance. We don't want to hear the stories of those less fortunate than us because it hurts. We don't want to see the faces of our sisters and brothers who are hurting because we will feel responsible. We don't want to feel responsibility because we will feel the need to change. We don't want to change. But you call for us to be transformed. We know we can't change the entire world in our lifetime. But help us see how we can transform ourselves so the world might come one small step closer to realizing your love. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness – Rev. Linson

Song: “Give Thanks to the Lord” by Stephen M. Austin - Ervie

Scripture – Psalm 107: 1-9 Rev. Bill Linson

Sermon: "The Cries for Justice" - Pastor Jay

RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE

Song: “The Prayer” – Deana & Andrew from Malaysia

Prayers of the People / The Lord's Prayer (use trespasses) – Rev. Linson
(International Women's Day was March 8)

O God, creator of the heavens and earth,
Empower us, move us, bring Your justice and equality.
O God, our God: We have come here to carry forward an age-old struggle:
the pursuit of economic and social progress for all people, based on respect
for the dignity and value of each. We are here to promote and protect
human rights and to stress that women's rights are human rights.

Empower us, move us, bring Your justice and equality.

O God, our God: The faces of the women who are here mirror the faces of the millions and millions who are not. It is our responsibility to make sure that the voices that go unheard will be heard.

Empower us, move us, bring Your justice and equality.

O God, our God: What women want is an agenda for development that will empower people, eradicate poverty, create sustainable livelihoods, build stable lives and healthy communities and promote peace.

Empower us, move us, bring Your justice and equality.

O God, our God: We decry decision-making that does not reflect the interests of those affected—people who live on the land, the women of the land.

Empower us, move us, bring Your justice and equality.

O God, our God: No country can develop if half its human resources are devalued or repressed. Girls and boys must be valued equally.

Empower us, move us, bring Your justice and equality.

O God, our God: We want every woman to believe that there are women all over the world who care about her health, who want her children to be educated, who want her to have the dignity and respect that she deserves.

Empower us, move us, bring Your justice and equality. Lord's Prayer...

Song: "Come, O Thou Traveler Unknown" – Carole Sue Linson, Pianist
By James W. King, Lorenz Publishing Co.

Offering of Ourselves and our Gifts

Prayer of Dedication – Rev. Linson

Benediction - Pastor Jay

Postlude: "O God, How We Have Wandered" organ

Serving the Church

Ministers All the People of the Church

Pastor Rev. Dr. Jay Wilcher

Pastor Emeritus Rev. Robert Bradstreet

Worship Leader Rev. Bill Linson

Alter Notes Director Melissa Gates

Organist Brian Moore

Co-Moderators Melissa Gates & Bill Bryant

Minister of the Building Rev. Bill Linson

Facilities Coordinator Tom Macy

Video Technician James Logsdon

First Congregational Church of Prescott

United Church of Christ

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www.facebook.com/FccUccPrescott
928-445-4555
Founded September 26, 1880

MARCH MISSION NEWS

Mission Outreach Update for March:

Each month we highlight a different mission outreach project/program. For the month of March, our highlighted program is the **Prescott Area Habitat for Humanity [PAHH]**. Affordable housing continues to be a problem across America. Our Tri-City area is no exception. In Arizona, one in seven households spends half or more of its income on housing. PAHH directs its outreach to this area of need. It functions as a bank for clients whose incomes will not qualify for a standard mortgage. Besides providing “sweat equity” in the construction of their PAHH home, clients pay a monthly mortgage based upon their income. A 95th PAHH family will soon move in to their new home. Plans for three other PAHH home construction projects are underway. In addition to home construction projects, PAHH provides social services to its clients, operates a retail store at 1061 Commerce Drive in Prescott, and tithes unrestricted income to global Habitat projects.

An added PAHH note. PAHH homes can be customized. One paraplegic homeowner had her home constructed to meet her particular needs. Doorways, counters, cabinets, clothes closets, bathrooms were all customized with her physical needs in mind. With a beaming smile she told PAHH volunteers that she can now live in an environment that is healthy, safe and secure.

