

# The Parish Caller

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

October 28, 2016



First Congregational  
Church, United  
Church of Christ,  
Prescott

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

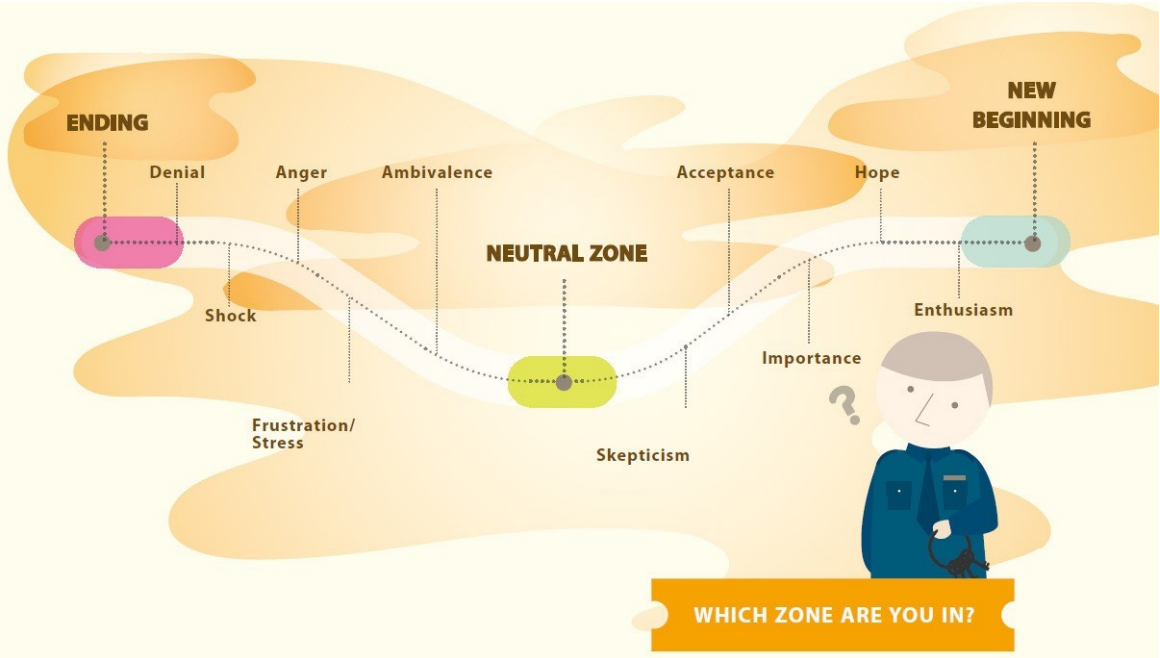
- ◆ **Last Day for Advent Devotional Submissions is this Sunday, Oct. 30th**
- ◆ **Choir Rehearsal:** Sunday 9:00 am
- ◆ **Worship Service and Fellowship time:** Sunday 10:30 am
- ◆ **Living the Questions:** Monday 6:30 pm
- ◆ **Bell Choir:** Thursday 11:00 am

**From the Pastor**

All of us are doing our best to navigate the many changes happening in the church as we do the restoration project. So much is going on that it can feel a little dizzying. A couple quick things to say about it: (1) it was due – it was a long time coming and needed in so many ways; and (2) memorial money was given and restricted to just this purpose – to care for the building.

As Gary Gard notes in another brief article in this Parish Caller, our focus on ourselves in this building project has not slowed our attention to mission! Thank you all for that.

I was recently in Tucson for the annual clergy retreat. We spent some time looking at transitions as a sort of Biblical wilderness experience. We were talking mainly about pastor transitions, but any transition has similar characteristics. 15% never get on board with the transition. Another 15% feel great about it, and the other 70% adjust with time to the new reality.



So, we are all reacting in different ways to this restoration transition. Know that wherever you are on the chart, we will get through to a new beginning. This church has survived many transitions before this – ask those who were here last time the carpet color changed. Jay

Outreach and Missions

OUTREACH AND MISSIONS FOCUS FOR OCTOBER

Thanks to your generous giving to mission in just these last few weeks, we have delivered the following contributions to:

- (1) "Neighbors in Need" \$639 (2) CCI "Warm for Winter", \$329 --plus donated coats/blankets (we are still collecting these items, contact Gary Gard for more information)
- (3) Discovery Gardens Preschool \$440,--plus donated items
- (4) Community Cupboard \$200, -- plus donated items.

