

# The Parish Caller

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

October 2, 2015

First Congregational  
Church, United  
Church of Christ,  
Prescott



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## This Week at First Congregational Church of Prescott...

- ◆ **Hope Fest** 10-4 on the Courthouse Square
- ◆ **Choir Practice** 9 am before Worship Service
- ◆ **Exploring Faith** Monday Night Discussion Group at 6:30 pm
- ◆ **Knit Wits** From 1-3 on Tuesday
- ◆ **P.I.E.** at 5:30 pm Wednesday
- ◆ **Bell Choir Rehearsal** 11 am Thursday

## From Pastor Jay

Our Wednesday night P.I.E. event on "caring for creation" was well-attended. We explored our motivations and wishes regarding environmental ministry. Peter Pierson of Prescott Creeks led us in our discussion. We continue to think and plan – speak with Church Buddinger if you have thoughts about our church's efforts. Regarding last week's sermon on Psalm 148, it is interesting that a man from the 300's, Basil, had the same idea to picture creation either praising God or groaning under the abuse of humans.

The 4th Century prayer of St. Basil the Great:

"O God, enlarge within us the sense of fellowship with all living things, our brothers the animals [and all creatures] to whom thou gavest the earth as their home in common with us. We remember with shame that in the past we have exercised the high dominion of humans with ruthless cruelty; so that the voice of the earth, which should have gone up to Thee in song, has been a groan of travail. May we realize that all creatures live not for us alone but for themselves and for Thee, and that they love the sweetness of life."

I have signed our church up with [blessedtomorrow.org](http://blessedtomorrow.org). It is a website that allows us to track our progress on caring for creation. Here is a description of the organization from their website:

*Blessed Tomorrow is a coalition of diverse religious partners united under a call to be faithful stewards of creation. We are compelled by a higher power to serve one another, future generations, and the most vulnerable as we witness the impacts of climate change within our neighborhoods and throughout the world. We will care for God's creation, empower our communities, and call on our fellow leaders to create a healthy future for us all. Through Blessed Tomorrow, faith leaders take steps together on a path to a positive future while they maintain the distinct voice of their tradition. Blessed Tomorrow provides a program by people of faith, for people of faith, offering ideas, tools, resources, and language that are familiar, compelling, and effective for engaging congregations in climate solutions.*

The United Church of Christ is represented in the leadership. Check out the website and catch the vision!

This Sunday we will look at the book of Job and deal with the problem of theodicy – how to reconcile a loving and powerful God with the problem of evil and suffering. I invite you to worship this Sunday as we explore this topic that is relevant to us all.

God bless, Jay

**September 29, 2015**  
**Written by Anthony**  
**Moujaes**

## **UCC leaders find energy, electricity and healing in Papal visit**

During the first visit to the United States by Pope Francis as leader of the Catholic Church, His Holiness issued calls to humanity to care for people in the margins, addressed the critical need for action on climate change, acknowledged the gifts that immigrants bring to their new home country — all topics that resonate in the wider United Church of Christ. Francis' six-day tour (Sept. 22-27) through Washington, D.C., New York City, and Philadelphia electrified the crowds who came to see him and created momentum for morality, one that denominational leaders witnessed and believe can energize people of faith.

UCC General Minister and President the Rev. John Dorhauer, who visited both nation's capital and the Big Apple last week while Pope Francis was present, can attest to an “electricity in the air that was palpable.”

"Whether riding on the subways, sitting in the restaurants, or gathering in the churches, everyone, everywhere was talking about the pope and what his visit meant to them," said Dorhauer. "His clear call for people of faith to reach out to the poor and vulnerable, and his prophetic voice on climate change are going to inspire people all over the globe to behave and to think differently. His visit to the victims of abuse from clergy was a healing moment that was needed for the church. He is bringing credibility and relevance back to religion and I am so grateful for what he is doing."

The Rev. Ann Kansfield thinks the denomination can learn from Pope Francis, in part because the power of his message comes from being a spiritual leader, not a politician. "Pope Francis' words are rooted in the gospel of Jesus Christ and his actions are in keeping with Christ's teaching," said Kansfield, a Brooklyn pastor and chaplain for the Fire Department of New York.

While in New York City, Pope Francis led an interfaith service at Ground Zero for the victims of the 9/11 terror attack that claimed the lives of more than 3,000 civilians, police and first-responders. As an FDNY chaplain, Kansfield was present for the service and honored to attend.

"I am so grateful to have had a chance to pray with the Pope on behalf of the 10,200 firefighters and 3,600 EMTs who are members of the FDNY," she said. Kansfield once worked at the World Trade Center, and found the experience of praying at the 9/11 Museum with the Pope and other interfaith colleagues to be personally healing. “I wish that everyone who has been pained by the events of 9/11 could have such a healing experience. I'm very grateful to have such wonderful colleagues in the FDNY chaplains, and am incredibly grateful to have shared this powerful spiritual experience with them."

Bishop Dwayne Royster, founding pastor of Living Water UCC in Philadelphia, was at the front of a rally this weekend during the Pope's visit, calling for social justice and lifting up some of the same themes that the Pontiff highlighted during his trip. The pope's message isn't new, Royster said, but was renewed through his visit to America.

"I think for those of us in POWER (Philadelphians Organized to Witness, Empower and Rebuild), we are using this moment to leverage the Pope's message with what we have prayed for," said Royster, executive director of POWER, a social advocacy group. “We are responsible to speak to those, and with those on the margins, to see them as fully human and embrace them as brothers and sisters and find a way where they are part of our collective destiny."

