

The Parish Caller November 13, 2020

A Message from Pastor Jay

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15

The virus is beginning to spread again in Arizona so we will no longer have in-person worship and transition back to virtual Zoom fellowship Sunday mornings at 10am and recorded worship available on our website.

Our video technician, Jim, is on a much deserved vacation this week, so we are not recording our own service. This Sunday we are worshipping virtually with a recoded service done by the UCC Conference of Ministers. The bulletin is in this Caller and shows the national scope of the participants.

Here is the link:

All videos (Vimeo Showcase): <https://vimeo.com/showcase/7782014>

I will be emailing the link to our Parish Caller list Saturday in case this link does not work.

Stay safe, and give and receive grace,

Jay

BULLETIN

Worship with the Council of Conference Ministers Fall 2020 Bulletin

Words of Welcome Written by David Popham (Hawaii Conference UCC) Read by Brigit Stevens (Iowa, Nebraska, and South Dakota UCC Conferences) and Shana Johnson (Illinois South Conference UCC)

Call to Worship Written by Mike Denton (Pacific Northwest Conference UCC) Read by Mike Denton and Gordon Rankin (New Hampshire Conference UCC)

Musical Offering: "We Are Not Alone" Words and Music by Pepper

Chopin Performed by the Southwestern Conference Virtual Choir

Time Especially for Children Written by John Dorhauer, UCC General Minister and President Read by John Dorhauer, Jonna Jensen (Maine Conference UCC), and Chad Abbott (Indiana Kentucky Conference UCC)

UCC Statement of Faith - in the form of a doxology Read by Justo González (Illinois Conference UCC), Sue Arts (Rocky Mountain Conference UCC), Tyler Connoley (Central Pacific Conference UCC), Shari Prestemon (Minnesota Conference UCC), Felix Villanueva (Southern California Nevada Conference UCC), Marc Stewart (Montana-Northern Wyoming Conference UCC), and Lynn Bujnak (Vermont Conference UCC)

A Prayer of Daily Thanksgiving Written and read by David Long-Higgins (Heartland Conference), September 2020

Musical Offering: Dream God's Dream Written by Bryan Sirchio Performed by Rev. Christy Eckert, Tarrah Vaupel, and Dr. Phil Wilhelm

Scripture Reading – Matthew 25:14-30 Read by Diane Weible (Northern California Nevada Conference UCC) and Franz Rigert (Wisconsin Conference UCC)

Message: "Thank God for Our Talents" By Marilyn B. Kendrix (Southern New England Conference)

Invitation to Generosity Written and read by David Ackerman (Penn West Conference)

Musical Offering: "Let Us Break Bread Together" Performed by Rev. Dr. Anthony L. D. Scott

Sacrament of Holy Communion Written by Marc Stewart (Montana-Northern Wyoming Conference UCC) and Bonnie Bates (Penn Northeast Conference UCC) Read by Marc Stewart, Bonnie Bates, Freeman Palmer (Central Atlantic Conference UCC), and Bill Worley (Southwestern Conference UCC)

Musical Offering: "Take; This Is My Body" Written by Rev. Cheryl Stewart, Singing Mountain, Billings MT Performed by William Demaniow, Music Director, First UCC Billings MT

Benediction Written and read by Lynn Bujnak (Vermont Conference UCC) Read by Shari Prestemon (Minnesota Conference UCC)

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

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Founded September 26, 1880

NOVEMBER MISSION NEWS

Mission Outreach Update:

As we do throughout the year, each month we offer an opportunity to support a particular new mission project. November's mission emphasis project/program is the Coalition for Compassion and Justice (CCJ). Transitioning from primarily being an emergency shelter for those who are homeless, CCJ is now focused on helping clients find permanent affordable housing. Once housing 45-55 homeless clients a night, CCJ now averages about a dozen clients. At present, 26 clients who were previously homeless now have permanent housing in 21 units; including sleep cottages, mobile homes, and lodge style facilities. Visions for 2021 included building two more lodge style facilities. In addition to offering permanent housing opportunities, CCJ works with other agencies to disburse Rental Assistance funds. Early in 2021, CCJ will complete a renovation project at their Madison Ave facility. The present CCJ Thrift Store on Fair Street will be closed and moved into the Madison Ave. location. The Madison Ave location will then be home to the "Second Glance" thrift store, shelter space for those needing emergency shelter, and office space for staff and programming. Seeking to help clients establish work opportunities, CCJ offers [1] "Wheels for Work," a program matching a client with a vehicle gifted by local donors and [2] "Prescott Worker's Progress Agency," a program providing the community with CCJ clients being trained as landscape workers. Further information may be obtained by calling the CCJ Director, Jessi Hans [928-445-8382]. We are proud to note that our pastor, Jay Wilcher, is the chairperson of the CCJ governing board. Donation checks can be made payable to the church, with the memo, "CCJ."

