

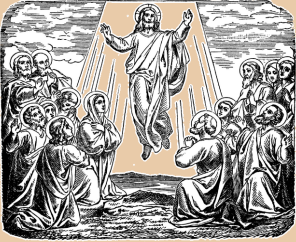


The Parish Caller

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."

May 19, 2017



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This Week at a Glance...

- ◆ **Choir Rehearsal:** Sunday 9:30 am
- ◆ **Sunday Worship:** 10:30 am
- ◆ **Alter-Notes Rehearsal:** Sunday 12:00 pm in the Hazeltine Room
- ◆ **Bells Rehearsal:** Thursday 11:00

FROM THE PASTOR

This Sunday we will focus on the ascension of Christ – May 25th on the calendar because it is always 40 days after Easter. The text is Luke 24:44-54 and the sermon title is "The Ascension Gets No Attention." So, come find out what this ascension thing is all about. And if that is not enough, there will be a pre-sermon rap featuring Lil' Wil and da Gates. You will have to see it to believe it. No video or photography allowed!

God bless,

Lil' Wil



*Pietro Perugino 1496–1500
Musée des Beaux-Arts de Lyon, France*

FROM CHUCK BUDINGER- Open Space and the Bible

cwbudinger@aol.com

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

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FROM MARTI GARRISON, OUR MODERATOR

Moderators get lots of praise at Pastor/Moderator Dinner

A mix of about thirty moderators and pastors enjoyed dinner on May 4 hosted by the First Congregational Church, UCC Albuquerque the first day of this year's SW Conference in Albuquerque.



Our assignment during the home-cooked meal prepared and served by women of the church

was to hear from each pastor at the different tables what he or she appreciates about their moderator's skills and gifts. After we heard from the pastors at our table praise their own moderators, a different pastor who had listened, then shared with the whole room.

Here are a few examples of our sterling moderators' accomplishments:

"I can count on him to be at church early every Sunday to make sure everything is set up, then he greets people at the door."

"She does the bookkeeping, manages the office, creates the newsletter, organizes

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MESSAGE FROM OUTREACH AND MISSIONS

We have received an emergency appeal from the World Council of Churches. It regards the starvation facing 100's of thousands of people living in the region of the South Sudan. Immediate relief is needed. The national offices of the United Church of Christ has already sent \$85,000 (generated through this year's One Great Hour of Sharing Offering). Trusted personnel in the region are overseeing the distribution of food and safe drinking water. For the first time in recent history, in addition to the South Sudan, the possibility exists of a famine in 3 other nearby African nations; Somalia, Nigeria, and Yemen. If you can help, make your check payable to the church, with the memo line,- "Food Assistance".

This special emergency appeal is addition to this month's mission emphasis, namely, the Church World Service School Bag Program. If you would like to support this project, a check memo line should read, "CWS School Bag Program".

Thank you for your support of compassion and justice ministries.

Gary Gard, chairperson [929-910-2455](tel:929-910-2455)



School items needed are:

- 1. Scissors,-blunted with rounded tip
- 2. Rulers,-12"
- 3. Pencils,- unsharpened
- 4. Large erasers
- 5. Box of crayons
- 6. 24 pack and
- 7. Spiral notebooks,-50-70 pages.

Parish Stewardship

Offerings

	May	YTD
Offerings	\$6,076	\$44,112
Facility	\$478	\$4,441
Foundation	\$13,423	\$29,453
Other	\$-	\$5,503
Total	\$19,977	\$83,509

Expenses

	May	YTD
Expenses	\$13,029	\$109,864

Outreach Gifts

	2016	2017
Jan	Prescott Comm. Cupb. \$490	
Feb	PASS \$140	
March	Habitat for Humanity \$165	
April	One Great Hour Share \$1,183	
May	Church World Service \$319	
June	Strengthen the Church \$-	

Undesignated Missions

	\$475
Total	\$2,772

Cory Replica

Cost	\$(1,026.68)
Gifts	\$1,026.68
Balance	\$-

Attendance; Monthly Average

January	102
February	89
March	89
April	108
May	99

CORY PAINTING

We have received the full amount for the cost for the Cory Replica from many generous givers! Thank you to all!

SUNDAY SCHOOL OPTIONS

Parents may take children to Sunday school downstairs before the service begins, or they may wait until the children's time with the pastor and then go to Sunday school.

Children are also welcome to stay in the worship service at the discretion of the parent(s).



