

THE PARISH CALLER

First Congregational Church, UCC Prescott

Welcome Reverend Dr. Jay Wilcher

On Sunday, April 26, The Rev. Dr. Jay Wilcher extemporaneously spoke his first message to First Congregational Church, Prescott. He spoke of Jesus, the Good Shepherd, holding a gift of Pastor Jay's future calling in his hand, a small Bible. It was a special day for him. He was unanimously called by the Search Committee to become our minister, and within another hour he was unanimously elected by the many members of FCC who came to be part of this historic day. We could already sense his keen

insights, his devotion to the written word, and to top it off, a sense of humor. We welcomed the invitation to join him in his mission to grow our small, loving congregation by twenty members a year. Already a new Prescott resident; we are blessed to have discovered new leadership in the midst of our community. We found you as you found us on our searching journey, Pastor Jay. You are so welcome here!

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New Church Administration

Office Hours

Pastor Jay

Monday - Thursday: 9 - Noon
 Other times by appointment
 Text: 928-899-9066
 Office: 928-445-4555
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 jayfccprescott@gmail.com

Julie Jaquette

Mondays: 1 - 4
 Tuesday - Friday: 8 - 4
 Phone: 928-445-4555
 fccprescott@gmail.com



Pastor Jay
 and Roscoe's
 first day in
 the office.

From Pastor Jay By Reverend Dr. Jay Wilcher

As I write this column, I am sitting in the pastor's office surrounded by boxes and books scattered on the floor. Moving is never easy. I have lived in eleven states (and I'm hopefully done), so I have experience in transitions, but I am not sure there is any way to make it a smooth process. I am still basking in the glow of this past weekend. My thanks to the search committee, Cabinet, and all the congregation on a warm welcome to my wife and me and the grandkids.

My first task is to get to know all of you. I need to do a lot of listening and learning. I ask for your patience as it will take a while to reach out to everyone, but if you have an immediate need, please do not hesitate to contact me. Group meals or gatherings of ten or so members at a time are being planned so I might get acquainted with all of you in a more expedited manner.

I am happy to return to a congregational church of the United Church of Christ! Although ordained as a Presbyterian pastor, I was pastor of First Congregational Church in Pueblo, Colorado from 2001 to 2007. I had dual standing in the local association of the Rocky Mountain Conference through our denominational agreements to share clergy. I appreciate the U.C.C. emphases on unity, social justice, and extravagant welcome to all. The last two years I was pastor of a new church start in a suburb of Sacramento, California.

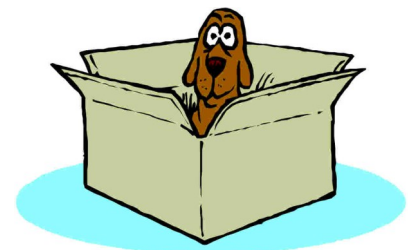
New church work requires thinking outside the box, trying new things, and being willing to fail, learn, and try again. I bring that

perspective with me, but I will honor your traditions and history and advocate changes as necessary. I work in a collaborative style so together we will learn from each other and discern what God is doing here at our church. Change is never easy but unavoidable in our current day.

My wife Cherie is a psych nurse practitioner at West Yavapai Guidance Clinic. We are a blended family of four children and four grandchildren. Daughter Lyndsie and husband Rob have four children ranging in age from 2 to 13. They live here in Prescott. Son Quinton also lives here in town. Son Dan lives in Denver where he is finishing college this semester. And Son Joey lives in Colorado Springs where he attends college. My "assistant" Roscoe is our standard poodle who keeps me sane and forces me to get exercise in daily walks.

So, I am excited to begin this journey with you and also privileged to serve with all the gifted members of this congregation. Let's build on our strengths rather than bemoan our weaknesses, and let's seek to discern what God is up to here and see where God takes us!

God bless,
Jay



MODERATOR'S MESSAGE from John McCurdy

So much happens at an Annual Meeting of the Southwest Conference. Meeting friends, making new ones. Business is attended to and information is shared. The energy of all these people who come together is awesome. The energy rolls right through me. Each person that I meet is filled with hope and love and compassion. I want to have more of us attend, to experience this fellowship.



There is always a theme to any annual meeting, and this year it revolved around the environment. The most significant

point for me was that the environment is a social justice issue. At first I was thinking how can we handle one more issue, how can we accomplish so much that is of concern to us and those in our communities.

