

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

Vacation Bible School (VBS) Performance
Friday, July 21 @ 3:00 PM in Perkins Hall

You are all invited to attend the fantastic performance that will be put on by the children at the end of the week of VBS! The kids will be working to learn skits, songs, and more throughout the week and will be so excited to share their talents with all of you on Friday, July 21. The performance will be open to the public. We hope to see you there! Thanks! Morgan

From the Pastor

I hope you enjoy the historic art on the front of the bulletin on most Sundays. I enjoy finding it and looking up the museums or historic places the art resides. An appreciation of art and history informs our faith. This Sunday we will hear Jesus tell the parable of the sower, so I found a sower from a 12th century nun to put on the bulletin cover (see below). Circa 1180. Herrad of Landsberg (Latin: Herrada Landsbergensis; c. 1130 – July 25, 1195) was a 12th-century Alsatian nun and abbess of Hohenburg Abbey in the Vosges mountains (near Strasbourg). She was known as the author of the pictorial encyclopedia Hortus deliciarum (The Garden of Delights). Herrad led the women of the Abbey in an education equal to the men of her time!

The other interesting choice could have been the sower that resides on top of the Nebraska state capital building, representing the state's agricultural heritage. You can see what obscure facts I learn about searching for art! Atop the 400 foot tower of the Nebraska State Capitol stands a figure casting the seeds of life to the winds...the Sower. Agriculture is the foundation upon which Nebraskans have built a noble life. The monumental sculpture was created by New York sculptor, Lee Lawrie. He represents this timeless symbol of Agriculture as a barefoot man, shirt sleeves and pant legs rolled up as he works, wearing a sun hood.

In Matthew 13, Jesus tells a parable about a farmer throwing seeds all over the place, and how they fall on the path, the rocks, among the thorns, and on good soil. Jesus gives an interpretation that compares us with these four types of soil. It is an invitation for us to consider what type of soil we are. We will examine this Sunday.

Until then, I leave you with some words and ideas of Thomas Merton. Having lived in Louisville, Kentucky, I became familiar with the writings of this Roman Catholic monk who belonged to a Trappist monastery near Bardstown, Kentucky :

Every moment and every event of every person's life on earth plants something in her or his soul. For just as the wind carries thousands of winged seeds, so each moment brings with it germs of spiritual vitality that come to rest imperceptibly in the minds and wills of men and women. Most of these unnumbered seeds perish and are lost, for such seeds as these cannot spring up anywhere except in the good soil of freedom, spontaneity and love. Merton goes on to suggest we introduce toxins into our inner soil through our fear, anxiety, and selfishness.

We gather on Sunday morning to allow God to till our soil!
Denise Nasso is our musical guest; Tom is liturgist; and JJ & Ziggy garden.





CHURCH CALENDAR

- JULY 17 - VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL BEGINS
- JULY 19 - PASS MEAL 5PM
- JULY 20 - KNIT WITS 2PM
- JULY 24 - CABINET RETREAT 4:30PM
- JULY 26 - LAUNCH PAD TEEN CENTER DIALOGUE - PERKINS HALL 5PM
- JULY 28 - COFFEE HOUSE 4-6 PERKINS HALL
- JULY 30 - 5TH SUNDAY POTLUCK AFTER WORSHIP
- AUGUST 1 - NATIONAL NIGHT OUT 6PM CHURCH PARKING LOT
- AUGUST 26 - EMBRY-RIDDLE CHAPEL TO GREET NEW STUDENTS

GUEST MUSICIANS IN JULY WORSHIP

- JULY 9 - DAVE RUSSELL (SAX AND FLUTE)
- JULY 16 - DENISE NASSO (PIANO AND SOLO)
- JULY 23 - JEFF WIESEL (PIANO AND SOLO)

CHURCH POTLUCK
JUNE 30 AFTER WORSHIP
SIGN-UP IN PERKINS HALL

[Watch Worship Services Here](#)



NATIONAL NIGHT OUT AUGUST 1ST AT 6PM
CHURCH PARKING LOT
NEIGHBORHOOD BLOCK PARTY
A POLICE OFFICER WILL JOIN US

National Night Out is an annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make our neighborhoods safer, more caring places to live. National Night Out enhances the relationship between neighbors and law enforcement while bringing back a true sense of community. Furthermore, it provides a great opportunity to bring police and neighbors together under positive circumstances. Millions of neighbors take part in National Night Out across thousands of communities from all fifty states, U.S. territories and military bases worldwide on the first Tuesday in August.

