

## A Message from Pastor Jay

### **SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25 REFORMATION SUNDAY**

This Sunday we will have our regular Zoom fellowship gathering at 10am and also a parking lot gathering at 10am. Communion will be offered.

Sunday's recorded worship service will feature musical selections by Brian and Melissa, a sermon based on Joshua 10, a remembrance of the start of the Protestant Reformation on October 31, 1517, and JJ expecting God to save him as he jumped off the communion table

### **ZOOM BOOK STUDY OCTOBER 25**

**You are invited to join in a book study of**

**“White Too Long” by Robert P. Jones**

**To be held every Sunday Evening at 5:30  
For six weeks beginning on October 11<sup>th</sup>  
And ending on November 15<sup>th</sup>.**

**The Study will be by Zoom  
And led by Ralph Wagner  
If you are on the Church email list  
You will receive a weekly invitation**

**You may purchase the book on Kindle for 13.49 and hard cover for 20.91. The book is also available on audiobook for free and can be purchased on audio CD on Amazon.**

### **Wednesday Zoom Bible Study at 10am**

Stay safe, and give and receive grace,

Jay

## **TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST REFORMATION SUNDAY**

Gather us together this Reformation Sunday, O God, that we may celebrate the witness of our forefathers and foremothers and the courage that gave birth to the Reformation. Teach us how to honor the saints of God in ages past as well as in our present days. May the conviction of your grace written on their hearts be one that forms our own faith. Inspire us in the continuing reformation of the church and be present to us in your Word. In Christ's name we pray. Amen

October 25, 2020

### **GATHERING TO WORSHIP GOD**

Prelude: "Gather Us In" by Marty Haugen – Brian Moore

Words of Welcome – Announcements - \*Passing of the Peace

Choral Call to Worship: "No Matter" by Roger P. Miller

Call to Worship (from Psalm 46 and Martin Luther's Hymn) -  
Melissa Gates

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore, we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult. A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing; our helper God amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing. □ There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High. God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved; □ God will help it when the morning dawns. Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing. We gather to worship God and receive the grace we need!

Opening Prayer – Mellisa  
Gates

Reforming God, we give you thanks for your forgiveness and your blessing. We pray for ourselves and your church

throughout the world. Fill us with a spirit of openness to your Spirit, to hear and receive your promises and to keep our covenant with you. Where we are corrupt, purify us. Where we are in error, direct us. Where we are in need, provide for us. Where we are divided, reunite us. And where we are close-minded, reform us and make us new. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Hymn: "A Mighty Fortress is our God" New Century Hymnal #439

## **PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD**

Scripture Reading: Joshua 10 - Melissa Gates

Hymn: "We Shall Not Give Up the Fight" - New Century Hymnal #437

A Time for Children of All Ages - JJ

Sermon: "On God's Side" – Pastor Jay

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

Anthem: "Amazing Grace / Kum Baa Yah" – arr. Lon Beery & Sandra Berry Musser

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

Prayer Response: "Teach Me" by Sandy O'Shea

Offering of Ourselves and our Gifts

Doxology: "Rejoice You Pure in Heart"

Prayer of Dedication – Melissa Gates

Hymn: "God of Grace and God of Glory" - New Century Hymnal #436

Benediction – Pastor Jay

Postlude: "Go Make a Difference" by Angrsano/Tomaszek

**First Congregational Church of Prescott  
United Church of Christ**

216 E. Gurley Street

Prescott, AZ 86301

[www.fccprescott.org](http://www.fccprescott.org)

[www.facebook.com/FccUccPrescott](https://www.facebook.com/FccUccPrescott)

928-445-4555

**Founded September 26, 1880**

**Serving the Church**

Ministers All the People of the Church

Pastor Rev. Dr. Jay Wilcher

Pastor Emeritus Rev. Robert Bradstreet

Worship Leader Melissa Gates

Alter Notes Director Melissa Gates

Organist Brian Moore

Bell Choir Director Carole Sue Linson

Moderator Rev. Ralph Wagner

Minister of the Building Rev. Bill Linson

Facilities Coordinator Tom Macy

**OCTOBER MISSION NEWS**

**Mission Outreach Update:**

Each month throughout the year, your mission outreach team identifies particular mission project/programs to which we might choose to donate. This month's mission emphasis is our denomination's Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM). Most of what is donated to OCWM remains within our Southwest Conference. Donations support staff expenses, conference meetings, educational programs for adults and youth, summer camps, new church development, and ecumenical endeavors. Your check may be made payable to the church, with the memo line note, OCWM. From donations to prior month's mission emphasis projects, checks have been sent to Discovery Gardens (\$400) and to our denomination's special offering, Neighbors in Need (\$400).

