

SUNDAY WORSHIP 10:30 AM
NURSERY AND SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30AM

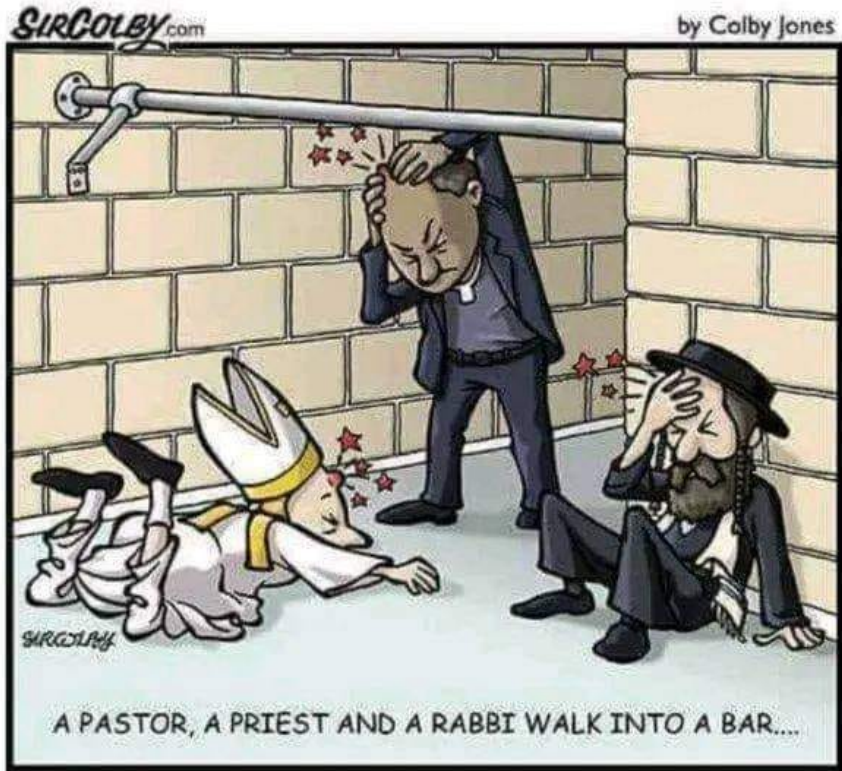
A Message From Pastor Jay

HOLY HUMOR SUNDAY

Here comes the Sunday after Easter, and that can mean only one thing – less attendance than Easter Sunday? No, well maybe that also, but it is time for the annual “Holy Humor Sunday.” There will be two “joke breaks” during this Sunday’s service so get your jokes ready! Here is a reminder for why we do this service:

Today we observe “Holy Humor Sunday.” Many American churches are resurrecting an old Easter custom begun by the Greeks in the early centuries of Christianity-“Holy Humor Sunday” celebrations of Jesus’ resurrection on the Sunday after Easter. For centuries in Eastern Orthodox, Catholic and Protestant countries, the week following Easter Sunday, including “Bright Sunday” (the Sunday after Easter), was observed by the faithful as “days of joy and laughter” with parties and picnics to celebrate Jesus’ resurrection. The custom was rooted in the musings of early church theologians (like Augustine, Gregory of Nyssa, and John Chrysostom) that God played a practical joke on the devil by raising Jesus from the dead. “Risus paschalis - the Easter laugh,” the early theologians called it.

Snaffles the Clown will join us. Joyful Noise provides music; Linda and a special guest ring the bells; and a guest organist plays the prelude. Bring your ear plugs!



[Watch Worship Services Here](#)

PICTURE DIRECTORY OF CONGREGATION

At church this Sunday, we will start taking photos for our directory - every Sunday after church in Perkins Hall from Easter through first Sunday in May



CHURCH PAINTING ON DISPLAY THIS SUNDAY IN PERKINS HALL

It's an Original Pastel 18 x 24, painted by Jenny Willigrod from Fountain Hills, AZ.

It's a gift to the church from Coco Lanigan, David Pifer, Sandy and Ed Znetko.

Cards will be available for purchase (\$2.00 per card) by the congregation with proceeds going to the church. (Coco Lanigan)

AED TRAINING APRIL 16 AT NOON

New Life CPR will be offering a CPR Adult/Child/Infant CPR with AED as well as choking for Adult/Child and Infant. We will discuss the NEW AED that you have on site and make sure everyone is comfortable on how to use this AED. You will have a great time. Come on and join us! Lesa West

American Heart Association Heartsaver CPR/AED Training Course

Please join us to become certified in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and the use of an automated external defibrillator (AED). The training will be led by New Life CPR. This is useful training for all and especially since the church now has an AED on site, it would be great to have trained users in the congregation. The Heartsaver CPR AED course trains participants to give CPR, and use an AED in a safe, timely, and effective manner. Reflects science and education from the American Heart Association Guidelines Update for CPR and Emergency Cardiovascular Care (ECC).

