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

From the Pastor

The "Psalms of Ascent" are Psalms 120-134 in our collection of 150 Psalms in the Bible. Psalm 133 is a simple Psalm with a great reminder of the blessings of unity. The pilgrims sang this Psalm as they travelled up to Jerusalem for three annual feasts. Their unity was in the covenant they had made with God that bound them together. Unity is not uniformity. Unity in diversity would be our goal. Our unity is in the covenant we make with each other in our church family and in our shared desire to follow in the way of Jesus.

We see little unity in our politics, and the church is not much better as denominations continue to divide over LGBTQ issues. Unity in the local church is also a challenge. The New Testament congregations found it hard work - "Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace." (Ephesians 4:1)

The blessings that come from unity are not just for us to enjoy. I have talked to several visitors to our worship service in recent weeks who are motivated to attend because of loneliness. The power of our congregation gathering in worship or fellowship can be considered through these headlines:

"Loneliness Can Be Deadly for Elders; Friends Are the Antidote" (2016)

"U.K. Appoints a Minister for Loneliness" (2018)

"The Surprising Effects of Loneliness on Health" (2017)

"Our Epidemic of Loneliness and Isolation - The U.S. Surgeon General's Advisory on the Healing Effects of Social Connection and Community" (2023)

Thank you for the extravagant welcome all experience every Sunday in worship and Perkins Hall! This is the only church I have pastored where I am the lonely one at the door waiting for anyone to leave! Now that is probably the only good loneliness :)

Denise is our musical guest; Susan is liturgist; JJ and Ziggy experience oil and dew.



CHURCH CALENDAR

AUGUST 25 – COFFEE HOUSE, 4-6 PERKINS HALL

AUGUST 26 - EMBRY-RIDDLE CHAPEL TO GREET NEW STUDENTS (MELISSA & ELIZABETH)

SEPT. 5 - WOMEN OF COURAGE - INTERFAITH CHOIR - 7 PM TRINITY PRESB. CHURCH -

SEPT. 9 – RETURN OF ZOOM FAITH FORUM 10AM

SEPT. 24 – CHURCH ANNIVERSARY SUNDAY WITH CONFERENCE STAFF

OCTOBER 4 – BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS – PARKING LOT – 4:00 PM

OCT. 28 - PRESCOTT COMMUNITY CUPBOARD 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION – PERKINS HALL 1:00-4:00 PM

[Watch Worship Services Here](#)

MOVIE FILMED AT CHURCH NOW AVAILABLE TO VIEW

LOOK FOR PATTY, ANDY, WYATT, AND WINNIE IN THE FILM
OUR SANCTUARY AND PERKINS HALL ARE IN SEVERAL SCENES
I FOUND IT BY SEARCHING ON FUBO

At long last, the movie that was filmed in Prescott with many scenes filmed in our facilities has premiered. Saturday evening July 30 the movie was shown for the first time. It has a new name, **The Abigail Mysteries.**

It was on Great American Family. You can check their website for information on where you can find their channel.

It also can be streamed on Pureflix.com. They are now a division of Great American Family. They have been offering a free week of Pureflix.

Very interesting to see our beloved church in a movie!

Tom

**“SUP WITH SEVEN” IS PLANNING ANOTHER ROUND OF DINNERS
IN HOMES.**

A SIGN UP SHEET IS IN PERKINS HALL

**ZOOM FAITH FORUM WILL RETURN SEPTEMBER 9 AT 10AM
LET PASTOR JAY KNOW IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN
PARTICIPATING**

LAUNCH PAD TEEN CENTER - BETTER TOGETHER INITIATIVE

We have 17 who have signed up to participate. We are planning initial gatherings into small groups at this time.

A small group of people (family unit, friends, neighbors, coworkers, etc.) will schedule a day to come together once per quarter (every three months) to have a meal and discuss one of the topics in the TAC Better Together Guidebook. We also ask that you share your experiences by checking in with a teen from the Teen Advisory Council or completing a short survey after each meal.

The goal is to practice speaking and listening techniques outlined in the Guidebook around issues our community (through our Better Together Survey) deemed challenging to discuss. The goal is to have conversations in a respectful manner NOT to change people’s perspectives, opinions, or ideas. The Teen Advisory Council hopes to allow everyone to share their point of view and to feel heard and valued, even around issues that sometimes cause friction or division.

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.

EMBRY-RIDDLE CHAPEL OPEN HOUSE

OUR THANKS TO MELISSA AND ELIZABETH FOR ATTENDING AGAIN THIS YEAR!