Monday Prayer
Chapel at
11:00 am in the
Church Library

ANNIVERSARIES

Don & Kathy
Stephens 5/20

BIRTHDAYS

Gerri Lyons	05/03
Matt Ely	05/04
Sarai Payne	05/04
Doris Hille	05/10
Carolyn Daly-Wood	05/12
Anne Solt	05/18
Lisa Sandberg	05/19
Kris Chatfield	05/22
Joanne Lussier	05/25
Beth Bradstreet	05/26
Sarah Huff	05/26
Anna Strong	05/28

WE ARE ENTERING INTO OUR TIME OF PANCAKES

For 61 years we have celebrated our community's involvement in Prescott. Each year we come together in fellowship to provide pancakes for a large number of people, 600 last year. Again this year, on parade day, we will serve pancakes to our Prescott community—with our proceeds in support of Prescott Community Cupboard, who provide food to those in need.



We are faced with many challenges as we get ready for the Pancake Breakfast. We must gather supplies, make sure all the equipment is in place, talk with the Lions and Boy Scouts (60 years of participation), publicize, and manage other operational activities.

Consider participating in these preparations for the Pancake Breakfast. There is the reward of a well-executed event, supporting Prescott Community Cupboard, and building fellowship.

I am forming a group to get these many things done. We will meet on May 27, 2017 at 9 am in the Youth room in the basement. Look for a sign-up sheet in Perkins Hall.

John McCurdy

**NEW CHURCH PROJECT**

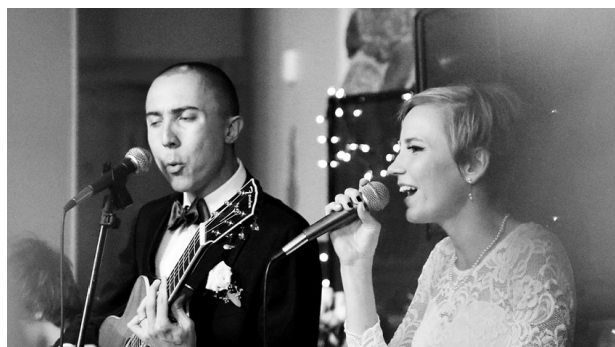
Remember those pavers that were removed from our sidewalk earlier this year? This was done to keep them safe from bulldozers and backhoes. Well it is almost time to put them back.



With the City of Prescott nearing the end of work on our street, we are preparing to reset our pavers and extending our sidewalk area. This job will take approximately 100 labor hours. We are looking for volunteers to help with this project. We will also need to collect about \$600 for tooling and rental costs for incidentals. See John McCurdy if you would like to help. He will be posting a volunteer work schedule soon. If you would like to contribute monetarily, mark your donation "Paving Stones" and place it in the offering plate. Thank you!

Jazz Vespers Featuring Nin Duo May 31 at 6:30

Come and sample wine and cheese
while we enjoy live music in the
Sanctuary.



Nin Duo is a Jazz mixed duo and
features Margarita, who is from Russia
and

Brian from Arizona.
These two met while
working on a cruise ship,
and they've been making
music since. Nin Duo
plays at the Hassayampa
Inn every Saturday night.



Prescott Community Food Bank Packer Team Schedule for FCC, May 30-Jun 2, 2017

Food Bank the week of May 30 thru
Jun 2nd 2017

Tues, May 30: Linda & Dave Foote

Wed, May 31: Angela Imbierowicz &
James Christopher

Thurs, Jun 1: Pete Norum & Paul & Diane
Sandstrom

Fri, Jun 2: Bill Linson & Patty Lantrip



ALTER-NOTES

We enjoyed *Alter-Notes* "A Gaelic

Easter Celebration" on Easter Sunday!
Alter-Notes, an alternative music group,
singing on occasional Sundays, needs
singers and instrumentalists. Folk, pop,
Celtic, spirituals and anything else.
Rehearsal at noon on Sundays. Contact
Melissa Gates, 207-391-3276

3rd ANNUAL
LGBTQ
FAMILY & FRIENDSHIP PICNIC
Sunday, May 28th, 2017
Starts at NOON
at Watson Lake Park
OFF HWY 89 IN Prescott, AZ

Free Admission
\$3 Parking

For more information or inquiry
about performing, speaking,
hosting a booth, volunteering, or
sponsoring for this event, please
contact gyccinfo@gmail.com
RE: Picnic and one of our
friendly GYCC board members
will be in touch!

Entertainment
Recreation
Activities
Speakers
Resource Fair

COME TOGETHER
Once a year, we invite every identity under
the rainbow to celebrate community and
build bridges with our friends, family,
supporters, and allies. Please join us for
food, fun, and friendship!
Family and Pet Friendly!

