
A Message From Pastor Jay

We had 14 prospective new members come to the class after worship on Sunday! Co-Moderators Mellisa and Bill did a great job of introducing our church to them. We have another class scheduled for this Sunday after worship. Several have indicated they plan to come. A bright spot in the midst of our COVID malaise.

This Sunday, we continue our series on the Psalms of Ascent (Psalm 120-134) with a focus on Psalm 123. The Psalmist asks for mercy as the pilgrims face scorn and contempt from arrogant brutes along their journey - "mercy, God, mercy" is the way Eugene Peterson translates the Hebrew text. "Living Under the Mercy of God" is the sermon title. Diane serves as worship leader. Mark provides music. And JJ gives us a visual display of living under God's mercy.

PER CDC GUIDELINES, WE HAVE RETURNED TO WEARING MASKS IN THE SANCTUARY AND PERKINS HALL.

Nursery and Sunday school at the 10:30am service

The "Watch Worship Services Here" tab on the front page of our website includes worship services that go back to January of 2020. Our Gay Pride Sunday service on June 27 included powerful testimonies - check it out if you have not seen it.

ZOOM BIBLE STUDY SATURDAY 10AM

ZOOM SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP 2:00 PM

Let us know if you want to be added to these Zoom invitations

[Watch Worship Services Here](#)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Musical guests August 29 - Joell and Ervie

Per CDC guidelines, we are returning to mask wearing on Sunday mornings in the sanctuary and Perkins Hall. Our after-worship fellowship time in Perkins Hall is on pause until COVID cases decline in our community.

New members will be received August 29 during worship. Note the opportunities to learn about the church in the message below.

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

AUGUST MISSION NEWS

MISSION OUTREACH

Mission Outreach Update: Our Mission emphasis for the month of August is our **DACA Fund**. 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. Donations to our DACA Fund support (1) Franceny Gardea, a DACA registrant who is pursuing her Master's Degree at Prescott College and (2) The Freedom Education Fund, a DACA scholarship program at Prescott College. Donation checks may be made payable to the church, with the memo, DACA. Checks marked simply, "mission" will be used at the discretion of our mission team.

PASS Update: Thanks to our team of volunteers, on July 21 dinner and sundries were provided to 22 guests at the PASS shelter for women and children. We do this on the third Wednesday of each month. If you would like to help, contact our PASS team captain, Patty Gard at gpgard7963@gmail.com or phone 928 460 3042.

Prescott Community Cupboard (PCC): Both Angela Imbierowicz and Lee Danaher serve on the PCC Board of Directors. The PCC provides food bags/boxes for impoverished individuals and families living in the Prescott area. On scheduled dates throughout the year, our team of volunteers sort food donations and pack food bags. You can deposit your canned food items in our donation box located in the front of the church sanctuary. If you would like to help sort and pack food bags, contact our PCC team captain, Angela Imbierowicz at angelaprescottaz@gmail.com or phone 708 712 1448.

WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS AUGUST 29

GOT QUESTIONS? WE GOT ANSWERS!

Everything you've ever wanted to know about us but were afraid to ask
Two one-hour sessions are being offered, right after church in the
sanctuary:

Sunday August 15 and Sunday August 22.

How THIS church is governed

How we relate to the Southwest Conference of the United Church of Christ

How we relate to the General Synod of the United Church of Christ

What are our beliefs

What are our sacraments

A little about our history

What is the Foundation

Membership vs. non-membership

Opportunities to participate in THIS church

Awesome for those who want to become members Helpful for those who don't know if they want to become members Just a simple, good refresher for all others. If you want to come but you can't make either session, let Pastor Jay know.

From our church 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. 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.

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 22, 2021

10:30 a.m.

