

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

### A Message From Pastor Jay

The fourth Sunday after Easter is always “Good Shepherd Sunday” focusing on John 10. This year’s text is John 10:1-10. The shepherd image is one of the most popular in the Bible. It has been a source of comfort for God’s people from Psalm 23 to John 10. We will hear the ways Jesus offers to shepherd us through life. This quote sets a high bar for its power to speak to us: “This passage is a call to pastor and parishioner alike to exult in the poetic power of language to draw us into a transformative experience of truth.” (Jaime Clark-Soles) Mark and Morgan provide music; Diane returns as liturgist; and JJ and Ziggy hang out with a sheep.

The Good Shepherd, c. 300-350, at the Catacombs of Domitilla, Rome



[Watch Worship Services Here](#)

# PICTURE DIRECTORY OF CONGREGATION

**We are taking photos for our directory - every Sunday after church in Perkins Hall from Easter through first Sunday in May**

## **AFTER CHURCH FELLOWSHIP – HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE**

- After-church fellowship will honor all having birthdays in a given month on the third Sunday of the month with a cake and gluten-free cupcakes.
- July 2 and Sept 24 we will host an ice cream social after church with lactose free options, sherbet and all the trimmings for making sundaes.
- We plan congregation involved pot lucks for the fifth Sunday of each month that has one - July 30, Oct 29 and Dec 31.
- Dec 17, birthday celebration Sunday, we plan a Christmas cookie share and exchange involving whole congregation.

The rest of the time will remain as it is with congregants signing up to provide something substantial for sharing and the church providing salty snacks, cookies and fruit as needed.

## **ZOOM FAITH FORUM RETURNS SAT. MAY 6 FOR 3 WEEKS BEFORE A SUMMER BREAK**

**TOPIC – THEODICY – HOW DOES A GOOD GOD ALLOW EVIL AND SUFFERING?  
EMAIL CHURCH OFFICE TO RECEIVE ZOOM LINK – [fccprescott@gmail.com](mailto:fccprescott@gmail.com)**



## **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)

## 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](mailto:bafwriter@gmail.com), our current group admins. All event questions and suggestions should be directed to the church email at [FCCprescott@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:FCCprescott@gmail.com)

## SAVE THE DATE

### VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL WILL BE HELD THE WEEK OF JULY 17

**Registration for our Vacation Bible School is Now Open!**

**Dates:** July 17-21, 2023

**Times:** 9:00 to 3:00

**Location:** First Congregational Church: 216 East Gurley Street, Prescott, AZ 86301

**Cost:** Free!

**Age Range:** Potty-trained Preschoolers through Sixth Graders

**Description:** During our morning session, kids will engage in our VBS curriculum with our beloved Sunday School teachers, Ms. Jeni and Ms. Audra! Our curriculum is entitled "Hero Hotline". The goal of this VBS is to help children learn to work together and share their gifts as they answer God's call on their lives as they strive to bring peace and build each other up in this world. There will be art and music components and some outdoor activities as well. The morning session will be followed by a lunch break. Please bring a bag lunch and water each day.

Has that big and wonderful stage in Perkins Hall been calling out to you? It is just waiting to be brought back to life! Our afternoon session will give the kids a chance to shine on the stage by learning and rehearsing a play throughout the week, which will culminate in a performance on Friday. This performance will be open to the public and will give our kids the chance to learn some acting skills and perform in front of an audience. Andrew Greenwald and Britt Flores will be working together to create the play.

**Registration:** To register, please contact our Education Ministry Cabinet Member, Morgan Greenwald at [morgan.greenwald@gmail.com](mailto:morgan.greenwald@gmail.com). Feel free to contact Morgan (570-660-2227) with any questions. Our maximum number of participants will be 16, so sign up soon to secure your spot!

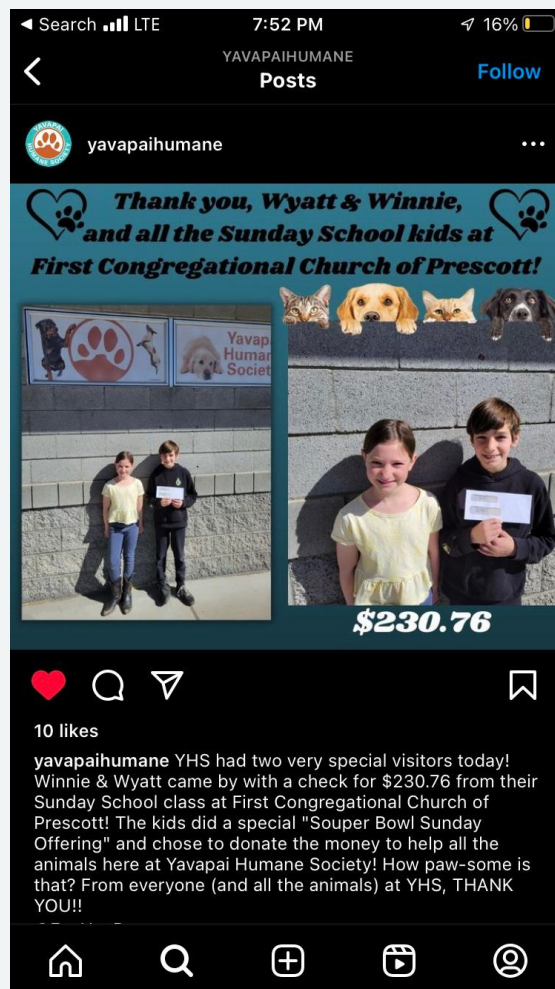
**Volunteers:** If you are interested in volunteering to help with our VBS program, thank you! Please contact Morgan soon as well so that we can make sure to complete the necessary background checks.

