



The Parish Caller

First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, Prescott Established 1880

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

Weekly News and Updates

This Week at a Glance...

- Sunday Chancel Singers Rehearsal: 9:00 a.m.
- Sunday Worship: 10:30 a.m.
- Tuesday Prayer Chapel: 11:00 a.m. Meeting Room 2
- P.A.S.S.: Wednesday 5:00 p.m. Parking Lot
- 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

FROM THE PASTOR

We continue our look at our stained-glass window Sunday with a focus on the pane “the constitution.” Remember Dr. Parker designed the window and looked for examples of “more light” coming from God’s Word. The constitution sheds light on God’s desire for us to experience freedom and its benefits:



We the People of the United States, in order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

The Declaration of Independence included “the pursuit of happiness.”

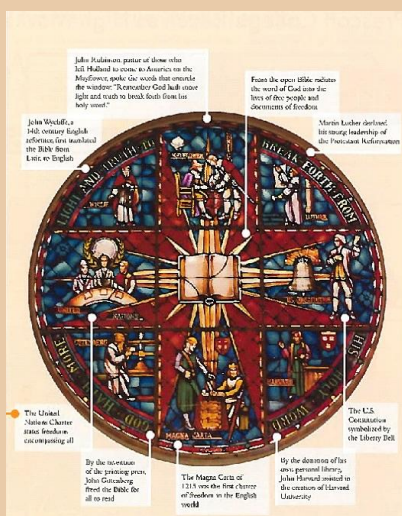
We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.

So, in trying to connect the Constitution to scripture, I decided to focus on the idea that we are free to pursue happiness, one of the blessings of liberty secured for us.

What is happiness and how can we pursue it? The Biblical counterpart to happiness is joy. We will consider the meaning of joy and how it might differ from happiness. Philippians chapter 4 and Psalm 23 are the texts.

We may find that Biblical joy is countercultural to the modern American idea of how to be happy.

Jay



Sermon Series Continues...

- Oct. 15 The U.S. Constitution
- Oct. 22 The United Nations
- Oct. 29 Martin Luther

(October 31 - the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation)

CALLED TO CARE PRAYER CHAPEL: DAY CHANGE

We meet at 11:00 for Prayer Chapel downstairs on Tuesdays instead of Mondays.

P.A.S.S.

Prescott Area Shelter Services (PASS) provides shelter for women and women with children. In addition to shelter, women receive help to find employment and permanent housing. Monthly, volunteers from our congregation provide a hot meal, side dishes, and dessert. Patty Gard coordinates this ministry. In addition to thanking Patty, our thanks to those who has helped provide meals: Sandra and Lionel Cabot, Marti Garrison, Paul Monska, Patty Lantrip, Barbara McClure, Chris Richmond, Staci Robbins, Cherie & Jay Wilcher. Julie Jaquette, Month-after-month, each of these volunteers have been generous with their commitments. However, we need others to help. Please give this your prayerful attention. If you can help provide a hot meal, side dish, or dessert, please add your name to the PASS sign-up list found in Perkins Hall. Questions? Phone Patty Gard ([928 460 3042](tel:9284603042)).



Shelter Facts

- Since opening in February 2009, PASS has served over 2000 women and children, provided over 32,000 bed nights, and on average 1050 bed nights per year are utilized by the children we serve.
- Over 90% of our Shelter Guests transition into permanent housing.
- PASS provides emergency services to homeless women and children, some of whom suffer from mental illness and are recovering from substance abuse.

“Warm for Winter”

This month’s mission emphasis is “Warm for Winter”, a project of the local Coalition for Compassion and Justice. The last Saturday of this month, free warm clothing will be made available to those who are homeless or living in an impoverished family. New or gently used coats, sweaters, blankets, gloves, socks and hats are needed. If you would like to make a check donation, please make your check payable to the church with a memo note of “Warm for Winter”.

Spiritual Formation at the Conference Level or - “What’s up with Lay Academy?”

by Karen Richter

A small but tenacious group has continued thinking and dreaming and talking about lay theological education in the Southwest Conference. Julie McCurdy from the Prescott congregation and I attended the Regional Theological Education Consortium gathering in Oberlin, Ohio last fall. We had an opportunity to see what other groups are doing regarding lay education, preparation for authorization, alternatives to traditional seminaries, and support for formation in local congregations.



Since November, conversations have continued and lots LOTS of questions have come about...

- What formation experiences are best kept in the context of the local congregation?
- What’s the purpose (mission, goals, etc.) of lay formation at the conference level?
- What are other organizations doing and how can we participate in those efforts in a mutually beneficial way?
- • How can the conference best support “everyday” formation of laity in our congregations?
- • What are the various needs for discernment resources and skills in different settings?
- • What are we hearing about what people need? What do people need that maybe they’re not yet aware of?

