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

### From the Pastor

This Sunday is the first Sunday of Advent. Rev. Bill Linson will preach a sermon entitled "Advent 101" to get us ready for our Advent journey. The sanctuary is decorated for Christmas, and we will start to sing Christmas carols, so come to get into the Christmas spirit.

We are still receiving estimates a giving for 2024. These are needed to help us prepare a budget for 2024. You can place it in the offering plate or mail it to the church office: 216 East Gurley Street, Prescott, AZ. 86301. The estimates are kept confidential and known only to our treasurer and financial secretary. I have maintained a stance of not knowing what anyone gives for 34 years in the pastorate. A few tried to challenge that through the years, but I stood my ground. Stubborn!

Thank you to everyone that has turned in an estimate of giving for 2024. Because of you, we will live into our 144th year. And because of you, our church changes lives!

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**VIDEO SERIES**  
**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8 AT NOON**  
**CHURCH OFFICE CONFERENCE ROOM**

**"When Black Female Preachers Speak - Seven Important Discussions with Black Female Theologians"** A part of our de-centering whiteness efforts (de-centering patriarchy also). The next gathering will be Friday, December 8 at noon in the church office conference room. Bring your own lunch / snack and drink. The video is 33 minutes long with Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown, Senior Pastor at Plymouth Church of the United Church of Christ in Seattle. Discussion will follow. All are welcome.

### **ACKER NIGHT DECEMBER 8**

Acker Night December 8 - The Welcoming Ministry will be providing coffee, hot chocolate and cookies to those stopping by to hear Womansong at FCC/UCC. Any cookie contributions for this event would be greatly appreciated. We look at this event as a way to show the Prescott community our beautiful sanctuary and feel welcomed. Thank you so much for your support.

### **CHRISTMAS COOKIE/CANDY EXCHANGE**

The Welcoming Ministry is planning a Christmas cookie/candy exchange following the **Dec. 17 worship service**. Please bring a dozen or 2 (or more) of your favorite holiday treats - homemade or store bought to share with your church community, and don't forget our gluten free folks, if you are so inclined. Please take home only the amount of cookies/candy you have brought in exchange. Donated cookies are also appreciated. If you don't wish to take any home. Please bring baggies or plastic storage containers to take home your goodies! Thanks, as always, for your participation.

### **DECEMBER 10**

**THE ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PAGEANT WILL TAKE PLACE DURING WORSHIP**

### **DECEMBER 17**

**THE CHILDREN WILL PLAY CHIMES AND PERFORM A BRIEF SKIT**

**AND WE WILL DEDICATE THE GIFT FROM MANUEL LUCERO OF THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLE MUSEUM**

**CHURCH DIRECTORIES ARE ON OUR WEBSITE  
FCCPRESCOTT.ORG**

**UNDER THE RESOURCES TAB – PASSWORD PROTECTED  
EMAIL THE CHURCH OFFICE FOR PASSWORD  
[fccprescott@gmail.com](mailto:fccprescott@gmail.com)**

**SATURDAY FAITH FORUM OPEN TO ALL  
SATURDAYS AT 10AM ON ZOOM  
A NEW TOPIC EACH WEEK - BIBLE, CURRENT EVENTS,  
THEOLOGY, ETC.  
A LIVELY DISCUSSION**

EMAIL PASTOR JAY TO BE ADDED TO THE ZOOM INVITE  
[jayfccprescott@gmail.com](mailto:jayfccprescott@gmail.com)

**MUSEUM OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLE  
INDIGENOUS STORYTELLING  
PUEBLO HALL  
DECEMBER 27, 10:00AM -3:00PM  
REFRESHMENTS & COOKIES**

Attendees will enter thru museum, pay museum rates, receive a ticket or sticker to go to Storytellers. Rates vary from high of \$10, children 12 or under free.

[Watch Worship Services Here](#)



*First Congregational  
Church*

**MERRY CHRISTMAS!**

**Christmas Eve Morning  
Worship Service - 10:30am**

**Christmas Eve Service  
of Lessons & Carols - 7:00pm**

**Virtual Worship services are  
recorded each Sunday**

**[fccprescott.org](http://fccprescott.org)**

**216 East Gurley Street,  
Prescott, AZ  
928-445-4555**



## Don't Spend Christmas Alone!

Be Our Guest for Christmas Dinner!

### JOIN US IF YOU CAN!

We will be serving food,  
fellowship, and fun from  
**11:00 AM to 2:00 PM**  
on Christmas Day  
(At no charge to our guests)

### OR WE CAN DELIVER!

Home Bound Deliveries!  
To have your meal(s)  
delivered on Christmas Day,  
call the church office at  
**928-260-6300** by  
**Friday, December 15<sup>th</sup>!**

Get a Ride to and from the Church!

