
A Message From Pastor Jay

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Rev. Charles Poole is our guest preacher on Sunday. Tom serves as liturgist. Melissa and Dawna are musical guests performing a flute duet. JJ apparently has laryngitis.

WE ARE WEARING MASKS IN THE SANCTUARY.

We are monitoring the spread of the Omicron variant in our area and will change our current procedures as warranted. Stay safe!

Nursery and Sunday school at the 10:30am service

[Watch Worship Services Here](#)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Musical Guests Melissa & Dawna Perform a Flute Duet

CHURCH FOUNDATION UPDATE

There are several ways to structure your planned gift depending on your objectives. Some options include:

- A bequest in your Will (No minimum)
- A Charitable Gift Annuity (gift of \$10,000+)
- Structuring a Charitable Remainder Trust (gift of \$50,000+)
- Outright gifts of life insurance, an IRA, real estate or appreciated assets (No minimum)

The most important aspects in structuring a Planned Gift is the opportunity to identify the cause and mission that

matters most to you and the appropriate accumulated asset to use to fund your gift. United Church Funds can help you determine which gift best meets your personal, spiritual and financial objectives.

To help you get started, visit

[Visit United Church Funds Resources](#)

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

Due to COVID spread in Prescott, outside groups are still not able to meet in the church

The annual congregational meeting is January 23 after worship

WELCOMING --GREETERS AND FELLOWSHIP VOLUNTEERS

A list has been compiled and we already have sign ups for people contacted and/or have recently volunteered. I'm sure there are others that would like to serve in one or both capacities.

Greeter - Be there by 10am and say hi!!, glad you're here!!!
Give them a bulletin.....so fun and SIMPLE

Fellowship - Be there by 10:15am, put the goodies out you brought and other treats from cabinets in the kitchen. Tom will have coffee, tea and/or juice out. Look in the fridge also. STAY during our fellowship time and towards the end, to gather up and put away excess and general clean up (minimal). THANK YOU !!!

Place your name on the current list started in Perkins Hall or call me
Patty Lantrip 480-227-2170

DECEMBER MISSION NEWS

Our December Mission Outreach emphasis is the UCC church's national Christmas Fund Offering. Donations to the offering will help provide financial support for active and retired clergy and church lay employees needing financial assistance. Checks may be made payable to the church with the memo, Christmas Fund.

Locally, we are sending a \$425 check to the Yavapai Food Bank in support of this year's Family Christmas program.

As always, thank you for remembering that we have been blessed to be a blessing (Genesis 12:2).

Grace and Peace,
Gary

STUDY OPPORTUNITY

ZOOM FAITH FORUM

The new faith forum will allow a variety of faith issues to be explored. Our next faith forum will be January 8th. Call or email the church office to be added to the weekly Zoom invitation: 928-445-4555; fccprescott@gmail.com.

SUNDAY BULLETIN

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS / EPIPHANY JANUARY 6

January 2, 2022

10:30 a.m.

**Those who are able may stand*

GATHERING TO WORSHIP GOD

Prelude: "Gentle Joseph, Joseph Dear" (15th Century German Carol) Brian Moore

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)

Words of Welcome – Announcements - *Passing of the Peace Tom Macy

Gather Song: "Go, Tell it on the Mountain"

Call to Worship

Tom Macy

One: Arise! Shine! Your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you!

Many: *We have seen the star in the east, and we are following.*

One: We have remembered God's wonder and promise, and we are worshipping.

Many We have come not to get presents, but to give them!

One: Lift up your eyes and look around; God's people now gather together, to open our hearts and sing out our praise.

All: The mystery of God's wonder and grace is here: Come, let us adore!

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

Scripture Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

Tom Macy

*Hymn: "Jesus, the Joy of Loving Hearts" New Century Hymnal #329, verses 1,2, and 5

Sermon: "Making Things Right"

Rev. Charles Poole

Anthem: "Mary, Did You Know?" by Mark Lowry and Buddy Greene, Arr. Lloyd Larson
Flutists: Melissa Gates & Dawna Hill

RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE

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

Tom Macy

O God, who makes all things new, you promise that the former things will pass away. And so we call on you in this New Year: Exile hunger, and starve the greed that feeds economic inequality, Deport vengeance, and transform the institutionalized violence of prisons, Silence lies, and expose the power structures they uphold, Ambush hatred, and change the hearts of those who profit from turning us against one another, Declare wars over, and delight us in ways to share resources, Interrupt silence, and dismantle the privilege it justifies, Overcome death, and heal the neglect that has led to too much of it, Let all of these former things pass away, And in the fertile soil of what is left behind in their passing, Let us sow compassion, and reap justice.

A New Year brings with it a measure of hope. We want what was dreadful in the previous year to be justified, somehow, by the following one. Yet, we enter 2022 knowing that 2021, and 2020 before it have in many ways left a legacy of COVID, of hatred, and confusion, and injustice in our midst. The dread may seem unending. Take a moment to lament this time in silent prayer... Now allow yourselves to move toward the threshold of hope. That is where you will find God, who makes ways out of no way, who formed you from dust, who formed the universe out of mere void. Pause here and reflect on the future God has promised for us all, where every tear will be wiped away. Amen.

Offering of Ourselves and our Gifts

Tom Macy

*Prayer of Dedication

Tom Macy

God of every good gift, here we present our offerings. There is money here, fulfilling our pledges to support the ministries we do in your name. And there are other gifts, not physically on this table but held in the altar of our hearts. God, we offer them all to you. We ask your blessing on all that we give, so that your loving care reaches into us and out to all the world, ever more deeply and gracefully. We ask it in Jesus' name. Amen.

*Hymn: "Be Now My Vision"

New Century Hymnal #451, verses 1 and 2

TREASURER REPORT

Income as of November 30 is \$124,975.

Total expenses as of October 31 are \$131,547.

Total EXPENSE exceeds income by \$6,572.

This deficit has been offset by funds transferred from reserves.

Thanks to the \$5,000 grant from the Southwest Conference, the year-to-date income is at 102% of the income budget of \$122,450.

Year-to-date expenses are at 90% of the expense budget of \$146,905.

Julie McCurdy

STEWARDSHIP SEASON

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.

RIPPLES OF GENEROSITY

STEWARDSHIP SEASON IS HERE!

**ESTIMATES OF 2022 GIVING ARE BEING
RECEIVED**

**THESE ESTIMATES ARE NEEDED TO PREPARE A
CHURCH BUDGET**

**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. 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.

IMMEDIATE NEED

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 2022 with so many unknowns? How do you decide what to give to this church for 2022? When will we be able to fully open our church and return to worship? 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 2022 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 142nd 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!

May God bless you and our church

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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United
Church of
Christ

T: 928-445-4555
E: FccPrescott@gmail.com



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

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