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## A Message From Pastor Jay

### SUNDAY WORSHIP 10:30 AM

Nursery and Sunday school at the 10:30am service

**MASK WEARING IS NOW OPTIONAL AS WE FOLLOW THE LATEST CDC UPDATED GUIDELINES. REFRESHMENTS AND FINGER FOODS ARE BACK NOW AFTER WORSHIP IN PERKINS HALL**

### SUNDAY TOPIC:

#### Lenten Series:

#### “A Path to Spiritual Wholeness”

(Jesus Grew in Wisdom and Stature; In Favor with God and Others)

During the Lenten Season, we will use a tool produced by the ELCA – Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. We will look at our spirituality from a holistic approach, culminating in Easter Sunday.

Our Lenten journey has taken us almost to Passion/Palm Sunday. The fourth gospel prepares us by placing Mary's anointing of Jesus' feet with expensive perfume right before the entry into Jerusalem. Our Lenten series topic is financial well-being. Most of the time we are conservative when it comes to money, but sometimes love causes us to splurge (an ice sculpture at a summer wedding). Mary's love for Jesus caused her to spend lavishly. Most of our days are calculated and calm. Sometimes, like Mary, we are lifted clear out of arithmetic into love. How has that happened for us? How might it happen going forward? Alter-Notes provides music; Melissa is liturgist; and JJ gives a lavish gift to Ziggy.

Our past worship services are now on the website! Click on the "past worship services" link on the opening page of the website and you will find all the services back to January of 2020! Thanks to Jim for letting us use his YouTube channel for easy access.

ZOOM FAITH FORUM SATURDAY 10AM

Let us know if you want to be added to the Zoom invitation

[Watch Worship Services Here](#)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**NEW! SPECIAL OFFERING:** The UCC national headquarters has established a special fund to provide humanitarian aid to Ukraine. Those donating should write "Ukraine Relief" on their check memo line. Our Mission Outreach Committee will accept donations for a time period still TBD, and soon after deliver a check for the total amount given by the congregation to our Southwest Conference office.

**SNACKS NEEDED FOR AFTER CHURCH FELLOWSHIP. IT WOULD HELP TO HAVE NON-PERISHABLE ITEMS TO SHARE AND KEEP FOR FUTURE SUNDAYS. PLEASE BRING THEM SUNDAY!**

As we are now resuming our much needed social time this Sunday, we have our first 'hosts' to cover your needs to allow you to catch up, meet new members and enjoy some fellowship time. *Angela Imbierowicz and Lee Danaher* have volunteered their service this Sunday.

Thank you for your quick response.

I will be putting a **sign-up list** in Perkins Hall for Sunday volunteers. This involves setting up the serving table with any treats provided by anyone in the congregation, including the hospitality team for that Sunday. Please provide anything to share as you feel called. As usual, *Tom Macy* will continue to set up coffee, water and juices as available.

Besides this notice in THE CALLER, an email will be sent to individuals who have signed up in the past, new members, and others who have shown interest. Thank you in advance for your service.

WELCOMING/HOSPITALITY  
COMMITTEE

## A NEW SMALL GROUP EXPERIENCE (for Lent)

Beginning Sunday, March 6, twice: 9:30-10:15 and 11:35-12:10, in the Maggie B room downstairs, small groups will be meeting to view and discuss the popular and valuable "Living the Questions" video series.

- Coffee and donuts
- Child care
- With spacing and masks, group of 12 max.

Topics:

### March

6 an invitation to journey  
13 taking the bible seriously  
20 thinking theologically (about God)  
27 stories of creation

### April

3 lives of Jesus  
10 a passion for Christ: Paul

Questions? and child care needs: Pete Norum at [handle32pan@gmail.com](mailto:handle32pan@gmail.com).

**Musical Guests Sunday - Guest Musicians Alter-Notes**

Office Open by Appointment - Call Pastor Jay 928-899-9066

Outside groups are still not able to meet in the church as we come out of

## APRIL MISSION NEWS

**SPECIAL OFFERING:** The UCC national headquarters has established a special fund to provide humanitarian aid to Ukraine. Those donating should write "Ukraine Relief" on their check memo line. Our Mission Outreach Committee will accept donations for a time period still TBD, and soon after deliver a check for the total amount given by the congregation to our Southwest Conference office.