Then Doug Bland from Arizona Interfaith Power & Light presented the concept of viewing all issues through the lens of the environment. When looking at hunger, don't just look at the

lack of food but also the quality of the food available, the land and water needed to grow that food.

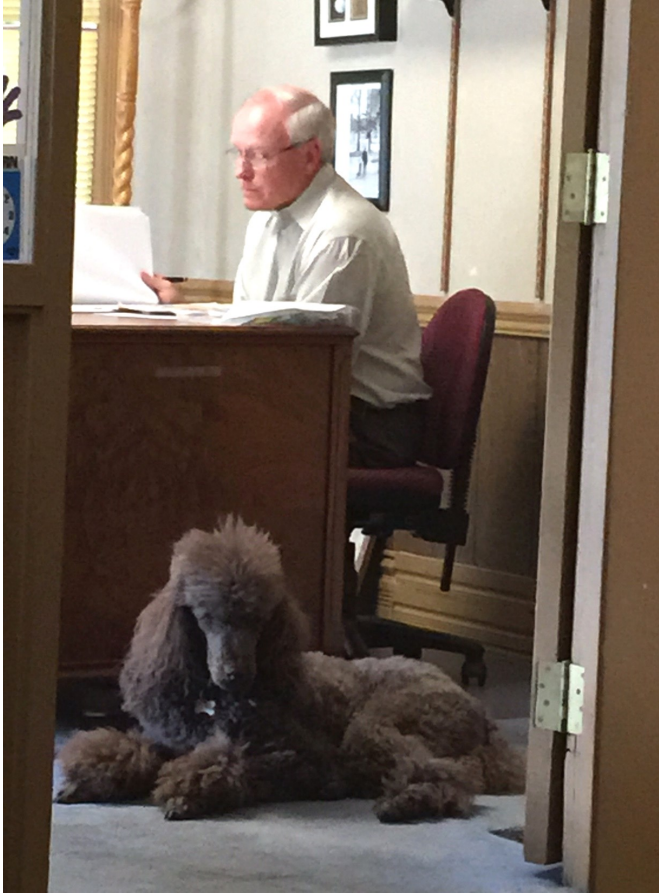
There are so many more elements that go into our lives than just the things we use to live. We are part of a huge system that nourishes us and we are stewards of that system. So when we come together and look at the challenges before us, look through the lens of how the environment is intertwined, look at the whole issue. Perhaps a new solution will present itself. It is good!

John McCurdy



“Church of the Red Rocks”, inside the sanctuary.

Meet The New Staff humor by Julie Jaquette



**“My “assistant”
Roscoe is our
standard poodle
who keeps me
sane and forces
me to get exercise
in daily walks.”**

~Pastor Jay

When you come into the Church office anytime soon you will be delightfully greeted by our new Pastor Jay and his “assistant” Roscoe! Roscoe is a 9 year old standard French

Poodle. He is calm and mellow, very much like Pastor Jay.

On occasion, I will bring Darla, my 7 lb. Morkie into work with me on days she will be alone too long at home.

Roscoe and Darla provide the office with comfort and company. Feel free to stop by and say hi!



Roscoe was photographed lounging on an antique sofa for the cover of “Old Louisville, Exuberant, Elegant, and Alive” by David Domine. *Check it out!*

http://publicity.ugapress.uga.edu/publicftp/OldLouisville/OldLouisville_WM.pdf



Darla wearing her new
“Puppy Pride” t-shirt,
on her way with
me to work.

History of First Congregational Church

Part 3, by Jay Eby

Let us then look at some of these remarkable persons.

At the top of every list of members is one Woman. She always signed in as Maggie B. She was Margaret Forman Bashford Burmister. The daughter of Coles Bashford, former Governor of the state of Wisconsin, a member of the Governor's party, secretary to the first Territorial Governor, and Arizona's first Representative to the U.S. Congress. She was wife to Robert H. Burmister who, with her brother Levi Bashford, ran the B&B Mercantile. She taught music and was the organist for the Church. There is no doubt in my mind that she was the driving force in this effort. Besides organizing our Women's Fellowship she was active in the History and Poetry Club and the Monday Club and also active in the Arizona's Federated Women's Clubs.

Maggie B. was not able to attend the organizational meeting held at the Otis' home. She was confined at home awaiting the birth of her third child. Immediately at the close of the meeting a message was sent to her that the



Margaret Forman Bashford Burmister



Congregational Society of Prescott, AZ had been formed.