We have been blessed to be a blessing. Thanks to your caring/sharing, there will be many who will have cause to celebrate Thanksgiving and Christmas a little early this year. — Respectfully submitted by Gary Gard

*FYI: So far this year we have collected \$7,880.00 in gifts from individual contributions that have been earmarked and distributed for Missions and Outreach with another \$3,500.00 that is built into our church budget.*



“Faith leaders from all traditions called to stand with water protectors at Standing Rock” , from the UCC.org News Desk more on page 3



Announcements

BELL CHOIR PRACTICE RESUMES

Our Bell Choir has resumed practice on Thursdays at 11:00 am. We are so grateful that Carole Sue is recovering from her shoulder surgery

**WOMEN’ S FELLOWSHIP MEETING CHANGE** – Instead of our usual once a month Friday meeting we changed the date to SATURDAY MORNING, November 12<sup>th</sup>. We are hoping some of you working outside the home ladies can join us! See you there. Sincerely ,Marilyn Skovgard

**HEALING SERVICE — Communion**

Wednesday, November 16th - Led by Called to Care Team. More information to follow.

**JAZZ VESPERS NOVEMBER 30TH AT 6:30 PM**

Song of the Pines will be with us this night. Jazz will give way to Christmas Music. This will be an extra special time as we approach the Christmas season.

**RESTORATION PROJECT UPDATE**

The sanctuary and Perkins Hall will receive the final touch ups after painting this wee. Electrical work and flooring in both foyers are going to be worked on in the next few week.

**LOST AND FOUND AND RECYCLY BINS** are located on top of coat rack. Please throw your bulletins, if not keeping, in the recycle bin on your way out, thank you! In addition, Marilyn Skovgard, Angela Imbierowicz, or Tom Macy can answer questions for you.

**PICTURE DIRECTORY** Rev. Shirley is taking pictures of everyone for a pictorial directory. This will help us all get to know each other—Thanks Rev. Shirley!

**CHURCH KEYBOARD FOR SALE:** Please ask Marilyn Skovgard or Tom Macy for more information.





**Advent  
Devotional  
Submissions  
Deadline is this  
coming SUNDAY!!**

## OUR 2016 UCC ADVENT DEVOTIONAL

This year once again, our church is putting together an Advent Devotional: a work of love *by* our members *for* our members and friends, a booklet with favorite stories, personal memories of a Christmas past, poems, favorite recipes, all relating to Christmas while we wait for the coming of our Lord Jesus.

Also, we will need a title for this booklet. Please submit your entry to the people below. Interested in volunteering to put this together? Let us know!

Absolute deadline: Sunday October 30, 2016

Handwritten, typed or emailed entries may be handed or sent to:

**Angela Imbierowicz: 708-712-1448**      angelaprescottaz@gmail.com

**Ronny de Jong: 928-541-7743**      ronnyhermandejong@gmail.com



## Faith leaders from all traditions called to stand with water protectors at Standing Rock

Written by Connie Larkman

A coalition of clergy, including United Church of Christ ministers, will be converging on the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation on the banks of the great Missouri River next week, Nov. 2-4, called by an Episcopal priest who serves the community. Fr. Joseph Floberg is reaching out to interfaith friends to come stand with environmental advocates and the people of more than a hundred Tribal nations, in protection of the water and sacred lands, against the Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL).

"We will gather to stand witness to water protector's acts of compassion for God's creation, and to the transformative power of God's love to make a way out of no way," Floberg writes in [an internet invitation](#). "I have been serving 25 years as the supervising priest of the Episcopal churches of Standing Rock in North Dakota. In recent days, the repressive power of the state has increased: armed riot police are guarding ongoing pipeline construction, increased arrests and repression of non-violent prayerful action."

Hundreds have aligned with the Standing Rock Sioux tribe in a several months-long effort to stop construction of the pipeline they say threatens water supplies and sacred sites. The reservation straddles North and South Dakota, with the camps housing the water protectors in the territorial lands just north of Cannon Ball, N.D. On Thursday Oct. 27, more than 140 people were arrested after officers in riot gear used pepper spray to drive people back from DAPL construction areas. Law enforcement from outside of the Dakotas is being deployed to keep water protectors in check. Last weekend, there were more than 100 arrests as well.