**Those who are able may stand*

GATHERING TO WORSHIP GOD

Prelude: "In the Stillness"--Steven Scott

Mark Acuff

A Time for Children of All Ages - JJ

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

Words of Welcome – Announcements - *Passing of the Peace

*Hymn: "To You, O God, All Creatures Sing"

New Century Hymnal #17 (Verses 1 and 5)

Call to Worship

Diane Mares

Great and Glorious God, we gather to worship you.

We lift our eyes to you, in reverent awe before your majesty.

Great is the Lord our God, and greatly to be praised!

Generous and Merciful God, we come to worship you.

We lift our eyes to you, giving thanks for your compassion.

Gracious is the Lord our God, and greatly to be praised!

Welcoming and Empowering God, we worship you.

We lift our eyes to you, and we celebrate your faithfulness.

Holy is the Lord our God, and greatly to be praised!

We lift our eyes, seeking to worship and praise our God.

Opening Prayer

Diane Mares

We praise and thank you, God of Compassion, for your mercy endures forever.

Your gift of mercy fills the whole world, new every morning and steadfast

throughout the day. By your faithfulness and love you strengthen your people.

You welcome the outcast with open arms, for your mercy endures forever. Give

thanks to the Lord who is good. The mercy of God endures forever. Give thanks

to the Lord of lords. The mercy of God endures forever. Amen.

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

Hebrew Scripture Reading: Psalm 123

Diane Mares

Special Music: "Revive Us Again--arr. Larry Shackley

Mark Acuff

Sermon: "Living Under the Mercy of God"

Pastor Jay

RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE

Merciful God, we lift our eyes to you as we are feeling overwhelmed by all that is happening in our lives, in our nation and around the world. It seems that the big bullies still have the power to humiliate and harass vulnerable people, for whatever reason they choose; and it is the weak, the poor and the oppressed who bear the biggest burdens. We look to our God who is the opposite of those who belittle us, and it is with hope and trust that we look to God to show us God's own mercy. Lord, in your divine mercy, please hear our prayers.

We your servants look to you for guidance as to how we may best serve you. We look to you for encouragement and answers to life's big questions; and with trust and hope in our hearts and minds, as we are entirely dependent on you for all of our life and living. Open wide our eyes, that we may learn more of God's hope, truth, love and especially about God's mercy, so that with expectation in our minds and hearts, we may learn more about our Lord and Sovereign of the universe. In your divine mercy, please hear our prayers.

Pastoral Prayer/ The Lord's Prayer

Pastor Jay

*Hymn: "My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less"
New Century Hymnal #403 (Verses 1 and 2)

Offering of Ourselves and our Gifts

Pastor Jay

Prayer of Dedication

Diane Mares

We make our offerings, small and large with the hope and confidence that all we do, all we offer, all we say, all we think, and all we hope will take root in this world and be the source of new expressions of God's love, of God's justice, of God's character, of God's mission, and of God's reign. May God's will be done on earth as it is in heaven through us, alongside us, despite us, and for us. Amen.

*Benediction

Pastor Jay

*Postlude: "Choral Song"--Samuel S. Wesley

Mark Acuff

TREASURER REPORT

Income as of July 31 is \$88,782

Total expenses are \$81,390.

Net income is \$7,392.

Year-to-date income is at 73% of the income budget of \$122,450.

Year-to-date expenses are at 55% of the expense budget of \$146,905.

AUGUST WORSHIP - PSALMS OF ASCENT (120-134)

Many scholars believe the title indicates that these psalms were sung by worshippers as they ascended the road to Jerusalem to attend the three pilgrim festivals in Jerusalem (Deuteronomy 16:16). Others think they were sung by the Levite singers as they ascended the fifteen steps to minister at the Temple in Jerusalem. Either way, these psalms give us a glimpse of the faith of those who worshiped God in the past. As we ascend our own spiritual journey, insights may be found in these Psalms. We will look at 5 of these Psalms during August.

August 1 - Psalm 120

August 8 - Psalm 121

August 15 - Psalm 122

August 22 - Psalm 123

August 29 - Psalm 126

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 mail 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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