

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

From the Pastor

What an amazing worship service last Sunday! After twenty or so inches of snow during the week, we thought maybe fifty would brave the cold and snow and come to worship. We ended up with ninety-nine attending and fifteen children! The children collected our "souper bowl" offering and decided it should go to St. Jude Children's Hospital in Memphis. The offering total was \$297.16. Thanks to the children!

This Sunday is the first Sunday in Lent. We will look at Mark's account of Jesus' temptation in the wilderness (Mark 1:9-15). Lent is often thought of as a somber season of giving up something for God. Lent is a time for repentance, to be sure, but repentance means to turn, so repentance can be a positive turning toward God's intentions for us. And God's intentions for us are for our own good. So, think of Lent as a time to evaluate our lives and turn toward more positive paths and habits. Our spiritual path requires continual repentance/turning as we stumble, dust ourselves off, and begin again. The cycle is captured in the following exchange: "The Road to Holiness." A seeker after truth came to a saint for guidance. "Tell me, wise one, how did you become holy?" "Two words." "And what are they, please?" "Right choices." The seeker was fascinated. "How does one learn to choose rightly?" "One word." "One word! May I have it, please?" the seeker asked. "Growth." The seeker was thrilled. "How does one grow?" "Two words." "What are they, pray tell?" "Wrong choices."

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

Since Prescott has so many different elevations / communities, those who are able will always gather regardless of snow amount. But - your safety comes first, so please stay home as you need and watch the recorded worship service! In these winter months, if you feel sick or have a cough, please stay home and watch the recorded service!

VIDEO SERIES

"When Black Female Preachers Speak - Seven Important Discussions with Black Female Theologians" A part of our decentering whiteness efforts (not to mention patriarchy)

The next gathering will be today at noon in the church office conference room. Bring your own lunch / snack and drink.

When black female preachers speak, we should all listen. The insight and intention provided by black theologians illustrate their ability to bring the history of black culture and religious experience into the life of Christians and the liturgical life of the church. For centuries black mothers have passed on wisdom – in the white world, in the black community, and with men. This wisdom has illustrated how God reveals prophetic word and action for Christian living.

We have brought together some important themes coupled with visionary insights from Rev. Jacqui Lewis, Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson, Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown, Rev. Dr. Kelly Brown Douglass, Rev. Traci Blackmon, Rev. Canon Stephanie Spellers, and Bishop Yvette Flunder.

SCAM ALERT! THE PASTOR WILL NEVER, NEVER, NEVER, NEVER, EVER ASK YOU FOR GIFT CARDS OR MONEY IN ANY FORM!!!!!!

Come one, Come all, to our FCC COFFEE HOUSE! Last Friday of every month - February 23 - 4 to 6 pm - Perkins Hall - Serving: good conversation, light beverages and snacks, lots of games, music of all kinds, dancing if you want it, and any other creative ideas you can come up with. Please use the Alarcon St door to enter. See you then!

PASS - PRESCOTT AREA SHELTER SERVICES

PASS, our local women's shelter, serves as a place for women and children experiencing homelessness. The third Wednesday of every month (**February 21**) our church provides dinner for the guests at the shelter. Meal items are brought to the church parking lot at 5:00 pm and then taken by one of our members to the shelter. Carolyn Christians has taken over this role from Patty Gard. We need new members to sign up to help each month. The sign-up sheet is in Perkins Hall.

**CHURCH DIRECTORIES ARE ON OUR WEBSITE
FCCPRESCOTT.ORG
UNDER THE RESOURCES TAB – PASSWORD PROTECTED
EMAIL THE CHURCH OFFICE FOR PASSWORD
fccprescott@gmail.com**

**We are in the process of updating the picture directory.
It should be done in the next two weeks.
Thanks for your patience.**

**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
jayfcprescott@gmail.com

Coming February 24 to the Faith Forum... Each Saturday during Lent
True Freedom - A New Global Course for Lent 2024

A new global resource from The World Council of Churches and The Clewer Initiative, True Freedom is a six-week course for Lent. It draws on themes from the book of Galatians and encourages individuals and churches to respond to modern slavery in their communities.

AMAZON SUPPLIES TO PROVIDE FOR JENI AND AUDRA IN
SUNDAY SCHOOL

Copy and paste this into your browser:

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3GNXWTEHGJL87?ref_=wl_share

This QR code will take you to the supplies that can be ordered and provided:



[Watch Worship Services Here](#)

FEBRUARY MISSION NEWS

MONTHLY FOCUS: Each month throughout the year, our Mission Outreach team identifies particular mission programs to support. Our emphasis for February is **Prescott Area Shelter Services (PASS)**.

