

The Parish Caller

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

November 13, 2015

First Congregational
Church, United
Church of Christ,
Prescott



FEATURED THIS ISSUE

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This Week at a Glance...

- ◆ **Exploring Faith** Monday Night Discussion Group 6:30 pm
- ◆ **Outreach Meeting** 10 am Tuesday
- ◆ **Knit Wits** from 1-3, Tuesday
- ◆ **P.I.E.** 5:30 pm Wednesday
- ◆ **Interfaith Thanksgiving at Sacred Heart** 6:30 pm Wednesday
- ◆ **Bell Choir Rehearsal** at 11 am Thursday
- ◆ **Foundation Meeting** 3:30 Thursday
- ◆ **Cabinet Meeting** at 6:30 pm Thursday
- ◆ **Transgender Day of Remembrance** 7 pm Friday
- ◆ **Harmony and Hot Fudge** 2 pm Saturday
- ◆ **Exploring Faith** Sunday Discussion Group 9 am

From the Pastor

This past Saturday night we attended the Habitat For Humanity gala, last month the People Who Care gala, and the month before that the 15th anniversary celebration for The Coalition for Compassion and Justice. Each event was attended by hundreds of people. Reflecting on the experiences, I am impressed at the availability of help in our community, and the list could go on with Community Cupboard, Salvation Army, PAWS women's shelter, Catholic Charities, and plenty of other nonprofits at work in our county. Since so much is being done by these organizations, we are free from having to do so much as a church, and we are free to volunteer our time and talents to one or more of them. I know many of you are doing that already, but my hope and prayer is more of our members will serve on boards of nonprofits and extend our church's mission. If you are interested, let me know.

Our Wednesday night program P.I.E. (Play, Inspire, Eat) for the fall comes to an end next Wednesday with a potluck meal at 5:00 pm. Note the time change – this is so those who wish to go to the Quad City Interfaith Council worship service have extra time to get there at 6:30 pm. Tawnya, Linda, and I have done some evaluation of the ten weeks we gathered, but please let us know your evaluations and ideas as well. We have decided to do two five-week segments next spring: February 17 to March 16 and then April 6 to May 4. Taking a break between will help us refresh. We will be trying different formats, so share your ideas with us. I have been very pleased with the attendance.

Please check out our website – fccprescott.org – Julie has done a good job of continuing to refine and add to it. We now have an online giving option and also the opportunity to sign up to serve in a variety of ways in the church through the use of "SignUpGenius". You will find it under the "serving" and "ways to serve" tabs. We want to move to using SignUpGenius rather than paper sign-ups as it enables us to all know what is going on. We know it will be a learning process for all involved, but once you get used to it, we think you will find it to be a great resource. Lots of churches use it already. No cost – and the system sends you a reminder email when you sign up to do something.

Well, lots more to share, but I am off to the ribbon cutting for the new thrift store for Coalition for Compassion and Justice.

God bless, Jay



November is Stewardship Month

"For surely I know the plans I have for you . . . to give you a future with hope." — Jeremiah 29:11. Our theme this year is "Trust in the Promise." Each household should have received a 2016 budget packet by now. If you have not received yours, you may pick up a packet in Perkins Hall or call me in the church office and I will send you one. After prayerfully considering your pledge and time offerings, place your completed cards in the treasure box in Perkins Hall, or mail them to the church office. Thank you! —Julie Jaquette

EXPLORING FAITH DISCUSSION GROUPS LAUNCH TWO NEW TOPICS:

- ♦ **Sunday Morning 9 am: Living the Questions**
- ♦ **Monday Night 6:30-8:00 pm: Countering Pharaoh’s Production**

Living the Questions — A new Adventure

LtQ2 is an open-minded **alternative** to studies that attempt to give participants all the answers. Instead LtQ2 strives to create an environment where participants can interact with one another in exploring what's next for Christianity. Featuring thirty acclaimed scholars, theologians, and other experts.



What: Presentations in a beautifully produced production by world-renowned Christian thinkers to inspire our study and discussion

Why: To offer a safe and open minded exploration of tough questions asked by open-minded Christians

Who: Open to everyone

Where: Meets in the Church Library at 9 am Sunday mornings

**Exploring Faith Monday Night Discussion Group New Topic:
“Countering Pharaoh’s Production — Consumption Society Today”**

"It is a journey from slavery to covenant that we keep making over and over again ... [because] Pharaoh has immense power always to draw us back into slavery." —Walter Brueggemann

A study for Progressive Christians. Ideal for Advent and Lent, flexible in format and our relaxed atmosphere lends itself to safe and powerful discussion.

