

The Parish Caller January 8, 2021

A Message from Pastor Jay

**CHURCH ANNUAL MEETING JANUARY 31, 2021
VOTING DONE BY MAIL AND EMAIL FOR CHURCH
BUDGET, SLATE OF NOMINEES FOR CABINET
AND FOUNDATION, AND AMENDING THE
CONSTITUTION TO CREATE THE POSITION OF
FINANCIAL SECRETARY**

**LET US PRAY FOR OUR NATION DURING THIS VERY DISTURBING
TIME AFTER THE MOB STORMED OUR CAPITAL BUILDING.**

SUNDAY JANUARY 10

**Rev. Gary Gard is our guest preacher this Sunday. His sermon is
entitled "Look, Listen for Something New." Brian and Tom provide
music. Patty is worship leader.**

**SUE SAVAGE PASSED AWAY THIS PAST WEEK
PRAY FOR REV. SHIRLEY AT THIS TIME**

BULLETIN

Epiphany Sunday -- January 10, 2021

Prelude "O Breathe on Me, O Breath of God" (Edwin Hatch/
Gaelic Gather #800) Tom Macy

Welcoming and Announcements -Rev. Gary Gard

Call to Worship -Patty Lantrip

We worship and praise God, thankful that God is present to brighten this world. No one is out of God's sight. God's voice echoes through all of time. God reminds us that our worship is to include working to feed the hungry, to

clothe the poor, to welcome and embrace those who are strangers, orphans and widows. We lift our praises in celebration of God's abundant love.

Hymn "What Ruler Wades Through Murky Streams" Troeger/Hurd
NCH # 169

Opening Prayer - Patty Lantrip

God, so often we look for you to come to us in some dramatic fashion. We ask for a bold sign, a clear signal, an obvious answer. When none is forthcoming, we often feel adrift in desperation. In dismay, and sometimes in anger, we ask; "Where are you? Why don't you do something?" Encourage us to listen for your voice, to look for that 'something new' you are doing. Restore our faith. Ignite our hope. Use us as your instruments of compassion, so that others may know of your presence, grace, and love. In Christ we pray. Amen.

Reading from Isaiah 43: 1-4 & 18-19 Patty Lantrip

Reading from Matthew 3:13-17

Song "Down in River Jordan" Deana Wilson

Sermon "Look, Listen for Something New" Rev. Gary Gard

Anthem "I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me"
Brian Moore & Tom Macy

Prayers of the People & the Lord's Prayer

The Offering of our Gifts

Prayer of Dedication

Hymn "O Radiant Christ, Incarnate Word" Ruth Duck
NCH#168 Accompaniment from "The Gift of Love" by Hal Hopson

Benediction

Postlude "You Are Holy"

Serving the Church

Ministers All the People of the Church
Pastor Rev. Dr. Jay Wilcher
Pastor Emeritus Rev. Robert Bradstreet
Guest Preacher Rev. Gary Gard
Worship Leader Patty Lantrip
Alter Notes Director Melissa Gates
Organist Brian Moore
Moderator Rev. Ralph Wagner
Minister of the Building Rev. Bill Linson
Facilities Coordinator Tom Macy
Video Technician James Logsdon

**First Congregational Church of Prescott
United Church of Christ**

216 E. Gurley Street

Prescott, AZ 86301

www.fccprescott.org

www.facebook.com/FccUccPrescott

928-445-4555

Founded September 26, 1880

JANAURY MISSION NEWS

Mission Outreach Update:

Thank you for your support of our December mission emphasis projects. Checks were sent to The Yavapai Food Bank (Family Christmas Fund) and to the denomination's Christmas Fund.

With the on-going pandemic, PCC is helping an even greater number of clients needing help to feed their families. We are grateful for our team of volunteers who help to pack food bags. If you'd like to help, contact our PCC team captain, Angela Imbierowicz. Remembering that our nation celebrates Martin Luther King Jr Day in January, we want to stand with our sisters/brothers at SLECC in this time. Thank you for whatever help you may decide to offer to either (or both) of these projects.

In January, we have the opportunity to support The Prescott Community Cupboard (PCC) and the St. Luke Ebony Christian Church (SLECC) in Dewey.

