

# The Parish Caller

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

March 4, 2016

First Congregational  
Church, United  
Church of Christ,  
Prescott



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## ***This Week at a Glance...***

- ♦ **Funky Friday Game Night** Friday at 7 pm
- ♦ **Choir Practice** Sunday 9 am
- ♦ **Exploring Faith** Sunday 9 am
- ♦ **P.I.E. (Play, Inspire, Eat)** Wednesday 5:30 pm
- ♦ **Lay Academy** Friday-Saturday, go to: [www.layacademy.org/](http://www.layacademy.org/)

## **Church Members Directory Now On-Line!**

[www.fccprescott.org/directory/](http://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.

## **Agape Soup**

This Wednesday for P.I.E. (Play, Inspire, Eat!) will enjoy Agape Soup Night and talk about the future of the Church.  
We meet at 5:30 pm in Perkins Hall

## **Woman's Fellowship**

You are invited March 19<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 am to the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Women's Fellowship in Perkins Hall.

We will spend time in fellowship, business meeting and deaconess closet cleaning project. Come for part or all of this time spent together. Last meeting we decided to take on a few projects around the church that would make things look a little nicer and be better organized. We look forward to seeing you!

## **Church Nursery in need of items**

New or gently used: baby & toddler toys, crib sheets, toddler & pre-school books, washable lap quilts  
New: lysol wipes, baby wipes

## **Honoring John Dorhauer**

Many of you may have heard that Rev. John Dorhaurers' father, Jay Dorhauer, passed away in early February. If you would like to send a memorial in Pastor John's honor the family requests memorial be sent to one or more of the following:

- **Holy Spirit Hands Food Pantry**, 3128 Parkwood Ln, Maryland Heights, MO 63043
- **St. Patrick's Center of St. Louis**, 800 N. Tucker Blvd, St. Louis, MO 63101
- **Pink Sisters**, Sisters of Mt. Grace Covent Church, 1438 W. Warne Ave. St. Louis, MO 63107

## **UCC Daily Devotional**

Sign up for daily emails from the UCC Website's Daily Devotional. Go to:  
[www.ucc.org/feed\\_your\\_spirit](http://www.ucc.org/feed_your_spirit)

## From Pastor Jay

## From the Pastor

Envy is the only deadly sin that is no fun at all! We will look at envy Sunday and the ways it can impact our lives. It is interesting to imagine that one day envy might wreak havoc as the gap between the rich and poor continues to grow in this country.

Arthur Brooks, president of the American Enterprise Institute, put it this way in a New York Times editorial: “People who believe that hard work brings success do not begrudge others their prosperity. But if the game looks rigged, envy and a desire for redistribution will follow.”

There is some confusion on the difference between envy and jealousy: Jealousy is the result or fear of losing someone or something that one is attached to or possesses to another person (the transfer of a lover's affections is the typical form), while envy is the resentment caused by another person having something that one does not have, but desires for oneself.

Jealousy = self

Envy = others

Envy can be a good thing before it goes bad

Betsey Cohen in [The Snow White Syndrome](#) gives a useful Envy Continuum:

1. Emulation
2. Admiration
3. Covetousness
4. Resentment
5. Self-hatred
6. The wish to harm

NY Times Book Review article described it as the sin of families

Comparison leads to envy

Deadly Envy seeks to hurt – bring down other (Cain and Abel)

Deadly Envy refuses to produce, as one is able -Elder brother in parable of prodigal son - Stands outside unable to join

Dante’s idea of punishment for the envious – hard to envy when you cannot see!

Short of Dante’s gruesome cure, the best cure for envy is a heavy dose of theology – come get your dose on Sunday! See you there, Jay



A quick note:

The gentleman that fainted during the service last Sunday is at home and doing okay.

James 3:14-18

But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace.

## Open Space and the Bible

Open space is a contentious issue in Prescott these days and is viewed in a variety of ways. Some say that we only need space for trails; others want to purchase spots of land; and others think there is plenty of open space with the Forest service lands surrounding the city. But Open Space is far more than any of these concepts. One concept not understood is that Open Space should be viewed as interconnecting habitat for flora and fauna as well as for humans.

Open Space for habitat should follow the waterways in the Prescott area and connect to a variety of ecosystems into long and wide spaces for the various species to migrate, forage, nest and breed. Open Spaces should encompass enough land and water to support a variety of land animals to successfully survive and sustain a suitable population.

Open Space for Pronghorn habitat for example would need to be wide and long but could also peacefully cohabitate with human populations if the housing or building density is low enough. Eagles, hawks, and falcons should have sufficient space to be able to hunt in and around areas of the city. Many prefer the woodlands around Granite Creek.

