

## A Message from Pastor Jay

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22

The virus is beginning to spread again in Arizona so we will no longer have in-person worship and transition back to virtual Zoom fellowship Sunday mornings at 10am and recorded worship available on our website.

This Sunday is "Reign of Christ" Sunday and also the Sunday before Thanksgiving. We will conclude the Book of Joshua with a sermon entitled "Opportunities & Obstacles in Times of Change." Joshua has given us timely lessons throughout this pandemic. Two charges from Joshua stand out then and now: "Hold Fast to the Lord!" and "Choose This Day Whom You Will Serve - As for Me and My House, We Will Serve the Lord!" Perhaps no Thanksgiving Day will be more challenging than this one! We can choose to be grateful and count our blessings in spite of it all. Carole Sue, Rev. Bill, and Brian bless the service with their gifts.

You may identify with JJ on this Sunday's worship recording. He is in deep depression, flat on his back on the chancel railing and wearing a mask (as best he can). I let him know we all feel the same thing these days. And then, in an effort to cheer him up, I begin to sing "Lean on me, when you're not strong, I'll be your friend, I'll help you carry on..." He asks me to please stop! Apparently hearing me sing is worse than being depressed!

Stay safe, and give and receive grace,

Jay

Last Sunday we worshiped virtually with a recoded service done by the UCC Conference of Ministers. The bulletin is in last week's Caller and shows the national scope of the participants.

Here is the link in case you missed it:

All videos (Vimeo Showcase): <https://vimeo.com/showcase/7782014>

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## REIGN OF CHRIST SUNDAY

November 22, 2020

### GATHERING TO WORSHIP GOD

God of Eternity, we stand with the courage of those who insisted, even in perilous times, that not even the most powerful rulers of this earth hold our eternal destiny in their hands. We are secure in Christ, whose reign is just, whose power is endless, and whose love is unfathomable. God of Eternity, we join the chorus of saints who continue to declare that Christ is our King.

Words of Welcome – Announcements - Passing of the Peace

Call to Worship (Psalm 100) – Rev. Bill Linson

Know that the Holy One is God.

**We are God's people.**

Worship the Holy One with gladness;

**Come into God's presence with singing.**

Enter God's gates with thanksgiving, and God's courts with praise.

**Make a joyful noise!**

For God is good; God's steadfast love endures forever,

**and God's faithfulness to all generations.**

Let us worship with thanks and joy!

**Let us praise God in song and word and prayer!**

Opening Prayer - Rev. Bill Linson

Holy One, enthroned in glory over all creation, you are a shepherd to the lost and the least. Teach us to see your face among the poor— feeding the hungry, giving drink to the thirsty, welcoming the stranger, clothing the naked, and visiting those who are sick or in prison-so that we may share in your eternal realm prepared from the foundation of the world; through Jesus Christ, who is coming indeed, to reign with justice, compassion, and love.

\*Hymn: "We Gather Together"

New Century Hymnal #421

Stewardship Minute – Pastor Jay

### PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

A Time for Children of All Ages - JJ

Scripture Reading: Joshua 21-24, Selected Verses – Rev. Bill Linson

Joshua 21:1-3: The Levites Given Towns to Settle In

Joshua 22:1-5: The Reubenites, Gadites, & Half-Tribe of Manasseh Sent Home

Joshua 23:1-8: Joshua's Farewell to the Leaders

Joshua 24:14-15: Joshua's Challenge to the People

Joshua 24:28-29: Joshua's Death

"Give Thanks" (on "Nun Danket Alle Gott" Kresmer and St. George Wondsor, arr. Carole Sue Linson Carole Sue Linson, Piano

Sermon: "Opportunities & Obstacles in Times of Change" Pastor Jay

### **RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE**

"We Have Come Into His House" by Bruce Ballinger  
Carole Sue Linson, Piano

Prayers

of the People / The Lord's Prayer (use trespasses)

Offering of Ourselves and our Gifts

\*Prayer of Dedication – Rev. Bill  
Linson

**We thank you for the many gifts in our lives: Call us into a life full of gratitude, that we may recognize the blessings around us and within us, that we might give out of these blessings to bless others. May we live in your ways, that we might be reconciled to the earth, to others, and to you, in all that we do. In the name of Christ, we give thanks and offer our prayers. Amen.**

