First Congregational United Church of Christ

The Parish Caller February 25, 2022

## A Message From Pastor Jay

## SUNDAY WORSHIP 10:30 AM

Nursery and Sunday school at the10:30am service

## WE ARE WEARING MASKS IN THE SANCTUARY & PERKINS HALL AFTER WORSHIP REFRESHMENTS AND FINGER FOODS ARE SUSPENDED SOCIAL DISTANCING IS ENCOURAGED CASES ARE DECLINING SO HOPEFULLY ADJUSTMENTS TO OUR COVID PROTOCOLS ARE FORTHCOMING!

#### **SPAM ALERT!**

After a long quiet spell, it looks like spammers are at it again. Both texts and emails may come to you as if sent by me, asking for a favor or money. Do not open them or click on links. The phone number will not be mine and the email address will be slightly different. The bottom line is I will not ask you for a favor or money!

This Sunday is Transfiguration Sunday - the culmination of the season of Epiphany on the church calendar. Luke's account of the transfiguration is in Luke 9:28-36. Our Lenten journey begins with Ash Wednesday March 2nd. Transfiguration means a change in form or appearance. The unusual experience served to prepare Jesus for his journey to the cross. The disciples (and us) receive illumination regarding who Jesus is. We will consider the reality of unusual experiences in our own lives.

I sometimes wish we could have a worship service where all of us share the strange, weird, and unexplainable experiences of our lives. They are probably more common than we realize.

Our past worship services are now on the website! Click on the "past worship services" link on the opening page of the website and you will find all the services back to January of 2020! Thanks to Jim for letting us use his YouTube channel for easy access.

#### ZOOM FAITH FORUM 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

# ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE, NOON, MARCH 2

As we begin our Lenten journey on Wednesday, we will have a simple and brief worship service including the traditional imposition of ashes

## JOHN DAVIDSON 1941-2022

John passed peacefully at home under the care of Good Samaritan Hospice, due to complications of Alzheimer's disease. The family is forever grateful to GSH for their loving care and support.

A Celebration of Life is being planned for March 21, 2022, 11:00 a.m. at the First Congregational Church of Prescott, 216 E. Gurley St. If you feel so moved, donations may be made to PMOW, GSH or the Alzheimer's Association, where hopefully a cure will come for this heartbreaking disease.

# A NEW SMALL GROUP EXPERIENCE (for Lent)

Beginning Sunday, March 6, twice: 9:30-10:15 and 11:35-12:10, in the Maggie B room downstairs, small groups will be meeting to view and discuss the popular and valuable "Living the Questions" video series.

- Coffee and donuts
- $\cdot$  Child care

 With spacing and masks, group of 12 max. Topics:

March 6 an invitation to journey 13 taking the bible seriously 20 thinking theologically (about God) 27 stories of creation

#### April

3 lives of Jesus 10 a passion for Christ: Paul

Questions? and child care needs: Pete Norum at handle32pan@gmail.com.

#### **Musical Guests Sunday - Alter-Notes**

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

## FEBRUARY MISSION NEWS

This month's mission outreach project is the Prescott Area Shelter Services (PASS). PASS began as an emergency shelter in 2007, providing shelter during inclement weather for women and women with children. It's doors are now open year round. Guests (usually a maximum of 30) may stay for up to 90 days. During this time, various resourse programs assist our quests to evaluate their goals and how they might achieve them. With the assistance of PASS staff, almost 90% of our guests have found permanent housing.

Local churches and organizations help provide evening meals, sundries needed by our guests and supplies used to clean the several rooms of the PASS shelter. Thanks to our loyal crew of volunteers, our PASS team provides a monthly hot meal and other sundries/supplies.

If you are interested in joining our team, contact our PASS team captain Patty Gard 928 460 3042 or at <u>gpgard7963@gmail.com</u>. If you would like to serve on our Mission Outreach Committe, please contact Becky Bryant 928 910 2820 or at <u>Beckybryant2255@gmail.com</u>.

As always, thanks for remembering that we are blessed to be a blessing. [Gen 12:2].

## **STUDY OPPORTUNITY**

#### ZOOM FAITH FORUM

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

February 26: Yale Series - Women of the Bible: Women Warriors

March 4: Early Celtic Mystics

March 11: Early Celtic Mystics

March 18: Liturgy of Home - Terry Tempest Williams at Harvard Divinity School

## SUNDAY BULLETIN

#### TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY

February 27, 2022 \*Those who are able may stand 10:30 a.m.

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

Prelude: Surprise Symphony" (excerpt) by Hayden

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 - \*Passing of the Peace

Gather: "You Are Welcome Here" by Marty Parks

Joyful Noise

Call to Worship

Ann Flanagan

One: Something drew us together this morning **All: Something we can't name but which we experience in worship** One: Some holy mystery we call God All: Some sacred calling we hear in the life of Jesus **One: Some indescribable hope we feel when we gather in the Spirit**  All: May our experience of the Divine transform our doubts and fears and prepare us to love the world.

**Opening Prayer** 

Ann Flanagan

Holy God, with every dawn you beckon us, calling us to welcome each new day as a story to be lived. But today brings with it uncertainty and challenges, and we are hesitant to step forward into a story unknown. Instead, we prefer to cling to the old chapters—choosing the easy pathway, wandering down safe lanes, and missing holy moments. But in those moments when we give in, step forward in faith to embrace your way, you are there with blessing beyond measure. Loving God, help us to surrender to your Spirit, take the leap of faith that propels us into the heart of life, and live into the faithful story of Jesus. Amen.

Hymn: "We Have Come at Christ's Own Bidding" New Century Hymnal #182

#### PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

Gospel Reading: Luke 9:28-36Ann Flanagan\*Hymn: "Give Thanks to the Lord"Sing! Prayer and Praise #198

Sermon: "Life's Unexplainable Moments"

Pastor Jay

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

Anthem: "Canticle of the Turning" by Rory Cooney Joyful Noise

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

Pastor Jay

Holy One, We come before you, many of us feeling like we have climbed just a part of the mountain, and there is so much more of a climb left to even get to point to dream that we might be dazzled by what is Divine.

Our loads are heavy, with worry, with regret, with fatigue, with illness, with despair for all in the world that is hurting, in danger, in bondage and more.

We trudge ahead, following you, stumbling, hoping, praying... breathing hard, hearts pounding, and yes, even some of us are nimble and skipping.

Lead us Lord, to the top of that mountain, where we might be dazzled by your Light, lifted by what is Divine, filled by the sheer delight of what is numinous and ethereal and grounded and real.

We pray this, for ourselves, for one another, and for the worlds in which we live in. Amen.

Offering of Ourselves and our Gifts

Pastor Jay

\*Prayer of Dedication

Ann Flanagan

God of Awe and Glory, receive these gifts as symbols of our trust in you. Bless the givers and those who desired to give. Multiply these offerings and the blessings they represent.

Guide the disbursement of them according to your will. These things we ask in Jesus' name. Amen.

\*Hymn: "Be Still My Soul" New Century Hymnal #488

\*Postlude: Celebrating Mardi Gras with "When the Saints go Marching In"

### TREASURER REPORT

The income for January is \$13,724. Expenses are \$13,100. Net income is \$624.

Julie McCurdy, treasurer

## CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday Worship 10:30am Nursery & Sunday School 10:30am

On Zoom:

Feb. 28 Church Cabinet Mtng. 5:30 pm

In-Person

March 2 Ash Wednesday Service Noon April 14 Maundy Thursday Service 5:30pm April 15 Good Friday Service Noon April 17 Easter Worship 10:30am New Members Received on Easter Sunday

# 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



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

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

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