Prescott Area Shelter Services (PASS) provides shelter for local women and children in need. A donation of just \$28 can mean a new chance for a guest in need, a chance to feel safe, a chance to feel supported, and a chance to start the process of getting back on their feet. Your \$28 contribution gives shelter and all of **PASS's** support programs, including case management, to one guest for a night.

Other amounts to consider: \$50 will supply the shelter with toilet paper for at least two months; \$100 sponsors 10 days of shelter for one person (one day can change the life of a person); \$400 will supply shelter to a full dorm of guests for a

week, along with staff support, the resources and supplies needed, and a warm and safe environment; \$500 will support a family for one month through **PASS's** Transitional Housing Program; and \$1000 helps one family or two single women obtain permanent housing.

If you wish to contribute, please make your check payable to the church, with the memo of **PASS**. Mission donations which do not specify a particular project will be disbursed as determined by our Mission team members.

In January, due to your generous support, the Mission Outreach team distributed funds to the following organizations/projects: Yavapai Food Bank (\$250), Ukraine Relief (\$1,020), and the UCC Christmas Fund (\$895).

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

Mission Outreach Committee members for 2024 are Patty Gard, Carolyn Christians, Roxanne Matthews, Bill Bryant, 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.

LENT AND EASTER ARE EARLY THIS YEAR!

Ash Wednesday	Feb. 14
First Sunday in Lent	Feb. 18
Maundy Thursday	March 28
Easter Sunday	March 31

MAUNDY THURSDAY – MARCH 28 – 5:30 PM

We will gather on Maundy Thursday for our traditional observance of the Lord's Supper along with a communal meal.

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE – MARCH 29 - NOON SERVICE OF TENEBRAE

ENNEAGRAM WORKSHOP COMING MAY 18

We did this workshop back in 2016. Participants enjoyed getting to know themselves better and understanding others better. An Enneagram instructor will be leading the workshop. There will be a fee for attending – scholarships will be available if needed.

From The Enneagram Institute:

What is the Enneagram?

Don Riso has defined the Enneagram as “a geometric figure that delineates the nine basic personality types of human nature and their complex interrelationships.” While the Enneagram suggests that there are nine basic personality types of human nature,

there are, of course, many subtypes and variations within the nine fundamental categories. Nevertheless, the assertion of Enneagram theory is that these nine adequately map out the territory of “personality types.”

The Enneagram is also a symbol that maps out the ways in which the nine types are related to each other. This is the aspect of the Enneagram most people are familiar with because it offers them a framework for understanding themselves and everyone they deal with. As a psychospiritual typology, the Enneagram helps people to recognize and understand an overall pattern in human behavior. External behaviors, underlying attitudes, one’s characteristic sense of self, conscious and unconscious motivations, emotional reactions, defense mechanisms, object relations, what we pay attention to, our spiritual potentials and much more—are all parts of a complex pattern that forms each personality type. Therapists, business counselors, human resource directors, and spiritual seekers from around the world are all finding the Enneagram to be immensely useful for self-understanding and personal growth. Always remember however, that the Enneagram does not put you in a box; it shows you the box you are in and the way out!

What use is the Enneagram? How can it help me?

The Enneagram can be extremely useful to everyone as a source of self-knowledge because it acts as a kind of “mirror” to reveal features of our personality that normally are invisible to us. Most of the time, people function habitually, as if on “automatic pilot,” according to the pattern of their basic personality type. Usually this allows people to get along well enough in their lives, but when their normal routines break down or the stresses of their lives increase too much, their normal way of coping also tends to break down or become dysfunctional. Seeing clearly what our habitual patterns are—seeing what we are doing and why we are doing it, and at what cost to ourselves and others—holds the key to our liberation. By knowing your type correctly, you are able to see yourself—to “catch yourself in the act”—as you move throughout the day. With this increased self-awareness, you are also able to avoid reacting in negative and potentially dangerous ways.