Royster wants the faith community to refocus on helping people based on their needs, beginning with the most oppressed and marginalized. "That includes immigrants, the incarcerated, struggling workers, and young men and women of color who have little or no hope for their futures," Royster said. "Philadelphia is one of the poorest big cities in America and we have an underfunded school system. If you can't educate the young people you basically set them up for failure."

"It was amazing to see so many people of different faiths who showed up to hear the Pope — from the Jewish to Muslim community and Sikh community," Royster added. "What will be the challenge is we have always chosen to do direct service. So how do we deal with structural issues, like immigration reform and racism, that are just as important?:

As for keeping the moral momentum generated by the Pope's visit going, Kansfield believes the key to that is to "continue to live out our faith authentically, to speak about what Jesus means to us and about how his message of love and justice translate into everyday living for people in 2015," she said. "That we can love one another, care for one another, forgive one another and be compassionate with one another — and not just the people we like or who are easy to love. But that we need to love, care for, forgive and be compassionate with the people with whom we disagree or dislike. We must be detectives, constantly looking for people who are on the margins, and to be in solidarity with them, because that is where we are most likely to experience the very presence of Christ."

<p>From the Southwest Conference</p>	<p><b>Dorhauer among 44 religious leaders standing with Planned Parenthood</b> <b>By: UCC Staff Writers</b></p> <p>UCC General Minister and President the Rev. John C. Dorhauer is among the interfaith signatories of a statement released today (Sept. 28) calling on Congress to continue to allocate federal funds to Planned Parenthood’s health centers. The centers serve some 2.7 million people each year.</p> <p>In the statement, Protestant, Jewish, Catholic, Unitarian Universalist, and Muslim leaders agree:</p> <p>"As religious leaders, we urge Congress to resist efforts to deny federal funds to Planned Parenthood’s non-profit health centers that provide crucial reproductive health care. We ask for an end to politically motivated attacks on women’s sexual and reproductive health. We know that Planned Parenthood provides essential lifesaving services to almost three million people each year, including the most vulnerable families in the U.S. As religious leaders, we support family planning as a means of saving lives, improving reproductive and public health, enhancing sexuality, and encouraging intentional parenthood. We stand with people of faith who have supported Planned Parenthood for nearly one hundred years."</p> <p>In addition to Dorhauer, presidents of national denominations and national clergy associations also endorsed the statement, including the Rev. Sharon Watkins, president of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), and the Rev. Peter Morales, president of the Unitarian Universalist Association.</p> <p>"I am a proud supporter of Planned Parenthood and its mission to provide women with choices and options regarding their reproductive health," said Dorhauer. "It is an honor for me to attach my signature to this letter calling for continued support of this important organization."</p>
<p>October Mission Focus</p> <p>Prescott Community Cupboard Donations</p> <p>New Members Class</p> <p>Exploring Faith</p>	<p><b>What’s Happening</b></p> <p><b><i>Outreach Ministry October Focus is NIN</i></b></p> <p>Did you know that some 53 percent of 67 million children around the globe who don’t go to school are girls? Neighbors in Need is a special mission offering of the UCC that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. Your support of the NIN offering provides small grants and programs that seek to address the systemic injustices.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◆ “Reading Changes Lives,” the UCC’s newest all-church initiative, is a program that focuses on literacy, stateside and abroad. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministries.</li><li>◆ Two-thirds of the offering is used by UCC’s Justice and Witness Ministries to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts and direct service projects. Imagine a world where educating women and girls is a priority.</li></ul> <p>If you would like to contribute to the NIN, please indicate your wishes by noting it in the check memo or on your offering envelope. Thank you!</p> <p><b><i>September Food Donations to Prescott Food Pantry...</i></b></p> <p>This month we are collecting canned meat. There are baskets at each entry for your donations. Thank You!</p> <p><b><i>New Members Class</i></b></p> <p>For those who would like to join the First Congregational Church, we are having a membership class after this Sunday Worship Service for the next two weeks. This is an opportunity to ask questions and learn more about the UCC denomination and this church. Please see Pastor Jay if you are interested in attending.</p> <p><b><i>Exploring Faith</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◆ <b>Monday Night Discussion Group:</b> meets at 6:30 pm in the Church Library. The topic is <b>Genesis</b>.</li></ul>

**P.I.E. & P.I.E. (“Play, Inspire, Eat”) 5:30 pm Wednesday**

Food, fun, fellowship, and spiritual growth is scheduled for this week’s P.I.E. It will be sandwich night followed by a focus on Mark 10:17-31 guided by Pastor Jay. Come and have a slice of P.I.E!

**National Coming Out Day**

**National Coming Out Day, hosted by PFLAG...**

October 10th at Granite Peak U.U. Congregation from 5-9 pm

- DJ Mojave — Music and Dancing
- Free Admission
- Free Carnival Games
- LGBTQ+ History Timeline
- Fun for All Ages
- Food and Extra Games available for purchase

**Funky Friday Game Night**

**Funky Friday Game Night Hosted by PFLAG...**

Starting in November, the first Friday of every month at 7-9 pm, PFLAG will be hosting a **Funky Friday Game Night** here at the church. This is a night for LGBTQ+ advocates and allies to get together and have a good ol’ funky time! There will be popcorn and refreshments available for a suggested donation to help raise funds for PFLAG. The first game night was a big success and a lot of fun!

# Ongoing & Weekly Events

**EXPLORING FAITH GROUPS**  
Sunday Morning Class IS ON  
HOLD UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE  
~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 starting September 16th 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 the  
Month starting  
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**

216 E. Gurley Street  
Prescott, AZ 86301  
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.