

A Message from Pastor Jay

This Sunday's sermon is entitled "Practice Sabbath" based on Mark 2:23-3:6. The religious leaders of Jesus' day had taken a gift of God and turned it into a burden. How can we incorporate Sabbath into our lives? Is the current focus on "mindfulness" a return to Sabbath in some way? Thanks to Carole Sue and Mellisa for providing music. JJ shows us how to practice Sabbath.

We are now open to the public!

In-Person Worship 8:30 am & 10:30 am

Per CDC Guidelines, Masks are Optional, Social Distancing Measures Have Been Lifted, But Individuals May Still Choose To Distance As Desired. Beginning May 23, We Will No Longer Have The 8:30AM Service and Move To 10:30AM Only. No Congregational Singing At This Time

Nursery and Sunday school at the 10:30am service

ZOOM BIBLE STUDY SATURDAY 10:00 AM

ZOOM SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP 2:00 PM

Let us know if you want to be added to these Zoom invitations

BULLETIN

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 16, 2021

10:30 a.m.

GATHERING TO WORSHIP GOD

Prelude: "Episode in G Minor" by Franklin Ritter Carole Sue Linson,
Pianist

A Time for Children of All Ages - JJ

Words of Welcome – Announcements - Passing of the Peace

Centering Prayer

Pastor Jay

Call to Worship (Deuteronomy 5:12-15; Mark 2:23-3:6) Rev. Bill Linson

L: In a world of breaking news/broken news, urgent texts from a world at once too large and too small, where lies often masquerade as fact, God calls us to

All: Stop and Sabbath: Refresh Truth

L: In a world where privilege masquerades as "The way it is meant to be" and the poor are cut off from life's necessities, God calls us to

All: Stop and Sabbath: Refresh Justice

L: In a world where fear of difference fosters suspicion and undermines community, where threats of violence masquerade as means to peace, God calls us to

All: Stop and Sabbath: Refresh Wisdom

Hymn: "What a Covenant"

New Century Hymnal #471

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

Call to Confession (Deuteronomy 5:12-15)

Rev. Bill Linson

Today's reading from Deuteronomy reminds us that Sabbath is God's gift to all creation; it is not the privilege of a few, resting on the work of many. Everyone is called to this precious rest—including children, servants, strangers—even working livestock!

When we shape our lives with no rest, no reflection, no prayer, no "Space for Grace," **Lord, have mercy.**

When we perpetuate systems which depend on unrelenting labor of the poor, and do not advocate for living wages and balanced work and rest for all, **Christ, have mercy.**

When we wear out our precious Earth home with practices that do not sustain abundant life for all, **Lord, have mercy.**

Assurance of Grace

Rev. Bill Linson

All who follow Jesus Christ, ruler of the Sabbath, receive this longed for invitation: "Come to me, all you who labor and are heavy burdened, and I will give you rest!" Rest in Christ's forgiveness, and be strengthened to work and to Sabbath in love and justice.

Hebrew Scripture Reading: Deuteronomy 5:12-15 Rev. Bill Linson

Gospel Reading: Mark 2:23-3:6

Rev. Bill Linson

Special Music: "Fantasia on Brother James Air" by Donovan Klotzbeacher
Carole Sue Linson, Pianist; Melissa Gates, Flute

Sermon: "Practice Sabbath" Pastor Jay

RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE

Prayers of the People / The Lord's Prayer (use trespasses)

Offering of Ourselves and our Gifts

Prayer of Dedication Rev. Bill Linson

Take and receive these gifts dear God, bless and multiply them, that they may show the world your glory, shining through our lives. Amen.

Hymn: "Blessed Assurance" New Century Hymnal #473

Benediction Pastor Jay

Postlude: "Christ Has Ascended" by David Paxton Carole Sue Linson

First Congregational Church of Prescott

United Church of Christ

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Prescott, AZ 86301

www.fccprescott.org

www.facebook.com/FccUccPrescott

928-445-4555

Founded September 26, 1880

MAY MISSION NEWS

Mission Outreach Update for May:

Each month we highlight a different mission outreach project. This month's mission emphasis project is **Frontera de Cristo** (FdC). This ecumenical border ministry in Aqua Prieta, Mexico (across from Douglas, AZ), is in partnership with several Aqua Prieta churches and local social service organizations to help meet the needs of migrants arriving at the border. Remembering Jesus' words in the Beatitudes, "Blessed are the peacemakers", The Rev. Mark Adams, FdC pastor/director, wrote this: "We are called to be a presence of peace. A

presence of peace for those seeking asylum. A presence of peace for those threatened by kidnapping, extortion, rape, beatings by organized crime gangs and drug cartels. A presence of peace for those who locked in poverty.” FdC services include:[1] assistance in completing legal immigration documents, [2] Health aid, [3] Shelter, food & clothing [4] Mental health counseling (many migrants manifest symptoms of PTSD) [5] Job training/placement for those choosing to remain in Aqua Prieta and [6] Christian education and worship opportunities. Donations to FdC can be made by making your check payable to the church, with the memo FdC. Mission donations which do not specify a particular project, will be disbursed as determined by our Mission team members.

So far this year mission disbursements have been made to: [1] Coalition for Compassion and Justice, \$625, [2] Prescott Community Cupboard, \$665, [3] Prescott Area Habitat for Humanity, \$1,840, [4] Prescott Area Shelter Service (PASS) \$1,100, [5] St Luke Ebony Christian Church, \$625, and [6] Franceny Gardea (DACA student) \$500. Franceny is earning her undergraduate degree in May from Prescott College and will continue her pursuit of a Master’s Degree in Critical Psychology.

