

First Congregational Church

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

MISSION OUTREACH UPDATE

Our mission outreach emphasis for October is the denomination's "Our Church's Wider Mission" (OCWM). Donations to OCWM will help support; new church development, innovative programs reaching out to young adults, regional administrative support for local churches, and ecumenical relationships. Please make your check payable to the church, with the memo note, OCWM.



Throughout the year, we continue to help documented immigrant students needing assistance to meet their educational expenses. Most of our aid has been to assist Franceny Gardea, a junior at Prescott College, Franciso Gardea, a senior at the U of A, and Fernando, a senior at Bradshaw Mountain High School. Donations to our DACA Fund are always welcome.

The immigration event we helped to plan and present September 21 at the Methodist Church was attended by over 200 people. Panelists addressed current government immigration laws, policies and practices. Guest speakers included an immigration attorney from Phoenix, an ordained Methodist immigration worker, the Humbolt-Dewey School Superintendent, and an area immigrant. Although they chose to decline, local law agencies were invited to be a part of our panel.

Monthly we provide a hot meal for women, and women with children staying at the Prescott Area Shelter Services (PASS). If you would like to help, please sign your name to our sign-up sheet in Perkins Hall. PASS is hosting an Open House on Wednesday, October 16th from 1-4:00 P.M. Questions can be directed to Patty Gard, our PASS meal coordinator. In addition to PASS, we are exploring the possibility of helping to provide a meal to those staying at the CCJ Shelter. If interested, please see the sign-up sheet in Perkins Hall.

We are grateful that Angela Imbierowicz has volunteered to be our Community Cupboard Co-Captain. Our captain, Al Beeson, will be on leave as he begins his treatment for cancer. If you are interested in helping pack food bags distributed to those who are impoverished or homeless, please contact either Angela or Gary Gard.

Thanks for remembering that we have been blessed to be a blessing. (Genesis 12:2) Our mission team members are: Becky & Bill Bryant, Helaine Berman, Patty Gard, Linda Moore, Staci Robbins, and Gary Gard, chairperson.

An important part of our Sundays is the FELLOWSHIP
TIME IN PERKINS HALL.---

DOES THAT SENTENCE RING A BELL?
It was the start of an article requesting volunteers
to sign up to help in our Sunday social time
together back in August.

Our last Sunday BRUNCH was a big success, thanks to all
the cooks, bakers, donations, and kitchen set up/clean up
help!



Coffee Fellowship

THIS COMING SUNDAY IS A LITTLE DIFFERENT in that no one has signed up for
any duty. The coffee will be plugged in and ready after church so help yourselves to
putting out the left-overs from our brunch etc. Thanks for your help.

HAVE AN EYE FOR DETAIL?

The church is in need of volunteers to process the weekly offering. We work in teams of two on Mondays and it takes about two hours. Your team would rotate with at least two other teams making this an every third (or fourth) Monday commitment. The more teams we have the better. This is a really important ministry that offers a lot of personal satisfaction. If you have any questions or are interested, please contact Julie in the church office.



NINE AND DINE

It's time for another round of the delicious and fun Nine 'n Dine gatherings! Your last opportunity to sign up as a GUEST is October 13th, then you will hear from your mystery hosts.



The first round last spring was a great success and now we have new hosts welcoming church members and friends to their homes.

To recap:

- You sign up in Perkins Hall where it's posted Nine 'n Dine. You and a few other guests will then be randomly assigned to an unknown host. That is the fun part: meeting new people and sharing a meal and conversation. So far we have three hosts.
- Then the host will contact you about finding a date and time that works for everyone in your group. The host fixes the main dish and asks guests to bring side dishes.
- You all gather at the host's house and have a good time getting to know those in the church you might not know as well as you would like.
- Questions? See Marti Garrison or write garrisonmarti@gmail.com

HOMOSEXUALITY AND THE BIBLE

The United Church of Christ and the Bible Q&A

Look for copies of these booklets on the education table in Perkins Hall. They are quick reads that give insight into our UCC beliefs.