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 (July 19)** 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.

**Back By Popular Demand
Come One, Come All
To the Second
COFFEE HOUSE
Friday July 28
4 – 6pm
Perkins Hall**

PLEASE ENTER BY THE LOWER ALARCON DOOR

Light beverages and snack food,
socialize, nibble, play board games,
listen or dance to a wide range of music.
Even more entertainment possibilities
should this become a monthly occurrence.

**ALERT - MEET AND GREET WITH PASTOR AND CHERIE
POSTPONED**

INSTEAD THIS EVENT WILL TAKE PLACE -

**LAUNCH PAD TEEN CENTER
BETTER TOGETHER INITIATIVE
CHURCH ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING
WEDNESDAY, JULY 26, 5PM PERKINS HALL**

A small group of people (family unit, friends, neighbors, coworkers, etc.) will schedule a day to come together once per quarter (every three months) to have a meal and discuss one of the topics in the TAC Better Together Guidebook. We also ask that you share your experiences by checking in with a teen from the Teen Advisory Council or completing a short survey after each meal.

The goal is to practice speaking and listening techniques outlined in the Guidebook around issues our community (through our Better Together Survey) deemed challenging to discuss. The goal is to have conversations in a respectful manner NOT to change people's perspectives, opinions, or ideas. The Teen Advisory Council hopes to allow everyone to share their point of view and to feel heard and valued, even around issues that sometimes cause friction or division.

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.

EMBRY-RIDDLE CHAPEL OPEN HOUSE OUR THANKS TO MELISSA AND ELIZABETH FOR ATTENDING AGAIN THIS YEAR!

Embry Riddle Aeronautical University Fred and Fay Haas Memorial Interfaith Chapel will be hosting its annual Open House on Saturday, August 26, 2023, from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm. As has been done in previous years, we are inviting local religious and spiritual organizations to participate in this event. This event will allow for Embry Riddle Aeronautical University parents and students to become acquainted with the different faith and spiritual organizations represented in the Prescott area.

Each organization participating should have 1-2 representatives present to engage with incoming students and their parents to help them become acquainted with your organization. You are encouraged to bring pamphlets, memorabilia representing your group, and a calendar of anticipated activities that your organization has planned for the upcoming months that the student may wish to attend. Each group will have a table and chairs set up in our main chapel

space, unless otherwise requested. If you have any special requests or accommodation needs, please do not hesitate to contact us as soon as possible.

PICTURE DIRECTORY OF CONGREGATION

Photo taking has concluded and photos are now being added to the directory. Make-up photos will be available throughout the year on Sundays when we welcome new members.

AFTER CHURCH FELLOWSHIP – HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE

- **July 2 and Sept 24** we will host an ice cream social after church with lactose free options, sherbet and all the trimmings for making sundaes.
- We plan congregation involved potlucks for the **fifth Sunday** of each month that has one - **July 30, Oct 29 and Dec 31**
- **Dec 17**, birthday celebration Sunday, we plan a Christmas cookie share and exchange involving the whole congregation.

The rest of the time will remain as it is with congregants signing up to provide something substantial for sharing and the church providing salty snacks, cookies and fruit as needed.

SUNDAY WORSHIP BULLETIN

SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

July 16, 2023

10:30 a.m.

**Those who are able may stand*

GATHERING TO WORSHIP GOD

Prelude: “The Warmth of the Sun”

Denise Nasso

Words of Welcome – Announcements - *Passing of the Peace

Gathering Music

Denise Nasso

A Time for Children of All Ages – JJ & Ziggy

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

Prayer of Approach

Tom Macy

L: Loving God, Sower and Reaper of love,

P: we admit to you that we are like stony fields, capable of growing goodness and sharing it around,

L: but we allow goodness to wither and weeds to flourish.

