



This Week at a Glance...

- Chancel Singers Rehearsal: Sunday 9:00 a.m.
- Sunday Worship: 10:30 a.m.
- Alter-Notes Rehearsal: Sunday 12:00 - 12:45
- Prayer Chapel: Tuesday 11:00 a.m.
- Tuesday Prayer Chapel: 11:00 a.m. Meeting Room 2
- Pastor's Bible Study: Thursday 9:30 a.m.
- Bell Choir Rehearsal: Thursday 11:00 a.m.

FROM THE PASTOR

I have written about this before, but another recent experience has reminded me of the value of belonging to a faith community. We live in a time of decreased church attendance, to be sure, so stories of our value are good to hear. Because someone was a faithful member of our church family, we were able to check on him at his home and get him to the medical care he needed. Our "Called to Care" team does a great ministry of checking on our home-bound. And we have quite a few members who take seriously our covenant to care for each other. We live in a time of isolation and loneliness - did you hear that Britain has appointed a minister for loneliness! Prime Minister Theresa May said about the appointment: "For far too many people, loneliness is the sad reality of modern life...I want to confront this challenge for our society and for all of us to take action to address the loneliness endured by the elderly, by carers, by those who have lost loved ones – people who have no one to talk to or share their thoughts and experiences with." Social media just does not measure up to human interaction. It is good to know that the "old fashioned" church has modern relevance.



On Sunday, we welcome the annual visit of Boy Scout Troop #1. They will help us in various ways before, during, and after worship. We are proud to host the first troop in Arizona, meeting here for over 100 years!

Sunday's text is Isaiah 40:21-31 and the sermon title: "Strength for the Weary."
Sermon Notes

- Prophetic words of comfort for a people in exile
- When times are tough - choice to focus on our pity party or on God
- In the worst of times we need a great God (note how God is described in these verses)
- Our task is to wait and to hope - very difficult work!
- What God does in us while we wait is as important as our waiting (Romans 5:1-5)
- To wait and to hope is trust in God's timing (2 Peter 3:8-9)
- Theologian Paul Tillich reminds us that in the act of waiting we begin to have redemption - in our active waiting we are creating a space for God to fill, and God fills it with strength, power, and renewal (verses 29-31)

See you Sunday, Jay

**THE SECURITY TEAM WILL MEET AFTER WORSHIP
IN THE BACK OF THE SANCTUARY**

MISSIONS AND OUTREACH NEWS

This month’s mission emphasis project is the Prescott Area Shelters Services [PASS]. PASS provides temporary shelter for women and women with children in a 17 bed dormitory setting. Guests can stay for up to 90 days. Staff support and connection to community agencies helps women regain confidence and employment. Ninety percent of clients transition into permanent housing (apartments, etc). If you would like to make a donation, please write a check payable to the church, with the line memo, PASS. On the 3rd Wednesday of each month, our congregation provides the PASS clients with an evening meal. Volunteers are always welcome to contact our PASS meal coordinator, Patty Gard at 928-460-3042.

From our response to last month’s mission emphasis project, a check for \$325 is being sent to the Prescott Community Cupboard.

Canned food donations can be deposited in our Community Cupboard donation box found throughout the year in the front of our sanctuary. As always, thanks for your support in addressing the world’s need for compassion and justice. Gary Gard, Outreach Mission chairperson. [928-910-2455].

Pre-Lenten Adult Sessions

SERIES STARTS ON FEBRUARY 21ST, AT 5:30 PM AND WILL INCLUDED A SOUP MEAL!