As I’ve thought and daydreamed, I have found it helpful to make some little piles - metaphorically tossing ideas and concepts into where-does-this-happen groups.

In the “Local Church” pile, I’ve put

- Discipleship
- Navigating culture as a person of faith and conscience
- Discernment and calling (“what work in the world is mine to do?”)
- Interpersonal and family support networks
- Values clarification

In the “Southwest Conference / Middle Judicatory” pile, I’ve put

- Navigating culture as a congregation/institution/denomination
- New church forms and ways of being church together, sometimes called Church 3.0
- Discernment around authorization (“in what way am I called to authorized ministry?”)
- Boundary training
- Leadership development for congregation and the conference
- Available resources for staff and volunteers managing formation at local churches
-

What’s left that doesn’t have an easily defined pile?


- Nonviolent direct action training and mentoring
- Church history
- Mid-level theology (that broad territory between Sunday School and seminary)
- Meditation and spiritual practices beyond the basics
- Interfaith, ecumenical, and multiple religious belonging conversations

What have I left out? Where do you see your own needs reflected in these piles, if anywhere? Where is energy around spiritual formation and lay education bubbling up around the conference (hat tip to Barb Doerrer-Peacock for this evocative language)?

Share your thoughts (karen@shadowrockucc.org or bdoerrerpeacock@uccswc.org) Conversations continue -

stay tuned!

In the meantime, please hold in prayer those called to work on lay formation in our congregations and throughout the United Church of Christ.



3 Great Loves

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST has recently adopted a new purpose, mission and vision statement:

- ❖ We will love the Lord our God with our whole heart, mind, soul and strength; and our neighbor as ourselves. *(Purpose)*
- ❖ United by the Holy Spirit and inspired by God’s grace we love all, welcome all, and seek justice for all. *(Mission)*
- ❖ A just world for all. *(Vision)*

IN FIDELITY TO THIS STATEMENT, the denomination has invited congregations and individuals within the United Church of Christ to move in mission toward the 3 GREAT LOVES: love of children, love of neighbor, and love of creation.

Church of Christ in its many settings of ministry will discern and lift up how we act upon these 3 Great Loves. As we do so, we will tell the story of how we are impacting and transforming the world, as covenantal partners united in common purpose and mission.

During these upcoming two years, there will be moments of special invitation to participate in this denomination-wide undertaking. One by one we will focus on each of the 3 Great Loves in service to our communities.

About the 3 Great Loves Initiative:
The United Church of Christ has a vision of a just world for all. In this world all are welcomed, everyone is loved and justice is inherent. The 3 Great Loves is the denomination’s opportunity to express how our Love of Neighbor, Love of Children, and Love of Creation work together to address the inequities in our current world.

Beginning at Synod 2017 and ending at Synod 2019, through the lens of the 3 Great Loves, the United


THE CHOIR IS NOW CALLED "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.

NEW MEMBERS WILL BE RECEIVED OCTOBER 22

Do you want to learn about our church's long and fascinating history, both as First Congregational then United Church of Christ in Prescott? And would you like to share in a discussion on how our church is valuable in our Prescott/Prescott Valley area and share why you are joining or why you joined?



Whether you are becoming a member now or have been a member for any length of time, please join Rev. Marti Garrison and Julie McCurdy to learn about who we are and our core beliefs. We will show new members around the church too.

This Sunday, October 8th, Marti will lead the discussion on the Congregational/United Church of Christ history and how we operate as a church family. On Sunday, October 15, Julie will open up a conversation on how this particular church is so needed and valued in our community. We will meet after service in the big meeting room downstairs, about 11:45.

Our new member Sunday is October 22nd. It's wonderful to welcome new members!

STEWARDSHIP

Offerings			Attendance	Monthly Average	YTD Average	Outreach Gifts		
	September	YTD	January	102		Jan	July	
Offerings	\$ 3,978	\$ 83,427	February	89		Prescott Comm. Cupb.	\$ 580	Pancake Breakfast \$ 1,337
Facility Use	\$ 1,093	\$ 9,976	March	89		Feb	August	
Foundation		\$ 47,876	April	108		PASS	\$ 140	Discovery Gardens \$ 65
Other		\$ 5,510	May	101		March	Sept	
Total	\$ 5,071	\$ 146,789	June	79		Habitat for Humanity	\$ 165	Neighbors in Need \$ 495
Expenses, Actual			July	96		April	Undesignated Missions	
	October	YTD	August	91		One Great Hour Share	\$ 1,183	YTD \$ 900
Expenses	\$ 9,265	\$ 218,600	Sept	90		May	Famine Relief	
Annual Budget Needs			Oct	81	93	Church World Service	\$ 319	Special Offering \$ 795.00
	Annual	October YTD	Nov			June	Hurricane Relief	
Expenses	\$ 254,276	\$ 210,397	Dec			Strengthen the Church	\$ 280	Special Offering \$ 4,600

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.

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

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 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