## 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.

OUR THANKS TO MORGAN AND ANDREW, EDIE, AND LAURA FOR REPRESENTING US AT THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SOUTHWEST CONFERENCE UCC IN EL PASO THIS WEEKEND!

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 27-29 SOUTHWEST CONFERENCE ANNUAL MEETING, EL PASO  
MAY 14 - MOTHER'S DAY  
MAY 21 - WOMANSONG MUSICAL GUESTS  
MAY 28 - PENTECOST SUNDAY

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**FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

April 30, 2023

10:30 a.m.

*\*Those who are able may stand*

**GATHERING TO WORSHIP GOD**

Prelude: "This Is My Father's World"--arr. Tedd Smith & Don Hustad  
Mark Achuff and Carole Sue Linson

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

We welcome Karen M. Regan as a new member today!  
From Virginia; Mesa Since 1995; Works for State Farm; 2 Daughters in Mesa; Grandma  
in July

Gathering Song

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

Opening Prayer Diane Mares  
Incarnate God, you are the one who comes to us in Jesus Christ. Holy One, you are the  
one who comes to us in the Holy Spirit. Sovereign of Earth and Heaven, you are the one  
who calls us to recognize you today and every day. Gather our hearts and minds this  
day. Kindle our God-consciousness. Let us worship you in awe and  
wonder!

\*Hymn: "My Shepherd Is the Living God" New Century Hymnal #247

Prayer of Confession Diane Mares  
One: Merciful and Loving God, we ask forgiveness because our consciousness of you  
is dimmed by everyday desires and needs.

**All: Raise our consciousness of you, O God.**

One: We forget that we are a reflection of your image. We act as though you are a  
Sunday-only event.

**All: Increase our mindfulness of you, O God.**

One: Help us to a greater common awareness of your deep mystery and infinite  
presence.

**All: Rouse our awareness of you, God.**

One: Open our eyes from surface focus to depth perception. Turn our heads from  
shallow concerns to eternal truths.

**All: Awaken us from faint-heartedness, O God. Forgive us for our  
narrow and selfish ways. Save us from cheap grace with your amazing  
grace. We ask in Jesus' name.**

Words of Assurance

Diane Mares

Holy, Forgiving God, we are your sheep. You keep us awake and aware. Bless you and praise you for forgiving us when we are barely mindful enough to ask. Help us to enter by the door when we hear the voice of the Good Shepherd. We hear your voice of pardon. Through Christ's grace we are forgiven this morning, and we enter your care. Amen.

### PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

Hebrew Scripture Reading: adapted from Psalm 23

Diane Mares

Let us pray these familiar words, in the name of our risen Christ, our Good Shepherd:

**Jesus, you are our shepherd. We shall never want.**

**You make us lie down in green pastures; you lead us beside the still waters. You restore our souls. You guide us in the paths of righteousness for your name's sake. Even though we may walk through the valley of the shadow of death, we fear no evil, for you, Christ, are with us. You have prepared a table for us in the presence of our foes; you have anointed us with the oil of salvation; our cup runs over! Surely, goodness and mercy will follow us all the days of our lives, and we will dwell in the house of our Holy Savior forever and ever. Amen.**

Gospel Reading: John 10:1-10

Diane Mares

\*Hymn: "I Greet You, Sure Redeemer"

New Century Hymnal #251

Sermon: "Jesus is a Gate and the Shepherd of the Sheep?"

Pastor Jay

### RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE

Solo: "What a Friend We Have in Jesus"

Morgan Greenwald, Soloist; Mark Achuff, piano

Prayers of the People / The Lord's Prayer

Offering of Ourselves and our Gifts

Offertory: "Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus"--arr. Ron Loree

Mark Achuff

\*Doxology

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below; Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Praise Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen**

\*Prayer of Dedication

Diane Mares

**Good Shepherd of the sheep, you have opened the door to new life for us through your self-giving love. May we reflect your love for us by opening the doors of our hearts to you in the act of giving our offerings. Amen.**

\*Hymn: "Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us"

New Century Hymnal #252

\*Benediction

Pastor Jay

\*Postlude: "Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus"--arr. Ron Loree

Mark Achuff

## 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](mailto:beckybryant2255@gmail.com).*

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## 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

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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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