



# The Parish Caller

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

## *Merry Christmas and* **A JUST WORLD FOR ALL**



Christmas Eve Candle  
Light Service  
December 24th at  
7:00 p.m.



First Congregational Church Annual

*We invite you to join us*

# CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON



& POTLUCK

DECEMBER 23ND  
Sunday 11:30 am

Perkins Hall

EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO ATTEND

The holidays are here once again  
Let's gather together!  
Bring a dish to share with all  
ANGLE TREE GIFT DAY

PosterMyWall.com



**BIRTHDAYS**  
THIS MONTH

### DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Jay Eby December 24  
Dillan Osborn December 25  
Don Stephens December 25  
Christopher Hoit December 27

STEWARDSHIP BOOKLET

PLEDGE CARD

Name: _____		SAVE THIS STUB FOR YOUR RECORDS	
Address: _____		MY PLEDGE	
City: _____	State: _____ Zip: _____	Each Week <input type="checkbox"/>	
Each Week <input type="checkbox"/> or Each Month <input type="checkbox"/>	I plan to give: _____	Each Month <input type="checkbox"/>	
For an annual total of \$ _____ Date: _____		\$ _____ Annual Total \$ _____	
Signed: _____			





## THANK ALL OF YOU

For all the dear people that brought in the Angel Tree gifts for our kids. Do not forget that we need them all under the tree by this Sunday morning. If you need to drop yours off because you can not make it, let Julie J. know 928-710-1379

**A big THANK YOU from Tom, Debbie and Julie for the anonymous Christmas card and gift --- We really appreciate it!!**

## ARIZONA TAX CREDIT DONATION FOR DISCOVERY GARDENS PRESCHOOL

We adopted Discovery Gardens preschool two years ago to give them modest assistance. Our church headed by Rev. Gary Gard, outreach committee chairman, has been donating money for supplies. We lent our sanctuary for their graduation ceremony in the past. A small number of church members are also volunteering to help teachers. However, they have an urgent funding needs as 4-year state grant of \$200,000 per year expires next year. This money is used to support students coming from working poor families (They call Scholarship).



Discovery Gardens currently has 176 students including full time and part time students. Among them, 54 students are from working poor families who only can attend due to the scholarships. They also have a special student program. I see a quarter of them are autistic student in most classes. They are great kids. Currently, 11 three-year-old are on the waiting list for scholarships. They often must turn away crying parents due to the lack of funding. Without the state grant next school year, they must turn away more students and layoff teachers. As you know some of their teachers and assistants are helping our Sunday school.

Here is the great news! Prescott Sunrise Lions Club recently approved to receive donations for Discovery Gardens. Your donation to this program will be qualified for Arizona Tax Credits up to \$800 for a couple and \$400 for a single. Currently, People donating to preschool cannot receive this tax credit due to the state law. Therefore, they must use an intermediate organization who qualifies to be helping working-poor-families. All your money designated for Discovery Garden will go to them. It is totally legitimate, and the Lions club has been donating money to support schools and poor families for years this way. Their current year donation is about \$150,000. That is a big amount for a small club. Stacy Williams, Discovery Gardens director has searched for an organization for over two years and her effort finally came through.

The below is the link to Prescott Sunrise Lions Club donations page. Click discovery Gardens logo you will find in the middle of their web page to see how to donate. If you have any question, I can answer or go to Discovery Gardens office.

**<http://www.prescottsunriselionsclub.org/donate/>**

I visit our church for a prayer chapel, a bible study and meetings on weekdays. It is great to see kids in Discovery Gardens playground every time I park my car in front of them. Do you think it is just a coincidence that someone placed them next to us (I am not saying God as he is very busy at this time of year, but probably him)? They are silently asking for our help (I am loud sometimes).

God Bless, Yoichi Matsumoto

# MISSIONS



## AND OUTREACH

### MISSIONS OUTREACH FOR DECEMBER

Our December mission emphasis includes;

1. "UCC Christmas Fund: supports low income clergy and their spouses, and
2. Our DACA Assistance Fund, which helps college age DACA students meet the expenses of paying out-of-state tuition and the expense of applying for the renewal of their DACA status.

Questions are welcome to any of our Mission Outreach team members: Gary Gard, Chr, Becky and Bill Bryant, Patty Gard, Staci Robbins. As always, thank you for supporting our church's ministries of justice and compassion. We have been blessed to be a blessing. (Genesis 12:2)

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## ADULT EDUCATION

**Postponed until February 2019: "Personal Spiritual Journey, etc. and "Social Justice, etc.**

What does social justice mean for us? What were the Social Gospel and Liberation Theology and how have those movements shaped our understanding of social justice? What actions can each of us take, can the church take to shape justice in our communities?