Embry Riddle Aeronautical University Fred and Fay Haas Memorial Interfaith Chapel will be hosting its annual Open House on Saturday, August 26, 2023, from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm. As has been done in previous years, we are inviting local religious and spiritual organizations to participate in this event. This event will allow for Embry Riddle Aeronautical University parents and students to

become acquainted with the different faith and spiritual organizations represented in the Prescott area.

Each organization participating should have 1-2 representatives present to engage with incoming students and their parents to help them become acquainted with your organization. You are encouraged to bring pamphlets, memorabilia representing your group, and a calendar of anticipated activities that your organization has planned for the upcoming months that the student may wish to attend. Each group will have a table and chairs set up in our main chapel space, unless otherwise requested. If you have any special requests or accommodation needs, please do not hesitate to contact us as soon as possible.

PICTURE DIRECTORY OF CONGREGATION

THE DIRECTORY IS NOW ON THE WEBSITE UNDER RESOURCES
THE PASSWORD IS THE SAME AS THE REGULAR DIRECTORY
EMAIL THE OFFICE TO RECEIVE IT: fccprescott@gmail.com
We are still working on the quality of the photos

WOMEN OF COURAGE

Prescott premiere of songs and storytelling inspired by 11 extraordinary women. Music by Mary Lou Prince; Words by Patty Willis. Performed by the Quad City Interfaith Choir, singers from faith traditions including Unitarian Universalist, Latter Day Saint, Jewish, Presbyterian and Congregational Church

Tuesday September 5, 2023 7:00 PM

Trinity Presbyterian Church 630 Park Avenue, Prescott, AZ, 86303
Freewill offerings will be donated to Prescott Area Shelter Services

Women of Courage: The Unveiling of a Monument of Words and Song A friend has dedicated a wall of her living room to her heroes. Each time she walks by, she feels infused by their courage. Wanting to honor and remember the courage of their own heroes, composer Mary Lou Prince and lyricist Patty Willis have created a monument of words and song. These songs honor women, known and unknown, who have changed the world through their courageous lives. Each woman encountered seemingly insurmountable difficulties, and each used her unique talents to transform the world into which she was born. Some of our women of courage are well known.

At 74 years of age, **Eleanor Roosevelt** is traveling through the Tennessee countryside, a \$25,000 bounty on her head by the KKK, a loaded gun between her and the 71-year-old woman driving the car through the backwoods to the Highlander School to teach a workshop on civil disobedience. The FBI will not protect her. She has a commitment to keep. **Etty Hillesum**, a Jew, and brilliant Russian scholar living in Nazi-occupied Amsterdam is the beating heart of the barracks of Westerbork where Jews await transport to Auschwitz. She accompanies a reality she cannot change and dares to feel joy at lupines blooming in a muddy field. **Dolores Huerta**, co-founder of the United Farmworkers and mother of eleven children, inspired people to believe in themselves. We can speak truth to power . We can make a difference. "Sí, se puede." "Yes, we can." Viola Jimulla, at the death of her husband in 1940, became the chieftess of the Yavapai people. She said, "I had to help my people in whatever they needed." Her firm but

benevolent rule brought new industry and dignity to her tribe. **Recy Taylor**, a young married black woman, gang raped as she returns home from a church service one evening in rural Alabama, will not keep the silence demanded by her violators. She continued to demand justice. Her courage inspired her advocate, **Rosa Parks**, and Recy's story was on her mind when she would not move to the back of the bus. In 2012, she finally received an apology from the state of Alabama and her town Abbeville. Mine Okubo, a gifted painter interned at Topaz in central Utah when American citizens of Japanese ancestry were rounded up during World War II, uses her gifts to express the loss and daily cruelty of a dark time of our American past. She bids us not forget and not repeat.

The authors hope that these songs will inspire listeners to courageous acts that are waiting to be born. Performances of work by Patty Willis and Mary Lou Prince have been featured at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe, Kanazawa Japan National Noh Theatre , Kyoto Japan International Theatre Festival, Henry Street Settlement International Theater Festival New York City, Izumi Kyoka Festival Kanazawa Japan, Tumacacori National Historic Park Arizona, Parliament of World Religions Salt Lake City, Women by Music Festival at Mississippi University for Women, Nadia Boulanger and her Students Festival University of Arizona, Tabernacle at Temple Square Salt Lake City, Matrix Theater Los Angeles, BBC Radio Scotland and NHK Television Japan. For more information, please contact Mary Lou Prince at musicdirectorgranitepeakuu@gmail.com

AFTER CHURCH FELLOWSHIP – HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE

- **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 potlucks 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 the 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.

