

SPRING HAS SPRUNG

First Congregational Church

a letter from the pastor

Greetings,

A few items to share:

- I saw the Perkins Hall floor on Friday – it is done and shining like glass! Thanks to Tom and David for being there to help the floor finisher in and out. By the way, it was the same guy who worked on the church office floors during our renovation years ago.
- I continue to be amazed at the views our online services are getting. We are up to 281 for Easter, 251 for Palm Sunday, and over 150 for the other Sundays. The numbers seem to grow for each service as time goes on. I watch a lot of other church online services, and I must say our music is best! And our sound and video are better than most – thanks Jim! And thanks to all who contributed to our upgrades in this area in the last two years. Little did we know...
- Mother's Day is Sunday – will be the strangest one we have ever had.
- We should be getting guidance from Gov. Ducey and our Southwest Conference about easing restrictions in the next weeks. The church Cabinet will make decisions regarding our opening again. The local Jewish temple president has closed his temple at least through May. I will be surprised if congregations open up anytime soon. The CDC guidelines suggest social distancing in the pews and the use of face masks, so I doubt that will draw a crowd if we were to open.
- I will be taking my sabbatical during June, July, and August. I think it is the best time since we are disrupted anyway. Our retired clergy are covering the worship services and pastoral care. I will be planning services and sermons for the year ahead and enjoying a personal retreat from Zoom and an empty sanctuary. Thanks to Stacy Robbins for putting the sabbatical brochure together – and for Dennis McCollough doing the art on the cover. It can be found on our website.
- Since we do not know what the future holds, we are working on several budget revisions, from worst-case scenarios to everything in between. We are well-positioned to survive this pandemic regardless of how long it takes. Having no mortgage debt is certainly a blessing.
- On a lighter note, I received this picture from Ronda Hatfield – used her sewing skills on a nearby tree and brought laughter to her neighborhood.



Let us know of any needs you may have.

God bless and stay safe! Jay



[WATCH WORSHIP SERVICE HERE](#)

Celebrate our Graduate Sarah Andrews

One of our own, Sarah Andrews is graduating "Virtually" tomorrow at NAU

Sarah is a student at NAU graduating in spring 2020 with a Bachelor of Science in Parks and Recreation Management with an emphasis in Community and Public Administration. She graduates with a Certificate in Accounting as well. She is passionate about the protection of public lands and the provision of inclusive access to community resources.

Sarah is a Clerk at East Flagstaff Community Library and currently waiting for the word to reenter work this month. She is member of the First Congregational Church in Prescott and is grateful for your prayers and support. "My Sarah has excelled in her studies at NAU, and will be graduating with Honors and I am so proud of her." -- Julie Jaquette



"Prayers and blessings on your graduation and for your future!"

MISSION OUTREACH NEWS

**Frontera
de
Cristo**



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.

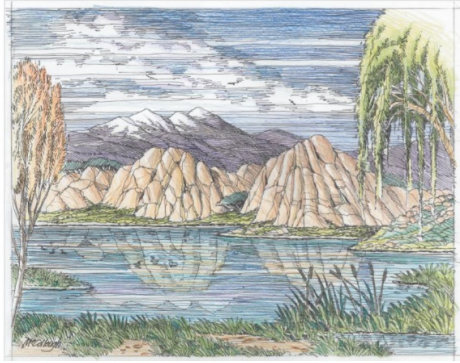
Thanks to your generous support, so far this year the following checks have been sent. [1] Prescott Community Cupboard, \$1586 [2] Prescott Women's Shelter (PASS), \$1205 [3] Prescott Habitat for Humanity, \$525 [4] One Great Hour of Sharing, \$525, and [5] DACA Fund assistance, \$600.

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/sabbatical>.

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



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

Visit our website

SUPPORT YOUR CHURCH DURING CORONAVIRUS!

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- 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 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.

Celebrating
140 Years