This concept of Open Space not only enhances wildlife flora and fauna and their habitat, but it enhances the human habitat and experience. Open Space provides the vegetation necessary to filter and settle contaminants in stormwater that are washed off our roads, yards, parking lots, and roofs. A healthy ecosystem amongst the sub-urban environment as experienced in Prescott benefits mankind by creating livable spaces suitable for trails for bicycling, hiking, or running. Interconnecting modes of public and private transportation could evolve from such a concept.

This concept of Open Space seems to be exalted in the Bible in Psalms 104 verses 10 through 18, 24 and 31, but similar phrasing and terminology is used in Psalms 147 and 148, too. Through the concept of habitat-oriented open space, as we might call it, the LORD is exalted, His glory is made manifest through His creation. Plus, we now get the benefits of clean water, peaceful sanctuaries and a more healthy approach to community.

Consider the Psalmists observations and praise:

*He makes springs pour water into the ravines;  
it flows between the mountains.*

<sup>11</sup> *They give water to all the beasts of the field;  
the wild donkeys quench their thirst.*

<sup>12</sup> *The birds of the sky nest by the waters;  
they sing among the branches.*

<sup>13</sup> *He waters the mountains from his upper chambers;  
the land is satisfied by the fruit of his work.*

<sup>14</sup> *He makes grass grow for the cattle,  
and plants for people to cultivate—  
bringing forth food from the earth:*

<sup>15</sup> *wine that gladdens human hearts,  
oil to make their faces shine,  
and bread that sustains their hearts.*

<sup>16</sup> *The trees of the LORD are well watered,  
the cedars of Lebanon that he planted.*

<sup>17</sup> *There the birds make their nests;  
the stork has its home in the junipers.*

<sup>18</sup> *The high mountains belong to the wild goats;  
the crags are a refuge for the hyrax.*

This is clearly habitat preservation and interconnectivity.

The consequences of allowing the works of the Lord from perishing from the earth are daunting to consider. The biggest consequence of allowing habitat or

Open Space and the Bible Continued

open space to disappear or to be disassociated from other habitat, is that we do not have a visual reason for praising Him, thanking Him for our blessings, and celebrating the Life He gave us.

*When you hide your face,  
they are terrified;  
when you take away their breath,  
they die and return to the dust.*  
<sup>30</sup> *When you send your Spirit,  
they are created,  
and you renew the face of the ground.*

<sup>31</sup> *May the glory of the LORD endure forever;  
may the LORD rejoice in his works—*

Over and over again in the Psalms, the Glory of God is exemplified by his Creation. The temporal creation points to his eternal essence. We as his children should work tirelessly to preserve and enhance this creation and protect it from wanton development and growth of man-made habitat that does not glorify God.

\* See Psalms 147 and 148.

Check out our churches website:  
[www.fccprescott.org](http://www.fccprescott.org)

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

Ongoing & Weekly Events

**CHOIR PRACTICE** meets  
Sundays at 9 am in the  
Sanctuary. See Jane Osborn if  
you would like to join the choir!  
**BELL CHOIR PRACTICE** at 11 am  
on Thursdays

**KNIT WITS** meets  
the 1st & 3rd  
Tuesdays of every  
month from 1-3  
pm in the Office  
Conference Room.

**LAS FUENTES**  
1035 Scott Dr., Prescott  
**SPIRITUAL LIVING Class** is  
held the 3rd Thursday of  
every month at 10 am, led  
by Called to Care Ministry.  
~And~  
Worship Service is also held  
the 2nd Sunday of every  
month at 3 pm, led by  
Pastor Jay.

**EXPLORING FAITH**  
**Living the Questions**  
**Study Group**  
Sunday Mornings at 9  
am in the Church  
Library  
~And~  
Monday Evening  
Discussion Group 6  
pm in the Church  
Library

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

**PFLAG SUPPORT**  
**GROUP** meets the 3rd  
Friday of every month  
at 6:30 pm in the  
Church Library. See  
Julie J. for more details.

**PASS MEAL** is a once-a-  
month ministry where  
we provide a meal for  
the Prescott Area Shelter  
Services the 3rd  
Wednesday of every  
month at 5:30 pm. Sign-  
up sheet is in Perkins  
Hall.

**Funky Friday**  
**Game Night**  
Hosted by PFLAG  
Everyone  
Welcome! 7-9 pm  
1st Friday of  
every Month  
starting in  
November

**CABINET MEETING**  
meets the 4th  
Thursday of every  
month at 6:30 pm in  
the Office  
Conference Room.

**CALLED TO CARE MINISTRY** meets  
the 4th Tuesday of every month  
from 2-4 pm in the Office  
Conference Room. If you are  
interested in being part of this  
ministry, see Marilyn Kerstine.