Robert Henry Burmister was a merchant, a principal in the Prescott and Arizona Central Railroad, and a member of the first Board of Trustees for our Church; also in 1901 Mayor of Prescott. The Burmister's had three children and their home was, and still is, at the corner of South Mount Vernon and Gurley Streets.

May Outreach Ministry

Thank you for your response to our mission focus for April. Our church provided a meal for 25 women and children of the Prescott Area Shelter Services (PASS), made a monetary donation, and contributed items the residents need. Providing a monthly meal to the women's and family shelters is an on-going ministry for our church family. The shelters do not have kitchens and therefore the residents cannot prepare hot meals.

Our mission focus for May is the local People Who Care organization. Their volunteers provide non-medical assistance for adults who are in need when family and friends are not available to help. In 2014, over 500 individuals received assistance from People Who Care with almost 30,000 volunteer hours reported. The need in our communities (Prescott, Prescott Valley, Chino Valley, Skull Valley, Yarnell, Congress, People's Valley, and Kirkland) is great for these services.

People Who Care help adults live independently in their own residences and communities for as long as possible. Assistance includes transporting clients to appointments, grocery shopping with or for them, helping with personal paper work (bank statements, letter-writing, medical forms, etc.), providing relief for full-time family caregivers, and sometimes just providing a friendly call or visit to help alleviate loneliness and isolation.

In addition, two specific People Who Care programs help to ensure the safety of their clients:



- ♦ Guardian Angel: loans and maintains Emergency Alert Call units for low income clients.
- ♦ Project Safe Home: helps prevent fires, falls, or other household hazards. Safe Home volunteers conduct home safety visits to determine possible safety hazards.

People Who Care – a “Faith in Action” program – is in need of the following:

- ♦ Volunteers to fill any of the care-giving positions. People Who Care volunteers are the “hearts and hands of a caring community.”
- ♦ Volunteers to become a “Guardian Angel” – setting up Emergency Alert Call units for clients (this does not require any technical knowledge, just a willingness to help).
- ♦ Financial contributions for operating expenses that include staffing, administration, and office needs.

Please help however you are able. Checks can be made out to our church and designated for “People Who Care” on the memo line.

Thank You for being the “hearts and hands of a caring community” of faith.~

Called to Care is seeking interested people...

Called to Care is seeking new people interested in participating in our next Training Session. If you would like to visit our homebound or help in other ways (write letters, cards, phone calling), please see Marilyn Kerstine for more information or sign up in Perkins Hall.

Hosts Needed for Small Group Dinner/Lunch "Meet our New Pastor" Gatherings...

Over the next 3 to 4 months we would like to give everyone in our congregation the opportunity to meet our new Pastor, Jay Wilcher, and Jay the opportunity to meet and get to know each of us. We are looking for people willing to host a small group dinner or lunch in their home. If you are interested in being a host, there is a sign up sheet on the table in Perkins Hall.

You may also email Judy Daly at: jdaly59@gmail.com Please include your phone number and the number of people you can host. Thank you!



If you are interested in joining PFLAG or need the support for yourself or a friend, contact Julie Jaquette at 928-445-4555 Meeting: May 22th, 6 PM, Church Library

Prescott has a new Emergent Chapter of the National Organization, PFLAG

Vision: PFLAG envisions a world where diversity is celebrated and all people are respected, valued, and affirmed inclusive of their sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression.

Mission: By meeting people where they are and collaborating with others, PFLAG realizes its vision through:

- Support for families, allies and people who are LGBTQ.
- Education for ourselves and others about the unique issues and challenges facing people who are LGBTQ
- Advocacy in our communities to change attitudes and create policies and laws that achieve full equality for people who are LGBTQ.

SW Conference Annual Meeting by Julie McCurdy

Annual Meeting of Southwest Conference, April 17-18, at Sedona Church of the Red Rocks.

It was another really special weekend. The theme of the Annual Meeting was “Restoring Creation,” and everything centered around being stewards of God’s great creation—Earth. So much to think about, and so many practical ways to move toward restoring creation and undoing some of the damage we have done. We were reminded of how the United Church of Christ has made a difference in influencing government actions—for example, racial equality and civil rights, gay rights and marriage equality—and we were enheartened to take up the fight to let our government leaders know that we need them to support actions that will protect our planet.

