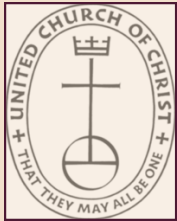


The Parish Caller

"No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here."

May 20, 2016



First Congregational
Church, United
Church of Christ,
Prescott

FEATURED THIS ISSUE

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Greetings from John McCurdy and Marti Garrison!

Over the next three weeks two tables in Perkins Hall will be set up and covered with paper. One of the tables is for your ideas on **vision** and the other is for your ideas on **mission**. We are asking that you write a word or short phrase on the paper about what you think our vision and mission could be.



The vision table will be for what we want to become, what motivates us. The mission table is for how we work towards what we want.

There are no limits for the ideas you wish to convey. Ideas that are repeated are good. Ones we have in common will show what we want to emphasize and what is important to us.

At the end of the three weeks we will consolidate these ideas into statements and present them in a series of workshops where we all will solidify the phrasing and share our thoughts with each other. Following these workshops we will gather for a congregational vote.

Please participate in every way that you can. It is vital for our community as we develop in our relationship with God and each other.

John McCurdy—Moderator

Marti Garrison—Vice-Moderator



We have on average, 2-3 preschoolers that attend our nursery on a semi-regular basis. Our “Safe Church Policy” states that we need two people watching the children during Worship Service.

This is an important ministry to our families! The Children are a delight! If you would like to help out and be there is a sign-up sheet in Perkins Hall.

Open Space and
The Bible by:
Chuck Budinger

Open Space and the Bible

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 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 provides the vegetation necessary to filter and settle contaminants in stormwater that are washed off our roads, yards, parking lots, and roofs. A healthy ecosystem amongst the sub-urban 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.*

BE THE CHURCH

Protect the environment.
Care for the poor.

Forgive often.

Reject racism.

Fight for the powerless.

Share earthly and spiritual resources.

Embrace diversity.

Love God.

Enjoy this life.

**Open Space and
the Bible
Continued By
Chuck Budinger**

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—*

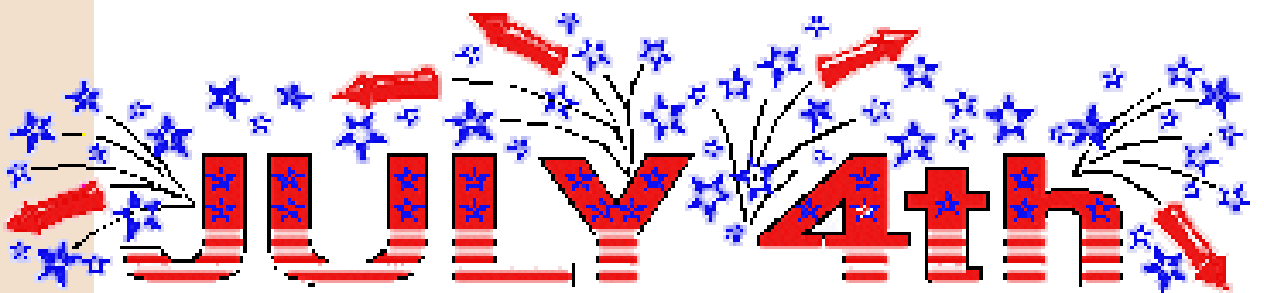
Over and over again in the Psalms, the Glory of God is exemplified by his Creation. The temporal creation points to his eternal essence. We as his children should work tirelessly to preserve and enhance this creation and protect it from wanton development and growth of man-made habitat that does not glorify God.

* See Psalms 147 and 148.



Join us Sunday for a picnic in Perkins Hall following the church service to commemorate Memorial Day.

Church Wide Annual Fourth of July Church Pancake Breakfast. We need a lot of hands to make this effort successful. Sign-up sheet in Perkin's Hall.



Frontier's Day 4th of July Parade. We are entered in the parade this year and we need help and participants. Please see Julie Jaquette or John Huff for more information.

Summer Activities

Summer Activities

SAVE THE DATE!

- The choir** is on sabbatical June and July. We will return to the service on August 7th. Rehearsals will reconvene July 17.
- June 2:** Congratulations to Sarah Elizabeth Huff on her graduation from the Arizona College of Optometry with a Doctor of Optometry degree, Beta Sigma Kappa. The graduation ceremony will be at Midwestern University Auditorium, June 2 at 9:30 am.
- June 3:** Woman’s Fellowship 10:00 am to 11:30:30 am. For those that can stay let’s do lunch on the square!
- June 9:** Homeless “Safe Sleep” community solution meeting 6:00 pm.
- June 11:** Lions Club Pancake Breakfast. Come and support their benefit.
- July 2:** Annual Fourth of July Church Pancake Breakfast. We need a lot of hands to make this effort successful. Sign-up sheet in Perkin’s Hall.
- July 2:** Frontier Day’s 4th of July Parade. We are entered in the parade this year and we need help and participants. Please see Julie Jaquette or John Huff for more information.
- July 14-16:** Habitat For Humanity Bike & Build Group Staying at the church (30 members) Please see Julie Jaquette on how you can help with this.
- July 17:** Rehearsals for the choir will reconvene.
- September 25:** Church Picnic, more information to come!

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WHATS HAPPENING AT FCC

Try our SignUpGenius on our website: www.fccprescott.org

CHOIR PRACTICE ON
HOLD THROUGH THE
SUMMER See Jane
Osborn if you would
like to join the choir!
BELL CHOIR PRACTICE
at 11 am on Thursdays

KNIT WITS meets the
1st & 3rd Tuesdays of
every month from 1-
3 pm in the Office
Conference Room.

Funky Friday Game
Night Hosted by
PFLAG
Everyone Welcome!
7-9 pm
1st Friday of every
Month starting in
November

PASS MEAL is a once-a-
month ministry where
we provide a meal for
the Prescott Area Shelter
Services the 3rd
Wednesday of every
month at 5:30 pm. Sign-
up sheet is in Perkins
Hall.

CALLED TO CARE MINISTRY meets the
2th Tuesday of every month from 2-4
pm in the Office Conference Room. If
you are interested in being part of
this ministry, see Marilyn Kerstine.

CABINET MEETING meets
the 4th Thursday of every
month at 6:30 pm in the
Office Conference Room.

PFLAG SUPPORT GROUP
meets the 3rd Friday of
every month at 6:30 pm
in the Church Library. See
Julie J. for more details.

EXPLORING FAITH
Living the Questions Study Group
Sunday Mornings at 9 am in the Church
Library
~And~
Monday Evening Discussion Group 6 pm
in the Church Library

LAS FUENTES
1035 Scott Dr., Prescott
SPIRITUAL LIVING Class is
held the 3rd Thursday of
every month at 10 am,
led by Called to Care
Ministry.
~And~
Worship Service is also
held the 2nd Sunday of
every month at 3 pm, led
by Pastor Jay.

Contact Us:
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fccprescott@gmail.com
Administration Office Hours
Mondays: 9:00 - 4:00
Tuesday - Friday: 9:00 - 1:00
Pastor Jay
Monday - Thursday
9:00 - 1:00
Other times by appointment
Cell: 928-899-9066
jayfccprescott@gmail.com