Once real balance has been restored to the personality structure, the Enneagram can help us to orient ourselves to the higher spiritual and psychological qualities that each type has in abundance. Thus, at its highest, the Enneagram invites us to look deeply into the mystery of our true identity. It reveals that we are not our personality, but something more—a spiritual being who has lost contact with his or her true nature. Living out of this realization shifts completely how we see ourselves, others, and the world, bringing liberation, freedom, and joy. (See pages 27-48 in *The Wisdom of the Enneagram* or pages 11-17 of *Understanding the Enneagram (Revised Edition)* for more about the psychological and spiritual context of the Enneagram.)

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, our current group admins. All event questions and suggestions should be directed to the church email at FCCprescott@gmail.com.

SUNDAY WORSHIP BULLETIN

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

February 18, 2024

10:30 a.m.

**Those who are able may stand*

GATHERING TO WORSHIP GOD

Prelude: "The Love Round"

Brian, Thomas, and Congregation

Love, love, love, love, Christians this is your call.

Love your neighbor as yourself for God loves us all.

Words of Welcome – Announcements - *Passing of the Peace

Gather Song: "Metta Prayer" Brian and Thomas

A Time for Children of All Ages – JJ & Ziggy

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

Pastor: We are in the business of offering fresh starts.

Children: We all make mistakes! God lets us start again.

All: We are blessed when we admit our wrong to God.

Pastor: We can trust God to hold us when we feel like failures.

Children: God loves it when we learn to follow Jesus and the truth.

All: God's unfailing love surrounds all those who trust in God.

Opening Prayer

Dave Oliveria

God, you are our hiding place and our refuge in the time of distress. We turn to you now, seeking comfort from the wounds of the world and power to face all our afflictions. Be present in our struggle, and help us to rest in your eternal promises, that we might be fed both with the Bread of Life and the nourishment of your Word, strong to resist temptation and faithful in our worship of you. Amen.

*Hymn: "Lift High the Cross"

New Century Hymnal #198

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

Prayer of Confession Dave Oliveria

Sisters and Brothers, in our daily lives we need the gift of the season of Lent. These 40 days can help us restore right relationships with God and with others. This is a fine time to focus, clear our hearts and minds of distractions, and re-orient and restore our whole selves. May God be with us. Let us pray:

Creating and Renewing God, in this Lenten season we each need the opportunity to clear our eyes of the glaze of indifference and apathy. Help us get our minds off distractions, obsessions and self-pity, so that we don't feel helpless. Help us to start over. Re-orient head and heart so that we may fill our whole selves with life-affirming activities and thoughts; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Gospel Reading: Mark 1:9-15

Dave Oliveria

*Hymn: "Forty Days and Forty Nights"

New Century Hymnal #205

Sermon: "In the Wilderness with Wild Beasts and Angels"

Pastor Jay

RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE

Anthem: "On Eagle's Wings" by Michael Joncas Brian, Thomas, and Congregation

And he will raise you up on eagle's wings, bear you on the breath of dawn, make you to shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of his hand.

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

Offering of Ourselves and our Gifts

Offertory: "Change My Heart, O God" by Eddie Esponosa

Brian and Thomas

*Lenten Doxology (tune - old 100th) by Pete Norum

Brian Moore

Praise the Creator for each day, thanks for our Guide who leads the way. Bathe in Discovery, Spirit led, and live anew in days ahead. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication

Dave Oliveria

Faithful God, let these gifts be like food and drink in the wilderness for those who have suffered and longed for your presence. May these offerings strengthen those who are resisting temptation and lead us to attend to all who need your healing touch. This we pray in the name of Jesus, Amen.

*Hymn: "Change My Heart, O God"

Sing! Prayer and Praise #128

*Benediction

Pastor Jay

*Postlude: "Return to God" by Marty Haugen

Brian and Thomas

TREASURER REPORT FOR YEAR-END 2023

The total income for 2023 was \$184,880 and the expenses total \$190,806. Expenses exceeded income by \$5,926.

Financial activity as of January 31, 2024

Income: \$11,374

Expense: \$19,044

Net shortfall: \$7,671

The extra expense is mostly due to annual or quarterly payments for insurance.

Julie McCurdy

WE ARE LOOKING FOR A "BACK-UP TREASURER" TO ASSIST JULIE. PLEASE SPEAK WITH JULIE OR PASTOR JAY IF YOU CAN HELP OUT. THANKS!



Because of You our church changes lives.

THANKS TO ALL WHO PROVIDED ESTIMATES OF GIVING FOR 2024!

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

Use the QR Code below:





United
Church of
Christ

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