P: Your mercy has taken root in us but we do not share enough of it with others,

L: your justice has grown on us but we have inadequately implemented it,

P: your truth has showered on us but we have let it run to waste,

L: your love has blossomed among us but we have been slow to produce fruit.

ALL: Most loving God, please open the furrows of our lives to receive again the seeds of your gospel. Rain your mercy upon us, shine your warmth and light into every dark place, and bring forth in us not the harvest we deserve but the harvest that in your glorious love you have destined for us. Through Christ Jesus our Savior. Amen.

*Hymn: "I Sing the Mighty Power of God"

New Century Hymnal #12

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

Gospel Reading: Matthew 13:1-9; 18-23

Tom Macy

Sermon: "Is God a Foolish Farmer?"

Pastor Jay

RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE

Solo: "Mood Indigo"

Denise Nasso

Prayers of the People / The Lord's Prayer

Offering of Ourselves and our Gifts

Offertory: "To Make You Feel My Love"

Denise Nasso

Prayer of Dedication

Tom Macy

O God, we thank you for your great generosity. All that we are and all that we have is a gift from you. Help us to serve one another and so reflect your spirit and goodness. Accept these offerings and grant that the cause to which they are devoted may prosper under your guidance.

*Song: "When the Saints Go Marching In"

Denise & Congregation

Oh, when the saints go marchin' in, Oh, when the saints go marchin' in,
Lord, I want to be in that number When the saints go marchin' in.

And when the sun, begins to shine, And when the sun, begins to shine,
Oh, how I want to be in that number When the sun begins to shine.

Oh, when the trumpet, sounds its call Oh, when the trumpet, sounds its call,
Lord, how I want to be in that number When the trumpet sounds its call.

Oh, when the saints go marchin' in, Oh, when the saints go marchin' in,
Lord, how I want to be in that number When the saints go marchin' in.

*Benediction

Pastor Jay

*Postlude: "Amazing Grace Instrumental"

Denise Nasso

JULY MISSION NEWS

MONTHLY FOCUS: **Discovery Gardens Preschool (DGP)** and the Southwest Conference's **Sow The Seed (STS)** fund are our mission projects for July.

Discovery Gardens Preschool (DGP) offers children a loving environment where they can prosper both academically and socially, regardless of their life's challenges. DGP provides child-directed, developmentally appropriate practices in a center-based early childhood environment, and is a licensed tuition-based preschool operated through the Prescott Unified School District.

Your kind donation will help provide a scholarship to the family of a three-year old in need. Please make your check payable to the church, with the memo **DGP**.

The Southwest Conference's **Sow the Seed (STS)** fund has traditionally been used for camp and youth event scholarships, but has recently been expanded to award financial grants for ministry projects undertaken by SWC congregations for, to, and with children, young adults, and families.

Our own congregation has recently been gifted with a grant from Sow the Seed to conduct our upcoming **Vacation Bible School (July 17-21)** and we're deeply appreciative of the broadening of this initiative to encourage and support our churches to think and act creatively to engage in new ministries for faith formation. Pls use the memo **STS** if you wish to contribute to Sow the Seed to help other churches in our conference receive similar opportunities.

A memo of simply "Mission" will be disbursed at the discretion of the Mission Outreach Team.

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

Mission Outreach Committee members are Patty Gard, Carolyn Christians, 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.

TREASURER REPORT FOR JUNE 2023

JUNE 2023

Income is \$96,791
Expenses are \$98,764
Expenses exceed income by \$1,971

\$53,000 has been spent from reserves in the Lummel Fund as 50% down-payment for roof replacement on the church and office. It is anticipated that the roof expense will be covered by the Foundation. Additional Reserve Funds of \$4,131 have been spent to offset some budgeted expenses.

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

CONTACT US | VISITORS | RESOURCES | CALENDARS | SERVING | EDUCATION | STAFF



United
Church of
Christ

T: 928-445-4555
EMAIL: fccprescott@gmail.com



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

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