



# First Congregational Church UCC

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



## From pastor Jay's desk

Advent begins! (Matthew 24:36-44) On this First Sunday of Advent, we always focus on hope and the second advent of Christ. As we prepare to celebrate Christmas, it is good to be reminded that it is the second advent that brings ultimate redemption, peace, and justice. We live in the tension between Christ's two advents, between the "already" and the "not yet." Our task is hopeful, active, alert waiting. The words of Jesus in this text are apocalyptic – a special type of biblical literature popular in his day. The cosmic nature of the language was meant to provide hope and assurance to oppressed people – this life is not all there is – God is coming with a new future. "Such thinking should keep our souls athletically trim, free from the weight of the excessive and useless. Such thinking should keep gains and losses in their proper perspective. Such thinking should chase away the demons of dulling dissipation and cheer us with the news that not only today is a gift of God, but also that tomorrow we stand in the presence of the Son of Man." (Fred Craddock)



Giant Advent wreath in Kaufbeuren, Bavaria, Germany



### GREENING OF THE CHURCH

We need volunteers to come in and put the finishing touches of our Christmas decorations with the "Greening of the Church", on Saturday November 30 from 10 am to 12 noon.

We have two trees to decorate and garland needs to be hung. Would love to have you there! Tom

### AFTER WORSHIP FELLOWSHIP IN PERKINS HALL

We have a sign-up sheet for those interested in serving and/or cleaning up. We've had a super response to goodies being brought weekly, thank you everyone!

Since a few months have passed and the waters have been 'tested,' we realize a larger group of volunteers is needed so that we can all serve less frequently. As it stands now, some are working quite often so *let's make an effort to pair up and serve every three to four months. Wouldn't that be fantastic??!* Realizing that it is much easier to have a PAIR working to make fellowship time run smoothly, it would be great if you can pick-a-partner. Then, a schedule will be compiled (similar to Anne Solt's greeters). If a schedule were to be made up and you and your partner couldn't make it, you would find your replacements or switch a date with someone. Most that said they would do it, but want to be paired with someone who knows their way around the kitchen. Understanding that could hold people back from serving, we urge you to find a person that will help/train you the lay of the land! It's not that difficult, open up to the challenge! Also, Tom Macy is attuned to the needs of fellowship time and has so much already set up for you. Just receive the snack donations and/or prepare for the table if necessary. PLEASE let me know if it's a go for you and your partner of choice and I will start the schedule and send to all. However, the church needs a coordinator for this mission ASAP. Thank you, thank you, thank you! Patty Lantrip (480-227-2170)



PS I've already had a response from SIX COUPLES THAT CAN'T WAIT FOR THEIR TURN!!! That's six weeks taken care of so far, so email/call me!

### CHRISTMAS MEMORIES

Due date to submit your writings is December 9th.

Write about your favorite memories, family traditions, funny/interesting happenings, favorite meals, Christmas songs, prayers, recipes, etc. Send it by e-mail to Angela Imbierowicz at [angelaprescottaz@gmail.com](mailto:angelaprescottaz@gmail.com), and Marti - Garrison and I will edit it (if you so desire) and include it in what we believe will be a wonderful treasury of our congregation's Christmas memories. Thank you.





**MISSION NEWS:** Our December mission emphasis is two pronged. Once again we will be supporting the national UCC “Christmas Offering”. Donations to this offering will assist low-income retired clergy. Our second option is to support local Christmas programs which will be distributing free Christmas gifts and gift cards for children and young adults living in low income families. You may make your check payable to the church with a note on the memo line of either “UCC Christmas Fund”, or “Local Christmas families”. Checks supporting our local outreach need to be received no later than December 15<sup>th</sup>.

As always, thanks for remembering that we have been blessed to be a blessing [Genesis 12:2]. Our Mission Outreach committee members are: Becky/Bill Bryant, Helaine Berman, Patty Gard, Linda Moore, Staci Robbin, and Gary Gard (chairperson).

