

**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**

**OUR THANKS TO MORGAN AND THE VBS TEAM FOR ALL THEIR EFFORTS THIS WEEK WITH THE CHILDREN!**

Monsoon will hopefully arrive soon and the plants and trees will be happy – and also the weeds! This Sunday's parable from Jesus seems well-timed: the parable of the wheat and the weeds or the wheat and the tares (Matthew 13:24-43). Jesus tells the story of a farmer who sows good seed in his field, but while he slept, an enemy sowed weeds among his wheat. At that time, the weed was the dreaded "bearded darnel." Before modern sorting machinery made it easier to separate real wheat from this false wheat, the two had to be left to grow together until harvest, when finally darnel turned another color and the ear appeared that helped distinguish between them. Jesus teaches that just as wheat and weeds grow together, so it is in his church and the world. And, so it is in us. There does seem to be "an enemy" at work, infecting everyone and everything so that love, justice, and perfection cannot be reached. Jesus says we must wait until the end of time to have everything sorted out. The title of the sermon is "Living with Ambiguity." I think it is a mark of spiritual maturity for sure, and a part of maturity in general. Whether looking at our church, our families, our politicians, our world, or ourselves, the wheat and the weeds do grow together. How do we live with this ambiguity? Let's think about it on Sunday. Jeff Weisel, along with Wyatt and Winnie, provide music; Morgan is liturgist; and JJ & Ziggy show us weeds.



## CHURCH CALENDAR

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

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

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[Watch Worship Services Here](#)

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**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.

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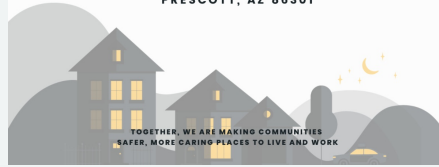


YOUR COMMUNITY OR NEIGHBORHOOD HERE

# NATIONAL NIGHT OUT 2023

AUGUST 1, 2023 6PM

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
216 E. GURLEY STREET  
PRESCOTT, AZ 86301



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.

**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 BRIEF MEETING WITH REFRESHMENTS**

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](mailto:bafwriter@gmail.com), our current group admins. All event questions and suggestions should be directed to the church email at [FCCprescott@gmail.com](mailto: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.

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## 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.**

- **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.

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## SUNDAY WORSHIP BULLETIN

### EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

July 23, 2023

10:30 a.m.

*\*Those who are able may stand*

### GATHERING TO WORSHIP GOD

Prelude: "Jesus Loves Me" by William Bradbury arr. Margaret Goldston  
The Greenwalds

Words of Welcome – Announcements - \*Passing of the Peace

Gathering Music: "Piano Improv."

Jeff Weisel

A Time for Children of All Ages – JJ & Ziggy

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

Call to Worship

Morgan Greenwald

L: The Creator has planted seeds in all of us.

**P: May we nurture good deeds and loving-kindness.**

L: Jesus is calling us to bear spiritual fruit.

**P: May we bless and build up others for the reign of God.**

L: The Holy Spirit moves in us, encouraging us to grow.

**P: May we be nurtured, may we be blessed and may we grow in this time of worship.**

L: We come to see God in this community of seekers.

**P: We come to pray, praise, and offer ourselves to God.**

L: Surely God is in this place! Let us worship!

\*Hymn: "Holy, Holy, Holy"

New Century Hymnal #277

### PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

Call to Confession

Morgan Greenwald

Our failures and shortcomings are like strong weeds in our lives. We confess them to

God, so that we may clear away anything that would choke out our nourishing connection with God. Let us join together in the prayer of confession:

Prayer of Confession

Morgan Greenwald

**Gracious God, in the fields of our lives, we strive to be fruitful, but we fall short. We get so comfortable that we sleep when we need to be vigilant about the errors in our own lives and the injustices around us. We are so casual about wrongdoing that it creeps into our lives and threatens to overwhelm the good we do. Forgive us. Keep us awake so that we can produce the lives you call us to live. Amen.**

Assurance

Morgan Greenwald

In the words of the apostle Paul, "You did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption." As God's children, in God's embrace, you are forgiven and free!

Gospel Reading: Matthew 13:24-30; 36-43

Morgan Greenwald

\*Hymn: "A Mighty Fortress is Our God"

New Century Hymnal #439

Sermon: "Living with Ambiguity"

Pastor Jay

### RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE

Solo: "Peace" by Horace Silver

Jeff Weisel

Prayers of the People / The Lord's Prayer

Offering of Ourselves and our Gifts

Offertory: "Piano Improv."

Jeff Weisel

Prayer of Dedication

Morgan Greenwald

**O God, we offer these gifts and offerings for the building of your realm on earth. Bless the gift and the givers. Bless all who offer time, talent, and treasure in your service. We offer this prayer in your holy name. Amen.**

\*Hymn: "Morning Has Broken"

**Morning has broken, like the first morning, blackbird has spoken like the first bird.  
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning! Praise for them, springing fresh from the  
Word!**

**Sweet the rain's new fall sunlit from heaven, like the first dewfall on the first grass.  
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden, sprung in completeness where his feet pass.**

**Mine is the sunlight, mine is the morning, born of the one light Eden saw play.  
Praise with elation, praise every morning, God's re-creation of the new day!**

\*Benediction

Pastor Jay

## 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](mailto:beckybryant2255@gmail.com).*

### 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 (August 16)** 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.

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# TREASURER REPORT FOR JUNE 2023

A NOTE FROM THE TREASURER – JULIE MCCURDY

## 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.**

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## SUPPORT THE CHURCH

Online – go to our website: [www.fccprescott.org](http://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

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

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United  
Church of  
Christ



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