"I think the call for clergy is important," said the Rev. Rebecca Voelkel of Lyndale UCC's Center for Sustainable Justice in Minneapolis, Minn. She has already spent time at Standing Rock in solidarity with the Native people, is currently contesting the use of Minneapolis area deputies at the Standing Rock sites, and would like to get back there next week. "Water Protectors are under the threat of repression and violence from a highly militarized police presence. Indigenous leaders from Standing Rock Sioux Tribal Chairman David Archambault to American Indian Movement founder Clyde Bellecourt have put out the call for witnesses, support and solidarity, especially from clergy."



The Rev. Gordon Rankin, conference minister of the South Dakota Conference UCC is changing his schedule next week to make sure he can join his spiritual colleagues at the camp established by the Standing Rock tribe.

"While there have been countless visits to the Oceti Sakowin camp by interfaith allies and denominational contingents, this is the first coordinated gathering of religious leaders," said Rankin. "Those who gather will be participating in an allied action of prayer with indigenous tribes from all over the world."

The Rev. Todd Smiedendorf, senior minister of Washington Park United Church of Christ, in Denver, already had plans to go to Standing Rock this weekend with his wife, driving

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Faith leaders from all traditions called to stand with water protectors at Standing Rock continued from page 3

up on Saturday.

"It's important for me to be there because this protection effort represents a most timely expression of Incarnating the Gospel," Smiedenorf said. "There's a lot in this situation that is rich in potential for change and for healing the First Nations, the United States, and the earth. We can make other choices in this moment as a nation than we have made for centuries; to honor the rights and desires of First Nation peoples, to choose the earth over short term financial profits."

"As a religious leader in the Dakotas I am ever aware of just how shameful the church's history is in relating to the Dakota, Lakota, and Nakota people. For decades the church had a direct hand in silencing their voices," Rankin said. "Now it is time for us to stand on the right side of justice. Now it is time to amplify their voices. And that is what we gather to do."

The Rev. Lise Sparrow, who serves Guilford Community Church United Church of Christ in Vermont had planned a later trip, but changed her arrangements to be there Nov. 3. "I am going with the blessing of my church. Our youth group travels to South Dakota every summer to work on the Cheyenne River Sioux Reservation so we feel a deep connection."

"Certainly our stewarding of the earth and its peoples is a call rooted in the Judeo-Christian story," Sparrow continued. "The Native peoples gathered are protecting sacred lands and opposing violence with prayer. I believe this is a time parallel to that of the Civil Rights Movement and one which is part of the trajectory we must follow toward justice. If clergy do not uphold a code of moral

action for our nation who will?"

"I know this invitation is last-minute. But these are extraordinary circumstances," Floberg writes. "I hope you will sit in prayer with this request, and I pray this may be the opening door that you have been searching for to engage with all that is happening here."

"We gather to protect to the sacred," said Rankin. "We are there to protect sacred burial sites made holy by the tears and prayers of those remembering ancestors interred there. We are also there to protect Mother Earth and remember the sacred call that all of us have received to steward her resources gently."

"The intersection of creation care and First Nation rights calls my wife and me to witness and support the nonviolent protection of water and the Oyate (the People)," said Smiedenorf. "The abundant life of which Jesus spoke is to be found not in more oil production and more discounting of First Nation people, but in life more in harmony with the Way of Earth and in co-operation and empowerment of indigenous peoples."

As Floberg writes, "Our duty as people of faith and clergy could not be clearer: to stand on the side of the oppressed and to pray for God's mercy in these challenging times."

Compelled to act, but can't make the trip to North Dakota? – The UCC invites you to join this online statement of solidarity, a call to action already supported by more than 100 clergy in just a few hours.

"We are compelled by our faith to stand with the water protectors of Standing Rock, who have pricked the conscience of a nation and the world. In opposing the Dakota Access Pipeline that would carry oil from North Dakota to Illinois, they have resolutely declared that they are not protestors but protectors and defenders acting out of a sacred obligation which affirms 'water is life.'"

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

**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.

**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

**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.

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