\*Hymn: "Come, O Thankful People, Come" New Century Hymnal #422

Benediction

Pastor Jay

Ministers All the People of the Church  
Pastor Rev. Dr. Jay Wilcher  
Pastor Emeritus Rev. Robert Bradstreet  
Worship Leader Rev. Bill Linson  
Alter Notes Director Melissa Gates  
Organist Brian Moore  
Pianist Carole Sue Linson  
Moderator Rev. Ralph Wagner  
Minister of the Building Rev. Bill Linson  
Facilities Coordinator Tom Macy

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**Founded September 26, 1880**

## NOVEMBER MISSION NEWS

### **Mission Outreach Update:**

As we do throughout the year, each month we offer an opportunity to support a particular new mission project. November's mission emphasis project/program is the Coalition for Compassion and Justice (CCJ). Transitioning from primarily being an emergency shelter for those who are homeless, CCJ is now focused on helping clients find permanent affordable housing. Once housing 45-55 homeless clients a night, CCJ now averages about a dozen clients. At present, 26 clients who were previously homeless now have permanent housing in 21 units; including sleep cottages, mobile homes, and lodge style facilities. Visions for 2021 included building two more lodge style facilities. In addition to offering permanent housing opportunities, CCJ works with other agencies to disburse Rental Assistance funds. Early in 2021, CCJ will complete a renovation project at their Madison Ave facility. The present CCJ Thrift Store on Fair Street will be closed and moved into the Madison Ave. location. The Madison Ave location will then be home to the "Second Glance" thrift store, shelter space for those needing emergency shelter, and office space for staff and programing. Seeking to help clients establish work opportunities, CCJ offers [1] "Wheels for Work," a program matching a client with a vehicle gifted by local donors and [2] "Prescott Worker's Progress Agency," a program providing the community with CCJ clients being trained as landscape workers. Further information may be obtained by calling the CCJ Director, Jessi Hans [928-445-8382]. We are proud to note that our pastor, Jay Wilcher, is the chairperson of the CCJ governing board. Donation checks can be made payable to the church, with the memo, "CCJ."

**CCJ has monies for both rent assistance and utility bill assistance. Contact CCJ for more information**

**In response to this year's historic fire storms**, particularly in the states of Colorado and California, the UCC headquarters is receiving donations to help those trying to survive these devastating times. Your check can be made payable to the church, with the memo, "Fire Relief."

**Community Cupboard food bank:** Throughout the year, volunteers continue to pack food bags for those families living at/below the Federal Poverty guidelines. We remain grateful for our volunteers and to our team captain, Angela Imbierowicz. Contact Angela if you would like to volunteer.

*Thank you to the following FCC packers for volunteering during the week of October 5 - 9, 2020. Your willingness to pack during this time is greatly appreciated.*

Alice Kring, Barbars Frank, Patty Brenner, Marie Kissel, Lee Danaher Anne Robinson, Dave & Linda Foote, Kathy & Don Stephens.

#### **Prescott Area Shelter Services [PASS]**

The shelter guests always look forward to the monthly Wednesday evenings when our church family brings dinner. We received a lovely note of appreciation and a wooden spoon inscribed with the following: "Thank You, Meal Providers - PASS" when their evening meal was delivered last week. Their note will be posted on our Mission Outreach bulletin board in Perkins Hall and our special spoon will find a new home in the church kitchen. The content of Katee's note follows:

*Dear FCC-UCC,*

*Thank you so very much for being a monthly meal provider at PASS and for your years of dedication and support! We truly appreciate your generosity and kindness, more that we could hope to express. At a time in our guests lives when they need shelter and guidance, a warm delicious meal can make all the difference in their day. They feel cared for, noticed, and valued. Thank you for caring about and helping women and children in need.*

*Katee*

Katee also referenced the following quotes:

- *"Volunteers do not necessarily have the time, they just have the heart."*
- *"No one is more cherished in this world than someone who lightens the burden of another."*
- *"There is nothing more beautiful than someone who goes out of their way to make life more beautiful for others."*

Our team of monthly contributors have already completed the sign-up sheet for November's PASS dinner. THANK YOU, ONE AND ALL! This ministry would not be possible without so many dedicated "helping hands." Thank you for the blessings you bring. Patty Gard, PASS coordinator.

We have all been blessed to be a blessing {Genesis 12:2}. Our Mission Outreach team members are: Becky and Bill Byrant, Helaine Berman, Linda Moore, Patty Gard, and Gary Gard, Chairperson.

**When donating a check for mission, please use the memo line to designate a particular project. Undesignated mission checks will be used at the discretion of the mission committee.**

## NOVEMBER UPDATE

This is how things look, financially, as of October 31.