The Bible and the United Church of Christ (free! pick one up): This handy little booklet answers such questions as

- What is the Bible? Do we believe in the Bible?
- When was the Bible written and how?
- If the Bible was written by people a long time ago and over such a long time, how can it be so important? How can it be a revelation?
- Why do Christians read from the Bible...and not from other great literature or the writings of other religions?
- What is 'the canon'? What translation should we read?

Four biblical scholars succinctly address these questions and also suggest "Fifteen passages to know by heart" and "Twelve great reads." Martin B. Copenhaver intriguingly finishes with a page called "The Really Hard Parts: the parts that—for one reason or another, in one way or another—frustrate, baffle, or even offend."

Stillspeaking Bible Study (also free! And to share). Nine theologians offer short but thoughtful interpretations and study questions on:

Genesis 28: 10-17 Exodus 3: 7-15 Joshua 1: 1-9 Isaiah 43: 15-19 Luke 18: 35-43 2 Corinthians 4: 3-6 Acts 10: 34-48 John 2: 1-11 John 16: 12-13

Their comments are shaped by the UCC guiding principles: "Never place a period where God has placed a comma" And "God hath yet more light and truth to break forth from God's Holy Word."

Homosexuality and the Bible by Walter Wink (Fellowship Publications, 2005). This straightforward and knowledgeable booklet's chapters are: "Unequivocal Condemnations"; "Hebrew Sexual Mores"; "The Problem of Authority"—certain rules, especially in the Old Testament, are no longer binding; "Judge for Yourself" and "An Appeal for Tolerance" revised in consultation with Dr. Amy-Jill Levine. Wink gives us a new and modern interpretation of biblical scriptures on this topic. These are also free and more can be ordered.

"What the Bible Really says about Gay Christians may Surprise you!" written by our own South West conference president Rev. Dr. William Lyons. This is the text of a seminar he gave at St. John's United Church of Christ, Grand Rapids, MI. "Participants in this seminar can expect to:

- Broaden their understanding of what it means to hear God's voice,
- Expand their ability to understand and appreciate the wide variety of beliefs and opinions other people of faith hold about homosexuality and the Bible,
- Grow more confident in the Biblical grounding for their own views about homosexuality, and
- Increase the frequency with which they turn to Scripture as an authoritarian resource for understanding and responding to other difficult social issues.

This is a fascinating and thorough approach to examining how we and others interpret the Bible on this issue in particular, "[taking] the first steps toward overcoming polarization that prevents us from engaging in meaningful dialogue with one another about difficult issues in light of Scripture, and practicing what the Bible says about more basic topics, namely, practicing love toward all people."

One copy is on the table but it can be freely copied. Copies of the other booklets will be ordered if needed. Read and enjoy and learn more about our United Church of Christ denomination.

See Marti Garrison with questions.

JUDAISM CLASS SUCCESSFUL START

We had a great first class this Thursday with 7 of us in attendance! We will continue after next week, on October 17th at 11:00. Come one, come all, coffee, tea and goodies provided.





The days are getting shorter...reflective time and gentle music awaits you...join us!

Taizé Vespers Service

Wed. October 16, 2019

Parker Room

(in the Basement past Women's Restroom)

Service begins at 6:30 pm

**First Congregational Church,
United Church of Christ
216 E. Gurley Street, Prescott**

Introduction to **Compassionate Communication**

Find your voice, speak your truth & listen deeply

Would you like to be able to hear others and speak your mind in a clear and kind way without needing to be defensive or go on the attack? Find more ease in everyday conversations. Stay focused on what really matters to you and listen for the concerns behind others' words.

Saturday, October 19th
1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

at the
First Congregational Church
216 E. Gurley Street
Prescott

Facilitators Rachel Garmon and Sharon Seymour have been immersed in Marshall Rosenberg's Nonviolent Communication practice since 2004, attending workshops and retreats, and facilitating classes and practice groups. They bring a lively, 'jump right in' style to their teaching. Take home skills you can use right now.

Donations to support the work of the facilitators welcomed.

Stay informed about this and other such events at
nvcarizona.org



VIDEO OF SUNDAY SERVICES: After the success of our fundraising for our sound system, we are moving on to raising funds to be able to video the worship service each Sunday and have it online - please designate for "video" if you would like to donate.

