

A Message from Pastor Jay

This Sunday is Pentecost Sunday. It is the birthday of the Church (Acts 2:1-21) and the recognition of the gift of the Holy Spirit to all. Sadly, it is also the one year anniversary of the killing of George Floyd. The need for racial justice continues as numerous other black men and women have died from police shootings this past year. We pray the "winds of change" might blow from the power of the Holy Spirit. Ann and Caleb join us once again to provide music!
JJ celebrates the birthday of the Church in the midst of a mighty wind.

**WELCOMING EVERYONE BACK
TO WORSHIP AT 10:30 AM!**

**Per CDC Guidelines, Masks are Optional,
Social Distancing Measures Have Been
Lifted, But Individuals May Still Choose To
Distance As Desired. We No Longer Have The
8:30AM Service and Have Moved 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**

PENTECOST SUNDAY
REMEMBRANCE OF GEORGE FLOYD'S DEATH: MAY 25, 2020

May 23, 2021

10:30 a.m.

GATHERING TO WORSHIP GOD

*Holy God, like a rushing wind your Spirit moved upon the first disciples on the day of Pentecost,
and like a purifying fire your Spirit seared their hearts and minds with the message of salvation.*

*Send your Spirit upon your church in this time and place, stir up our courage, and rouse us for
prophetic witness, that we may join with them to proclaim to the world your mighty deeds of power
in Jesus*

Christ. Amen.

Prelude: "Spirit Wind" by Scott Soper

A Time for Children Of All Ages - JJ

Words of Welcome – Announcements - Passing of the Peace

Litany for Pentecost
Flanagan

Ann

L: Come, Spark of justice: enliven our passion for those who are imprisoned behind bars and fears;

ALL: those held captive by prejudices and poverty.

L: Come, Shelter for life: calm us when our worries toss and turn us in the night;

ALL: comfort us when hurtful words silence all around us.

L: Come, Advocate of the oppressed:

ALL: tear down the walls of silence which keep us from hearing our neighbors;

L: build bridges across the widening chasms of our rampant isolationism.

Come, Creator of mystery:

ALL: Open our eyes to the wonders of this life you have provided.

Hymn: "Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness"

New Century Hymnal #286

PROCLAIMING GOD'S

WORD

Call to Reconciliation
Flanagan

Ann

In a cult of the individual, we forget we are created to be in community. In a world which tells us it is all up to us, we overlook Jesus' promise that we are not left alone, but gifted with the Spirit of hope, peace, and joy. Let us confess our lives to our God, who will make us one in grace and wonder. Join together, as we pray saying,

Unison Prayer for Forgiveness
Flanagan

Ann

Spirit of life, we confess that our fears drive us into the shadowed places of our

lives. We pull the shutters tight to close out the light of your love. We slide the deadbolt crafted out of our doubts, and turn the key to lock us away from your searching grace. But you will not remain at arm's length from us, Spirit of cleansing. You rush in to sweep away our worries, replacing them with wonder. You dance in our cold hearts until they ignite in love for everyone around us. You offer oldsters visions of hope, and youngsters dreams of peace for a broken world. May we be as faithful in our believing, and in our living, as was Jesus Christ. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon (Psalm 103:8-14)
Flanagan

Ann

The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. God does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is God's steadfast love toward those who fear God; as far as the east is from the west, so far God removes our transgressions from us.

New Testament Reading: Acts 2:1-21

Pastor Jay

Hymn: "Every Time I Feel the Spirit" NCH #282 African-American Spiritual

Sermon: "The Winds of Change"

Pastor Jay

RESPONDING TO GOD'S

GRACE

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

Offering of Ourselves and our
Gifts

Prayer of Dedication
Flanagan

Ann

We delight in your Creation, Loving God. We rejoice in your hopes, visions and dreams. In a spirit of thanksgiving, we ask that you give us the courage to take our gifts and talents to build and not bury. Amen.

Hymn: "This Little Light of Mine"

Benediction

Pastor Jay

**First Congregational Church of Prescott
United Church of Christ
216 E. Gurley Street**

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.

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

Worship Will Be At 10:30am Each Sunday

Per CDC Guidelines, Masks are Optional, Social Distancing Measures Have Been Lifted, But Individuals May Still Choose To Distance As Desired. No Congregational Singing At This Time.

Nursery and Sunday school at the 10:30am service

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 mail 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