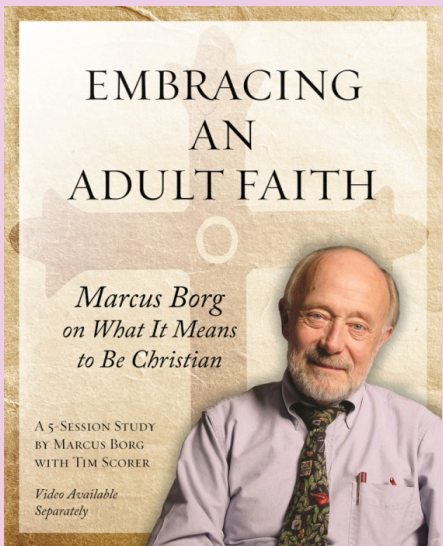
This Lenten series is based on a curriculum developed and distributed by the United Church of Christ: "White Privilege." Clearly, our society is in need of racial healing, every bit as much today as in the past. The UCC and First Congregational Church of Prescott believe that people of faith have a special role to play in working to heal racial divides and advance the cause of justice. One place to focus this important work is on understanding and recognizing how deeply, and often invisibly, white privilege permeates our society, standing in the way of equity and justice for people of color. The aim of the "White Privilege" curriculum is to help participants understand that disapproving of the systems that privilege whites will not be enough to change the system. Racism will not simply end if white people change their attitudes, because racism is racial discrimination coupled with societal power. The systems that benefit white people in obtaining jobs, housing, healthcare, education, etc. must themselves be challenged, disempowered, and changed. While individual acts can help, they cannot by themselves end these systemic problems.

Therefore, addressing the problems of racism requires first seeing the systems of power in place and their colossal unseen dimensions that create and perpetuate privilege for some and injustice for others.

The curriculum is intended to help people to “see” race-based power and privilege, their manifestations and their impacts. Only after getting honest about how white privilege has functioned and continues to be perpetuated can there be dialogue about how to address its causes and make strides toward the necessary reparations and redistribution of power and opportunity. Bill Bryant is a member of First Congregational Church United of Christ of Prescott. He is Founder and CEO of BetterRhetor, an educational resource company aimed at better preparing students for college-level academics, regardless of income or background. He earned a PhD in American Studies from the University of Iowa.



“Embracing an Adult Faith”



NEW - PRE-LENTEN ADULT SESSIONS START SUNDAY, FEB.4

We will be using Marcus Borg’s “Embracing an Adult Faith”.

Schedule:

- Feb. 4 - - What about God?
- Feb. 11 - - What about Jesus?
- Feb. 18 - - What about Practice?
- Feb. 25 - - What about Community?

Each session stands alone, so attend those you can.

Sessions will be offered twice

- 9:10 - 10:10 before worship
- 11:45 - 12:45 after worship

Get your coffee and bring it!

Place: Maggie B. room downstairs.

Format: watch a DVD of Marcus and a small group, then discuss what we saw ourselves.

Feb. 11	Jazz Sunday with Mood Swing
Feb. 14	Ash Wednesday Service 5:30 pm
Feb. 18	New Members Received; Womansong in Worship
Feb. 21	Lenten Series Begins – White Privilege Curriculum – “Laying the Groundwork”
Feb. 28	Lenten Series - White Privilege - “Whiteness as The Norm”
Mar. 7	Lenten Series - White Privilege - “The Cash Value of Whiteness, Part 1”
Mar. 14	Lenten Series - White Privilege - “The Cash Value of Whiteness, Part 2”
Mar. 21	Lenten Series - White Privilege - “Spiritual Autobiographies Told Through the Lens of Race”
Mar. 28	Lenten Series - White Privilege – “Becoming an Ally”
Apr. 1	Easter Sunday
Apr. 8	Holy Humor Sunday
Apr. 15	Beetles Sunday

NEW MEMBERS WILL BE RECEIVED DURING WORSHIP ON FEBRUARY 18

Do you want to learn about our church's long and fascinating history, both as First Congregational then United Church of Christ in Prescott? And would you like to share in a discussion on how our church is valuable in our Prescott/Prescott Valley area and share why you are joining or why you joined? Whether you are becoming a member now or have been a member for any length of time, please join Rev. Marti Garrison after worship on February 11 to learn about who we are and our core beliefs.