CCJ has monies for both rent assistance and utility bill assistance. Contact CCJ for more information

In response to this year's historic fire storms, particularly in the states of Colorado and California, the UCC headquarters is receiving donations to help those trying to

survive these devastating times. Your check can be made payable to the church, with the memo, "Fire Relief."

Community Cupboard food bank: Throughout the year, volunteers continue to pack food bags for those families living at/below the Federal Poverty guidelines. We remain grateful for our volunteers and to our team captain, Angela Imbierowicz. Contact Angela if you would like to volunteer.

Thank you to the following FCC packers for volunteering during the week of October 5 - 9, 2020. Your willingness to pack during this time is greatly appreciated.

Alice Kring, Barbars Frank, Patty Brenner, Marie Kissel, Lee Danaher Anne Robinson, Dave & Linda Foote, Kathy & Don Stephens.

Prescott Area Shelter Services [PASS]

The shelter guests always look forward to the monthly Wednesday evenings when our church family brings dinner. We received a lovely note of appreciation and a wooden spoon inscribed with the following: "Thank You, Meal Providers - PASS" when their evening meal was delivered last week. Their note will be posted on our Mission Outreach bulletin board in Perkins Hall and our special spoon will find a new home in the church kitchen. The content of Katee's note follows:

Dear FCC-UCC,

Thank you so very much for being a monthly meal provider at PASS and for your years of dedication and support! We truly appreciate your generosity and kindness, more that we could hope to express. At a time in our guests lives when they need shelter and guidance, a warm delicious meal can make all the difference in their day. They feel cared for, noticed, and valued. Thank you for caring about and helping women and children in need.

Katee

Katee also referenced the following quotes:

- ***"Volunteers do not necessarily have the time, they just have the heart."***
- ***"No one is more cherished in this world than someone who lightens the burden of another."***
- ***"There is nothing more beautiful than someone who goes out of their way to make life more beautiful for others."***

Our team of monthly contributors have already completed the sign-up sheet for November's PASS dinner. THANK YOU, ONE AND ALL! This ministry would not be possible without so many dedicated "helping hands." Thank you for the blessings you bring. Patty Gard, PASS coordinator.

We have all been blessed to be a blessing {Genesis 12:2}. Our Mission Outreach team members are: Becky and Bill Byrant, Helaine Berman, Linda Moore, Patty Gard, and Gary Gard, Chairperson.

TREASURER'S REPORT

NOVEMBER UPDATE

This is how things look, financially, as of October 31.

Year-to-date income is more than \$150,000 and expenses are \$148,000.

So, we have a net income of nearly \$2,000.

It appears that we are on target to end the year with a positive net income.

Our original budget projected a year-end deficit of more than \$32,000.

Having revised the budget in June, it was still anticipated that expenses

would exceed income—by about \$7,000. The greatest impact to the net

income has been the reduction of employment expenses by more than

\$5,000 per month since June. Other cost reductions are seen in utilities,

office supplies, and marketing, mostly due to the church building being

closed.

Thank you for your continued support of our church.

Julie McCurdy, Treasurer

As the end of the year approaches, you may be thinking ahead to planning for filing your tax returns. Here are answers to some frequently asked questions about contributions.

What Every Church Member Needs to Know about Contributions -

❑ Question: If I make a contribution in early January 2021, can I claim it on my 2020 taxes? Answer: No, contributions must be claimed in the year in which they are delivered.

❑ Question: If I mail my contribution in December 2020 but it doesn't reach my church until January 2021, for which year should I claim it? Answer: You would claim it on your 2020 tax return. A check that is mailed to a church or charity is deductible in the year the check is mailed (and postmarked), even if it is received in the next year.

❑ Question: I decided I wanted to designate \$1,000 to my church. I insisted that this money be spent to purchase some new microphones for my church sound room, which the church had not even thought about purchasing. Is the money a contribution? Answer: No, an individual cannot designate money to a fund of his/her choosing, but if the fund is already in existence then this gift would be a contribution.

□ Question: Is there a limit to the amount that I can contribute to my church and still count it as a contribution on my tax return? Answer: Yes, a contribution usually cannot exceed 50% of the donor's adjusted gross income for the year. Donors who exceed this limit may be able to carry over their excess to future years, but you need to consult a tax lawyer for clarification on this.

□ Question: I'm a volunteer in my church. Can I deduct the value of the volunteer work I do for my church? Answer: No, the value of volunteer work you do for your church can never be a contribution.

