

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

From the Pastor

We begin 2024 with the gospel of Mark, the earliest of the four gospels. Mark is unique in a number of ways from the other gospels. We will see this throughout the year. For instance, there is no Christmas story in Mark. The gospel begins with John the Baptist and Jesus' baptism. Mark 1:1-11 is the focus this Sunday. Baptism provided Jesus affirmation and identity - Mark 1:11 - "You are my son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased." We will consider the power of these words in our own baptism and life. Brian and Thomas provide music; Carrie is liturgist; JJ & Ziggy explain our two sacraments to the children.

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!

We are still receiving estimates of 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. 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!

**HELP TAKE DOWN THE CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS JANUARY 10TH
AT 9AM**

**THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION WILL
TAKE PLACE AFTER WORSHIP ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 28**
There will be a congregational potluck lunch as we gather to vote on church officers and a budget for 2024.

CONTINUING A SMALL GROUP EXPERIENCE

Beginning Sunday, January 14 -- 9:15-10:15, in the meeting room downstairs, join us to view and discuss selections from the "Living the Questions" video series.

Topics:

January 14 - - the prophetic Jesus (and MLK)

January 21 - - evil and suffering

January 28 - - redemptive violence – the cross

February 4 - - resurrection

February 11- - prejudice in our world

Each session is self-contained, come for one, a few, or all of them!

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

**MLK, JR. EVENTS JANUARY 15
MARCH TO THE SQUARE – GATHER AT PRESCOTT
COLLEGE 9:30 AM
CELEBRATION AT METHODIST CHURCH 11 AM**

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 Friday, January 19 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.

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 (**January 17**) 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

**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**

Come one, Come all, to our FCC COFFEE HOUSE! Last Friday of every month - January 26 - 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!

[Watch Worship Services Here](#)

JANUARY MISSION NEWS

MONTHLY FOCUS: Happy New Year! January's Mission Outreach project is our local **Prescott Community Cupboard (PCC)**. Through **Prescott Community Cupboard** individuals and families are able to receive nutritionally balanced bags of food packed by volunteers from various churches and organizations in the surrounding areas.

Prescott Community Cupboard "recognizes the innate worth of every human being and accepts people as they are and seeks to assist them in receiving necessary food to support their daily nutritional needs. Our support is designed to provide supplemental food to residents in Yavapai County experiencing food insecurity."

Seven local churches founded the **Prescott Community Cupboard** in 1973 as a temporary food source for the Prescott area. It was designated as a 501(c)3 non-profit organization in 1981. Six of the original founding churches continue to support Community Cupboard after more than 45 years.

Donation checks can be made payable to the church, with the memo: **PCC**. 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, 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.

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

THE BAPTISM OF CHRIST

January 7, 2024

10:30 a.m.

**Those who are able may stand*

GATHERING TO WORSHIP GOD

Prelude: "What Ruler Wades through Murky Streams" Troeger/Hurd Brian and Thomas

Words of Welcome – Announcements - Passing of the Peace

Gather Song: "Gather Your People" by Bob Hurd

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)

*Hymn: "What Ruler Wades through Murky Streams"

New Century Hymnal #169

Call toWorship

Carrie Decker

One: Sisters and brothers, today we recall: Jesus came to the waters of baptism.

All: In baptism, our Creator claims us and frees us from the power of hatred and death.

One: In baptism we are joined to Christ, and we are joined together in unity, recalling:

All: "There is no longer Jew or Greek. There is no longer slave or free There is no longer male or female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus."

One: In baptism, the Spirit of God anoints us for ministry and makes us signs of divine love. It is the mark of acceptance into the church and the beginning of our growth into full Christian faith and discipleship.

All: Therefore on this day, the whole church, the Body of Christ, remembers and celebrates.

One: Let us worship God!

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

Gospel Reading: Mark 1:1-11

Carrie Decker

Sermon: "A Secret Epiphany"

Pastor Jay

*Hymn: "As We Gather at Your Table"

New Century Hymnal #332

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: "Bread of Life from Heaven" Argentine Folk Melody Brian and Thomas

RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE

Anthem: "Come to the Water" by Ray Makeever

Brian and Thomas

Prayers of the People & The Lord's Prayer

Offering of Ourselves and our Gifts

Offertory: "You Walk Along the Seashore" by Sylvia G. Dunstan Brian and Thomas

*Doxology

Brian Moore

Praise God the source of life and breath; Praise Christ, now born to conquer death; Praise Holy Spirit's mystery: One God, pure grace, who sets us free. Amen. (Tune: Old Hundred)

*Prayer of Dedication

Carrie Decker

All: By your Spirit, Almighty God, Grant us: love for others, joy in serving you, peace in disagreement, patience in suffering, kindness toward all people, goodness in evil times, faithfulness in temptation, gentleness in the face of opposition, self-control in all things. Then strengthen us for ministry in your name. Amen.

*Hymn: "Good Christian Friends Rejoice"

New Century Hymnal #129

*Postlude: "I Am the Light of the World" by Jim Strathee

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.



Because of You our church changes lives.

**ESTIMATES OF 2024 GIVING ARE STILL 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 144th 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!**

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:



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