From Pastor Kendra:

Thank you Pastor Jay and First Congregational Church for adding St. Luke Ebony Christian Church as your mission for January 2021. I'd like to let you know what our mission and vision statement are, as this is our main focus for existing. The beginning of our journey begins with paying off our mortgages on our main building (our current sanctuary) and the additional classroom and prayer room. The money that is donated to St. Luke ECC will help us pay off our mortgages so that we can then fully concentrate on funding our vision statement. I appreciate the relationship our churches share.

Mission Statement:

We exist to love, Worship and serve God by declaring and demonstrating the liberating power of the Gospel through love, evangelism, studying and knowing God's word, so that we are equipped and empowered rto make disciples for the Kingdom of God. (Matthew 28:19-20) (Mark 16:15-16)

Vision Statement:

To see people saved, healed, delivered and set free from life's woes (Luke 19:10) so they can become equipped, empowered, and serving disciples to first build up the kingdom of God. Then in doing so, by the grace of God we will serve those that Christ called the least of these (Matthew 25:36-40) by providing food, clothing, shelter, affordable housing, training, jobs childcare, all in a spirit of compassion and Love.

Thank you again for showing the love of Christ.

Pastor Kendra Hobson

A PASS Reminder: As you know, we provide a monthly hot meal for the women and children sheltered at the Prescott Areas Shelter Services (PASS). We still need volunteers to help provide this month's meal on Wednesday, January 20th. If you can help, please contact our PASS team captain, Patty Gard (928-460-3042 or email at gpgard@cableone.net).

Thank you for remembering that we have been blessed to be a blessing. [Genesis 12:2) For more information, contact any of our team members. Becky and Bill Bryant, Helaine Berman, Patty Gard, Linda Moore, or Gary Gard, chairperson.

TREASURER'S REPORT

END OF 2020 UPDATE

Treasurer's note for Parish Caller January 2021

I don't have all the data yet to report fully on the December financials, so here's a preliminary report of how things are looking at the close of 2020.

At the time of this writing income for the year is at \$184,000 which exceeds the budget by more than \$16,000. Expenses are at \$176,000, exceeding the expense budget by less than \$1,000. Year-to-date income exceeds expenses by \$8,000.

You can expect a much fuller report of 2020 finances in the Treasurer's Annual Report which will be made available to you in the coming

weeks. Stay tuned!

And, as always, I thank you for your continued support of our church.

Julie McCurdy, Treasurer

JANUARY WORSHIP SERIES

Jan. 3 - Epiphany Service - "Home By Another Way"
Jan. 10 - Baptism of Christ - Rev. Gary Gard Preaching
Jan. 17 - MLK, Jr. Remembrance - Pastor Kendra Hobson, Liturgist
Jan. 24 - "Jonah: A Message to Privileged Christians"
Jan. 31 - "Modern Demonic Actions of Injustice"

STEWARDSHIP

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. 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.

IMMEDIATE NEED

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 2021 with so many unknowns? How do you decide what to give to this church for 2021? When will we be able to fully open our church and return to worship? 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 2021 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 140 th year here, in Prescott, by completing the enclosed gift card indicating your estimate of giving, be it weekly, monthly, or annually.

LEGACY ANSWERS THE LONG TERM 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 indicate so on the enclosed gift card and a member of the Foundation will contact you.

IT'S ALL ABOUT STEWARDSHIP.
PLEASE BE OUR STEWARD!

May God bless you and our church,

2021 ANNUAL MEETING JANUARY 31

The annual report for 2020 will be sent to all members by January 17 either by email or regular mail. Voting on the 2021 budget, 2021 slate of officers and amending our constitution to add a financial secretary position will be conducted by mail or email also. If you are not a member and want to receive the annual report, please call the church office and let us know.

COVID-19 UPDATE FROM CABINET

We will continue to worship virtually into 2021. We will monitor virus spread and vaccine distribution and decide what month we will open in 2021

SUPPORT YOUR CHURCH DURING CORONAVIRUS!

- 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 mail 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

The church office is closed going forward, However, someone will pick up the mail on a daily basis to place checks into the safe.

Visit our website

Watch Services
Here

Celebrating YOU!!!