**As we do each month**, volunteers pack food bags for those served by the Community Food Bank (CFB), and prepare monthly meals for women/children staying at the PASS shelter. From the beginning of the COVID 19 pandemic in March to September 25, CFB volunteers from our church and other faith communities have packed 64,675 pounds of food serving 9,345 people.

**As always**, thank you for remembering that we have been blessed to be a blessing. (Genesis 12:2) Your mission outreach team is: Becky and Bill Bryant, Helaine Berman, Patty Gard, Linda Moore, and Gary Gard, Chairperson.

## JOSHUA SERMON SERIES

### Preaching Through Joshua

- Sept 6 - Joshua 1 - "Crossing Over"
- Sept 13 - Joshua 2 - Dealing with Uncontrollable Circumstances
- Sept. 20 - Joshua 3-4 - "We Have Not Passed This Way Before"
- Sept 27 - 140th Anniversary - Rev. Bill Lyons Preaching
- Oct. 4 - Joshua 5 - "Spiritual Preparation"
- Oct. 11 - Joshua 6 - "When God Doesn't Make Sense"
- Oct. 18 - Joshua 7,8,9 - "Deceiving Ourselves"
- Oct. 25 - Joshua 10 - "Choosing to be on God's Side"
- Nov. 1 - Joshua 13-19 - "Saint Caleb"
- Nov. 8 - Joshua 20 - "Finding Refuge"
- Nov. 15 - Joshua 22 - "Opportunities & Obstacles in Times of Change"
- Nov. 22 - Joshua 23-24 - "The Importance of Conviction"

[Text Link](#)

## 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"

## TREASURER'S REPORT

As of the end of September, the year-to-date income is \$136,000 (which includes the generous contribution of \$51,000 from the Foundation). The impact of the pandemic has most likely reduced income by \$10,000 or more. This is due to the church being closed to outside groups.

The pandemic—and the church being closed—has also impacted expenses. Year-to-date expenses are \$131,000 and have been reduced by about \$20,000, mostly from employee wages and payroll expenses. We are on a new path to self-sufficiency through volunteerism! In summary, income has continued to be sufficient to cover expenses. Net income is nearly \$5,000. These are strange times, indeed. We can get through this together! Keep your pledges and contributions coming!

Thank you,

Julie McCurdy, treasurer

## 140TH ANNIVERSARY OF OUR CHURCH

### FCC History

#### **FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH CELEBRATES 140<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY FOUNDED SEPTEMBER 26, 1880**

First Congregational Church was founded September 26, 1880. The first building was dedicated on November 27, 1881, at a cost of \$3200. The current building – 216 East Gurley Street - was dedicated on June 26, 1905. The congregation has always sought to follow Jesus in caring for and about those on the margins of society. In 1900, members of this congregation taught English to the Chinese railroad workers here in Prescott after the completion of the transcontinental railroad. Our commitment to education led our pastor and members to help in the founding of Prescott College. The congregation joined the United Church of Christ denomination after its formation.

Since 1957, the United Church of Christ has been the church of firsts, weaving God's message of hope and extravagant welcome with action for justice and peace. Together, we live out our faith in ways that effect change in our communities. The UCC's many "firsts" mean that we have inherited a tradition of acting upon the demands of our faith. When we read in Galatians: "There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus"—a demand is made upon us. So, we were the first historically white denomination to ordain an African - American, the first to ordain a woman, the first to ordain an openly gay person, and the first Christian church to affirm the right of same-gender couples to marry. We were in the forefront of the anti-slavery movement and the Civil Rights movement. Our response to the demands of our faith is woven into the history of our country.

# CHURCH CLOSED THROUGH OCTOBER

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The church Cabinet decided at its September 24 meeting to remain closed through October and continue to worship virtually. Parking lot gatherings may continue as weather permits. Check the Parish Caller each week for details. Toward the end of October, decisions will be made based on the spread of the virus.

[Text Link](#)

## 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