First Congregational United Church of Christ

The Parish Caller January 7, 2022

A Message From Pastor Jay

NEW COVID PROCEDURES UNTIL OMICRON WAVE ABATES: WE ARE WEARING MASKS IN THE SANCTUARY & PERKINS HALL AFTER WORSHIP REFRESHMENTS AND FINGER FOODS ARE SUSPENDED SOCIAL DISTANCING IS ENCOURAGED

My thanks to Rev. Poole for filling in for me last week. This Sunday is Baptism of Christ Sunday. We remember Jesus' baptism and reflect on the meaning of baptism for us. At the beginning of a new year, it is good to be reminded of who we are and whose we are. Baptism gives us identity, affirmation, and vocation. Not a bad way to start the new year. I will also share my annual amusing illustrations of how hard it is for us to keep our new year resolutions and change our habits (hint - our minds trick us). I will once again use the work of Kegan and Lahey, <u>Immunity to Change</u>, 2009. Melissa serves as liturgist, a trio of Linda, Dawna, and Sandy provide music, and JJ visits the baptismal font.

Nursery and Sunday school at the 10:30am service

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Musical Guests Sunday - Trio of Dawna, Sandy, and Linda

THE ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING IS SET FOR JANUARY 23 AFTER WORSHIP IN THE SANCTUARY

TOM PLANS TO TAKE DOWN THE CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS IN THE CHURCH ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 11 AT 10AM. ANYONE WHO WOULD LIKE TO HELP, PLEASE JOIN HIM!

January Worship

Jan. 2 Guest Preacher Rev. Charles Poole "Making Things Right" 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

Jan. 9 The Baptism of Christ "The Original Self-Help Guide" Luke 3:15-22

Jan. 16 Second Sunday after Epiphany "Jesus Turns Water into Wine" John 2:1-11

Jan. 23 Third Sunday After Epiphany "Jesus' Inaugural Address" Luke 4:14-21

Jan. 30 Fourth Sunday After Epiphany "Jesus Makes the Congregation Angry" Luke 4:21-30

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

JANUARY MISSION NEWS

This month's Mission Outreach project is our local Prescott Community Cupboard [PCC]. Individuals and families receive nutritionally balanced bags of food packed by volunteers from various churches and organizations. We are grateful for our team members from First Congregational Church who faithfully serve for appointed dates throughout the year. Angela Imbierowicz is our team captain, assisted by Lee Danaher. If you are interested in volunteering as a packer, please contact either Angela [708 712 1448] or Lee [602 509 4893] both of whom also serve on the PCC board of directors. Donation checks can be made payable to the church, with the memo, PCC. Thank you for remembering that we have been blessed to be a blessing (Genesis 12:2).

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.

January 1: No Forum

January 8: The Formation of the Biblical Canon – Hebrew Bible

January 15: The Formation of the Biblical Canon – New Testament

January 22: Christianity, Empire, and Original Sin - Constantine makes Christianity the religion of Empire

January 29: Sacred Earth, Sacred Soul: A Celtic Guide to Listening to Our Souls and Saving the World by John Philip Newell

SUNDAY BULLETIN

THE BAPTISM OF CHRIST

January 9, 2022 *Those who are able may stand 10:30 a.m.

GATHERING TO WORSHIP GOD

Prelude: "What Ruler Wades through Murky Streams" by Thomas H. Troeger Brian Moore

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 Music: "Come to the Water" by Ray Makeever

Call to Worship

Melissa Gates

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!

*Hymn: "How Firm a Foundation"

New Century Hymnal #407

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

Gospel Reading: Luke 3:15-22

Sermon: "The Original Self-Help Guide"

RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE

*Hymn: "What Ruler Wades through Murky Streams"

Melissa Gates

Pastor Jay

New Century Hymnal #169

Prayers of the People & The Lord's Prayer

Anthem: "Prayer" from "Hansel and Gretel" by E. Humperdinck, Arr. Julie Knowles Trio: Sandy Znetko, Linda Foote, Dawna Hill

Offering of Ourselves and our Gifts

*Prayer of Dedication

All:

Melissa Gates

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: "Jesus Loves Me"

New Century Hymnal #327

*Benediction: Pastor Jay

*Postlude: "Wade in the Water" African American Spiritual

Brian Moore

TREASURER REPORT

From a financial perspective, the year 2021 has ended on a happy note. At \$144,679, total expenses were within our budget. Total income was \$145,371. This was \$23,000 more than anticipated. Income exceeded expenses by \$692.

Julie McCurdy

STEWARDSHIP SEASON

Our thanks to all who sent in your estimate of giving for 2022. We are still receiving estimates in the mail. It looks to be a record amount in recent memory. And in a pandemic no less! Praise God and thank you!

Pastor Jay

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



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

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