The training will be held in Perkins Hall after the church service on Sunday, April 16th and it should last approximately 2.5 hours. The church will cover the cost of the training and also provide pizza to trainees.

If you are interested, RSVP to Morgan Greenwald as soon as you are able at Morgan.Greenwald@gmail.com or 570-660-2227. The RSVP will help us to get a headcount prior to the training. Thanks for your interest!

FACEBOOK UPDATE

"We have a new Facebook group, First Congregational Church Prescott FCC - which you can join. We will be posting events, and meetup information for the community, as well as exploring ways to bring back our outreach partners; the LGBTQ community youth, AA, etc. and other groups who have used the church pre-Covid for meeting spaces. Please join the group, and join in the discussion! If you have any questions, you can email Brit and Mike Flores at bafwriter@gmail.com, our current group admins. All event questions and suggestions should be directed to the church email at FCCprescott@gmail.com.

RELAY FOR LIFE JUNE 2 (CANCER AWARENESS)

THE 29th RELAY FOR LIFE of the Quad Cities is scheduled June 2nd 2023.

Anyone interested in creating a team representing FCC can contact the church email at FCCprescott@gmail.com

SAVE THE DATE

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL WILL BE HELD THE WEEK OF JULY 19

PASS - PRESCOTT AREA SHELTER SERVICES

PASS, our local women's shelter, serves as a place for women and children experiencing homelessness. The third Wednesday of every month our church provides dinner for the guests at the shelter. Meal items are brought to the church parking lot at 5:00 pm and then taken by one of our members to the shelter. Carolyn Christians has taken over this role from Patty Gard. We need new members to sign up to help each month. The sign-up sheet is in Perkins Hall.

THE "SOUPER BOWL OF CARING" OFFERING TAKEN BY OUR CHILDREN DURING WORSHIP ON SUPER BOWL SUNDAY - TAKEN TO THE YAVAPAI HUMANE SOCIETY - THANKS WYATT AND WINNIE! "A ROUND OF A PAWS" TO THE CHILDREN AND ALL WHO CONTRIBUTED. "PAW-SOME" INDEED!



CHURCH CALENDAR

- APRIL 16 - HOLY HUMOR SUNDAY
- APRIL 16 - AED TRAINING - NOON
- APRIL 19 - PASS MEAL 5PM
- APRIL 27 - KNIT WITS AT THE CHURCH OFFICE - 1PM
- April 27 - EARTH DAY EVENT IN PERKINS HALL
- JULY 19 - VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL BEGINS

HOLY HUMOR SUNDAY

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 16, 2023

10:30 a.m.

**Those who are able may stand...or sit...or do whatever you wish...or not*

GATHERING TO WORSHIP GOD

Special Music – Guest Organist

Prelude: "Surprise Symphony" by Franz Josef Hayden

Joyful Noise

Words of Welcome – Announcements – Melissa's Announcement - *Passing of the Peace

Gather Song: "Processional Alleluia" by Howard Hughes
Joyful Noise; Linda Foote; special guest on Bells

A Time for Children of All Ages – Snaffles the Clown & Krys
(Children are welcome to go downstairs for Sunday school after the children's time)

Call to Worship

Snaffles the Clown

One: "Smiling is infectious. You catch it like the flu."

Many: "When someone smiled at me today, I started smiling, too."

One: "I passed around the corner, and someone saw my grin."

Many: "When she smiled I realized I'd passed it on to her."

One: "I thought about that smile. Then I realized its worth."

Many: "A single smile just like mine could travel the whole earth."

One: "So if you feel a smile begin, don't leave it undetected."

Many: "Let's start an epidemic quick, and get the world infected!"

Prayer of Invocation

Ann Flanagan

O God, we come into your presence with joy and longing to be surprised. We thank you that you have given to us the gift of laughter and delight. These things give hints as to the nature of your purpose for us and for all the earth. May we find that in giving up to laughter there is healing and hope and abundance and blessing. Tickle our souls with the brush of your Spirit to renew our worship and our living.
Amen.

