



The Parish Caller

First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, Prescott Established 1880

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



March 24, 2017

IN THIS ISSUE

Page 1

- ♦ This Week at a Glance
- ♦ From Pastor Jay

Page 2

- ♦ From Pastor Jay continued
- ♦ Announcements
- ♦ Stewardship

Page 3

- ♦ Announcements continued
- ♦ "The Tree House"
- ♦ From the UCC.org: Faith Leaders Rally on Capital Hill to Save Health Care

Page 4

- ♦ From the UCC.org: Faith Leaders Rally on Capital Hill to Save Health Care continued
- ♦ *AlterNotes*
- ♦ Contact Us

This Week at a Glance...

- ♦ **Choir Rehearsal:** Sunday 9:00 am
- ♦ **Sunday Lenten discussion:** 9:30 am
- ♦ **Sunday Worship Service and Fellowship time:** 10:30 am
- ♦ **AltarNotes Rehearsal:** 12:00 pm
- ♦ **Wednesday Lenten soup and discussion "Simon of Cyrene":** 5:30
- ♦ **Bell Choir Practice:** Thursday 11:00 am

FROM PASTOR JAY



Healing the Man Born Blind by El Greco, ca. 1570
(Staatliche Kunstsammlungen, Dresden).

How is your vision? About yourself? About others? About God? This Sunday we will consider the story of Jesus healing a blind man in John 9:1-41. The people who are the most blind in the account are the religious people. How much does that still apply today? We live with the illusion that we see clearly most of the time. A little humility may be in order. In advance of Sunday, check out the following:

Find the NPR article on "How the Scarcity Mindset Can Make Matters Worse." (Google NPR and Scarcity and there it will be!)

"Sendhil and Eldar say the psychological effects of scarcity can be seen in many areas of life, among lonely people who lack companionship, even among the very busy who lack time. In all these cases, they argue, people need to recognize how not having enough of something can

Continued on page 2

Parish
Stewardship

Offerings		
	March	YTD
Offerings	\$ 7,358	\$ 26,961
Facility	\$ 743	\$ 1,840
Foundation	\$ 2,608	\$ 16,030
Other	\$ 503	\$ 5,503
Total	\$ 11,212	\$ 50,334

Expenses		
	March	YTD
Expenses	\$ 12,800	\$ 63,723

Cory Replica		
Cost	\$	(1,026.68)
Gifts	\$	650.00
Balance	\$	(376.68)

Memorial Gifts		
Roland Wood	\$	75
Memorial Donation for OGHS		
Char Tarr	\$	5,500

Attendance	
1-Jan	78
8-Jan	105
15-Jan	104
22-Jan	92
29-Jan	128
5-Feb	114
12-Feb	82
19-Feb	77
26-Feb	81
1-Mar	31
5-Mar	94
12-Mar	93
19-Mar	91

March Birthdays	
Betty Corn	13-Mar
Kathy Stephens	13-Mar
John Feuerriegel	15-Mar
Amy Wilson	15-Mar
Patty Gard	18-Mar
Andrea Worthington	19-Mar
Mack Gilpin	21-Mar
Jim Gilpin	22-Mar
Chuck Jarvi	22-Mar
Bret Ely	26-Mar
Andre Shrimpton	28-Mar
Roz Veda	29-Mar
Sherry Hager	31-Mar
Kristin Steele	4-Apr
Wesley Bradstreet	5-Apr

make us so maniacally focused on short-term solutions that we lose sight of our priorities. In those moments, they say, it's important to look up, to notice we are inside a tunnel. Shankar Vedantam, NPR News.”

Remember the invisible gorilla? Google “**inattentional blindness and gorilla**” and watch the video. You will not believe it but 50% of people did not see the gorilla.

Maybe we are more like Mr. Magoo than we know.

Where do we find help for our blindness? We need God and others to help us see. That is why we go to church!

See you Sunday!

Jay



ANNOUNCEMENTS

"GETTING TO KNOW THE UCC AND OUR CHURCH"
NEW MEMBER / INQUIRER CLASSES APRIL 2&9 After worship, Moderator Marti and Barbara McClure will meet with those joining the church, and also anyone interested in learning more about the church for about 45 minutes. **We will meet about 11:40/45 in the church office building conference room.** All are welcome. New members will be received on April 16.

STUDY GROUP FOR SUNDAYS IN LENT, STARTING MARCH 5
Meet in the downstairs large meeting room (former library), 9:30-10:15. Topics from the Series “Great Figures of the New Testament” by Amy-Jill Levine.

- March 19: Barabbas
- March 26: Centurions

These topics (parallel to those to be given the following Wednesday evenings by Rev. Harry Strong) are scheduled for those who prefer the Sunday morning time.

EASTER SERVICE AND CHURCH WIDE FAMILY POTLUCK BRUNCH
April 16 will be a potluck meal after worship service, signup sheet is in Perkins Hall.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT LENTEN SERIES BEGINS MARCH 8 – 5:30 to 7:00 pm
Each Wednesday we will gather at 5:30 pm for a meal and then watch a video of Rev. Harry Strong portraying a character from the passion narrative.

March 29 — stew	Simone of Cyrene (Rev. Harry & Pastor Jay)
April 5 — soup	Centurion (Rev. Harry & Marilyn Kirstine)

Please help with the meal by signing up in Perkins to bring meal items each week!

Continued from page 2

"THE TREE HOUSE", CCJ FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN CENTER

The CCJ is starting a new program for children in the 505 W. Gurley location. There are a few items you can contribute to the cause. A flyer with a list and location for where these items can be purchased is in Perkins Hall. Feel free to take one to take with you when you go shopping.