Year-to-date income is more than \$150,000 and expenses are \$148,000. So, we have a net income of nearly \$2,000.

It appears that we are on target to end the year with a positive net income. Our original budget projected a year-end deficit of more than \$32,000. Having revised the budget in June, it was still anticipated that expenses would exceed income—by about \$7,000. The greatest impact to the net income has been the reduction of employment expenses by more than \$5,000 per month since June. Other cost reductions are seen in utilities, office supplies, and marketing, mostly due to the church building being closed.

Thank you for your continued support of our church.  
Julie McCurdy, Treasurer

As the end of the year approaches, you may be thinking ahead to planning for filing your tax returns. Here are answers to some frequently asked questions about contributions.

### What Every Church Member Needs to Know about Contributions -

- Question: If I make a contribution in early January 2021, can I claim it on my 2020 taxes? Answer: No, contributions must be claimed in the year in which they are delivered.
- Question: If I mail my contribution in December 2020 but it doesn't reach my church until January 2021, for which year should I claim it? Answer: You would claim it on your 2020 tax return. A check that is mailed to a church or charity is deductible in the year the check is mailed (and postmarked), even if it is received in the next year.
- Question: I decided I wanted to designate \$1,000 to my church. I insisted that this money be spent to purchase some new microphones for my church sound room, which the church had not even thought about purchasing. Is the money a contribution? Answer: No, an individual cannot designate money to a fund of his/her choosing, but if the fund is already in existence then this gift would be a contribution.
- Question: Is there a limit to the amount that I can contribute to my church and still count it as a contribution on my tax return? Answer: Yes, a contribution usually cannot exceed 50% of the donor's adjusted gross income for the year. Donors who exceed this limit may be able to carry over their excess to future years, but you need to consult a tax lawyer for clarification on this.
- Question: I'm a volunteer in my church. Can I deduct the value of the volunteer work I do for my church? Answer: No, the value of volunteer work you do for your church can never be a contribution.

□ Question: I purchased some items to paint the Sunday School classroom and then did the labor myself. Can I just ask them to add these expenses and my labor costs to my contribution statement at the end of the year?  
Answer: No, the church is not allowed to add this amount to your contribution statement at the end of the year but they can cut you a check for the materials and labor and then you can give that money back to the church. It's better to cash the check you received from the church and then write a personal check to the church, but you can just endorse the church check back over to the church.

## ADVENT WORSHIP SERIES

### THE PROBLEM WITH LIGHT/DARK AESTHETICS

#### DARK IS GOOD & GODLY

Nov. 29 - Dark is Good & Godly - "The Via Negativa"  
Dec. 6 - Dark is Good & Godly - "Dealing With White Fragility"  
Dec. 13 - Dark is Good & Godly - "Light Burns & Blinds"  
Dec. 20 - Dark is Good & Godly - "Beyond White Jesus"

## A MESSAGE FROM THE CHURCH CABINET

Dear Church Family,

In approving this year's church budget at the Annual Meeting, the Cabinet clarified that the budget reflected a significant shortfall of income vs expenses. It was noted that endowment money and Church Foundation funds would be needed to meet that shortfall. It was also noted that these funds could be exhausted within 4-5 years if we continued to draw from these funds at the current rate. Having shared that information, the Cabinet said that there would be a review of the budget after the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter.

By the time of our review, the Covid 19 pandemic complicated our vision of the future. Although congregational giving had thus far been encouraging, we still faced projected expenses of \$214,000 and the loss of lease income and facility usage income. Given consequences caused by Covid 19 and the hiatus from church programs and in-person worship services, the decision was made to reduce expenses from \$214,000 to \$175,000. Most of that reduction came from the reduced compensation relating to paid personnel. By the end of this year, that decision will decrease expenses by more than \$35,000.

Initially, we thought that certain Covid related Federal assistance money might be available to us. However, in follow-up communication from the government, we discovered we would not qualify for that assistance. In discovering that, we

informed those of our staff whose positions would not be continuing. Our hope was that with this notice each of them would be able to submit application for unemployment assistance.

In making the decision to adjust the church's budget we knew it was more than a matter of dollars-n-cents. Our decision would impact the lives of people we love. We remain grateful for all staff members, past and present, whose generous sharing of their gifts has blessed our church family. Our prayers for those who will now be moving forward in different directions of life, and for those of our paid staff who remain, Rev. Jay Wilcher, Brian Moore, Tom Macy, and David Tyrell (whose compensation is the rent-free use of our church office building apartment).