FREE CONCERT @
First Congregational Church
Friday March 23, 2018
6:00—6:30 open for silent auction
6:30-7:30 Sugar and the Mint Show
Donations accepted to cover new album & 2018 travel expenses
sugarandthemint.com
2017 Telluride Bluegrass Festival
band contest WINNERS

sugar
& the
mint



ALTER-NOTES

Do you like to sing? Do you play an instrument? Would you like to be a part of bringing alternative styles of music to our worship service? Come join Alter-Notes! We rehearse at 12-12:45 p.m. on Sundays, after social time. Music styles vary - calypso, spirituals, folk, celtic, pop, rock, and everything in between.
Show up and/or call Melissa Gates, [207-391-3276](tel:207-391-3276).

THE CHANCEL SINGERS

You do not have to be able to read music or be a great singer to join us! The Chancel Singers are seeking people who love to sing. Anyone interested is invited to join us on Sunday mornings at 9:00 in the Chancel.

2018 PLEDGE UPDATE

- TOTAL NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO HAVE PLEDGED: 66
- MEMBERS: 54
- FRIENDS & REGULAR ATTENDERS: 12
- TIME AND TALENT SHEET: 10
- TOTAL FUNDS PLEDGED: \$97,020

It isn't too late to turn in a

For more information, please contact the Music Director,
Jane Osborn, at 928-713-4752
or prescottsong@hotmail.com.

pledge if you have not already,
No pledge is too small.

VAN MINISTRY

Bill Rouse has agreed to be one of our van drivers to pick up and take home those needing a ride to church. If you would like the church van to pick you up Sunday morning, please let Bill know by Saturday. His number is 602-769-5770. Our thanks to Bill for this ministry.



**HELP US BUILD OUR SOCIAL MEDIA IMPACT WITH OUR
COMMUNITY, LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!**

REGULARLY SCHEDULED

PASTOR’S BIBLE STUDY

An informal study group meets on Thursday mornings at 9:30 a.m. in Hazeltine room. All adults are welcome.

EVERY WEEK COMMUNION

“Every Sunday Communion” takes place in the sanctuary after worship on Sundays. Communion is open to all.

ONCE A MONTH COMMUNION

Our regularly scheduled communion is held the first Sunday of each month. Communion is open to all.

PRAYER CHAPEL

Called to Care holds a weekly prayer time at 11:00 am on Tuesdays in the Chapel downstairs. Place your prayer requests in the prayer box in Perkins Hall.

PASS MEAL

Once a month we provide a meal for the Prescott Area Shelter Services the 3rd Wednesday of every month at 5:00 p.m. Sign-up sheet is in Perkins Hall.

CABINET MEETING

Meets the 4th Thursday of every month at 6:00 pm in the Office Conference Room.

VAN MINISTRY

If you need a ride to church on Sunday mornings, please let Bill Rouse know by the Saturday before. 602-769-5770

BELL CHOIR PRACTICE

If you would be interested in playing with us, we will train you! This is a fun and rewarding contribution to our worship. We meet for rehearsal at 11:00 a.m. on Thursdays.

CHANCEL SINGERS

If you like to sing, the Chancel Singers are eager to increase its membership. We meet Sundays at 9:00 a.m. before worship services.

ALTER-NOTES

Alter-Notes is an alternative music group that meets at 12:00 for rehearsal in the Hazeltine Room each Sunday. If you like to sing or can play an instrument, we are looking for new members. We play folk, pop, Celtic, spirituals and anything else. Contact Melissa Gates phone:207-391-3276

SUNDAY SCHOOL OPTIONS

Parents may take children to Sunday school downstairs before the service begins, or wait until the children’s time with the pastor and then go to Sunday school. Children are also welcome to stay in the worship service at the discretion of the parent(s).

CONTACT US

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

PRESCOTT, UCC

216 E. Gurley Street, Prescott, AZ 86301
Office: 928-445-4555
Pastor Jay: 928-899-9066
Julie: 928-710-1379

ADMINISTRATION

Monday - Thursday 9:00 - 4:00
Friday 9:00 - 1:00
PASTOR JAY
Monday - Thursday 9:00 - 1:00
other times by appointment



SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE 10:30 a.m.

