# First Congregational United Church of Christ

The Parish Caller August 27, 2021

# A Message From Pastor Jay

We will receive new members this coming Sunday! There are 20 individuals who have expressed interest in joining - not likely we can get all 20 at the same time, so we will have additional opportunities to join in coming weeks. Welcome to all!

This Sunday, we continue our series on the Psalms of Ascent (Psalm 120-134) with a focus on Psalm 126. It contains the familiar verse - "those who sow with tears will reap with songs of joy." The sermon will focus on "tears" in the Bible. Angela is worship leader. Joyful Noise provides music. JJ shows us his bottle of tears.

Our video technician, Jim, has moved to Maryland and we are in a transition time - bear with us as we give our new technician, Donna, some time to learn the process. We are also transitioning to our new YouTube channel. It will take some time to move the videos from the past year to our new channel.

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

After church social time with refreshments and finger foods has been suspended until COVID cases decline.

Nursery and Sunday school at the 10:30am service

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 - Ervie and Joyful Noise

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.

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

Our church anniversary is Sunday, September 26. Due to COVID, we decided to have a gathering in the parking lot after worship. No sit down meal, but a time of fellowship, refreshments, and light snacks.

# 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 <u>gpgard7963@gmail.com</u> 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.

CHURCH ANNIVERSARY SEPTEMBER 26 1880-2021

### SUNDAY BULLETIN

#### FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 29, 2021 \*Those who are able may stand

10:30 a.m.

#### **GATHERING TO WORSHIP GOD**

Prelude: "Make a Joyful Noise" by Cary Landry

Joyful Noise

With clapping hands and happy sounds, we make a joyful noise unto the Lord! (2x)

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 - Reception of New Members

\*Passing of the Peace

Gathering Song: "I Was Glad" by John L. Bell

Joyful Noise

Call to Worship

Angela Imbierowicz

We gather together, our God of all blessings, to worship, praise and glorify your holy name. You are the God of immense mercy and goodness, whose generosity is beyond our understanding.

We gather together to celebrate the wonders of our God's intimate involvement with humanity. **Our God has blessed us and our ancestors, even when we were unworthy of such blessings.** 

We gather together, rejoicing in the hope that God gives us, so that even our tears can turn into joy. **Through our personal experiences of God's goodness,** we celebrate and give thanks to our Amazing God. Amen.

\*Song: "Glory, Glory Hallelujah" African-American Spiritual New Century Hymnal #2

#### **PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD**

Hebrew Scripture Reading: Psalm 126

Angela Imbierowicz

Responsorial Psalm: "The Lord Has Done Great Things" (Ps 126) by Jaime Cortez

The Lord has done great things for us, we are filled with gladness and joy, We are filled with gladness and joy.

Sermon: "Tears"

Pastor Jay

Anthem: "City of God" by Dan Schutte

#### Let us build the city of God. May our tears be turned into dancing! For the Lord, our light and our love, has turned the night into day!

#### **RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE**

Prayers of the People

Angela Imbierowicz

Loving God, we need to admit that grief can be a terrible trap! We often find it so very hard to fight our way through the intense selfishness that grief brings with it - hand in hand with its pain. It is so easy to wallow in grief and loss, and while it is an everyday part of life, that does not make it any easier to bear!

We grieve deeply about so many things! We grieve for loved friends and relatives now lost to us; places that have changed; happy times that cannot be repeated; places that are changed beyond recognition; and traditions in worship that have had to make way for new concepts and understandings of old and loved truths. We are not sure what are the hardest experiences of loss to bear beloved people; familiar places; joyous family celebrations; having a meaning and purpose in life; the loss of familiar symbols of worship; or of never-to-be repeated experiences of community worship! We have experienced them all, and we grieve that never again will many such opportunities be presented to us.

But we are so thankful to God that the lost past need not always be gloom and doom. God renews the cycles of life every season, and the cycles of new and old relationships can change too. New experiences of shared worship need not always be rejected, and new life and vitality can come at any age or in any circumstance. Our tears of loss can indeed become smiles of anticipation and hope, and God continues to provide new challenges and needs to be met. Praise be to our ever-renewing, ever-new and inspirational God!

#### Pastoral Prayer/ The Lord's Prayer

Pastor Jay

Song: "Give Thanks to the Lord" by Stephen M. Austin Sing! Prayer and Praise # 198

Offering of Ourselves and our Gifts Pastor Jay

**Prayer of Dedication** 

Angela Imbierowicz

Holy God, we pray that we may be good representatives and stewards of our roles and responsibilities, as we daily seek to live a faithful witness to you. We hope that others may see and know, that you are a God who is worthy of all honor and worship, and that your faithfulness and mercy is available to all who respond, and offer their love and commitment to you. \*Benediction

Pastor Jay

\*Postlude: "I Come to the Garden Alone" by C. Austin Miles

## 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.

## SEPTEMBER WORSHIP - THE WISDOM OF JAMES

The Letter of James may be the earliest of the New Testament writings (maybe Galatians is earlier?) James was the brother of Jesus and the leader of the Jerusalem Council (Acts 15). The Letter is practical in nature and contains helpful applications to modern day problems - facing trials in life; treatment of the poor; faith and deeds go together; taming the tongue; proper wisdom; the power of prayer; and patience in suffering.

September 5 - James 2:1-17

September 12 - James 3:1-12

September 19 - James 3:13-4:8

September 26 - James 5:13-20

## 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.



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