WARNING: THIS PROGRAM MAY BE HAZARDOUS TO YOUR CHURCH, SOCIETY AND THE AMERICAN WAY OF LIFE, AND COULD POTENTIALLY HELP RESTORE THE MEANING OF COVENANT.



Featuring Walter Brueggemann

Walter Brueggemann is an Old Testament scholar and retired professor from Columbia Theological Seminary. Also a United Church of Christ minister, Brueggemann has authored hundreds of articles, several biblical commentaries and more than 50 books, including *The Prophetic Imagination*, *Genesis: A Bible Commentary for Teaching and Preaching*, *Finally Comes the Poet*, and *Theology of the Old Testament*.

Song of the Pines presents “Harmony and Hot Fudge Sundae Social”



Song of the Pines Chorus

presents

Harmony &

Hot Fudge Sundae Social

Saturday, Nov. 21st

2:00pm

First Congregational Church

216 East Gurley St. Prescott

Call for Tickets: (928) 778-0888

or (602) 315-8295

Tickets now on sale for \$12.00

Join us for an afternoon of Sweet Harmony



Kick off this holiday season with a performance from “Song of the Pines.” Song of the Pines is a performing and competing Sweet Adeline Chorus that has been an active part of the Prescott music scene for many years.

P.I.E. ("Play, Inspire, Eat") Wednesday Night 5 pm — Pre-Thanksgiving Potluck
Please join us Wednesday night as we end this year’s 10-week segment of P.I.E. as we share a potluck pre-Thanksgiving meal. Those who wish may proceed to Sacred Heart Catholic Church for a Quad City Interfaith Council-sponsored Thanksgiving Worship Service at 6:30 pm. Pastor Jay will be one of four speakers presenting a three minute talk on gratitude. Special musical performances will also be included.

Transgender Day of Remembrance November 20
A ceremony of Hope and Light will be held at 7 pm to remember and honor the transgender persons who have lost their lives, through murder or suicide, in the past year. TDOR is also a day when we renew our commitment to stand with the transgender community whenever their rights and dignity as human beings are under attack.

Harmony & Hot Fudge Sundae Social November 21
Join us for an afternoon of sweet harmony. Song of the Pines Chorus is going to be entertaining at 2 pm. Tickets are on sale for \$12. Call (928) 778-0888 or (602) 315-8295 for more information.

First Sunday of Advent November 29
Join us as we light the first candle of the Advent season. The time-honored tradition of the “Greening of the Church” will take place right after the worship service.

World AIDS Day Special Service December 1
Join us for a special opportunity for people worldwide to unite in the fight against HIV, show their support for people living with HIV, and to commemorate people who have died.

Exploring Faith Sunday Morning Group Study — NEW TOPIC!
Every Sunday in the Library at 9 am the topic will be “Living the Questions.” This is an excellent DVD series introducing Progressive Christianity and tackling hard relevant questions. See Pete Norum for more information.

Exploring Faith Monday Evening Discussion Group — NEW TOPIC!

A new discussion topic "Countering Pharaoh's Production — Consumption Society Today" every Monday evening from 6:30 to 8 pm in the Church Library. Join us! *"It is a journey from slavery to covenant that we keep making over and over again ... [because] Pharaoh has immense power always to draw us back into slavery."* —Walter Brueggemann

November Outreach Ministry

Thinking about Christmas? We begin to plan for our own families this time of year. We have the privilege of reaching out now to help less fortunate families choose a few gifts for their loved ones by participating in Coalition for Compassion and Justice. Choose a gift for a child or adult from their Christmas Wish List. A list of gift suggestions are posted in Perkins Hall. Bring to the church by December 20th. You will be helping others share the joy of Christmas with their loved ones. Thank you. — Outreach ministry.

November Food Donations to Prescott Community Cupboard

This month we are asking for canned soup. Baskets are available at each entry for your donations. Thank You!

Ongoing & Weekly Events

Living the Questions Study Group

Sunday Mornings at 9 am in the Church Library starting on November 8
~And~

Monday Evening Discussion Group meets at 6:30 pm in the Church Library

CHOIR PRACTICE meets Sundays at 9 am in the Sanctuary. See Jane Osborn if you would like to join the choir!

BELL CHOIR PRACTICE at 11 am on Thursdays

P.I.E. (Play, Inspire, Eat) Family Night meets every Wednesday night through November at 5:30 pm in Perkins Hall.

CALLED TO CARE MINISTRY meets the 4th 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.

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

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.

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

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.

First Congregational Church, UCC

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928-445-4555

fccprescott@gmail.com

Administration Office Hours

Mondays: 1:00 - 4:00

Tuesday - Friday: 9:00 - 4:00

Pastor Jay

Monday - Thursday
9:00 - Noon

Other times by appointment
Cell: 928-899-9066

jayfccprescott@gmail.com

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

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