WE HAVE COLLECTED \$1,650 SO FAR!

Schedule for "It's a Wonderful Life" Radio Play

PH=Perkins Hall, S=Sanctuary

Sat, Oct 12, 1pm - Fun read-through of script for anyone interested.

- AUDITIONS: Fri, Oct 25, 6-7 pm and Sat, Oct 26, 10:00 am - Noon (S)
- Sat, Oct 26, by 4pm Call/Email to actors "will you accept this role?"
- Sun, Oct 27, 10:30 am Roles announced at church; (SCRIPTS available to actors with directions for dramatic reading)
- *[Schedule times to rehearse with SFX live, SFX recorded & audio, & organ]*
-
- Sat, Nov 2, 10am - Noon, Script and directions to actors - First read-through (PH)
- Sat, Nov 9, 10am - 12 Noon Scripts to actors -read through (S)

[change this to Sanctuary and practice with

Microphones & assigned seats]

Offer that anyone who wants additional help can meet Monday, Nov 11, 6pm

- *Wed. November 13, 6pm - 7pm Live & Recorded Sound Effects & music*
- *Sat, Nov 16, 9:30 am LIVE & RECORDED SFX QUICK RUN-THROUGH (S)*
- *Sat, Nov 16, 10:00 am - Noon FULL REHEARSAL (S)*
- *Sun, Nov 17, 12:30 pm DRESS REHEARSAL with Audience (S)*
- *Tue, Nov 19, 6 - 7pm, FULL REHEARSAL, IF NEEDED (S))*
- *Wed, Nov 20, 7pm: PERFORMANCE (pls be in Perkins Hall 6:30) (S)*



It's a Wonderful Life

Wednesday November 20, 2019

7:00 p.m.

First Congregational Church
216 E. Gurley St.

ADMISSION IS FREE

ANNIVERSARIES

Janet & Ritch Steven
11/23

BIRTHDAYS

Ralph Gilges 10/09
Melissa Gates 10/13
Paul Monska 10/13
Dave Deville 10/15
David Foote 10/17
Elizabeth Gates 10/21
Harold Lobaugh 10/22
Suzy Lobaugh 10/23
Patty Lantrip 10/25
Marilyn Eby 10/28
Marti Garrison 11/01
Sandra Johns 11/01
Julie McCurdy 11/01
Debbie Staats 11/01
Carolyn Prohaska 11/10
Judy Ely 11/11
Bill Rouse 11/15
Andrew Wallace 11/18
John Huff 11/23
Fay Wilson 11/24
Bob Bradstreet 11/28
Bill Linson 11/28
Patti Cichon 12/03
John McCurdy 12/03
Carole Sue Linson 12/08
Sandra Talbot 12/08
Randy Jay Wilcher 12/17
Pete Norum 12/18
Jay Eby 12/24
Dillan Osborn 12/25
Don Stephens 12/25

Office Hours

Monday - Thursday: 9:00 am - 4:00 pm
Friday - 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Pastor Jay
Monday - Thursday:
9:00 am - 12:00

EVERY-WEEK COMMUNION

We have communion each week right after worship at the front of the sanctuary, everyone is welcome to participate.

MONTHLY COMMUNION

Our regularly scheduled communion is held the first Sunday of each month. Communion is open to all.

PASS MEAL

Once a month, we provide a meal for Prescott Area Shelter Services, the third Wednesday of the month.

CABINET MEETING

Meets the 4th Wednesday of each month at 5:30 p.m. in the Office Conference Room unless otherwise announced.

BELL CHOIR REHEARSAL

We will train you! We meet for rehearsal at 9:00 am. On Thursdays in the Hazeltine Room downstairs.

CHANCEL SINGERS

We meet Sundays at 9:00 a.m. before worship service to rehearse. All are welcome.

ALTER-NOTES

We meet at 12:00 p.m. on Sunday after Coffee Time in the Sanctuary Chancel. Contact Melissa if you are interested in joining: 207-391-3276

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Children may participate with Sunday School downstairs after "Children's Time".