**MONTHLY FOCUS:** Each month we highlight a different mission outreach project/program. For the month of April, our highlighted program is One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS).

One Great Hour of Sharing is one of four annual special mission offerings of the United Church of Christ. Donations support denominational programs of Health, Education, Agriculture, Disaster Relief, and Refugee Camp ministries. The theme for 2022 is Love Remains, based on 1 Corinthians 13.

In the theme scripture, the Apostle Paul helped newly converted Christians at Corinth embrace the virtue of love. Love is an active decision to think of others before self; to work on behalf of others; and to care for others with acts of kindness and advocacy. Paul taught that community is less about "me" and more about "us."

This ministry of compassion is a result of the love Paul called the church to, and the love we will continue to witness through your generosity and gifts given through the One Great Hour of Sharing offering. If you have the means to provide a donation, checks may be made payable to the church with the memo: OGHS.

As always, thank you for remembering that we are blessed to be a blessing (Genesis 12:2).

*Mission Outreach Committee members are Gary & Patty Gard, Carolyn Christians, and Becky Bryant, chairperson. If you would like to serve with us, or have any other outreach matters to discuss, please contact Becky at (928) 910-2820 or [beckybryant2255@gmail.com](mailto:beckybryant2255@gmail.com).*

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## STUDY OPPORTUNITY

ZOOM FAITH FORUM

The new faith forum will allow a variety of faith issues to be explored. Call or email the church office to be added to the weekly Zoom invitation: 928-445-4555; fccprescott@gmail.com.

March 26: Ukraine Orthodox Church - The Great Schism of 1054 & 2019 Schism

April 2: Yale Bible Study - The Evolution of Passover

April 9: Yale Bible Study - Passover in the New Testament

April 16: Yale Bible Study - The Beginnings of Easter

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## SUNDAY BULLETIN

### FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

April 3, 2022

10:30 a.m.

*\*Those who are able may stand*

### GATHERING TO WORSHIP GOD

Prelude: "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"--arr. Michael Burkhardt Mark Achuff

A Time for Children of All Ages (Jesus Loves Me, This I Know)  
(Children are welcome to go downstairs for Sunday school after the children's time)

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

Gathering Music: "No Matter"

Alter-Notes

\*Hymn: "Sing Praise to God, Who Has Shaped"

New Century Hymnal #22

Call to Worship

Melissa Gates

One: Family of God, we gather as who we are, and we bring what we have.

**Many: Let us encounter the new thing God is doing among us.**

One: We bring joy and sorrow, hope and despair, resources and need, certainty and questions.

**Many: Let us engage the new thing God is doing among us.**

One: In this space, we meet the One who parts seas, creates paths, and changes circumstances.

**Many: Let us encourage the new thing God is doing among us.**

One: Holy One, we rejoice in your presence. We acknowledge that you have done great things in our history, in our present, and in our future. Our hope rests in you. We rejoice in confidence that you abide in our dry spaces and in our flowing streams. Lead us through troubling times and empower us to continue to press toward you and your

way. In our worship, part our lips in praise, open our hearts in love, and quench our spirits in worship. Amen.

Prayer for Transformation and Restoration

Melissa Gates

Righteous God, you made us in your divine image and yet we often turn to the gazes of others to see ourselves. We yield to the temptation of comparison and measure ourselves according to standards not made for us. You declared us good, and we question your judgment. We turn from your truth and receive the lies of the enemy of our souls that devalue and condemn even though your grace is sufficient for us. Mend the brokenness within us. Fortify us with your love, hope, and vision. Shield us from stagnation and despair. Amen.

Assurance of Grace

Melissa Gates

The God of grace sees us fully, knows us fully, and loves us fully. May our eyes be ever open to see ourselves as God sees us and restore our souls.

### PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

Gospel Reading: John 12:1-11

Melissa Gates

\*Hymn: "What Wondrous Love Is This"

New Century Hymnal #223

Sermon: "Generosity That Transforms"

Pastor Jay

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper (Communion is open to all)

*We come to the Lord's Table. All are invited to come forward down the middle aisle and return to your seat by the side aisle. We receive communion by intinction – please take a piece of bread and dip it into the cup and partake immediately.*

### RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE

Anthem: "Embrace the Cross" Arr. Allen Pote

Alter-Notes

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

Offering of Ourselves and our Gifts

Offertory: "There Is a Fountain"--arr. Robert J. Hughes

Mark Achuff

\*Prayer of Dedication

Melissa Gates

**All that we have and all that we are belongs to you, and the giving is a blessing in itself. We dedicate these gifts. Use them, and us, to restore the fortunes of all your people: to seek your will, to strengthen your church, and to serve you faithfully. Amen.**

\*Hymn: "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"

New Century Hymnal #224

\*Postlude: "Sing Praise to God, Who Reigns Above"--arr. Edward Broughton  
Mark Achuff

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## TREASURER REPORT

Year-to-date income is \$30,594. Expenses are \$25,465. Net gain is \$5,129.

Julie McCurdy, treasurer

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## CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday Worship 10:30am  
Nursery & Sunday School 10:30am

April 14 Maundy Thursday Service 5:30pm  
We will gather in Perkins Hall for a simple meal at 5:30pm. We will sit around one large table and share the meal and Communion, and then move to the sanctuary for a brief Service of Tenebrae.

April 15 Good Friday Service Noon  
We will gather in the sanctuary at noon for a meditative service of music and a reading of the Passion Narrative.

April 17 Easter Worship 10:30am

### **New Members Received on Easter Sunday.**

Please let Pastor Jay know if you are interested in joining the church. If you cannot be here on Easter, another Sunday will be possible. What is involved in joining? As part of our extravagant welcome here, we have tried to remove barriers to joining as much as possible. There is no creed or statement of faith required. We value diversity of belief. There is an hour-long orientation to the church on YouTube that can be viewed. At the worship service on the day of joining, you will be asked to come up front, and Pastor Jay will introduce you to the congregation. You will be asked the following questions: Do you desire to follow in the way of Jesus and listen to his teachings? Will you be a faithful member of this congregation, supporting its ministry, and using your gifts and talents here as you have opportunity? A prayer for you and a "welcome" follows!

Here is information regarding membership in our bylaws:

#### ARTICLE V: MEMBERSHIP

This church welcomes into its fellowship any person who subscribes to the teachings of Jesus Christ. Membership is open to all without regard to age, race, gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity, gender identity, faith, marital status, and personal ability. Members may participate in any activity of this church and may

serve in an elected or appointed position of leadership. Members have the right to vote at any Annual or Special Meeting.

Membership may be determined as follows: 1. By satisfactory and public profession of the Christian faith as evidenced by the covenant of this church with the United Church of Christ. 2. By the rite of Confirmation in this church. 3. By a letter of transfer from another Christian Church. Members covenant to participate fully in the life of the congregation by: 1. Attending worship, 2. Celebrating Communion, 3. Seeking to learn about and understand Holy Scripture and its implications for our lives as Christians, 4. Sharing time and talent dedicated to church work, 5. And supporting the financial and spiritual welfare of the membership and community to the best of their ability.

Full rights and privileges of membership are granted to those members wishing to retain membership with other Christian Churches. Members shall be granted, on request, a letter of transfer to another church. Church membership rolls will be updated periodically by members of the Cabinet. 3 We recognize as friends those who are active in the life of First Congregational Church, but who choose not to join as members. They share fully in the spiritual life of this church and may participate in all its programs and activities. Friends may serve with the Ministries, but are ineligible to serve on the Cabinet or be elected an Officer. Friends are also granted the privilege of voice without vote at any Annual or Special Meeting. The United Church of Christ (UCC) is a distinct and diverse community of Christians that come together as one church to join faith and action. With over 5,000 churches and nearly one million members across the U.S., the UCC serves God in the co-creation of a just and sustainable world. The UCC is a church of firsts, a church of extravagant welcome, and a church where "...they may all be one" (John 17:21).

#### The Church of Firsts

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. And 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 man, 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.

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## SUPPORT THE CHURCH

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 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

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United  
Church of  
Christ

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