

The Parish Caller March 19, 2021

A Message from Pastor Jay

SUNDAY MARCH 19

This Sunday we wrestle with the question - why the cross? There are many theories of the Atonement, yet substitution / sacrifice seems to dominate in our country thanks to Evangelicals and Roman Catholics. We will consider other valid theories. And we will remember the sad reality that white supremacists and the KKK took an image of love and salvation and turned it into a symbol of hate and fear. Linda serves as worship leader. Music is provided by Brian, Tom, Linda, Ervie, Deana, and on Smule Andrew from Indonesia and Francesca from Louisiana. JJ reads centuries worth of publications about the meaning of the cross, and he distills it down to two symbols for us.

Watch For a Letter Coming to Members and Friends Early in Holy Week Regarding the Return of In-Person Worship on Easter Sunday - 8:30 & 10:30 AM

ZOOM BIBLE STUDY SATURDAY 10:00 AM

ZOOM SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP 10AM

let us know if you would like to be added to these email invitations

WORSHIP LEADERS NEEDED

If anyone would like to be worship leader some Sunday, please call the office and let us know: 928-445-4555. Recordings are done Sunday morning at 10:30

BULLETIN

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

March 21, 2021

GATHERING TO WORSHIP GOD

Prelude: "Shepherd Me Gathering Rite" by Marty Haugen v.5 - Brian Moore

Words of Welcome – Announcements - Passing of the Peace

Call to Worship – Angela Imbierowicz

Let us gather to worship. O God, we wish to see Jesus! We come to worship, to pray, and to learn. We come looking for Jesus in Scripture, in our own life experiences, in helping our world, in prayers for each other. We come with our own wilderness journey filled with some gladness and hope, with reluctance and sorrow, with fear and confusion. O God, speak to us, show us, touch us with your presence! Let our Lenten journey lead us to Jesus!

Song: "Open the Eyes of My Heart, Lord" Deana & Andrew (Smule)

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

A Time for Children of All Ages - JJ

Lenten Prayer of Confession - Angela Imbierowicz

Revitalizing God, your power goes far beyond our own, and yet still we act as though the pains of this world have final claim upon us. We give in to the despair and hopelessness of death, not trusting in your ability to call forth new life from the tombs of our lives. Forgive us for doubting your power to raise up new life in all the deaths we experience. Forgive us for wanting to limit you to "the last day" or "the world beyond this one", not trusting you to move and act among us, within us, through us. Forgive us, and open our eyes to the wonder of new life sprouting into being in our very midst.

Assurance of Forgiveness (2 Corinthians 8:9) - Angela Imbierowicz

"For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich." You are forgiven!

Gospel Reading: John 12:20-33 Angela Imbierowicz

Song: "The Cross of Jesus" by Patrick O'Brien – Brian & Ervie

Sermon: "Why the Cross?" Pastor Jay

RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE

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

Offering of Ourselves and our Gifts - Angela Imbierowicz

Prayer of Dedication - Angela Imbierowicz

God, there are many who "wish to see Jesus." In joy and celebration of the many gifts that we share, we ask you to bless all our offerings. May Jesus shine in all the world. Amen.

Song: "Give Thanks" – Deana & Francesca on Smule)

Benediction - Pastor Jay

Postlude: "What Wondrous Love is This" organ #223

Serving the Church

Ministers All the People of the Church

Pastor Rev. Dr. Jay Wilcher

Pastor Emeritus Rev. Robert Bradstreet

Worship Leader Angela Imbierowicz

Alter Notes Director Melissa Gates

Organist Brian Moore

Co-Moderators Melissa Gates & Bill Bryant

Minister of the Building Rev. Bill Linson

Facilities Coordinator Tom Macy

Video Technician James Logsdon

First Congregational Church of Prescott

United Church of Christ

216 E. Gurley Street

Prescott, AZ 86301

www.fccprescott.org

www.facebook.com/FccUccPrescott

928-445-4555

Founded September 26, 1880

Mission Outreach Update for March:

Each month we highlight a different mission outreach project/program. For the month of March, our highlighted program is the **Prescott Area Habitat for Humanity [PAHH]**. Affordable housing continues to be a problem across America. Our Tri-City area is no exception. In Arizona, one in seven households spends half or more of its income on housing. PAHH directs its outreach to this area of need. It functions as a bank for clients whose incomes will not qualify for a standard mortgage. Besides providing “sweat equity” in the construction of their PAHH home, clients pay a monthly mortgage based upon their income. A 95th PAHH family will soon move in to their new home. Plans for three other PAHH home construction projects are underway. In addition to home construction projects, PAHH provides social services to its clients, operates a retail store at 1061 Commerce Drive in Prescott, and tithes unrestricted income to global Habitat projects.

