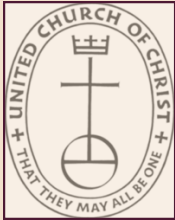


# The Parish Caller

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

November 23, 2016

First Congregational  
Church, United  
Church of Christ,  
Prescott



**FEATURED THIS ISSUE**

**PAGE ONE:**

- ◆ This Week at a Glance
- ◆ Message from Pastor Jay
- ◆ November Outreach News

**PAGE TWO:**

- ◆ Announcements
- ◆ Restoration Update

**PAGE THREE:**

- ◆ Thanksgiving Remembrances by: Elizabeth Gates
- ◆ Making America 'A Just World For All' more important after presidential election, UCC.org

**PAGE FOUR:**

- ◆ Stewardship Message from our Moderator, John McCurdy
- ◆ Bulletin Board

***This Week at a Glance...***

- ◆ The Church will be closed Thursday and Friday in observance of Thanks Giving
- ◆ Choir Rehearsal: Sunday 9:00 am
- ◆ Worship Service and Fellowship time: Sunday 10:30 am
- ◆ Hanging of the Greens
- ◆ Living the Questions: Monday 6:30 pm
- ◆ Jazz Vespers: Song of the Pines
- ◆ World Aids Day: Friday Dec 2 6:30 pm

**FROM THE PASTOR**

Cherie and I wish you all a Happy Thanksgiving! We count among our blessings the opportunity to live and work here in Prescott where the grandchildren also live. I am blessed to be the pastor of this church. And I am giving thanks that the Coalition for Compassion and Justice homeless shelter is up and running just as cold weather arrived. Here is a picture I took the other day.

We begin our Advent journey toward Christmas this Sunday. Volunteers will decorate the church after worship.

Hope to see you Sunday as we get in the Christmas spirit!

Jay



**MISSION OUTREACH NEWS**

November's mission emphasis is the Coalition for Compassion and Justice (CCJ). Donations will help address expenses associated with the recently opened homeless shelter at 531 Madison Street (by the Napa and Auto Zone stores off Miller Valley Road). Checks may be made payable to the church, with a memo line note of, CCJ. Please know that through the winter months, we will be receiving donations of warm coats and blankets needed by those who are homeless. Those donations can be brought to the church, or delivered to the CCJ Thrift Store at 1034 Fair Street (across the street from the County Administration building). Beginning in December, we will be receiving donations to the CCJ "Family Christmas". Look for our "wish list" found in Perkins hall on the literature table. In a "nutshell", we need toys and clothing for children of all ages.

Stewardship Month

“GO AND DO THE SAME”

November is Stewardship month. We will be talking a little each week about the financial needs and the many volunteer options for the church. This is the time to prayerfully consider how you can be a part of the many important ministries here at the First Congregational Church.

Advent Musings  
Devotional

ADVENT “MUSING” DEVOTIONALS AVAILABLE IN PERKINS HALL

Thanks to Ronny, Angela and Shirley and all who contributed — one per family please.

Hanging of the  
Greens

HANGING OF THE GREENS

THIS SUNDAY after worship service. Please stay after church and enjoy this FCCUCC Christmas tradition!

Jazz Vespers

JAZZ VESPER: Wed., November 30th 6:30-8:00 PM Song of the Pines

World Aids Day

WORLD AIDS DAY 2016 December 2nd

Please join Northland Cares and the Greater Yavapai LGBTQ Community Coalition in marking World Aids Day Friday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> at our church: Ceremony and reception 6:30-8:30 pm.

Faith United Annual  
Salad Christmas

FAITH UNITED COMMUNITY UCC, DEWEY ANNUAL SALAD CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

Monday Dec. 5th at 11:30 Please RSVP 928-772-8257, 1061 Old Chisholm Trail, Dewey

Acker Night

ACKER NIGHT

December 9th 5:50 pm, we are hosting Prescott Apry & Wester Swing Music Association. Thank you to those that have signed up, we could use a few more volunteers — Sign-up sheet in Perkins Hall

Christmas Potluck

CONGREGATION CHRISTMAS POTLUCK

December 18 we will be gathering in Perkins Hall after worship service for our Annual Christmas Potluck. Sign up sheet will be in Perkins Hall soon. Don’t miss it!

Pass Meal

PASS MEAL

The PASS meal is Wednesday, December 21st at 5:00 pm. Our church provides a monthly meal for Prescott Area Shelter Services, a home for women in transition. We need several items of food for that Wednesday. The meal items are brought to our parking lot at 5:00 pm.

Restoration Update

Restoration Update:

Another busy week around the church.....working on the sound proof doors, trim painting, all major doors etc. have been sealed to prevent scratches, electrical work etc. Next week painting of the Alarcon hallway, finish hanging the draperies in Perkins Hall, kitchen and hanging of the new curtains over the sound equipment on the Chancel.

Covers for the risers & tables in Perkins Hall should be ready as well. Not too happy with the Perkins Hall wood floors so addressing that issue as well. Due to some very generous donors, please stop by the Communion Chest on the Chancel to see how beautifully it was refinished. Many thanks for the request of an artistic painter (Chuck & Charlie) to work on the mural on the stage and Jim for his help in organizing the Cory room. We just need someone to help Shirley finish painting the wrought iron railings around the church. Please, comments and concerns are always welcome. I would like to thank all of you who have been so supportive and enthusiastic about the progress and results. Respectfully submitted, Marilyn Skovgard



## Thanksgiving Remembrances

By: Elizabeth Gates

When Julie approached me and asked if I would like to write something new to print in the Parish Caller, I said, "sure! What do you want me to write about?" "Thanksgiving," she responded. OK. It sounded easy enough. As I mulled thoughts over as to what to write without sounding trite or redundant, I took to the computer and googled "the first thanksgiving." Wow. What an education I received, and not a pretty one.