Hymn: "This is the Day"

New Century Hymnal #84

Joke Break

Prayer of Confession

Ann Flanagan

You know better than we do, Amused God, what important people we believe we are. Believing we have to be serious all the time, we miss out on the joy of your creation. Choosing to feast on the pain of the world, we skip

the picnic offered in paradise. Clinging to the despair which is our best friend, we ignore Jesus, who can bring us home to your heart. Forgive us, Heart of Joy, and make us open to the startling and upside-down ways in which you work. Fill us with Easter's laughter; fill us with your healing joy; fill us with the love poured into us through Jesus Christ. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Ann Flanagan

The Gospels tell us of the joy which comes to us through Christ. When Jesus was around, lives were changed, the sick were healed, the sorrowful began to laugh with joy. The good news is that this joy is now given to us. It's OK...really.

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

Gospel Reading: John 20:19-31

Ann Flanagan

*Hymn: "These Things Did Thomas Count" (Tune: Puer Nobis)
New Century Hymnal #254

Joke Break

Sermon: "Doubting Thomas"

Starting Preacher: Pastor Jay

RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE

Anthem: "Lord of the Dance" Traditional Shaker Melody,
Text by Sydney Carter Joyful Noise

Prayers of the People & The Lord's Prayer

Offering of Ourselves and our Gifts
Our church is open to all denominations – but it prefers 50's and 100's
The Lord loveth a cheerful giver...but God also accepteth from the grouch.

Offertory: Variations on Tallis Canon

Examination of the Offering

Returning of the Offering Plates

*Doxology

**Let trumpets sound and voices sing! Let all on earth their praises bring!
For Christ has conquered sin and death, and given life eternal breath.**

*Prayer of Dedication

Ann Flanagan

God of joy, as we stumble through this life, help us to create more laughter than tears, dispense more happiness than gloom, spread more cheer than despair. Never let us become so indifferent that we fail to

see the wonder in the eyes of a child or the twinkle in the eyes of the aged. Bless our efforts to cheer people, and may these offerings do the same. Amen.

*Hymn: "Joy Dawned Again on Easter Day" New Century Hymnal #241

*Benediction

Pastor Jay

*Postlude: "Humoresque" by Anton Dvorák

Brian Moore

APRIL MISSION NEWS

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. This Lenten Offering carries God's message of love and hope to people in crisis. The UCC works with international partners to provide sources of clean water, food, education and health care, small business micro-credit, advocacy and resettlement for refugees and displaced persons, and emergency relief and rehabilitation.

Through **One Great Hour of Sharing**, lives are literally changed daily.

If you wish to make a donation, checks may be made payable to the church with the memo: **OGHS**. Undesignated mission donations will be used at the discretion of the Mission Outreach team.

So far in 2023, our Mission Outreach ministry has delivered \$710 in contributions to Prescott Community Cupboard for January, \$594 to Prescott Area Shelter Services for February, and will shortly be sending collected March donations to Prescott Area Habitat for Humanity. We are deeply grateful to our congregation for providing the funds to so meaningfully assist these worthy organizations!

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

Mission Outreach Committee members are 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.

TREASURER REPORT

A NOTE FROM THE TREASURER – JULIE MCCURDY MARCH 2023

Income is \$47,653
Expenses are \$49,812
Expenses exceed income by \$2,159

Interfaith Service — Earth Care amidst Climate Change

The Prescott area Interfaith Climate Action Team (ICAT) invites you to come together to pray and praise the love of our Earth, the importance of the Environment, recognizing that Climate Change is happening and must be addressed locally and beyond. This is done in the spirit and unity of all faiths.

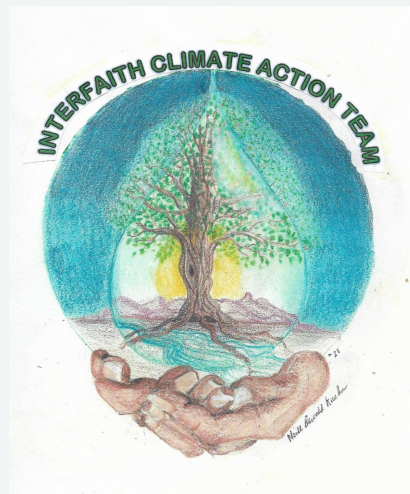
Where:

First Congregational Church 216 E Gurley St (E Gurley St at N Alarcon St), Prescott

When: Thursday April 27, 2023 at 5 pm

Several spiritual leaders representing different faith traditions will each give a brief message. The service will include Song and Prayer, Peace and Reflection. We humans do not live in a vacuum. Our planet is fragile. We need to honor and protect the Earth for a more just and sustainable future.

For more information on Earth Day and Earth Week visit - <https://prescottearthdav.org>



SUPPORT THE CHURCH

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

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United
Church of
Christ

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