

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:

“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:

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. See you Sunday for some Easter laughs! Text will be John 20:19-31 – “Doubting Thomas” Joyful Noise provides music. And “Snaffles” the Clown will join us!

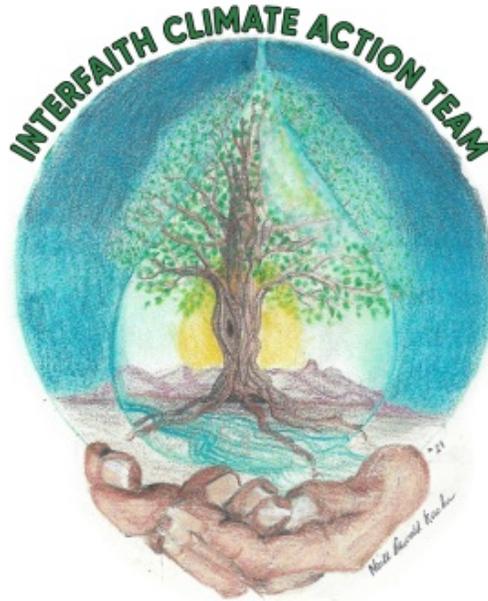
Our past worship services are now on the website! Click on the “past worship services” link on the opening page of the website and you will find all the services back to January of 2020! Thanks to Jim for letting us use his YouTube channel for

easy access.

ZOOM FAITH FORUM SATURDAY 10AM

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

ZOOM SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP HAS BEEN DISCONTINUED



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 28, 2022
5pm

Program: Several pastoral 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://prescottearthday.org>

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.

CARING FOR CREATION

ACTION ALERT from the Interfaith Climate Action Team(ICAT)

ICAT, affiliated with the Northern Arizona Climate Change Alliance, is a grassroots, non-partisan team, representing different faith traditions and communities in the Prescott area. Its purpose is to amplify the voice of the faith community and encourage proactive civic engagement on the climate crisis. ICAT pursues this mission through networking, sharing and education within the faith community of our region. We currently have 14 members, representing 8 different faith communities. This April 24 is Earth Care Sunday in the Quad Cities area. We encourage you to raise awareness within your faith community of the moral and spiritual response for care of the Earth in your worship services on that Sunday. It's all about stewardship of the Earth - its peoples, creatures and resources. We need to protect and restore the Earth for future generations NOW. We at ICAT are available with specific resources that your faith community may find useful. We invite you to learn more about the Interfaith Climate Action Team and consider appointing a representative to serve on ICAT. We stand ready to provide you more information on this important

initiative. Let's use our faith traditions as a common bond to engage in this conversation and work. ICAT meets on the second Wednesday at 3:30 pm via ZOOM. For further assistance on Earth Care Sunday on April 24, please contact Mary Steenhoek at marysteenhoek@gmail.com For additional information on joining the Interfaith Climate Team, please ccontact Patrick Grady at patrickgrady70@gmail.com

Musical Guests Sunday - Alter-Notes

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

NEEDED: Church Security Team Members

We really would like to have one or two more people to help with church security. Of course, it would be great if you (male or female) had/have military, law enforcement or security experience but, certainly NOT necessary. If interested, please contact Melissa Gates, 207-391-3276, mgates716@gmail.com.

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.

The Mission Outreach ministry donated \$350 to Prescott Area Habitat for Humanity for our March focus and has collected \$565 so far for the Southwest conference’s special Ukranian humanitarian relief effort, which we plan to distribute after April collections are in.

We also had an additional request from Prescott's sister city in Mexico, Caborca, to send a \$50 sponsorship in honor of 50 years of association, which we agreed to and a check for that was sent a few weeks ago.

April's giving focus has been One Great Hour of Sharing, an annual national UCC special offering with donations supporting denominational programs of Health, Education, Agriculture, Disaster Relief, and Refugee Camp initiatives.

May's focus will turn to Frontera de Cristo (Migrant Ministries). This is an ecumenical border ministry in Agua Prieta, Mexico—across the border from Douglas, AZ. Frontera de Cristo provides shelter, counseling, food/clothing assistance, education classes, and job training for migrants choosing to remain in Mexico.

Becky Bryant, Gary & Patty Gard, Carolyn Christians

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.

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.

April 9 Yale Bible Study - Passover in the New Testament
April 16: Yale Bible Study - The Beginnings of Easter
April 23: Yale Bible Study – Resurrection in Luke’s Gospel
April 30: Yale Bible Study – Resurrection in 1 Corinthians 15

SUNDAY BULLETIN

HOLY HUMOR SUNDAY SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 24, 2022

10:30 a.m.

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

GATHERING TO WORSHIP GOD

Collect

(what in the world is a collect? Sounds like the offering – already!?)

Giving thanks to God is a good and a joyful task, to be done with smiles on our faces and laughter in our hearts; for it is God who created us creatures of mirth and joy... the God who helped us overcome the gloominess in our own lives.

Prelude: “De Colores” Mexican Folk Song

Joyful Noise

A Time for Children of All Ages – JJ & Ziggy

“Snaffles” the Clown

(Children are welcome to go downstairs for Sunday school after the children’s time)

Words of Welcome – Announcements - *Passing of the Peace

Gather Music: “Easter People” by David Light

Joyful Noise

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

“Snaffles” the Clown

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: “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You”

New Century Hymnal #4

Joke Break

Prayer of Confession

“Snaffles” the Clown

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, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon “Snaffles” the Clown

The Gospels tell us over and over again 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

Responsorial Psalm 63: “This Day was Made by the Lord” by Christopher Walker

**This day was made by the Lord, let us rejoice, let us be glad!
This day was made by the Lord, let us rejoice in salvation!**

Gospel Reading: John 20:19-31

Pastor Jay

*Hymn: “I've Got that Joy”

**I've got that joy, joy, joy, joy down in my heart,
Down in my heart, down in my heart.
I've got that joy, joy, joy, joy down in my heart.
Down in my heart to stay.
And I'm so happy, so very happy,
I've got the joy of Jesus in my heart.
Yes, I'm so happy, so very happy,
I've got the joy of Jesus in my heart. *I've got that love...***

Joke Break

Sermon: "Doubting Thomas"

Starting Preacher: Pastor Jay

RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE

Anthem: “Lord of the Dance” by Sydney Carter

Joyful Noise

Prayers of the People & The Lord's Prayer

Offering of Ourselves and our Gifts

Give if you love Jesus. Anyone can honk!

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: "Joy Dawned Again on Easter Day"

Examination of the Offering

Returning of the Offering Plates

*Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; □ Praise God, all creatures here below; □ Praise God above, ye heavenly host; □ Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen

*Prayer of Dedication

"Snaffles" the Clown

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

Go in laughter; go in grace. Keep God in your heart and a smile on your face.

*Postlude: "I Was Glad" by John L. Bell

SERVING THE CHURCH

Important People: JJ & Ziggy; "Snaffles" the Clown

TREASURER REPORT

Income for the first quarter of 2022 is at \$44,471. This is 29% of the income budget. Expenses to-date are \$39,332. This is 25% of the expense budget. Income exceeds expenses by \$5,139.

Julie McCurdy, treasurer

CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday Worship 10:30am

Nursery & Sunday School 10:30am

April 24 - Holy Humor Sunday
April 25 - Church Cabinet Meeting 5:30pm
April 28 - Interfaith Caring for Creation service 5:00pm

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.

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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