Community
Potluck and
Cookout!
Bring your own
meat to grill;
Hotdogs and
Hamburgers
for love
donation

Special thanks to:
[Logos for LGBTQ+ organizations and sponsors]

3rd Annual LGBTQ Family and Friendship Picnic

Sunday May 28th, 12:00-7:30 pm — Watson Lake Park, Hwy 89 Prescott

This year our church will be sponsoring an information table offering information about our church and getting the word out about our church's "Open and Affirming" position.

We expect a good number of participation this year and many of you have expressed your desire to help sit at our table and take part. I would like to include you in a short 30 minute rotation.

There is a signup sheet in Perkins Hall or call me, 928-445-4555, email: fccprescott@gmail.com

Continued from page 1—OPEN SPACES

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 in and around riparian areas provides the vegetation necessary to filter and settle contaminants in storm water that are washed off our roads, yards, parking lots, and roofs. A healthy ecosystem amongst the suburban 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.

¹¹ They give water to all the beasts of the field;

the wild donkeys quench their thirst.

¹² The birds of the sky nest by the waters; they sing among the branches.

¹³ He waters the mountains from his upper chambers;

the land is satisfied by the fruit of his work.

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

¹⁵ wine that gladdens human hearts, oil to make their faces shine, and bread that sustains their hearts.

¹⁶ The trees of the LORD are well watered, the cedars of Lebanon that he planted.

¹⁷ There the birds make their nests; the stork has its home in the junipers.

¹⁸ 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 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.

³⁰ When you send your Spirit, they are created,

and you renew the face of the ground.

³¹ 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.

Learn more: Come to the U of A Cooperative Extension on this Saturday (5/20) at 10 AM for a discussion on setting up wildlife corridors in Yavapai County.

FROM THE MODERATOR --- continued from page 2**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 9:30 am before worship on Sundays. See Jane Osborn if you would like to join the choir!

ALTER-NOTES

Meets at 12:00 for rehearsal in the Hazeltine Room after worship service.

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 6:00 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.

COMMUNION

An informal "Every Sunday Communion" will be in the sanctuary after worship on Sundays except the first Sunday of the month which is our regular communion time.

volunteers...in short, she does it all! I couldn't lead my church without her."

"She has held this position for only a few months, but already she is making the meetings more efficient and has started to organize church events."

"He is my right hand man, in every way. He does everything from cleaning to making coffee to printing bulletins."

Here at First Congregational UCC we are fortunate to have a skilled and friendly staff to make sure it all gets done without everything falling onto the shoulders of a few. Julie Jaquette keeps it all together in the office doing the myriad tasks that must be done and done well. Other dedicated staff keep our facilities clean, our worship music well done, and our children cared for on Sunday mornings. Take a minute during coffee hour to thank them! They are Rev. Bill Linson, Debbie Staats, Jane Osborn, Leslee Amenta, and in the children's room and nursery, Sarah Andrews, Maria Janca, Tabitha Biedenkapp and Bonnie Brashear.

Hearing what moderators do at other churches in the SW Conference both impressed me and made me feel fortunate to be moderator in this church where we share the load of all that must be done to keep a church well-running and welcoming. Thanks to all who planned this dinner and created a program where we had the opportunity to share about pastors and moderators.

After dinner Rev. Bill Lyons spoke to the group about his journey so far in the Conference and shared his hopes about how churches can assess our local communities to reach out to young families and



singles. In particular he listed how we appeal to young people who care about social justice and the environment. One focus would be on the different mental images we all have about what church means.

Thanks go out to Bill for his inspiring leadership!

**MESSAGE FROM THE DE JONGS**

Dear friends,

After living in Hawai'i for twelve years, then in Prescott for over fifteen years, we will be moving to North Carolina. We feel blessed to have been a part of this congregation. We will miss you all, but we are delighted to finally live close to one of our children and to have found a lovely cottage on the grounds of a retirement resort in Cary, about ten minutes from Dennis, Stephanie, Chandler, Luke and Grant. Some of you may remember Dennis playing the trumpet and Stephanie singing during worship while the family was visiting a few years ago. God Bless, Mike and Ronny de Jong

**New address:**

250 Kirkshire Circle Cary, NC 27511

Cell phone until July 1, 928-710-6519 New cell phone: 919-400-1651

Email: mikerondejong@gmail.com Email Ronny: ronnyhermandejong@gmail.com