



# First Congregational Church



## GREETINGS!

We continue our journey through uncharted territory. When and how to reopen worship will be discussed Tuesday night at the Cabinet meeting. I invite you to do your own research on the impact of gatherings of 50-100 people in closed spaces during COVID-19. I have read the guidelines offered by the Presbyterian, Methodist, Episcopal, and Lutheran judicatories, in addition to our own UCC phased approach from our conference minister. All are advocating cautious, science-led approaches. And all are placing the health and safety of our congregants as priority one. There is a common understanding that a fourteen day decrease in reported new cases of the virus is the starting point for even beginning a limited reopen. Arizona is still on the incline of new cases at this point. The tough decisions will come when we are faced with limited reopening until a vaccine is available: limited attendance of 50 maximum; mask wearing; six-feet of distance between attendees; no singing; etc. Two services would be needed - reservations? A-M last name at one service - N-Z last name at the next? It makes you pray hard for a vaccine!

Plans for the summer months have changed for all of us. My ideas for a sabbatical have also changed. Not much travel will be possible. I hope to recover from Zoom exhaustion! I hope to clear my mind and work on the upcoming church year. And clear my mind for fresh epiphanies. Preaching to an empty sanctuary has been very difficult. I am grateful for the time away and for our other clergy who will lead us through the summer.

Harry will create the Zoom invite for Sundays at 10am and Thursday at 10am and guide those calls. After consulting with Ralph, I think it best to suspend the Sunday morning Zoom worship as part of that call - it was hard and awkward to do anyway.

Ralph will be leading the weekly Bible Study Zoom - day and time to be determined by those who have been coming.

Here is a look at the summer ahead:

- Sabbatical Schedule of Sundays - Guest Preachers
- Ralph - first 2 Sundays in June
- Gary - last 2 Sundays of June
- Lloyd - first 2 Sundays of July
- Bill - last 2 Sundays of July
- Harry - first Sunday of August
- Jane - second and third Sundays of August
- Michael Friday (Ralph's professor friend from New Jersey via recording) - fourth and fifth Sundays of August

Stay safe! Jay

[Watch Worship Services Here](#)

[Info on Coronavirus and the Church](#)

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR TREASURER

We were so thrilled to receive a grant of \$24,250 from the Small Business Administration for the Paycheck Protection Program! As it turns out, we didn't actually qualify for this grant and the funds have now been returned.

This may seem as a bit of a let-down, but in reality it's a GOOD THING! We are so blessed to have received generous donations and bequests from past members, which we hold in reserve for emergencies or non-budget expenses. Much of these gifts were received with no restrictions placed by the donors. And because of these unrestricted funds, the SBA does not consider our church in need of the covid-19 relief stimulus grant.

So, where does that leave us, financially? We currently have a budget which anticipates a shortfall of more than \$32,000. In order to close that gap, we must consider reducing our spending, or we must receive more income—either from increased donations or from relying on our reserves. Remember, the reserve funds are NOT UNLIMITED! And their intended use was never for regular budget expenses.

Added to the challenge of a deficit budget, we also have the new challenges created by the pandemic and the need for closing the church building to all activities, including meetings and worship. Your church cabinet is working hard, and praying hard, to work out a revised budget which allows for a potential decrease in income and offsets the deficit by decreasing budget spending. We'll keep you posted!

Julie McCurdy, treasurer

## DURING CORONAVIRUS!

### SUPPORT YOUR CHURCH DURING CORONAVIRUS!

- 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.

## PRESCOTT COMMUNITY CUPBOARD PACKERS



Many thanks to our FCC packer teams who volunteered their time to bag groceries at Prescott Community Cupboard which serves the needy members of our community. Each person with previous experience bagging at PCC was eager to assist during this difficult time and to adapt to the new procedure required to maintain their safety during the distribution.

Week of March 23, 2020: Sonja & John Wilson, Patty Brenner & Marie Kissel, Patty Lantrip & Sue Hodge-Parker, Patty Brenner (who volunteered to serve a 2nd time) & Angela Imbierowicz, David Foote

Week of May 11, 2020: Pete Norum & Bill Linson, Linda & Davie Foote, Sonja & John Wilson, Patty Brenner & Marie Kissel, Sue Hodge-Parker & Patty Lantrip

## MISSION OUTREACH NEWS

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

Donations will help support two mission projects.

**Frontera  
de  
Cristo**



- 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.

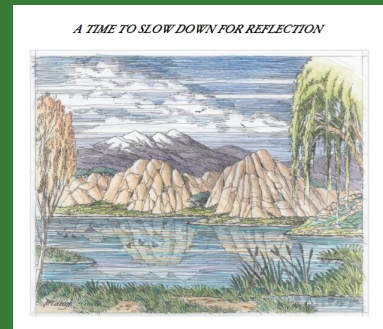
## PASTOR JAY'S SABBATICAL

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  
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