Grace and Peace,  
Your Cabinet

## 140TH ANNIVERSARY OF OUR CHURCH

### FCC History

KATE CORY'S history with FCCUCC.....

For seven years, Kate Cory lived among the Hopi (1905-1912). The artists' colony that Louis Aikins envisioned brought no one but Kate to the reservation, 'thus I became the 'colony,' she wrote. But an excellent colony of ONE she was. Kate wrote of the Hopi ceremonies, painted them at work and play, and photographed them in their many activities.

After seven years of isolation from her contemporaries, Kate left the reservation and moved to Prescott, but would always recall her time with the Hopi as, "the highlight of my life." Hundreds of photographic negatives chronicling her time on the reservation were in possession of the Smoki Museum for many years and are now at and preserved at the Northern Arizona Museum in Flagstaff. Many of her paintings are still housed at the Smoki Museum (since renamed), some at the Prescott Public Library, and a number at the Sharlot Hall Museum in Prescott.

One of her best known paintings hangs in the First Congregational Church on Gurley Street in Prescott, where she attended. (note at end of article) Church members would later recall Miss Cory as an eccentric, so thin and ragged they thought she couldn't afford clothes, but indeed she could, Kate simply had no interest in fancy clothes, finding them "frivolous." Any extra money she may have had, she passed on to others she perceived as needing it more. The Hopi were never far from mind. She remained friends with them and a number of Hopi came to Prescott and helped her build her house in the Idylwild tract, which is still standing. In 1921, Kate gave much of her time and knowledge to the formation of the Smoki People, a group of white men and women who



wished to preserve the ancient rites and ceremonies of the southwest Indians. In 1935, she helped design the building for the Smoki Museum to resemble a Hopi pueblo.

Kate eventually moved to a studio house near the Arizona Pioneers' Home. Then in 1956, she moved from her "cabin" to the Home, where she lived until her death at the age of 97, on June 2, 1958. Eulogized in the Prescott Courier as "one of the West's most famed artists and one of the most beloved pioneer citizens....," Kate was laid to rest next to her long time friend, Sharlot Mabridth Hall, at the Pioneer Cemetery on Iron Springs Road.

NOTE- Per Jay Eby, the original painting that hung in our church is in the Smoki Museum (now called Museum of Indigenous People). Also the 'Cory' room is located when you enter in the narthex to the right.

## COVID-19 UPDATE FROM CONFERENCE MINISTER

Dear SWC church leaders,

Today I am sharing this message with all of our members via our social media outlets and In the Loop mailing list. I wanted you to receive an advance copy...

Beloved members of the Southwest Conference of the United Church of Christ,

Peace be with you.

Fred Taylor, Director of Special Programs and Community Engagement for the AZ Attorney General's office wrote to faith leaders last night encouraging us to ask church members to avoid *any* gatherings of 10 or more people. New Mexico Governor Michelle Grisham imposed restrictions on houses of worship, including limiting the numbers of people at religious gatherings. El Paso County Judge Ricardo Samaniego issued a sweeping stay-at-home order on Nov. 11. The daily reported new cases of COVID19 and daily deaths from the disease are at their highest rates since the pandemic began in the U.S. Medical authorities agree that the best response to this moment of exponential virus spread is to avoid gathering with anyone outside your household. Being at church in this moment is not essential, and is dangerous for everyone, even in small numbers with safety protocols in place.

Conversations the last 2 days with judicatory leaders in Arizona and New Mexico included news that COVID is spreading in churches even

when congregations are following recommended safety protocols. One Arizona judicatory leader is now quarantining (along with other people) because a church musician was diagnosed with COVID where they last visited. Another Arizona judicatory leader has been diagnosed with COVID and is seriously ill. Worship leaders/musicians and a member at one UCC congregation have been diagnosed with COVID forcing shutdown and quarantining. Several other clergy in ours and other denominations have been exposed to, are being tested for, or have become ill from the coronavirus. ALL of these situations included social distancing and mask-wearing and still people have become ill. Communications I've received from chaplains and medical professionals have confirmed that the numbers are rising exponentially and have urged me to ask everyone in our churches to stay home for their own wellbeing, and for the wellbeing of our frontline medical workers.