## Stewardship Reflections

**Stewardship Reflection:** Why do we “go to church”? We each have our reasons. My stewardship reflections given during worship in November spoke to the reasons prompting Patty and me.

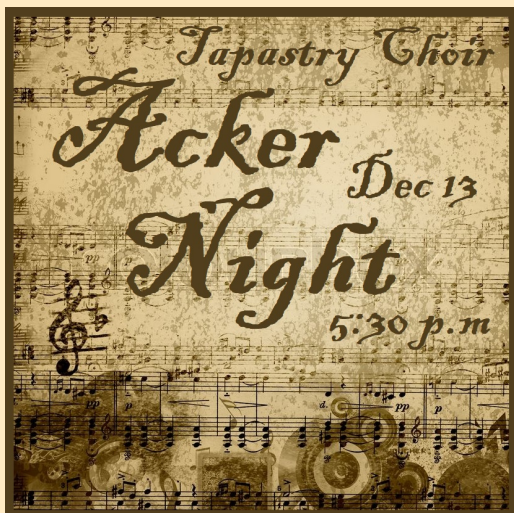
1. Gathering with others on a Sunday morning helps to refresh and remind us of who we are as God’s children, and of what God might be asking of us.
2. Finding joy in knowing our church’s identity as a loving and inclusive church whose arms are open to welcome everyone “no matter where they are on life’s journey.”
3. Working with our mission outreach seeking be an extension of Christ’s borderless, boundless love, grace, and encouragement.

All of these reasons are couched in thanksgiving, concern, and hope. Thanksgiving for those supporting the church now, and for those preceding us whose endowment gifts (10’s of 1000’s of dollars annually) help sustain us financially. Concern that if everything remains status quo, those gifts will be exhausted in about 5 years. Hope that our increased contribution of financial support will keep the light radiating from our church shining for generations following us.

With our “best estimate” of what we might be able to contribute to our 2020 budget, we can reduce our reliance on shrinking endowments funds. We can extend our dreams for our church’s future.

We can continue for countless years reminding countless children of God that they are of great worth; they are loved “no matter where they are on life’s journey.” We each need to prayerfully consider how we can help pay God’s love forward. Gary and Patty Gard

### 2020 Stewardship



# Experience Taizé

A Service of Prayer, Song, and Contemplation

Due to our heavy Holiday schedule here at the church, Taizé will resume in January on the 15th of the new year. Join us at 6:30 p.m. 1/15/2020



## BIRTHDAYS

Bob Bradstreet 11/28  
Bill Linson 11/28  
Patti Cichon 12/03  
John Mccurdy 12/03  
Carole Sue Linson 12/08  
Sandra Talbot 12/08  
Helaine Berman 12/15  
Randy Jay Wilcher 12/17  
Pete Norum 12/18  
Jay Eby 12/24  
Dillan Osborn 12/25  
Don Stephens 12/25  
Christopher Hoitt 12/27  
Ralph Wagner 01/01  
Don Hull 01/09  
Brent Walker 01/10  
Darcy Walker 01/10  
Nitaray Thomas 01/15  
Katie Bradstreet 01/19  
Jane Cheek 01/25  
Julie Jaquette 01/28

## EVERY-WEEK COMMUNION

We have communion each week right after worship at the front of the sanctuary, everyone is welcome to participate.

## MONTHLY 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 Prescott Area Shelter Services, the third Wednesday of the month.

## CABINET MEETING

Meets the 4th Wednesday of each month at 5:30 p.m. in the Office Conference Room unless otherwise announced.

## BELL CHOIR REHEARSAL

We will train you! We meet for rehearsal at 9:00 am. On Thursdays in the Hazeltine Room downstairs.

## CHANCEL SINGERS

We meet Sundays at 9:00 a.m. before worship service to rehearse. All are welcome.

## ALTER-NOTES

We meet at 12:00 p.m. on Sunday after Coffee Time in the Sanctuary Chancel. Contact Melissa if you are interested in joining: 207-391-3276

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

Children may participate with Sunday School downstairs after "Children's Time".