

The Parish Caller March 26, 2021

A Message from Pastor Jay

SUNDAY MARCH 28

This Sunday is Palm/Passion Sunday. The Passion narrative is read and Jesus' entry into Jerusalem on a donkey is recounted. A planned political protest! Music is provided by Brian, Linda, Tom, Deana, and on Smule - Robert from Texas. JJ replays the children's time from a year ago, noting that he looks the same while others look a year older.

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

BULLETIN

PALM/PASSION SUNDAY

March 28, 2021

GATHERING TO WORSHIP GOD

Prelude: Prelude: "Ah, Holy Jesus" NCH#218

Words of Welcome – Announcements - *Passing of the Peace

Call to Worship – Linda Foote

Dear friends in Christ, during Lent we have been preparing by works of love and self-sacrifice for the celebration of our Lord's

death and resurrection. Today we come together to begin this solemn celebration in union with the Church throughout the world. Christ enters his own city to complete his work as our Savior, to suffer, to die, and to rise again. Let us go with him in faith and love, so that, united with him in his suffering, we may share his risen life.

Song: Hosanna, Loud Hosanna” NCH #213 – Linda Foote & Tom Macy

PROCLAIMING GOD’S WORD

A Time for Children of All Ages - JJ

Call to Confession – Linda Foote

Jesus rode into Jerusalem not as a conquering king but in humility, the Servant King, ready to complete the task for which he had walked this world. Let us humbly confess our sins:

Prayer of Confession – Linda Foote

Holy God, forgive us those times when we think too highly of ourselves, and remind us that you ask from us dedicated service to you and to our neighbors, wherever and whoever they might be. Enable us to take off our cloaks of self-righteousness and lay them down at your feet. Forgive our sins of omission and commission; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon – Linda Foote

Hear the good news: “Jesus, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave...and became obedient to the point of death --even death on a cross.”
(Philippians 6,7a,8b) Through his obedience we are therefore freed from whatever sin enslaves us. Thanks be to God!

Song: “New Again” Deana & Friend

Gospel Reading: Mark 15:1-39 – The Passion Narrative

Mark 15:1-15 Pastor Jay

Mark 15:16-32 Linda Foote

Mark 15:33-41 Pastor Jay

Mark 15:42-47 Linda Foote

Sermon: "Palm Sunday: Putting Racial Justice into Action"
Pastor Jay

RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE

Song: "The Old Rugged Cross" – Deana & Robert on Smule

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

Song: "Precious Lord, Take My Hand" Deana & Robert on Smule

Offering of Ourselves and our Gifts – Pastor Jay

Prayer of Dedication – Linda Foote

We cast these gifts before you, O God, as palms were cast before Jesus long ago. We lay them on your altar in praise, thanksgiving, and joy. Receive them back from our hands, that they may become a greater blessing in your hands. Amen.

Benediction - Pastor Jay

Postlude: "Lonesome Valley" Spiritual - organ

Serving the Church

Ministers All the People of the Church
Pastor Rev. Dr. Jay Wilcher
Pastor Emeritus Rev. Robert Bradstreet
Worship Leader Linda Foote
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

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Prescott, AZ 86301

www.fccprescott.org

www.facebook.com/FccUccPrescott

928-445-4555

Founded September 26, 1880

MARCH MISSION NEWS

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.

Good Friday RECORDED SERVICE

On Good Friday, our recorded service will be available on our website - fccprescott.org. Playwright Micki Shelton (Michele McFadden) has provided a recorded play to be used with readings and music for the service. The actors listed below are the characters in the play.

Synopsis: How does a mother deal with the loss of a child? As seemingly fragile Amanda Jones emerges from a courtroom, she is confronted by a cacophony of reporters' voices, but the brash reporter who interviews her ultimately finds himself to be the weaker of the two.

Cast:

IN A CORNER
by Micki Shelton

Cast of Characters:

ED, a bartender (JP Perpich)

DRINKING MAN (Ered Matthew)

REPORTER (Joseph Hough)

AMANDA JONES (Julie Harrington)

VOICES of other newsmen

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 and Non-Dual 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!

SOUTHWEST CONFERENCE ANNUAL MEETING APRIL 23-25 BY ZOOM - DELEGATES NEEDED! PLEASE CALL THE OFFICE IF INTERESTED

Instead of continuing with two groups...Christ created a fresh start for everybody...bring us together...and that was the end of hostility...peace to outsiders and peace to insiders... treated as and made equals, sharing the same Spirit and having equal access to God. –Ephesians 2:14-18 (The Message) Co-hosts: Desert Palm UCC (Tempe) and Church of the Good Shepherd (Albuquerque)

REGISTER NOW!

Registration opens on March 1. Early registration cost is \$100 per church which covers all five delegates, and \$20 per person (clergy and guests). Early pricing expires on April 10. Need help with the registration process? Watch this step-by-step video.

We'll conduct the Annual Meeting via the Zoom platform. First time on Zoom? Watch this video. Delegates must attend a mandatory orientation on Saturday, April 17 at 8 am Arizona/ 9:00 am New Mexico and El Paso. Watch your inbox for the Zoom information the week of April 12.

During the closing worship on Sunday, Conference Minister Rev. Dr. Bill Lyons will preach "A Fresh Start for Everybody" on Ephesians 2:14–18. Rev. Liana Rowe will preach at the opening worship on Friday. Virtual Exhibit Hall: With their paid registration, vendors may request a spot on the Virtual Exhibit Hall page by clicking [here](#).

Friday April 23 Morning Plenary 10:00 am - 11:30 am

Hybrid In-Person and Online Panel

LUNCH

Afternoon Breakouts and Hearings:

1:00 pm - 1:45 pm

UCC@ASU/Andrew Ponder Williams - Campus Ministry Update

First Church ABQ - How we are doing it? Panel Guests

Hearing: SWC Budget

2:00 pm - 2:45 pm Panel Guests Hearing: Resolution re Immigrant

Welcoming Hearing:

Resolution re COVID-19 BREAK

7:00 pm

Evening Worship Rev. Liana Rowe is preaching. Liana is retiring in 2021 after many years of dedicated service to the Southwest Conference as board officer, justice organizer, and staff member.

Saturday April 24 Morning Sessions - Voting will take place in both business sessions.

9:00 am - 9:15 am Devotion

9:15 am - 11:00 am Opening Business Session

LUNCH

Afternoon Business 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm Business Session

ADJOURN

5:00 pm - 6:00 pm After hours Follow Up: Sharing Time What are churches doing now?

Sunday April 25 10:00 am - 11:00 am Worship Rev. Dr. Bill Lyons, Conference Minister, will be preaching. Bill's theme is "A Fresh Start for Everybody" and his text is from Ephesians, chapter 2.

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 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](#)