Christine Mack, PAHH Faith Relations Liaison, wrote this: “Thank you all at FCC for your continued investment in Prescott Area Habitat for Humanity’s mission to address the affordable housing crisis in our communities.” Volunteers are always welcome and needed. If interested, please phone the PAHH office at 928-445-8003.

If you would like to support this month’s mission outreach program, please make your check payable to the church, with the memo, PAHH.

Prescott Area Shelter Services [PASS] – an invitation from Carmen Frederic, Executive Director---After much consideration, discussion and a community poll, we have decided to change our 2021 Tea to a virtual Tea Event. Please join us at 1:00 PM, Saturday April 24th. We will hear from a PASS guest and get a virtual tour of our shelter facility. There will be a raffle drawing and prizes. It is free for everyone. To attend, please register by phoning 928 778 5933. A zoom link will be sent to your email after you register.

As always, your FCC Mission Outreach team is thankful for your remembering that we have been blessed to be a blessing [Genesis 12: 2]. Helaine Berman, Becky and Bill Bryant, Patty and Gary Gard.

CHURCH FOUNDATION

The congregation of the First Congregational Church established and incorporated the FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH FOUNDATION (FCCF), as a separate legal entity, on March 24, 1993, as a not-for-profit corporation. The sole member of the FCCF is the First Congregational Church, and the Church granted the FCCF full authority to administer the funds of the FCCF.

As of the 2021 Annual Meeting of the Church, the following are the nine members of the Board of Directors: David Foote, Susan Lemons, James Christopher, Julie McCurdy, Patty Lantrip, Sue Hodge-Parker, Alice Kring, Tom Macy, and Rev. Jay Wilcher.

To fund the FCCF, the members of the Church made legacy gifts to provide monies for it to continue its mission into the future. There are presently eleven (11) funds, ten (10) of which are “memorial endowment funds” and five (5) of which contain restrictions relating to the usage of the funds and/or the time of each expenditure. These funds are used to support the religious, educational and charitable purposes of the church and to support the needs of the church which are not encompassed in the church’s budget. The FCCF manages these funds.

The FCCF is a vehicle for church members to invest in the church’s future. These legacy gifts may take any one of a number of forms from memorials, testamentary trusts, living trusts, charitable donations, bequests, etc. In the coming weeks, The Caller will include information on legacy gifts for your consideration.

HOLY WEEK

Palm Sunday March 28
Mark 15:1-39 Putting Racial Justice into Action

April 1, 6pm - Maundy Thursday Zoom Service

April 2, Good Friday Recorded Service Available on Website

**April 4 Easter
Mark 16:1-8
Coming Forth into New, Non-Binary Life**

**WATCH FOR UPCOMING ANNOUNCEMENT ABOUT WORSHIP
ON EASTER SUNDAY**

TREASURER REPORT

Income as of February 28 is \$25,636
Total expenses are \$20,507.
Total income exceeds expenses by \$5,129.

Year-to-date income is at 21% of the income budget of \$122,450.

Year-to-date expenses are at 14% of the expense budget of \$146,905.

Did you know that our church pays annual membership dues?

As part of our promise to support operations for our Southwest Conference and the UCC in general, we are asked to make an annual payment of \$10 per member of our congregation. Wouldn't you like to help off-set this cost to our church by contributing your \$10 membership dues? If you would like to help, please include the memo "per capita" with your contribution. Thank you!

PRESCOTT COMMUNITY CUPBOARD

We extend our thanks to the following packing teams for their services to Prescott Community Cupboard during the week of March 1-5, 2021:

Don & Kathy Stephens, Patty Brenner & Marie Kissel, Bill Linson & Lee Danaher, Henry & Linda Dahlberg, and Jane Jones & Angela Imbierowicz.

Special recognition to our newest volunteers, Henry and Linda Dahlberg, and to their trainer, Sue Hodge Parker. Thank you.

For information on how you can volunteer to spend an afternoon now and then packing at Prescott Community Cupboard, contact Angela Imbierowicz at 708-712-1448 or angelaprescottaz@gmail.com

COVID-19 UPDATE FROM CABINET

As conditions improve, we will have updates in the Parish Caller and through mail and emails regarding Palm Sunday and Easter worship - whether by recording, or in-person parking lot or sanctuary gatherings. Hopefully, the next few weeks will bring more clarity about virus spread and what is possible.

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

