

# The Parish Caller *Established in*

1880

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

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

- Chancel Singers Rehearsal: Sunday 9:00 a.m.
- Sunday Worship: 10:30 a.m.
- Alter-Notes Rehearsal: Sunday 12:00 p.m.
- Tuesday Prayer Chapel: 11:00 a.m. Meeting Room 2
- Pastor's Bible Study: Thursday 9:30 a.m. Chapel
- Bell Choir Rehearsal: Thursday 11:00 a.m. Hazeltine Room
- Thursday Chancel Singers Rehearsal: 5:00 p.m. Chancel

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## FROM THE PASTOR



*Parable of the Talents, artist unknown, circa 1360,  
Universitäts- und Landesbibliothek Darmstadt, Germany*

Sunday's text is the parable of the talents in Matthew 25:14-30. A parable is a story that usually makes one point, but often it is open to several interpretations and layers of meaning. And parables can be startling, disturbing, or challenging. This one has it all.

The artistic rendering of the parable show a here has an interesting take on the parable. It does not look good for the poor fellow on the bottom of the picture.

Come Sunday to find out how he got there. The title of the sermon is "extravagant opportunity" so there is a positive side of the parable as well. :)

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## This Week is Stewardship Week



We made a few revision to the 2018 Stewardship Booklet. You can download a copy new copy here or pick one up in Perkins Hall.

Thank you to those who have turned in their Pledge Card and Time & Talent Sheet! We would like to have all of them turned in so our budget committee can plan on next year. There is a box in Perkins Hall, or you can mail them to our office. Thanks you!

[Download 2018 Stewardship Booklet Here](#)

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### DEBBIE STAATS IN NEED OF MEALS AFTER SURGERY

Debbie is our Fellowship Coffee Coordinator and will need lunch and dinner meals delivered 11/24-11/28. Called to Care hopes you may have some Thanksgiving turkey or ham to share with her. Please sign up in Perkins Hall for the blessing of giving. Thank you!

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## Alarcon Street Pavers are in!!



BEFORE



AFTER



**Acker Night Musical Showcase Featuring:  
"South of Winslow"  
December 8th at 5:30 pm - 8:30 pm**



This year we are host to “South of Winslow”, an Eagles tribute band. Young and old, guy or gal, cowboy or city slicker, their music strikes a chord in everyone. Five musicians have formed South of Winslow as a tribute to the Eagles, and they invite you to share in their love for this music. It promises to be an excellent concert! There will be dancing!

### We need volunteers!

This year our volunteers will work in shifts, so they can go out and enjoy Acker Night as well.

1. Sidewalk luminaries set up
2. Goody Table, set up and donations
3. Donate goodies
4. Hosts, working in 1-hour shifts
5. Clean up, end of the evening

**Signup Sheet in Perkins Hall.**



# Mission News

Our mission outreach project for November/December will be the CCJ’s “Family Christmas”, which will happen December 20-22. A donation box to receive new toys and clothing items is located at the front of our sanctuary. In the very early writings of our faith community, we have heard that we are blessed to be blessing. [Genesis 12:2] Thank you for all you do to make a nice difference in this world.  
Gary Gard, Mission Outreach Chairperson [928-910-2455]

The Coalition for Compassion and Justice (CCJ) has concluded its “Warm for Winter” distribution of warm clothing to those who are homeless and impoverished. Over 500 men, women, and children were served. In addition to the \$200 which our church donated, we are thankful for those of our church family who donated warm clothing and blankets.

Northern Californians are starting to recover and rebuild following the devastating fires that ravaged their communities. Thanks to your donations, we have forwarded a \$360 check to our denomination’s Northern Californian Fire Relief Fund.

## First Annual Organ Concert



10:30  
a.m.

# Homecoming Sunday

NOVEMBER 26

SPECIAL MUSIC: SONG OF THE PINES

A special invitation is extended to all who have special memories of and/or sentimental attachments to our historic sanctuary.

JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL

# Holiday POTLUCK



SUNDAY DEC 17TH

BRING A DISH, TRY A DISH!  
After Worship Service

SIGN UP SHEET IN PERKINS HALL

Please RSVP 445-4555

**ALTER-NOTES**  
Do you like to sing? Do you play an instrument? Would



First Congregational Church  
UCC, Prescott

# ACKER NIGHT MUSICAL SHOWCASE "South of Winslow"



**Friday December 8th  
5:30 P.M**

South of Winslow "Eagles Tribute Band"  
everyone's favorite!

For more information, call 928.445.4555

PastorM@fccc.org

you like to be a part of bringing alternative styles of music to our worship service?

Come join Alter-Notes! We rehearse at 1 p.m. on Sundays, after social time. Music styles vary - calypso, spirituals, folk, celtic, pop, rock, and everything in between.

