

The Parish Caller May 7, 2021

A Message from Pastor Jay

Mother's Day is the Sunday. We will look at John 16:9-17 as part of Jesus' last instructions to his disciples. We will also consider the feminine Sophia - Wisdom as counterpart to Logos - Word in the Bible. JJ introduces me to his mother. He remembers the wisdom his mother shared with him.

We are now open to the public! Two services are providing plenty of social distancing opportunities. Let's all get vaccinated!

**In-Person Worship 8:30 am & 10:30 am
CDC Guidelines Followed**

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

BULLETIN

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER – MOTHER'S DAY

May 9, 2021

10:30 a.m.

GATHERING TO WORSHIP GOD

God, on this day set aside to honor and remember mothers, we give you thanks for our mothers. We are grateful that you chose to give us life through them, and that they received the gift of life from your hands, and gave it to us. Thank you for the sacrifices they made in carrying us and giving us birth. We thank you for the women who raised us, who were our mothers in childhood. Whether birth mom, adopted mom, older sister, aunt, grandmother, stepmother or someone else, we thank you for those women who held us and fed us, who cared for us and kissed away our pain. We pray that our lives may reflect the love they showed us, and that they would be pleased to be called our moms.

Prelude: "Make a Joyful Noise" by Cary Landry

Words of Welcome – Announcements - Passing of the Peace

Call to Worship - Diane Mares

One: All who gather here are sons or daughters.

All: We praise God for the women who gave us life.

One: For mothers brave, strong, compassionate, full of wisdom and grace,

All: We give God thanks and praise.

One: For mothers vulnerable, worried, frustrated, and hurried,

All: We pray for peace.

One: For relationships that are strained and no longer a source of joy,

All: We pray for healing.

One: For mothers who have died,

All: We pray for those that mourn, and give God thanks for life eternal.

One: For mothers who grieve, who have lost children born or unborn,

All: We weep with those with broken hearts.

One: For those who are struggling to raise children, who are tired and weary,

All: We pray that we may be their village, offering real help in hard times.

One: For stepmothers, navigating the pitfalls and joys of creating a new family,

All: We pray for wisdom and patience.

One: For Grandmothers who are doing the hard work of raising children again,

All: We pray the caregivers have those who care for them.

One: For those who are waiting and sometimes struggling with the biological process to bring new life, and for those who are waiting for an adoptive process to be fulfilled.

All: We wait eagerly with you, and offer you our hand to hold in the trial.

One: For women who do not have children, but instead teach, lead, care for, and guide the children of others,

All: We give you thanks, O God.

Hymn: “Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth” by Jean Janzen

PROCLAIMING GOD’S WORD

Prayer of Invocation - Diane Mares

Lord Jesus, who wishes to gather your people as a mother hen gathers together her chicks, we offer to you our worship. Accept our gratitude for all who mother, bless all who mother, and give all mothers your comfort and strength. We pray for justice and equality for women around the world. For the mothers, sisters, daughters in our midst and around the world; for the women who, created in the image of God, give not just life, but abundant life; for women fighting, struggling, and sweating for the sake of others; for women caring, compassionate, and crying with the heart of Christ; for the caregivers, teachers, leaders, shepherds, healers; for moms, in their wide variety and many forms. And help all of us to be your family on earth, as we shall be in Heaven. Amen.

Gospel Reading: John 15:9-17 Diane Mares

Hymn: "Sing a New Song" (Psalm 98)

Sermon: "Our Mother Wisdom – Hagia Sophia"

Pastor Jay

RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE

Prayers of the People / The Lord's Prayer

Offering of Ourselves and our Gifts

Prayer of Dedication - Diane Mares

O God, receive these gifts, bless them and multiply them, that they may strengthen and unify the work of your Church here and around the earth you love. Amen.

Hymn: "No Greater Love" by Michael Joncas

Benediction

Pastor Jay

The Lord's Supper (open to all)

Communion is self-serve. Tom will direct each pew to come forward for communion. After receiving the elements, please exit to Perkins Hall to view our historical items, or out the Gurley Street door for continued fellowship.

Postlude: "All Things Bright and Beautiful" English Melody

Zoom Opportunities: Bible Study Sat. 10am / After Church Fellowship Sunday 2pm The Church office remains closed. Phone messages and emails are checked regularly.

Serving the Church

Ministers All the People of the Church

Pastor Rev. Dr. Jay Wilcher

Pastor Emeritus Rev. Robert Bradstreet

Worship Leader Diane Mares

Alter Notes Director Melissa Gates

Organist Brian Moore

Co-Moderators Melissa Gates & Bill Bryant

Minister of the Building Rev. Bill Linson

Facilities Coordinator Tom Macy

Video Technician James Logsdon

Facility & Grounds Manager David Tyrrell

First Congregational Church of Prescott

United Church of Christ

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Prescott, AZ 86301

www.fccprescott.org

www.facebook.com/FccUccPrescott

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

We are officially open to the public! CDC guidelines are still followed – masks, social distancing, no congregational singing, etc. At this point some have been fully vaccinated and some not, so please continue to follow CDC guidelines another few more months until all are vaccinated, A good number of our faithful and involved members moved during the last year to be near family in other states, so we hope to have our own resurrection this year – your gifts and talents are welcome here – we need you! - musical gifts, volunteers for the office, new study and fellowship opportunities, after worship refreshments, etc. Let us know of your gifts and availability. We will continue with 8:30 and 10:30 am worship each week for spacing needs until the virus is under control. We will see whether we want to continue the two services. So much is unknown at this point – we journey forward by faith!

Zoom Opportunities: Bible Study Sat. 10am / After Church Fellowship Sunday 2pm The Church office remains officially closed. Phone messages and emails are checked regularly.

Our new tenant at the restaurant will be “Red, White, and Brew” (There is a location in Mesa already). After renovations, a tentative opening late summer is planned. The lease is for ten years with possible extensions. Our thanks to the Church Foundation members and attorney Tom Lloyd for all their work!

MAY WORSHIP

In-Person Worship Sundays 8:30 & 10:30 AM

**May 2 Abiding in Christ
Orthodox Easter John 15:1-8**

May 9 Mothers Day - John 15: 9-17

May 16 Sabbath Rest - Psalm 1

**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/>)

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

We are offering 8:30 & 10:30 AM In- Person Worship services for spacing requirements. Masks required. No congregational singing yet. COVID-19 spread and cases will be monitored and adjustments made as needed.

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