Thank you for remembering that we have been blessed to be a blessing [Genesis 12:2] Our Mission team members are: Becky and Bill Bryant, Helaine Berman, Patty and Gary Gard.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Video Tech Needed! \$50.00 / Week

We are looking for someone who wants to learn the video production and editing tasks. Jim will train the person during the 10:30am worship service.

Annual LGBTQ Picnic

The annual LGBTQ Family & Friendship Picnic will be May 22, Noon to five pm at Watson Lake

Zoom Opportunities: Bible Study Sat. 10am / After Church Fellowship Sunday 2pm The Church office remains officially closed. Phone messages and emails are checked regularly.

Our new tenant at the restaurant will be “Red, White, and Brew” (There is a location in Mesa already). After renovations, a tentative opening late summer is planned. The lease is for ten years with possible extensions. Our thanks to the Church Foundation

members and attorney Tom Lloyd for all their work!

MAY WORSHIP

**May 2 Abiding in Christ
Orthodox Easter John 15:1-8**

May 9 Mothers Day - John 15: 9-17

May 16 Sabbath Rest - Mark 2:23-3:6

**May 23 Pentecost - Acts 2:1-21
Remembrance of George Floyd Lynching**

**May 30 - Trinity Sunday (Rev. Gard preaching)
100th anniversary of Tulsa Black Wall Street Massacre**

TREASURER REPORT

Treasurer's Report for **March 31, 2021**
Presented to Cabinet 4/29/2021

Income vs Expense:

Income as of March 31 is \$34,314
\$29,819 from pledges and other contributions
\$575 from facility use
\$3,920 other income
Total expenses as of March 31 are \$34,837.
Total expenses exceed income by \$523.

Budget vs Actual: 25% of budget year

Income as of the end of March 31 is at 28% of the income budget of \$122,450. Year-to-date expenses are at 24% of the expense budget of \$146,905.

SOUTHWEST CONFERENCE ANNUAL MEETING REPORT

As we transition to meeting in-person while continuing to gather online with Zoom and recorded worship, we need to consider that most likely we are not on a path to “back to the way things were,” but rather we are learning to embrace new ways to be church in a big world of technology and tradition. Currently the COVID-19 numbers have improved enough to allow for limited gatherings, with continued safety precautions. But the rate of added cases in Arizona, and Yavapai in particular, does not allow us to forget the protocols we’ve adopted since the beginning of the pandemic. In this past year, many people have felt lost and left out. They need that social interaction and face-to-face contact with others in worship, song, education, and service. Others have found a new freedom with the possibilities presented by technology. Some people have benefitted in unexpected ways by the use of technology for worship, fellowship, education, and outreach. The theme of the recent Annual Meeting of the Southwest Conference was “Both / And” which invites a new way of thinking about how to gather for worship by adopting a hybrid model of both in-person and online worship. Over the 3-day Zoom gathering, April 23-25, we heard some success stories (and some failures) of how other congregations are managing technology for worship and moving toward in-person gathering. Here are some ideas that were shared: Always keep in mind who we are as a church and why we do what we do. Are we as welcoming online as we have been in person? Designated greeters can welcome new visitors to Zoom worship and fellowship in small Zoom break-out sessions. Telephone conference calls can connect those without computer access—this is done through one person who is also connected through Zoom. In pre-recorded or Zoom worship the liturgy and hymn lyrics can be posted for all to read along. One church provides a 3-minute video on Thursday to introduce the scripture and lesson for the week for contemplation and preparation for Sunday’s worship message. In this time of transition, we’re “practicing” how to gather again. Don’t try to be everything to everybody. There’s no right way, and no wrong way. But it all takes practice.

Julie McCurdy, delegate to 2021 Annual Meeting of the Southwest Conference.

I had the opportunity to volunteer to be a delegate for the South West Conference Annual Conference (Virtual). It was outstanding. So many beautiful and sincere people talking about how they are trying to keep their congregations 'TOGETHER' during the past 13 months. Great sharing and experiences from these churches listed below. I am sure that next year at this time you will also want to become a DELEGATE!

I am hoping that, time willing, you will be able to check these websites out for the videos they provided for the conference. Believe me, you won't be disappointed. NEXT, let's rally and work toward our own successful reopening, gathering our own AND welcoming new faces that want more from their church experience. Please feel a calling to help in any way as we move forward to inviting ALL IN and resuming our Sunday School curriculum.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCghXsC3gzsFBB3iYDbsxAlw>

SOUTHWEST CONFERENCE YOUTUBE PAGE

<https://ucccogs.org/>

CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD ALBUQUERQUE, co-host of Annual SWC Meeting

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCbRv7fhzVUEjnsiAjQjHvoQ/featured>

BLACK FOREST COMMUNITY CHURCH, CO SPRINGS

<https://www.facebook.com/FirstChurchSwampscott/live/>

SWAMPSCOTT, MA

Rev Ian Holland

[HERE \(http://firstuccabq.org/\)](http://firstuccabq.org/)

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL ALBUQUERQUE

www.desertpalmucc.org

Rev Tom Martinez, they co-hosted Annual SWC Meeting

Thank you again for the opportunity to represent Prescott First Congregational.

Patty Lantrip

COVID-19 UPDATE FROM CABINET

Per CDC Guidelines, Masks are Optional, Social Distancing

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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 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