*"We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed."* (2 Cor. 4:8-9) How is can that be? Because we still have hope! Rabbi Jonathon Sacks wrote:

*"Optimism is the belief that things will get better. Hope is the belief that, together, we can make things better. Optimism is a passive virtue, hope an active one. It takes no courage to be an optimist, but it takes a great deal of courage to have hope."*

I am not optimistic about the pandemic ending. I am hopeful. I believe that together we can end it. Each one of us, through the small actions we can take, can contribute to stopping the spread of the virus, reducing the number of daily new cases, and saving lives. Please use your agency and courage to do everything possible to stop COVID19. Stay home. If you must go out for essential reasons, wear a make without exception. Wash your hands for 30 seconds or more often. This is a moment to live into our hope for the pandemic to end. Our courage and our agency can end it. I write to invite you to hope. I write to encourage all of our Conference members to stay home, especially from church, for the next 2 weeks *at least*. That is the safest thing for all of us to do right now. May the grace of Jesus our brother, the love of God, and the companionship of God's Spirit be with all of us.

Bill

Rev. Dr. William M. Lyons  
*Conference Minister*  
Office: 602-468-3830  
Direct: 602-317-2724

## SUPPORT YOUR CHURCH DURING CORONAVIRUS!

- Online – go to our website: [www.fccprescott.org](http://www.fccprescott.org) and look for the tab on the front page
- You can set up regular, ongoing giving or one-time giving.
- Use your credit card and get some points!
- Your bank may have free online bill pay. You find the tab on your online account, fill in the details of the check as you would a regular check, and the bank mail will mail it for you! You can set up a one-time check or recurring scheduled check amount.
- Mail a check out to the church and mail it to 216 East Gurley Street, Prescott, AZ 86301

The church office is closed going forward, however, someone will pick up the mail on a daily basis to place checks into the safe.

[Visit our website](#)

[Watch Services  
Here](#)



**Celebrating YOU!!!**

**Anniversaries**

|                                 |       |
|---------------------------------|-------|
| WAGNER, Ralph & Susan Lemons    | 09/05 |
| GILGES, Ralph & Cheryl          | 09/09 |
| BRYANT, Bill & Becky            | 09/22 |
| JAQUETTE, Julie & Sandra Johns  | 09/24 |
| FONE, DJ & Marita Callaway      | 09/28 |
| GESSERT, Jeni & Ben             | 10/21 |
| JORDAN, Bruce & Jennifer Cortez | 11/11 |
| OSBORN, Alex & Jane             | 11/11 |
| STEVEN, Ritch & Janet           | 11/23 |
| MCCOLLOUGH, Dennis & Barbara    | 11/27 |

**Birthdays**

|                    |       |
|--------------------|-------|
| BROUSSARD, Suzanne | 09/06 |
| DINSMAN, Christy   | 09/07 |
| MCCOLLOUGH, Dennis | 09/09 |
| MACY, Tom          | 09/14 |
| MATSUMOTO, Yoichi  | 09/18 |
| RELTH, Arlene      | 09/22 |
| WILSON, John       | 09/28 |
| KAUL, Linda        | 09/29 |
| GILGES, Ralph      | 10/09 |
| GATES, Melissa     | 10/13 |
| MONSKA, Paul       | 10/13 |
| DEVILLE, Dave      | 10/15 |
| FOOTE, David       | 10/17 |
| GATES, Elizabeth   | 10/21 |
| LOBAUGH, Hal       | 10/22 |
| LOBAUGH, Suzy      | 10/23 |
| MCFADDEN, Michele  | 10/24 |
| LANTRIP, Patty     | 10/25 |
| GARRISON, Marti    | 11/01 |
| JOHNS, Sandra      | 11/01 |
| MCCURDY, Julie     | 11/01 |
| STAATS, Debbie     | 11/01 |
| GALE, Nancy        | 11/03 |
| PROHASKA, Carolyn  | 11/10 |
| ELY, Judy          | 11/11 |
| ROUSE, Bill        | 11/15 |
| WALLACE, Andrew    | 11/18 |
| HUFF, John         | 11/23 |
| WILSON, Fay        | 11/24 |
| TAYLOR, Josh       | 11/25 |
| BRADSTREET, Bob    | 11/28 |
| LINSON, Bill       | 11/28 |
| CICHON, Patti      | 12/03 |
| MCCURDY, John      | 12/03 |
| WILDMAN, Tommie    | 12/06 |
| LINSON, Carole Sue | 12/08 |
| BERMAN, Helaine    | 12/15 |
| WILCHER, Jay       | 12/17 |
| NORUM, Pete        | 12/18 |
| EBY, Jay           | 12/24 |
| STEPHENS, Don      | 12/25 |