An added PAHH note. PAHH homes can be customized. One paraplegic homeowner had her home constructed to meet her particular needs. Doorways, counters, cabinets, clothes closets, bathrooms were all customized with her physical needs in mind. With a beaming smile she told PAHH volunteers that she can now live in an environment that is healthy, safe and secure.

Christine Mack, PAHH Faith Relations Liaison, wrote this: “Thank you all at FCC for your continued investment in Prescott Area Habitat for Humanity’s mission to address the affordable housing crisis in our communities.” Volunteers are always welcome and needed. If interested, please phone the PAHH office at 928-445-8003.

If you would like to support this month’s mission outreach program, please make your check payable to the church, with the memo, PAHH.

Prescott Area Shelter Services [PASS] – an invitation from Carmen Frederic, Executive Director---After much consideration, discussion and a community poll, we have decided to change our 2021 Tea to a virtual Tea Event. Please join us at 1:00 PM, Saturday April 24th. We will hear from a PASS guest and get a virtual tour of our shelter facility. There will be a raffle drawing and prizes. It is free for everyone. To attend, please register by phoning 928 778 5933. A zoom link will be sent to your email after you register.

As always, your FCC Mission Outreach team is thankful for your remembering that we have been blessed to be a blessing [Genesis 12: 2]. Helaine Berman, Becky and Bill Bryant, Patty and Gary Gard.

CHURCH FOUNDATION

The congregation of the First Congregational Church established and incorporated the FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH FOUNDATION (FCCF), as a separate legal entity, on March 24, 1993, as a not-for-profit corporation. The sole

member of the FCCF is the First Congregational Church, and the Church granted the FCCF full authority to administer the funds of the FCCF.

As of the 2021 Annual Meeting of the Church, the following are the nine members of the Board of Directors: David Foote, Susan Lemons, James Christopher, Julie McCurdy, Patty Lantrip, Sue Hodge-Parker, Alice Kring, Tom Macy, and Rev. Jay Wilcher.

To fund the FCCF, the members of the Church made legacy gifts to provide monies for it to continue its mission into the future. There are presently eleven (11) funds, ten (10) of which are “memorial endowment funds” and five (5) of which contain restrictions relating to the usage of the funds and/or the time of each expenditure. These funds are used to support the religious, educational and charitable purposes of the church and to support the needs of the church which are not encompassed in the church’s budget. The FCCF manages these funds.

The FCCF is a vehicle for church members to invest in the church’s future. These legacy gifts may take any one of a number of forms from memorials, testamentary trusts, living trusts, charitable donations, bequests, etc. In the coming weeks, The Caller will include information on legacy gifts for your consideration.

HOLY WEEK

Palm Sunday March 28
Mark 15:1-39 Putting Racial Justice into Action

April 1, 6pm - Maundy Thursday Zoom Service

April 2, Good Friday Recorded Service Available on Website

April 4 Easter
Mark 16:1-8
Coming Forth into New, Non-Binary Life

**WATCH FOR UPCOMING ANNOUNCEMENT ABOUT WORSHIP
ON EASTER SUNDAY**

TREASURER REPORT

Income as of February 28 is \$25,636
Total expenses are \$20,507.
Total income exceeds expenses by \$5,129.

Year-to-date income is at 21% of the income budget of \$122,450.
Year-to-date expenses are at 14% of the expense budget of \$146,905.

Did you know that our church pays annual membership dues?

As part of our promise to support operations for our Southwest Conference and the UCC in general, we are asked to make an annual payment of \$10 per member of our congregation. Wouldn't you like to help off-set this cost to our church by contributing your \$10 membership dues? If you would like to help, please include the memo "per capita" with your contribution. Thank you!

PRESCOTT COMMUNITY CUPBOARD

We extend our thanks to the following packing teams for their services to Prescott Community Cupboard.during the week of March 1-5, 2021:

Don & Kathy Stephens, Patty Brenner & Marie Kissel, Bill Linson & Lee Danaher, Henry & Linda Dahlberg, and Jane Jones & Angela Imbierowicz.

Special recognition to our newest volunteers, Henry and Linda Dahlberg, and to their trainer, Sue Hodge Parker. Thank you.

For information on how you can volunteer to spend an afternoon now and then packing at Prescott Community Cupboard, contact Angela Imbierowicz at 708-712-1448 or angelaprescottaz@gmail.com

COVID-19 UPDATE FROM CABINET

Watch for a letter coming to members and friends early in Holy Week regarding a return to in-person worship on Easter Sunday 8:30 & 10:30 am

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.
- Make 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

