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

From the Pastor

CONGREGATIONAL POTLUCK AFTER WORSHIP – ALL ARE WELCOME

"Help!" - the title of the sermon for Sunday. I was going to start the sermon with the words "life is difficult." That reminded me of the book by Scott Peck from 1978. Here is how he started the book:

“Life is difficult. This is a great truth, one of the greatest truths. It is a great truth because once we truly see this truth, we transcend it. Once we truly know that life is difficult-once we truly understand and accept it-then life is no longer difficult. Because once it is accepted, the fact that life is difficult no longer matters.”

— M. Scott Peck, *The Road Less Traveled: A New Psychology of Love, Traditional Values and Spiritual Growth*

Romans 8 is a wonderful chapter that tells us about how the Spirit helps us pray, and how we are sustained by God's love through all the difficulties of life. Alter-Notes provides music; Melissa is liturgist; and JJ & Ziggy teach us how to pray.



CHURCH CALENDAR

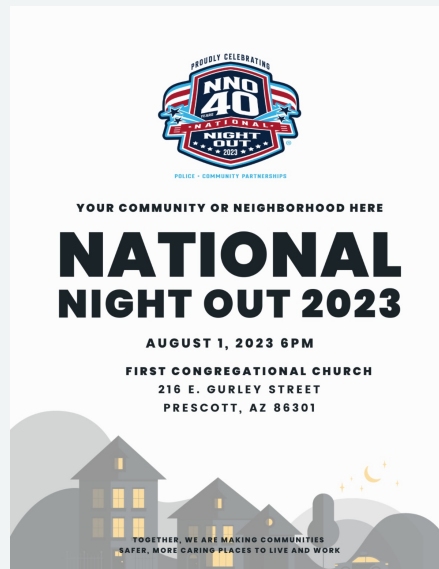
JULY 30 - 5TH SUNDAY POTLUCK AFTER WORSHIP
AUGUST 1 - NATIONAL NIGHT OUT 6PM CHURCH PARKING LOT
AUGUST 26 - EMBRY-RIDDLE CHAPEL TO GREET NEW STUDENTS

[Watch Worship Services Here](#)

**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.



**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.

LAUNCH PAD TEEN CENTER - BETTER TOGETHER INITIATIVE

Our initial meeting was held this past Wednesday night – plans are to have an initial gathering following the guidebook soon – let Roxanne know if you would like to be included.

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

NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

July 30, 2023

10:30 a.m.

**Those who are able may stand*

GATHERING TO WORSHIP GOD

Prelude: "Sweet, Sweet Spirit"

Mark Achuff

Words of Welcome – Announcements - *Passing of the Peace

Gather Music: "There's a Spirit of Love in This Place"

Alter-Notes

A Time for Children of All Ages – JJ & Ziggy

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

Filled with the Holy Spirit, our lives bear fruit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, and self-control. Like the beacon of a lighthouse, may the fruit of the Spirit shine in our lives. **Come, Holy Spirit!**

The Holy Spirit never leaves us where we are – we are sent by the Spirit out into the world to be the salt of the earth, to show God’s love to all people, to bring God’s Spirit of joy to the world.

Come, Holy Spirit!

Gracious God, pour your Spirit into our hearts, that we would worship today with all our hearts, that our lives would be transformed by your power, and that we would carry your joy from this place into all the world. **Amen!**

*Hymn: “Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness”

New Century Hymnal #286

PROCLAIMING GOD’S WORD

Unison Prayer based upon Romans 8 reading (Terri Pilarski)

Melissa Gates

Oh God, how are we to understand the tragedies that befall your creation? Humans inflicting pain on others –economic pain, emotional pain, physical pain, even the taking of life. Why all this violence? Why so much anger? Why? How are we to pray? What can we say? We give it all to you. To you, O God, we incline our lives, giving to you our silent tears, the screams that cannot leave our chest, the agony of grief so deep we do not know how to pray. What are we to say? We give it all to you. With sighs too deep for words, we give it all to you. Trusting in your Spirit to do that which we cannot - to guide our lives, to turn our hearts, to transform this broken world and bring forth healing, as only you can do. We know not how to pray but with sighs too deep for words. Your Spirit births us whole again. Amen.

Scripture Reading: Romans 8: 26-39

Melissa Gates

*Hymn: “Every Time I Feel the Spirit”

New Century Hymnal #282

Sermon: “Help!”

Pastor Jay

RESPONDING TO GOD’S GRACE

Anthem: "Sacrifice of Praise" Joseph Martin

Alter-Notes

Prayers of the People / The Lord’s Prayer

Offering of Ourselves and our Gifts

Offertory: "A Light Spirit"--David Lasky

Mark Achuff

*Doxology (Tune – Old Hundreth)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; ☐ Praise God, all creatures here below; ☐ Praise God above, ye heavenly host; ☐ Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen

Prayer of Dedication

Melissa Gates

Loving and merciful God, we offer these gifts in gratitude for all the ways in which you have blessed our lives. With these gifts we commit ourselves to serve you and to work for peace in this world. Amen.

*Hymn: "Spirit of the Living God"

New Century Hymnal #283

*Benediction

Pastor Jay

*Postlude: "A Song of Rejoicing!"--Lani Smith

Mark Achuff

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.

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.

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.

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

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United
Church of
Christ

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