**"Reading the Parables: Many interpretations, No easy answers."** A discussion group. Dates and times to be announced, starting early in 2019.

**"Homosexuality and the Bible (and the UCC): what do the scriptures really say?"** Either a one-day seminar or a series of presentations. February 2019

**"Women in the Bible: a women's retreat"** Spring, 2019. Powerful women, unnamed women, "bad girls," suffering women, joyful women. We will look at the texts and play around with alternative versions. The library has many good books on theology through a woman's eyes and experiences.

Look over the books under the Christian Education bulletin board for possible topics for small group discussions or for seminars. These books plus many resources in our library will inspire us to take on new and unexpected opportunities. All the topics and formats you have indicated on the forms you returned will be scheduled as best as possible. Thank you! See me for thoughts, suggestions, and questions. Rev. Marti Garrison, Director of Christian Education.

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**CHRISTMAS CHURCH POTLUCK MEAL -  
DECEMBER 23 AFTER WORSHIP --- Bring  
your dish before the service on Sunday,  
and stay for our Annual Christmas Potluck**

**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE - DECEMBER 24 AT 7:00 PM**

### ALAN MICHAEL'S BONE MARROW TRANSPLANT

Please help - If you are under 60, go to the national registry at [bethematch.org](http://bethematch.org).  
If over 60, go to [bonemarrowtest.com](http://bonemarrowtest.com). Monies are available to cover the cost.

### PASTOR BIBLE STUDY EVERY THURSDAY, 9:30-10:30 AM

Pastor Jay leads a weekly Bible Study on Thursdays at 9:30 am in the church office.

### RINGING BELLS REHEARSAL 9:00 THURSDAYS

We are looking for new ringers that would like to come and try with us. It is necessary that you read treble clef music. Call if you are interested. Director Carole Sue Linson M.M. 928 717 4494

**ACTIVITY BAGS**

To help your little ones pass the time before the Children’s Time, you will find colored activity bags hanging on the entry doors of the sanctuary for the children to enjoy. Please leave these activity bags in the pews when the children leave for Sunday school.

# Regularly Scheduled

**PASTOR’S BIBLE STUDY**

An informal study group meets on Thursday mornings at 9:30 a.m. in Conference room. All adults are welcome.

**EVERY WEEK COMMUNION**

“Every Sunday Communion” takes place in the sanctuary after worship on Sundays. Communion is open to all.

**ONCE A MONTH COMMUNION**

Our regularly scheduled communion is held the first Sunday of each month. Communion is open to all.

**PASS MEAL**

Once a month we provide a meal for the Prescott Area Shelter Services the 3rd Wednesday of every month at 5:00 p.m. Sign-up sheet is in Perkins Hall.

**CABINET MEETING**

Meets the 4th Thursday of every month at 6:00 pm in the Office Conference Room.

**VAN MINISTRY**

If you need a ride to church on Sunday mornings, please let Bill Rouse know by the Saturday before. 602-769-5770

**THE RINGING BELL CHOIR PRACTICE**

If you would be interested in playing with us, we will train you! This is a fun and rewarding contribution to our worship. We meet for rehearsal at 9:00 a.m. on Thursdays.

**CHANCEL SINGERS**

If you like to sing, the Chancel Singers are eager to increase membership. We meet Sundays at 9:00 a.m. before worship services.

**ALTER-NOTES**

Alter-Notes is an alternative music group that meets at 12:00 for rehearsal on the Chancel each Sunday. If you like to sing or can play an instrument, we are looking for new members. We play folk, pop, Celtic, spirituals and anything else. Contact Melissa Gates phone: 207-391-3276

**SUNDAY SCHOOL OPTIONS**

Parents may take children to Sunday school downstairs before the service begins, or wait until the children’s time with the pastor and then go to Sunday school. Children are also welcome to stay in the worship service at the discretion of the parent(s).



## CONTACT US

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
PRESCOTT, UCC**  
216 E. Gurley Street, Prescott, AZ 86301  
Office: 928-445-4555  
Pastor Jay: 928-899-9066  
Julie: 928-710-1379

**ADMINISTRATION**  
Monday - Thursday 9:00 - 4:00  
Friday 9:00 - 1:00  
**PASTOR JAY**  
Monday - Thursday 9:00 - 1:00  
other times by appointment