OUTREACH FOR MARCH

This month's mission emphasis is the Prescott Area Habitat for Humanity (PAHH). PAHH is entering its 28th year of serving working low income families. Thus far, 87 families have been helped to settle into their new homes. Construction volunteers may phone Gail Martin at 928 445 8003. **Thank you for your support of our outreach to a world in need of compassion and justice.** Gary Gard, Mission Outreach Chairperson

CHAR TARR MEMORIAL

April 9th, 2 pm in the Church Sanctuary.

CORY PAINTING

Thank you to those who have made contributions to the Cory Replica. We have received \$650 so far to go towards the final cost for the digital copy, printing on canvas and framing, is \$1,026.68. If you would like to contribute to the expenses, please designate Cory on your gift. Thanks to all!

Faith leaders rally on Capitol Hill to save health care

Jesus Christ never asked for an insurance card, nor required a co-pay. That line, spoken by the Rev. William Barber II, could be considered the rallying cry of hundreds of progressive people of faith gathered in Washington D.C. on Wednesday, condemning Congress' attack on health care and demanding a moral commitment to health care reform for all Americans.

A day before the expected vote March 23 by lawmakers on a bill to overhaul the health care system, faith leaders rallied the public in a march on Capitol Hill, delivering copies of sacred texts to the offices of House Speaker Paul Ryan — sharing the stories of how Christ, the Great Physician, healed the sick and the poor.

Barber, a Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) minister in North Carolina, president and senior lecturer of Repairers of the Breach and architect of North Carolina's "Moral Mondays" movement, was one of the speakers at a rally on Wednesday afternoon. The event was organized by Faith in Public Life, an interfaith movement for social change.

House Republicans have introduced a proposed alternative to the Affordable Care Act, or Obamacare. The bill, according to health care experts, would cause millions of Americans to lose their medical insurance, while millions of low-income families would see a decrease in coverage and rapidly rising insurance costs.

March 22, 2017

Written by

Anthony Moujaes



Continued on page 4

CONTACT US:

216 E. Gurley Street
 Prescott, AZ 86301
 928-445-4555
fccprescott@gmail.com
Administration Office Hours
 Monday-Thursday 9:00 - 4:00
 Friday: 9:00 - 1:00
Pastor Jay
 Monday - Thursday
 9:00 - 1:00
 Other times by appointment
 Cell: 928-899-9066
jayfccprescott@gmail.com

Regularly Scheduled**PASS MEAL**

Once a month we provide a meal for the Prescott Area Shelter Services the 3rd Wednesday of every month at 5:00 pm. Sign-up sheet is in Perkins Hall.

CHOIR PRACTICE

Meets 9 am before worship on Sundays. See Jane Osborn if you would like to join the choir!

BELL CHOIR PRACTICE

Meets for rehearsal at 11 am on Thursdays

PRAYER CHAPEL

Called to Care weekly prayer group meets at 11:00 am on Mondays in the Chapel

CABINET MEETING

Meets the 4th Thursday of every month at 6:30 pm in the Office Conference Room.

PFLAG SUPPORT GROUP

Meets the 3rd Friday of every month at 6:30 pm in the Church Library/Chapel. See Julie J. for more details.

KNIT WITS

Meets the 1st & 3rd Tuesdays of every month from 1-3 pm in the Office Conference Room.

Lenten Series Schedule

March— April 5th
 Wednesdays at 5:30 pm for meal and "Great Figures of the New Testament"

Sunday Lenten Series Schedule

For the month of March, Sunday morning at 9:30 "Great Figures of the New Testament"

Continued from page 3

Sandy Sorensen, director of the United Church of Christ office on Capitol Hill, said that the House's bill, the American Health Care Act, is out of step with the need to continue expand medical coverage for vulnerable people still without insurance.

"Healing is at the heart of Jesus' ministry and teaching. It speaks to the common human need and yearning for health and healing," she said.

"The House plan will put access to care out of the reach of millions of people in this country, and will especially impact the poor, those with disability, and the elderly," Sorensen said. "People – including those in our pews, in our communities and in our families – will suffer. It is imperative that we transform health care so that it is inclusive, accessible, affordable and accountable. This bill takes us in the wrong direction."

If the bill passes, not only would it hurt working families, the elderly, children and people with disabilities, it would benefit the wealthiest Americans. The top 0.01 percent of earners) will gain on average more than \$197,000 each in tax breaks. According to analysis from the Tax Policy Center, "Most low-income households would see no change at all in their taxes. But about 7 percent would get a tax cut of about \$1,200 on average while 4 percent would face a very big tax hike, averaging nearly \$3,900 — mostly because they'd lose the benefit of the premium subsidies."

"We need to show this is a bill rooted in classism, racism, anti-woman," Barber said. "When all of this is done, thousands of people of all colors will die. These are not souls whom the Lord is calling home. These will be people who will have died because of government policy. They are poor and elderly sisters and brothers. When our elected representatives commit to immoral action, we have no option but to resist by all nonviolent means available to us."

A tight vote is expected, because of opposition to the bill among the Republican members of the House who want to fully repeal the ACA. If the bill were to fail, the ACA would remain in place -- though lawmakers insistent on repealing it would attempt to roll back health care protections once again.

***Alter-Notes***

A new, alternative music group, to sing on occasional Sundays needs singers and instrumentalists. If you don't have the time to commit to every Sunday but like and want to sing or play an instrument, come and join us. Folk, pop, Celtic, spirituals and anything else. Rehearsals at noon on Sundays. Contact Melissa Gates, 207-391-3276