Show up and/or call **Melissa Gates, 207-391-3276.**

## THE CHANCEL SINGERS

You do not have to be able to read music or be a great singer to join us! The Chancel Singers are seeking people who love to sing. Anyone interested is invited to join us on Sunday mornings at 9:00 in the Chancel.

We also practice on Thursday evenings at 5:00. You may attend one of both of these times, depending on what suits you.

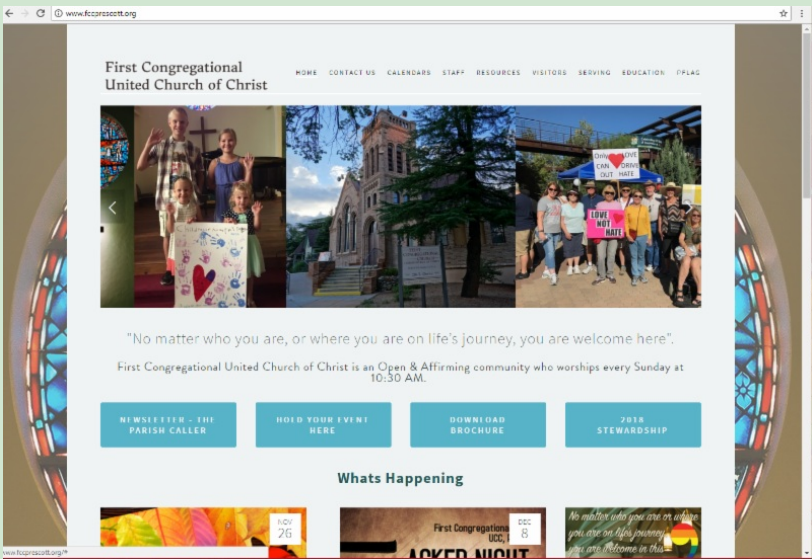
For more information, please contact the Music Director, Jane Osborn, at 928-713-4752 or [prescottsong@hotmail.com](mailto:prescottsong@hotmail.com).

## We have Ramped Up Our Website & Facebook

If you have not already, take a look at all of the additions to our website! You can now have access to all of the latest happening here at the FCC.

- Download Member's Directory (password protected)
- Download 2018 Stewardship Booklet
- Listen to last week's sermons
- Check on upcoming events here and in our community
- Look at the Weekly Parish Caller

## Like us on Facebook



## UCC groups coming together in Philly to help hurricane evacuees from Puerto Rico

The UCC's Pennsylvania Southeast Conference (PSEC) is the lead voluntary agency in a public-

private collaboration that is welcoming hundreds of Puerto Rican families fleeing dire post-Maria conditions on the island and seeking refuge in and around Philadelphia.

Their "Philadelphia Project" has been embraced by the conference as an opportunity to live the [UCC's Three Great Loves](#) - especially the love of neighbor.

There are echoes of the biblical story of the "Good Samaritan" in this effort. There also are examples of how a seemingly small contribution can be the key to a person's future well-being.



To respond to Puerto Rican hurricane survivors' needs, the Philadelphia Office of Emergency Management (OEM), in cooperation with Pennsylvania state agencies and the Southeast Pennsylvania Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (SEPA VOAD), opened a Disaster Assistance Services Center.

The PSEC, which is a SEPA VOAD member, has established an assistance fund, which it has made available to the center's caseworkers to help meet the hurricane survivors' otherwise unmet needs.

For example, \$99 for a security deposit was all one hurricane survivor needed to get into long-term housing in Philadelphia. For others, as little as \$35 pays the fee to replace a lost Social Security card or to obtain a Pennsylvania photo ID - needed to apply for rental assistance with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

To date, \$2,650 in assistance from the PSEC fund has been used in part to provide housing to seven people for a total of 25 nights, and another \$400 approved for other sorts of expenses, said PSEC Disaster Coordinator Karl Jones.

The fund is supported by the conference, a UCC Disaster Ministries solidarity grant, and contributions from churches, including a generous gift from Faith Reformed UCC in Landingville, Pa.

"No one is sending these people here. They came because things are so bad in Puerto Rico they decided they had to get out," Jones said. "Many who are coming lost everything to the hurricane. They managed to scrape together funds for a one-way ticket, but are showing up with little more than the clothes on their back."

Some are squeezing in with relatives or friends, at least for a few weeks. Others have come without any contacts or means of assistance, choosing Philadelphia because of its sizeable population of people of Puerto Rican descent.

Indeed, some have ended up living in the street, and some of those were beaten and robbed. The UCC's Karl Jones is on the SEPA VOAD Council. "The fact that we can do what we are doing with Philadelphia OEM is because we have solid relationships already," he said.

Lynn Fisher, Community Preparedness Program Manager at the Philadelphia OEM, said, "We got to the homeless in a short time with housing and food assistance."

Almost one thousand Puerto Ricans who self-evacuated after Hurricane Maria have come to the Disaster Assistance Resource Center in its first five weeks. All of them need a "safe space" away from the destruction to consider their next steps, whether it's to resettle to the mainland or return to Puerto Rico once essential services are restored.

