



## Pastoral Letter: When will we be back together again?

Greetings,

We are all anxious to get back to normal – and anxious in another sense of the word to do so. The CDC gave us some good guidelines for opening up again, but these guidelines are not being followed by some states and cities. Our conference minister has given us guidelines along the lines of the CDC recommendations. This past week I realized the church may be following the science while our states and cities open up by faith. Yikes! But I think it remains true for most that large gatherings, like worship, will be the last thing to come back.



So, our church Cabinet will wrestle with when and how we begin to come together again. I wanted to share the basic guides and timeline suggested by our conference minister. I read the Presbyterian guidelines from Grand Canyon Presbytery, and they are similar in nature. The Episcopal bishop for our area is presenting guidelines this week for our friends at St. Luke's.

Here is a summary from our conference minister, Rev. Bill Lyons:

### A five-phase plan for reopening (number of cases rising or declining related to Yavapai County)

#### Phase 1 - Number of cases of COVID-19 continues to hold steady or increase (current)

- Online worship only
- Church building and office closed

#### Phase 2 – Two weeks of downward trend of COVID-19 case counts in Yavapai County

- Limited in-person worship of 10 people maximum - socially distanced at 6 feet and wearing face masks
- No singing
- Church office closed

#### Phase 3 – Four weeks of downward trend of COVID-19 case counts in Yavapai County

- Limited in-person worship of 25 people maximum – socially distanced at 6 feet and wearing face masks
- Vulnerable, high-risk persons encouraged to worship online only
- No Singing
- No after worship fellowship
- No nursery
- No in-person small group gatherings

#### Phase 4 – Eight Weeks of downward trend of COVID-19 case counts in Yavapai County

- Limited in-person worship of 50 people maximum – socially distanced at 6 feet and wearing face masks
- Vulnerable, high-risk persons encouraged to worship online only
- Limited Singing – one singer – congregation 15 feet away
- Congregation singing with masks
- No passing of Peace
- No after church fellowship without masks – no touching
- Ushers maintain 6 feet distance
- No children's time up front
- Plan in place in case more than 50 come to worship

#### Phase 5 – A vaccine is developed and provided to all, or herd immunity achieved

- Return to normal church life!

\*Key point: if spike happens at any point and cases begin to increase, return to phase 1 and start over.

As you can see, this is a very cautious plan in line with CDC guidelines for churches. Time will tell how it plays out. Trinity Presbyterian Church here in town has set a goal of the end of July to perhaps reopen. I am sure other churches will feel the pressure to open sooner. Pray for our Cabinet to have wisdom. And as a congregational church, please share your wisdom and ideas with Cabinet members. We are in uncharted territory.

The best way to track how Yavapai County is doing is on the website below. Type in Yavapai County in the search section and the details are there in terms of whether we are going up or down in numbers. If you are watching the national news, the state of Arizona is not doing very well at the moment.

[covidactnow.org](https://covidactnow.org)

God bless and stay safe! Jay

## MISSION OUTREACH NEWS

Mission Outreach News: May's mission emphasis is Migrant Ministries.

Donations will help support two mission projects.



1) Frontera de Cristo in Agua Prieta, Mexico (across the border from Douglas, AZ). This ministry helps to shelter, feed, clothe, educate, employ, and counsel migrants being detained on the Mexican side of the border.

2) Our second mission outreach helps assist migrants in the Phoenix area who are awaiting their cases to be adjudicated in Federal Court. Checks can be made payable to the church, with the memo, Migrant Ministries.

Please know that we also have a DACA Fund to which we gratefully receive donations year around. DACA funds assist with tuition and classroom expenses for migrants with legal status. We continue to help Franceny Gardea, who will be a junior this year at Prescott College; her brother, Franciscio, a senior at the Univ of Arizona, and her brother, Fernando, a recent graduate at Bradshaw High School in Prescott Valley.

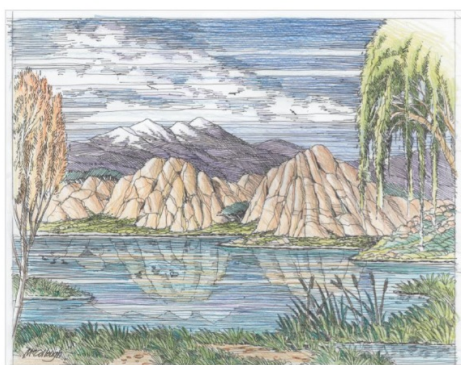
Thanks to your generous support, so far this year the following checks have been sent. [1] Prescott Community Cupboard, \$1586 [2] Prescott Women's Shelter (PASS), \$1205 [3] Prescott Habitat for Humanity, \$525 [4] One Great Hour of Sharing, \$525, and [5] DACA Fund assistance, \$600.

We remain very thankful of our faithful volunteers who help to pack food bags for the Prescott Community Cupboard and provide a monthly hot meal to the Prescott Women's Shelter (PASS). If you'd like to volunteer to either of these mission projects, please contact; Angela Imbierowicz (Community Cupboard co-captain) or Patty Gard (PASS meal coordinator).

Thanks for remembering that we have been blessed to be a blessing. [Genesis 12:2] Our Mission Outreach team members are: Bill and Becky Bryant, Helaine Berman, Linda Moore, Patty Gard, Staci Robbins, and Gary Gard, chairperson.

## PASTOR JAY'S SABBATICAL

*A TIME TO SLOW DOWN FOR REFLECTION*



Pastor Jay will continue with his planned 2020 sabbatical over the summer months. The sabbatical committee has prepared a brochure to share information about his sabbatical. It will also be helpful in answering your questions about how church will operate in his absence.

A digital copy of the brochure is available on the Church website, in the Resources area, <http://www.fccprescott.org/sabatical>.

Paper copies of the brochure will be available; please call the church office to get a copy mailed to you. Peace, Staci

## SUPPORT YOUR CHURCH DURING CORONAVIRUS!

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- Online – go to our website: [www.fccprescott.org](http://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.
- Mail 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.



#### ANNIVERSARIES

Don & Kathy Stephens 05/20  
Deana & Susan Wilson 05/27

#### BIRTHDAYS

Ritch Steven 05/17  
Nancy Blevens 05/18  
Anne Solt 05/18  
Lisa Sandberg 05/19  
Caleb Flanagan 05/22  
Joanne Lussier 05/25  
Beth Bradstreet 05/26  
Sarah Huff 05/26  
Sarah Andrews 05/28  
Anna Strong 05/28

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