#### From Prescott

Leaving Sprouts Parking Lot  
Pickup Every Half Hour: 10:30 - 1:00

Leaving Prescott United Methodist  
Church Parking Lot  
Pickup Times: 10:30, 11:30, 12:30

Leaving Coalition for Compassion  
& Justice Parking Lot  
Pickup Times: 10:45, 11:45, 12:45

#### From Chino Valley

Leaving Safeway Parking Lot  
Pickup Times: 10:30 & 11:45

Leaving American Legion  
Pickup Times: 10:45 & 12:00

#### From Prescott Valley

Leaving CASA Adult Center  
Pickup Times: 11:00, 12:00, 1:00

Leaving Safeway Parking Lot  
Pickup Times: 11:20, 12:20, 1:20



ST. LUKE'S  
EPISCOPAL  
CHURCH  
Prescott, Arizona

2000 Shepherds Lane  
Highway 89 and Ruger Road  
(1 block north of the Airport entrance on  
Ruger Rd.)

### QUESTIONS

Call 928-260-6300  
10 am - 3 pm

If you would like to volunteer to help on Christmas day, during  
the dinner, please call 928-260-6300.

## 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).

## Church Security

**It has come to our attention that some people have concerns for their safety while at worship service here, on Sundays. Rest easy. Not all are aware but WE DO HAVE A SECURITY TEAM IN PLACE EVERY SUNDAY. Every Sunday we have a complete team consisting of highly trained current and retired law enforcement in addition to a retired emergency room medical care giver. Not only do we come to serve this church already trained but we continue to have current training sessions specific to responses in this particular church. Our intention is to carry out our function as low key as possible so as not to detract from your purpose of being here, to worship in peace, comfort and safety. (Melissa)**

DECEMBER MISSION NEWS

MONTHLY FOCUS: Each month throughout the year, our Mission Outreach team identifies particular mission programs to which we might choose to donate.

This month we're highlighting the **Christmas Fund**—an annual UCC special offering.

The **Christmas Fund** has been caring for active and retired clergy and lay employees of the United Church of Christ for over 100 years, providing emergency grants, supplementation of small annuities and health premiums, and Christmas “Thank You” gift checks each December to our lower-income retirees.

If you would like to show your continued gratitude to our UCC clergy needing support, please make your check payable to the church, with the memo of **Christmas Fund**. Mission donations which do not specify a particular project will be disbursed as determined by our Mission team members.

Recent mission disbursements of \$400 each have been made to: People Who Care, The Launch Pad Teen Center, Giffords, St Luke Ebony Church, CC&J, Museum of Indigenous People, and Temple B'rith Shalom.

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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## SUNDAY WORSHIP BULLETIN

### FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 3, 2023

10:30 a.m.

*\*Those who are able may stand*

### GATHERING TO WORSHIP GOD

Prelude: “Creator of the Stars of Night” 9<sup>th</sup> Century Chant      Brian Moore and  
Thomas Porter

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

Advent Gathering Song: “Stay Awake, Be Ready”

Brian and Thomas

\*Hymn: “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

New Century Hymnal #116

Lighting the First Advent Candle

Mares Family

Leader: These are fearful days: words of hate, acts of terror, welcomes withheld, truths denied.

**People: Anxiety is a constant companion; Hope feels like a stranger.**

Leader: We call out in our anxiety. We remind ourselves of God's ancient promises:

Justice is coming! Love is on the way!

**People: Lift up your heads and watch for the signs!** (Luke 21: 28, paraphrase)

Leader: Let us light this first candle of Advent, a candle of Hope. In its light, let us think about what signs we are seeing of God at work in our lives and in our world right now.

Let us think about where we may contribute to that work.

(The candle of Hope is lit)

**People: Let this candle of Advent Hope shine in our hearts all week. And remind us to lift up our heads and open our eyes o watch all around us for signs of the Holy One.**

A Time for Children of All Ages

Rev. Bill Linson

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

Opening Prayer

Linda Foote

**Loving God, we give you thanks for the season of Advent that reminds us that your love stopped at nothing to save us and claim us as your own. Keep us awake during this season so that we may be able to receive all that your Holy Spirit wants to offer us. Speak to us now. Fill us with your power and your grace. Let us leave here a changed people willing and ready to be your light in the world. Amen.**

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper (Communion is open to all)

*We come to the Lord's Table. All are invited to come forward down the middle aisle and return to your seat by the side aisle. We receive communion by intinction – please take a piece of bread and dip it into the cup and partake immediately.*

Communion Music: "My Soul in Stillness Waits" by Marty Haugen

Brian & Thomas

### PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

Hebrew Scripture Reading: Jeremiah 33:14-16

Linda Foote

Gospel Reading: Luke 21:25-36

Linda Foote

\*Hymn: "Lo How a Rose E'er Blooming"

New Century Hymnal #127

Sermon: "Advent 101"