Caseworkers are helping them get FEMA rental assistance, emergency food stamps, career services, Medicaid, health evaluation and referral and cash assistance for families with children.

"FEMA is the main player, but it cannot meet every need," Jones said, adding that it can take several weeks for applicants to receive federal assistance. "The help of the faith-based and community-based organizations is necessary to fill the gaps."

For example, Airbnb, a national VOAD partner, offered spaces to house some people for the first couple of weeks, but now they are starting to pull them back. "On Friday I approved some funding for temporary housing for a family that had been staying in one of those situations but now had to leave," Jones said.

The conference has tasked the UCC's Philadelphia Association with recruiting volunteers to be available to drive newcomers to appointments and help them learn their way around town, if and when the need arises. The Rev. Michael Caine of Philadelphia's Old First UCC is coordinating.

Old First UCC has also offered the use of an apartment it owns to temporarily shelter an evacuee family. "We are waiting for a caseworker to show up with a family," Caine said. "There are people from church making sure that the place is ready to go."



How the UCC has stepped in is really wonderful," Fisher said. "It's really nice to know that if something happens we have this money not attached to the state or FEMA that we can use to just help people. The money helps us untie our hands and it's really wonderful."

"I am really proud of everyone involved," said UCC Disaster Ministries Executive Zach Wolgemuth. "This is a great example of local, conference and national church collaborating to meet a unique need. Through our connections with VOAD and Emergency Management, the work is being coordinated in a way that leverages resources and meets the needs of the most vulnerable."

Sign up for the UCC Daily Devotional in your inbox.



Advent at its most meaningful.

Check out [Watch: 2017 Advent Devotional](#) from the Stillspeaking Writers' Group. These devotions will satisfy your need for something different while providing a fulfilling Advent journey you won't soon forget.

[PREVIEW here.](#)

5-pack: \$16.50 (plus shipping)  
Single copy: \$6.50 with FREE shipping

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[CLICK HERE FOR THE STILLSPKING WRITERS' GROUP COLLECTION.](#)

[800-537-3394](#) | [uccresources.com](#)

Advent at its most colorful.

Developed by the Christmas Fund, [Shepherding the Light](#) is a coloring book to help UCC churches tell the story of the light of God and how we can be active in Shepherding the Light today. Illustrations by Ted Dawson of Judson Memorial Church in NYC. Story by Vince Amlin, co-pastor of Bethany UCC and co-planter of Gilead Church, both in Chicago.

5-pack: \$15.00  
Single copy: \$5.00 [Order now >>](#)

STEWARDSHIP

Offerings			Attendance Monthly Average		Outreach Gifts					
November		YTD	January	102	January		July		Undesignated Missions	
Offerings	\$ 4,961	\$ 93,364	February	89	Prescott Comm. Cupb.	\$ 590	Pancake Breakfast	\$ 1,337		YTD \$ 968
Facility Use	\$ 489	\$ 10,940	March	89	February		August		OCWM	
Foundation		\$ 61,298	April	108	PASS \$ 140		Discovery Gardens \$ 65			YTD \$ 350
Other		\$ 5,511	May	101	March		September		Coalition for Comp. & Jus.	
Total	\$ 5,450	\$ 171,113	June	79	Habitat for Humanity \$ 165		Neighbors in Need \$ 495			YTD \$ 354
Expenses, Actual			July	96	April		October		Famine Relief	
	October	YTD	August	91	One Great Hour Share	\$ 1,683	Warm for Winter \$ 160		Special Offering	\$ 795
Expenses	\$ 11,116	\$ 242,855	Sept	90	May		November		Hurricane Relief	
Annual Budget Needs			Oct	91	Church World Service	\$ 319	CCJ Family Christmas \$ 80		Special Offering	\$ 4,600
	Annual		Nov	102	June				Fire Relief	
Expenses	\$	254,276	Dec		Strengthen the Church \$ 280				Special Offering	\$ 200



HELP US BUILD OUR SOCIAL MEDIA IMPACT WITH OUR COMMUNITY. LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!

REGULARLY SCHEDULED

PASTOR’S BIBLE STUDY

An informal study group meets on Thursday mornings at 9:30 a.m. in Hazeltine 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.

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 11:00 a.m. on Thursdays.

CHANCEL SINGERS

If you like to sing, the Chancel Singers are eager to increase its

#### ONCE A MONTH COMMUNION

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

#### PRAYER CHAPEL

Called to Care holds a weekly prayer time at 11:00 am on Tuesdays in the Chapel downstairs. Place your prayer requests in the prayer box in Perkins Hall.

#### 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

membership. We meet Sundays at 9:00 a.m. before worship services and Thursday nights at 5:00 p.m. Come when you can.

#### ALTER-NOTES

Alter-Notes is an alternative music group that meets at 12:00 for rehearsal in the Hazeltine Room 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



#### SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE 10:30