You see, apparently, the first official "Thanksgiving" wasn't exactly pie and Pillsbury. In embarrassment and disbelief, I learned that, in 1637, then Massachusetts colony governor John Winthrop wanted to celebrate the safe return of armed volunteers from a venture to what is now Mystic, Connecticut. While there, these men had massacred approximately 700 women, children, and men, all members of the Pequot tribe. ...what? I continued my research. The murder of the Pequot people happened almost 400 years ago. Interesting that the well-known story of the English settlers and the Native Americans breaking bread together in the 17<sup>th</sup> century only originated about 120 years ago.

I'm betting that, as you read this, you may be quickly losing your appetite for today's traditional feast of turkey, stuffing, and cranberry sauce. Stop! We take this opportunity to employ Dialectic Thought. The word "dialectic" means "something can be one thing, and at the same time also be the opposite." Dialectic Thought allows us to *have more than one truth about something*. To move away from black and white thinking into the realm of grays. Example: "I hate to eat broccoli" and "I eat broccoli because it's good for me." Or the more serious "Jesus pitched a fit and tossed the money tables all over the temple" and "Jesus quietly invited the children in the crowd to come to him, sit in his lap, and be held in his loving embrace." Comparing Jesus to broccoli doesn't even make sense to me, but the truth behind these examples is clear: there can be more than one way to look at something, or someone. Jesus (and broccoli) cannot be categorized as EITHER/OR. They are BOTH. Questionable taste and also nutritious. Temper like a pepper-pot, and also gentle and loving. Dialectics. Two truths.

Now we get back to Thanksgiving. If only out of respect for the Pequot nation, I think it behooves us to view Thanksgiving in a dialectic manner: the true origins of this holiday are pretty grim *and* it has evolved into one of the most beloved, cherished days of the year. I hasten to add that I would never disregard the hardships of our Puritan ancestors as they fought to stay alive in the New England winters, struggled to start a new life where they could worship God without persecution. They *did* have thankful celebrations of food after long periods of hunger and suffering, from whence Thanksgiving as we know it came to be.

Over time, for only the best of reasons and intentions, Thanksgiving has truly become a day of gratitude, love, family, and indescribably delicious food (including Aunt Winola's infamous peach melba). Can we really conceive of a life without Thanksgiving? No knocks on the door, no warm greetings and herding into the living room, no appreciative sniffing of the familiar smells coming from the kitchen... no carefully-set centerpiece... no kids' table?!? Over time, we have created a new -- a good -- Thanksgiving, rich in meaning and pure in intent. The gathering together of hearts full of gratitude and love, the warm smiles and soft laughter, the kids running around and the football fans whooping it up in the den... it's all good.

Once, very very long ago, there was a not-good Thanksgiving. In our innocence to facts we were not privy to, we unknowingly turned something around and created a beautiful, dialectic opposite. This year, we might do well to include the Pequots in our Thanksgiving prayer, a gentle reminder to each of us to treat all people with respect, and a reason to strive for the best and highest we can be in all aspects of our lives. Now... please pass the green bean casserole!



Friends,

We have found a home.

A place to develop our relationship with God. A place to get and give encouragement in our efforts. A community of hope, of love, of life.

We are a self-determined congregation. We provide the human power, the gifts and the funds to operate our church.

Each time we interact with another we are building upon our relationship with God and each other. Each time we use our gifts, our talents, we are expanding the creation which we are a part of. Each time we spend money we are in support of what we bought.

I ask that you consider spending some of your time within the organization of our church. There are many areas that need attention. Some are simple and some are complex. But each develops our community, furthering our relationship with each other and with God.

Perhaps you have a talent that you would like to share with this community. We each have different gifts and abilities. Those talents are always in need and always appreciated!

Money is why I write this letter today. There are many expenses that cannot be covered by time and talent. We have used some money from past members who have dedicated funds for specific areas, such as the Ashenfelters' support of the physical needs of our community. But these funds do not support the expense of operations.

We, the current friends and members, support the operation of the church. It is our funds that go to offset the cost that we incur being a community. Join me on November 27, 2016, in pledging my financial support of this community that has supported me in building my relationship with God and with you.

In faith,

John McCurdy, Moderator



## WHATS HAPPENING AT FCC

Try our SignUpGenius on our website: [www.fccprescott.org](http://www.fccprescott.org)

Contact Us:  
216 E. Gurley Street  
Prescott, AZ 86301  
928-445-4555  
[fccprescott@gmail.com](mailto:fccprescott@gmail.com)  
Administration Office Hours  
Monday-Thursday 9:00 - 4:00  
Friday: 9:00 - 1:00  
Pastor Jay  
Monday - Thursday  
9:00 - 1:00  
Other times by appointment  
Cell: 928-899-9066  
[jayfccprescott@gmail.com](mailto:jayfccprescott@gmail.com)

**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

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

**CHOIR PRACTICE**  
9 am before worship on Sundays. See Jane Osborn if you would like to join the choir!  
**BELL CHOIR PRACTICE**  
at 11 am on Thursdays

**CALLED TO CARE MINISTRY** meets the 2nd Thursday of every month at 12:15 pm in the Office Conference Room. If you are interested in being part of this ministry, see Marilyn Kerstine.

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

**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.

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

**EXPLORING FAITH**  
**Living the Questions Study Group**  
Looking into new topics, please let Pastor Jay if you are interested  
~And~  
Monday Evening Discussion Group  
6:30 pm in the Church Library