□ Question: I purchased some items to paint the Sunday School classroom and then did the labor myself. Can I just ask them to add these expenses and my labor costs to my contribution statement at the end of the year? Answer: No, the church is not allowed to add this amount to your contribution statement at the end of the year but they can cut you a check for the materials and labor and then you can give that money back to the church. It's better to cash the check you received from the church and then write a personal check to the church, but you can just endorse the church check back over to the church.

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"

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHURCH CABINET

Dear Church Family,

In approving this year's church budget at the Annual Meeting, the Cabinet clarified that the budget reflected a significant shortfall of income vs expenses. It was noted that endowment money and Church Foundation funds would be needed to meet that shortfall. It was also noted that these funds could be exhausted within 4-5 years if we continued to draw from these funds at the current rate. Having shared that information, the Cabinet said that there would be a review of the budget after the 1st quarter.

By the time of our review, the Covid 19 pandemic complicated our vision of the

future. Although congregational giving had thus far been encouraging, we still faced projected expenses of \$214,000 and the loss of lease income and facility usage income. Given consequences caused by Covid 19 and the hiatus from church programs and in-person worship services, the decision was made to reduce expenses from \$214,000 to \$175,000. Most of that reduction came from the reduced compensation relating to paid personnel. By the end of this year, that decision will decrease expenses by more than \$35,000.

Initially, we thought that certain Covid related Federal assistance money might be available to us. However, in follow-up communication from the government, we discovered we would not qualify for that assistance. In discovering that, we informed those of our staff whose positions would not be continuing. Our hope was that with this notice each of them would be able to submit application for unemployment assistance.

In making the decision to adjust the church's budget we knew it was more than a matter of dollars-n-cents. Our decision would impact the lives of people we love. We remain grateful for all staff members, past and present, whose generous sharing of their gifts has blessed our church family. Our prayers for those who will now be moving forward in different directions of life, and for those of our paid staff who remain, Rev. Jay Wilcher, Brian Moore, Tom Macy, and David Tyrell (whose compensation is the rent-free use of our church office building apartment).

Grace and Peace,
Your Cabinet

140TH ANNIVERSARY OF OUR CHURCH

FCC History

THE ROSE WINDOW.....

depicts the LIGHT OF FREEDOM, an inspirational tribute to the power of spiritual truth in the search for freedoms in the world. It was installed in the Church sanctuary in 1963 by Mary Hesla Gill and her Navy Capt. husband, Samuel Gill, as a memorial to her parents, Mr. and Mrs. L. E. Hesla. Mary, a native Prescottonian, said she and her mother often went to St. Luke's Church and enjoyed the stained glass windows. Her father was a close friend and admirer of Dr. Charles Franklin Parker, the minister of 'OLD FIRST,' so they asked Dr. Parker to design a stained glass window as a memorial to her parents.

Dr. Parker chose the theme and component sections of the whole window. Assisted by Mr. Judson of the Judson Studios in Los Angeles, Dr. Parker's idea became reality after going through at least three detailed versions. The theme, The Light of Freedom, depicted by an open Bible in the center, is encircled by eight sections which reads,

“GOD HATH MORE
LIGHT AND TRUTH TO BREAK FORTH FROM HIS HOLY WORD.”

Those are the words of John Robinson, pastor of the flock which left Holland and sailed to America to see freedom.

Starting at the upper left and moving clockwise, the following scenes are depicted:

JOHN WYCLIFFE, a 14th century English reformer who translated the Bible from Latin into English; the signing of the MAYFLOWER COMPACT by JOHN ROBINSON; MARTIN LUTHER leading the Protestant Revolution; the Liberty Bell symbolizing our CONSTITUTION; JOHN HARVARD helping establish HARVARD UNIVERSITY (the Congregational Church’s first school of higher education); the MAGNA CARTA in 1215 became the First Charter of Freedom in the English world; by the invention of the printing press, JOHN GUTENBURG freed the Bible for ALL TO READ; and the UNITED NATIONS CHARTER stating that freedoms encompass ALL people of the world.

Dr. Parker believed “ultimately those freedoms will become real and peace can abide...,,LIGHT, FREEDOM, AND PEACE, all from the Word of God, the CENTER OF LIFE.” Dr. Parker was adamant that the window should make a statement about truth and knowledge; “free minds lead to more light.....and from those who understand the need of liberties come documents giving light and freedoms.”

(Information from Sharlot Hall Museum Library and Transitions Issue 2017)

ADVENT COMING NOVEMBER 29

Tom will be busy decorating the sanctuary for Christmas later in the month. Depending on the situation with the virus, we will try to open the sanctuary on some dates in December so you can come and enjoy the decorations.

[Text Link](#)

SUPPORT YOUR CHURCH DURING CORONAVIRUS!

- Online – go to our website: 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