

The Parish Caller

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

March 25, 2016

First Congregational
Church, United
Church of Christ,
Prescott



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This Week at a Glance...

- ◆ **Choir Practice** Sunday 9 am
- ◆ **Easter Sunday Worship Services** Sunday 10:30 am
- ◆ **Jazz Vespers** Wednesday 6:30 pm
- ◆ **Bell Choir Rehearsal** Thursday 11 am
- ◆ **Funky Friday Game Night** Friday 7 pm

From The Pastor

John Harper passed away Monday evening. I was able to be with him that day and also Marilyn Kerstine and Kathy Stephens made a visit as well. John will be missed as he was a faithful attendee in worship even as he entered his ninety-ninth year of life! Pray for his daughter Dyan and other family members.

John Harper 1/6/1917 – 3/21/2016

Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant John. Acknowledge, we humbly beseech you, a sheep of your own fold, a lamb of your own flock, a child of your own redeeming. Receive him into the arms of your mercy, into the blessed rest of everlasting peace, and into the glorious company of the saints in light. Amen.

We are grateful for Barb Beeson's successful surgery and continue to pray for her recovery as she enters rehabilitation.

Easter is almost here! Join us Sunday and invite your neighbors and friends. I will be preaching one of my favorite sermons: "3 F's On Our Report Card."

Pastor Jay



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March Announcements

- **Jazz Vespers:** March 30th at 6:30 pm. Alber Sarko Jazz Quartet will be playing.
- **Safe, clean like new or new baby and toddler toys are needed for the nursery, as well as baby blankets, and crib sheets. Please drop off at the church office.**
- **Shelter/Homeless Items needed:** Toilet and facial tissue, dish and laundry detergent, bar soap, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes and paper towels.
- **March Missions Focus:** One Great Hour of Sharing. Please mark your gifts and offerings using the memo lines on your checks or the envelopes in the pews.
- **SW Conference Annual Meeting:** April 22-23 in Phoenix. See John McCurdy if you would like to attend as one of our Delegates.

The Rev. John C. Dorhauer is general minister and president of the United Church Of Christ.

A Holy Week reflection of hope and resurrection

March 18, 2016

Written by **John Dorhauer**

Gentle reader,

I recently returned from a 12-day trip to the Middle East to visit our mission partners. What strikes me is that many of the places that resonate so deeply with us as we unfold the narrative of Christ's passion, death, and resurrection are places I visited for the first time only days ago.



Something else occurs to me: the suffering of the displaced and disheartened is still evident in those places. It is real. It is palpable. It is heartbreaking. But so is hope; and I saw that hope day after day delivered through the hands of our mission partners.

Isaiah 53:3 reads: "He was despised and rejected by others, one of sorrows, intimately familiar with suffering; and like one from whom people hide their faces; and we despised him and did not value him."

I can't help but wonder how many today, living in the shadows of the monuments we have built to commemorate the suffering of Jesus, are now the ones from whom we turn our faces.

I saw lines of sorrow and pain etched across the faces of so many.

Two things occur to me as I reflect on this now that I am back home.

First, whatever hope we have to offer them can't be reduced to the promise of an eternal life that our faith teaches us is made possible by the resurrection hope of Jesus. That can't be the only thing we offer to relieve their suffering.

Second, what we do in the United Church of Christ to share our gifts with these suffering souls makes a difference. Through OCWM and One Great Hour of Sharing, we fund mission and relief efforts that matter. I witnessed that. We will not be among those who turn the face away from the deep sorrow and pain.

Our global mission partners are present to that suffering. They are active not only in the relief work that helps heal the wounded hearts and battered bodies, they are active in the halls of power and privilege trying to change systems that produce, that tolerate, and that revel in this misery – and then turn their own face away from it. They are resilient in the face of crisis. They bear witness to their faith daily. They are an inspiration for the important work of justice and peacemaking in a very challenging context.

They make me so very proud.

It is what Jesus would ask of us.

In this Holy Week, let us be mindful of the redemptive power that our faith in Jesus provides us.

In this Holy Week let us be mindful of the suffering from which we too easily hide our faces.

In this Holy Week, let us be mindful of those who, on our behalf and out of their own deep faith, abide in the hard places and heal the deep wounds.

Today, that is resurrection enough for me.

Palm Sunday

Palm Sunday



Palm Sunday



**Check out our churches website:
www.fccprescott.org**

**Upcoming Events, Members Directory, Parish Caller, “Sign-Up
Genius”, Weekly Calendar, Donate online and much more!**

**Church Members Directory Now On-Line!
www.fccprescott.org/directory/**

You will need a password, call the church office at 928-445-4555.
For the safety and privacy of our members and friends, the
password will be given out to members and friends.

Sign-up for the various volunteer opportunities of the church.