I attended a workshop on “Sustainability” where we were presented with practical ways to change how we operate our church. If we truly want to live out our theology that *we are caretakers of God’s creation* (rather than assert that God’s creation is for us to use however we desire), we can choose to promote the sustainability of all our resources in socially, environmentally, and economically conscious ways.



Until laws are passed that will require us to reduce our carbon footprint, “be green,” and support fair-trade labor, we can take steps toward sustainability and be more mindful of our choices. Of course, it can be expensive to make big changes. With a guided audit—a systematic and unbiased evaluation of our current practices and purchases, we can find small ways to make a big difference. Ask me about ways to start now!

Another strong element of the weekend was, of course, reconciling with John Dorhauer’s new path. Very emotional. Lots of reflections on John’s seven years with us, and looking forward to the challenges facing him and us in the future. We are blessed.

Julie McCurdy, delegate

Celebration Service of James Jackson's Life was held April 25th.

James Lombard Jackson, 65, died peacefully on April 5, 2015, at his home in Prescott Valley, Arizona, following a brief but courageous battle with Glioblastoma, an aggressive brain cancer.

Jim was born June 19, 1949, in Presque Isle, Maine, the son of Kenneth Emery and Maxine Hedrich Jackson. He attended Presque Isle schools. He graduated from the University of Maine at Orono with a degree in electrical engineering and from Wentworth Institute in Boston with a degree in mechanical engineering. He served in the US Navy.

Jim began his career in broadcast engineering at the UMO radio station, followed by WABI TV in Bangor, Maine. In 1980 he moved to New York City to work for ABC News. Jim travelled the world extensively during his career with ABC.

Jim received many awards for his engineering work, including two Emmy Awards for technical excellence. He was part of a team that received a patent for their work in audio/visual communications.

Jim was a long-time resident of Cresskill, NJ. He retired from ABC (Walt Disney Company) in 2013 and moved to his beautiful 10-acre ranch in Prescott Valley, AZ.

A long-time HAM enthusiast with the call



**James
Lumbard
Jackson
June 9,1949
to
April 5, 2015**

sign NS2K, Jim was a member of the Bergen County Amateur Radio Association (BARA), and the Yavapai Amateur Radio Club (YARC). He was a member of the First Congregational Church United Church of Christ in Prescott, where he served on the Call to Care team and sang in the church choir. During his brief retirement, he volunteered with several organizations in Prescott, including the Salvation Army Operation Deep Freeze, aiding the homeless of Prescott and also at a local animal rescue ranch. Jim enjoyed traveling in the southwest in his motor home with his canine companion Ion, who Jim referred to as his 70-pound free radical.

Jim was predeceased by his father in 1991, and his longtime partner, Robert McLaughlin, in 2009. He is survived by his mother and step-father, Maxine and Harold Throop of Venice, FL; his brother and sister-in-law, Paul H. and Gael Sanville Jackson of South Portland, Maine; his nephew and wife, Samuel James and Stephanie Assuras Jackson of Manhattan, and his niece, Lucy Ruth Helena Jackson of South Portland, Maine. He also leaves many dear friends in New York and Arizona.

Southwest Conference 2015 Summer Camp...

There is still time to sign up for the Southwest Conference Youth Camp for those going into the 2nd Grade through High School. See Marilyn Kerstine for registrations or pick up a copy in Perkins Hall. Deadline is May 15th. First Congregational pays the cost for each camper. The experience is worth every penny to us, but especially to you... God has something to do with the fun too!! Come, enjoy!

YOURLIFE Super Camp

June 14 - 19

(NOTE: Young Juniors camp June 14 - 17)

Emmanuel Pines Camp

Young Junior (2nd Grade – 3rd Grade)

Junior (4th Grade – 6th Grade)

Junior High (7th Grade – 9th Grade)

It is **VERY IMPORTANT** that campers register for their appropriate age-level camp. The three “transitional” ages, incoming 4th graders, 6th graders, and 9th graders, may have unique needs or preferences of camp sessions based on their emotional, social, and physical maturity levels, and camp experience.

YOURLIFE Senior High Camp

May 31 - June 5

Pinerock Camp

Senior High (9th Grade – Class of 2015)

Please contact the Conference Office if you would like to discuss which camp might be best for your child and space availability. SW Conference Phone: 800-822-0821

FCC Pays the cost for each camper... more information in Perkins Hall

Thank you SW Conference Delegates and Committee Leaders!