SUNDAY WORSHIP BULLETIN

TWELTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 20, 2023

10:30 a.m.

**Those who are able may stand*

GATHERING TO WORSHIP GOD

Prelude: "Can You Read My Mind?"

Denise Nasso

Words of Welcome – Announcements - *Passing of the Peace

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)

Call to Worship (Psalm 133)

Susan Madura

L: How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unit

P: It is like the precious oil on the head, running down upon the beard, on the beard of Aaron, running down over the collar of his robes.

L: It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion. For there the Lord ordained his blessing, life forevermore.

Invocation

Susan Madura

Welcoming God: you gather everyone, especially the outsiders, to worship you, for you are not an image or idol, but protector of the helpless, parent to the poor, friend of the lonely. Accepting Christ: there is not any place you will not go to bring God's grace to others. In you, the enemy is made a friend, the broken are made whole, the orphan finds a home. Embracing Spirit: your truth is whispered in our ears, and our arms embrace strangers; your peace is poured into our souls, and we are reconciled to all we hurt; your love throws open our shuttered hearts, and we see our sisters and brothers all around us. Open our hearts and minds to receive these truths this morning.
Amen.

*Hymn: "What a Friend We Have In Jesus"

New Century Hymnal #506

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

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)

Hebrew Scripture Reading: Psalm 133

Susan Madura

1 How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!

2 It is like precious oil poured on the head, running down on the beard, running down on Aaron's beard, down on the collar of his robe.

3 It is as if the dew of Hermon were falling on Mount Zion.

For there the Lord bestows his blessing, even life forevermore.

New Testament Reading: Acts 4:32-35

Susan Madura

³²Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. ³³With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. ³⁴There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. ³⁵They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

*Song: "You've Got a Friend" by Carole King

Denise & Congregation

CHORUS:

You just call out my name, and you know, wherever I am; I'll come runnin' to see you again. Winter, spring, summer or fall, all you have to do is call, and I'll be there: You've got a friend.

Sermon: "Loneliness Can Be Deadly for Elders – Friends Are the Antidote" Pastor Jay

RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE

Solo: "God Bless the Child"

Denise Nasso

Prayers of the People / The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Offering of Ourselves and our Gifts

Offertory: "I Believe In You & Me"

Denise Nasso

*Doxology

Denise Nasso

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

Susan Madura

Loving God, your grace has filled all heaven and earth with good things for us to enjoy and share. We are richly blessed. Enable us now to give freely and generously out of our abundance. Use our gifts to touch the world with the saving love of Jesus Christ. Amen.

*Song: "Just A Closer Walk With Thee" (Denise & Congregation)

**Just a closer walk with Thee; Grant it Jesus is my plea;
Daily walking close to Thee; Let it Be ... Dear Lord ... Let it Be**

*Benediction

Pastor Jay

*Postlude: "Oh Happy Day"

Denise Nasso

MONTHLY FOCUS: Our August Mission Outreach will be directed toward two funds dedicated to helping local immigrant students attain degrees in higher education—our congregation’s own **DACA Fund** and **Prescott College’s Freedom Education Fund**.

Our **DACA Fund** has previously assisted the Gardea family—Francisco, Franceny, and Fernando—for the past several years, providing support for their educational expenses and tuition at Arizona postsecondary schools including ASU, Prescott College, and Yavapai College.

The federal government has granted registered DACA enrollees legal status and the right to obtain a work permit. These rights are subject to a two-year time period, which can be renewed. We’re eager to assist additional local families achieve their educational goals with the help of your generous support.

Prescott College’s Freedom Education Fund was established to grant scholarship money to students hoping to “pursue the experiential and transformative higher education of Prescott College. . .where donations have the power to truly make a difference in the recipients' lives.”

Priority will be given to students with the most financial need and who are pursuing social or environmental justice work in their degree or activism. **The Freedom Education Fund** will not only provide money, but also set the foundation for future development of full-ride fellowships and more.

Donation checks may be made to the church with the memo **DACA/FEF**. Checks marked simply "Mission" will be used at the discretion of our mission team.

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.

**PASS - PRESCOTT AREA SHELTER SERVICES
OUR THANKS TO THE YOUTH FOR TAKING CARE
OF THE AUGUST MEAL!**

PASS, our local women's shelter, serves as a place for women and children experiencing homelessness. The **third Wednesday of every month (September 20)** 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.

TREASURER REPORT FOR JUNE 2023

A NOTE FROM THE TREASURER – JULIE MCCURDY

July 2023

Income is \$122,254
Expenses are \$113,244
Net income is \$8,671

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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Church of
Christ

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