Rev. Bill Linson

### RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE

Anthem: "There is a Longing" by Anne Quigley

Brian & Thomas

Prayers of the People / The Lord's Prayer (use trespasses)

Rev. Bill Linson

Offering of Ourselves and our Gifts

Offertory: "Serenade" by Franz Schubert

Carole Sue Linson & Brian Moore

\*Doxology for Advent (Peter A. Norum, 2012) Tune: New Century Hymnal #17  
**Sing! Praise the Source of love and grace; Thanks for our lives in time and place! Singing Praises! Alleluia! Look for the Gift of Truth and Light, Be new! Be bold! Walk forth with sight! Singing praises! Singing promise! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

\*Prayer of Dedication Linda Foote

**God who calls us to live from and for your vision of justice and peace, we dedicate not only these offerings, but our lives this morning. Send us out that your songs of goodness and mercy would be known through each act of service offered in your name. Amen.**

\*Hymn: "Come! O Long Expected Jesus"

New Century Hymnal #122

\*Benediction

Rev. Bill Linson

\*Postlude: "People, Look East"

Brian and Thomas



An offering plate inscribed in memory of Marilyn Eby was dedicated on All Saints' Sunday in November. Jay Eby has moved to Oklahoma. Jay and Marilyn faithfully served as ushers for decades in our church. Marilyn passed away in December of 2019.

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## TREASURER REPORT FOR OCTOBER 2023

A NOTE FROM THE TREASURER – JULIE MCCURDY

**Financial activity, year-to-date as of October 31, 2023**  
**Income: \$155,720**

**Expense: \$164,267**  
**Net shortfall: \$8,547**



**Because of You our church changes lives.**

## **STEWARDSHIP SEASON IS HERE!**

*Let us enter stewardship time prayerfully and with grateful hearts. Loving God, thank you for this opportunity to participate in the on-going mission of this church, your church. Help me to remember that everything I have comes from you. Open my heart and hands with generosity as I promise my support. Use my talents and financial commitments to continue your work in this church and in the world. Amen.*

**ESTIMATES OF 2024 GIVING ARE BEING  
RECEIVED  
THESE ESTIMATES ARE NEEDED TO PREPARE A  
CHURCH BUDGET FOR 2024**

**WHAT IS A STEWARD? WHO IS A STEWARD? HOW DO I BECOME A  
STEWARD?**

The answers to these questions are easy: A steward is a person who, with regard to a property both physical and functional, keeps it, cares for it, watches over it. As



to who is a steward, well, we're hoping YOU are, or that YOU will want to become one. How you become a steward involves the act of you giving to our church of your time, your skills and/or your finances. There is another question to be answered.

### IMMEDIATE NEED

**Why** give to our church? First Congregational Church occupies a unique position in Prescott. We are the only historically rooted and progressive congregation in the city that follows the way of Jesus. We are both open and affirming to all. Our sanctuary evokes historic church connections and the presence of God. The God one finds here is the One Jesus modeled for us – a God of love and grace. Many have given testimony to finding healing here from other church experiences, where God was presented as judgmental and exclusionary. Other churches have retreated to locations out of town. We have remained here on Gurley Street, downtown, easily seen, accessible and welcoming to all.

Another answer to why you would want to give to your church revolves around need, both yours and this Church's. You obviously have any number of personal reasons or needs that lead you into church participation here, where you find those needs met. Your church also has needs and right now those needs are financial. We are in unprecedented times. How do we create a church budget for 2024 with so many unknowns? How do you decide what to give to this church for 2024? These questions have no immediate answers, so our church budget and your offer of financial giving are not set in stone. They are estimates. Your estimate of giving for 2024 will help us begin to understand what might be possible for the next year. So, with a thankful heart full of hope we are asking you to help us right now, to get through our 144<sup>th</sup> year here in Prescott.

**LEGACY ANSWERS THE LONGTERM NEED** Our church is blessed to have THE FOUNDATION as a safety net. It was formed in 1992 to manage legacy gifts from our members and friends. Legacy giving is not about death. It's about giving and continuing life. It's an affirming experience that celebrates the people, values, and goals that you cherish most. You don't have to be rich to make a bequest or legacy gift. With a will or legacy gift you can give the way you want to live, by making a better or sustained future for your loved ones and a lasting impact on your faith community. If you are interested in leaving a legacy to our church, or have questions or concerns, you can send a note to the church office and a member of the Foundation will contact you.

**IT'S ALL ABOUT STEWARDSHIP - PLEASE BE  
OUR STEWARD!**

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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

Use the QR Code below:



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United  
Church of  
Christ

T: 928-445-4555  
EMAIL: [fccprescott@gmail.com](mailto:fccprescott@gmail.com)



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First Congregational Church Prescott, UCC | 216 E. Gurley Street, Prescott, AZ 86301

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