Delegates:

John McCurdy

Julie McCurdy

Judy Daly

Tawnya Worthington

Julie Jaquette

COCAM Representative

Pete Norum

Mission Board

Al Beeson

Serving the Church

CABINET

Moderator	John McCurdy
Vice Moderator	Bret Ely
Treasurer	Harry Gamble
Clerk	Julie McCurdy
Trustee Chair	John Huff
Congregation Care Chair	Judy Ely
Ministry Education Chair	
Outreach Chair	Barbara McClure
Church Relations	
Member at Large	Sylvia Staats

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

Marilyn Kerstine, Chair
Alice Kring

CONGREGATION CARE (DEACONS)

Judy Ely, Chair
Julie McCurdy
Ronny de Jong, Home Ministry
Merlin Christy, Assist w/ Home Ministry
Kathy Stephens, Receptions
Anne Solt
Lee Ruether

TRUSTEES

John Huff, Chair
Al Beeson
Don Stephens

WORSHIP

Judy Daly, Chair
Linda Foote
Marilyn Kerstine
Jane Osborne
Barbara Redmond

OUTREACH MINISTRY

Barbara McClure, Chair
Donna Bauman
Mike de Jong
Gary Gard
Patty Gard

CALLED TO CARE

Marilyn Kerstine, Chair
Donna Baumann
Barbara McClure
Jim Jackson
Dawn Sherman
Kathy Stephens
Lee Ruether

WOMAN'S FELLOWSHIP

Sylvia Staats, Treasurer

FOUNDATION

Dave Foote, President
Mike de Jong, Vice President
John Huff, Trustee Chair
Al Beeson, Treasurer
Angela Imbierowicz, Secretary

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor	Dr. Jay Wilcher
Office Administrator	Julie Jaquette
Director of Music	Jane Osborne
Organist / Bell Choir	Carole Sue Linson
Custodian	Bill Linson
Child Care	Tarah Jones
Coffee Coordinator	Debbie Staats

Contact Us:

Church Address:

216 E. Gurley Street
Prescott, AZ 86301

Phone: 928-445-4555

Email: fccprescott@gmail.com

Pastor Jay

Monday - Thursday: 9 - 12
Other times by appointment
Cell: 928-899-9066
jayfccprescott@gmail.com

Julie Jaquette

Mondays: 1 - 4
Tuesday - Friday: 8 - 4
Cell: 928-710-1379
juliefccprescott@gmail.com



Sunday, May 10th, Mother's Day

- Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary - 9:00 am
- Exploring Faith Class, Church Library - 9:00 am
- Worship Service, Sanctuary - 10:30 am
- Las Fuentes, 3:00 pm

Monday, May 11th

- Exploring Faith, Church Library - 6:30

Wednesday, May 13th

- Agape Soup Supper, Perkins Hall - 5:30 pm

Friday, May 15th

- Lay Academy, Perkins Hall - 5:00 - 9:00 pm
8:30 am - 4:00 pm

Saturday, May 16th

- Lay Academy, Perkins Hall - 8:30 am - 4:00 pm

Sunday, May 17th, Message by Rev. Dr. John Dorhauer

- Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary - 9:00 am,
- Exploring Faith Class, Church Library - 9:00 am
- Worship Service, Sanctuary - 10:30 am

Monday, May 18th

- Exploring Faith, Church Library - 6:30

Tuesday, May 19th

- Knit Wits, Church Conference Room - 1:00 pm

Thursday, May 21st

- Las Fuentes Spiritual Living Class, Las Fuentes - 10:00 am
- Outreach Committee Meeting, Church Office Conference Room - 10:30 am

Sunday, May 24th, Pentecost - Lay Lead Service

- Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary - 9:00 am
- Exploring Faith, Library - 9:00 am
- Worship Service, Sanctuary - 10:30 am

Monday, May 25th

- Exploring Faith, Church Library - 6:30

Tuesday, May 26th

- Called to Care Meeting, Church Office Conference Room - 2:00 pm

Thursday, May 28th

- Cabinet Meeting, Church Office Conference Room - 6:30 pm

Sunday, May 31st, Volunteer Appreciation



Anniversaries

Roland & Carolyn Daly-Wood 05/26

Birthdays

Gerri Lyons	05/03
Matt Ely	05/04
Doris Hille	05/10
Carolyn Daly-Wood	05/12
Anne Solt	05/18
Lynne O'Dell	05/19
Lisa Sandberg	05/19
Kris Chatfield	05/22
Joanne Lussier	05/25
Beth Bradstreet	05/26
Sarah Huff	05/26