# First Congregational United Church of Christ

The Parish Caller July 29, 2022

## A Message From Pastor Jay

## SUNDAY WORSHIP 10:30 AM

Nursery and Sunday school at the 10:30am service

## MASK WEARING IS NOW RECOMMENDED AS WE FOLLOW THE LATEST CDC UPDATED GUIDELINES. YAVAPAI COUNTY IS IN THE HIGH TRANSMISSION CATEGORY.

When Jesus says: "LOOK OUT!" and "YOU FOOL" it gets my attention. This Sunday we look at the Parable of the Rich Fool in Luke 12:13-21. This is one of those stories that does not need cultural translation. Greed and selfishness have always existed. Jesus had a lot to say about "stuff" (money). The rich man absorbed in his own life reminds me of some retirees I meet here in Prescott – a couple sells their California home for one million dollars, moves to Prescott, and buys a home for cash. They want to be left alone. Don't bother them with taxes to improve the schools; don't bother them with local politics; don't expect them to volunteer or help their community in any way. They are retired after all. They just want to eat, drink, and be merry. What would it look like to be "rich toward God?" Let's explore that on Sunday. Alter Notes provides music. Melissa is liturgist. Ziggy tells on JJ for hoarding.

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

The Zoom Forum is taking a summer break - will return in September

Watch Worship Services Here

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

One night only, you have the chance to hear Micki Shelton's (Michele McFadden's) inspirational *play La Posada* live at Prescott Center for the Arts.

### August 10, 2022, 7:30 PM, Tickets \$5 now at pca-az.net

## Part history, part fantasy *La Posada* takes us into the minds of artist Tion Mion and preservationist Allan Affeldt and their improbable journey of restoring Mary Colter's magnum opus in Winslow, Arizona.

Now What? Informing, Educating, and Mobilizing Progressive Churches for Reproductive Rights The Southwest Conference hosted: on Saturday, July 9.

Panelists included:

- Frank Fox, SWC Attorney
- Rev. Dr. Cari Jackson, National Staff/Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice
- Joan Lamunyon Sanford, Executive Director/NM Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice
- Karen Richter, Our Whole Lives Educator
- Rev. Dr. Barbara Doerrer-Peacock, Associate Conference Minister
- Brittany Fonteno, Executive Director for Planned Parenthood in Arizona
- Sandy Sorensen, Director of the UCC's Washington Office

The event was hosted on Zoom and was recorded. Unfortunately, the first 20 minutes of the event were NOT recorded but Rev. Tina Campbell took EXCELLENT notes. To view the video recording. Use passcode ++V0Kwtn

# To view the recording, go to:

swcucc.org

#### **Musical Guests Sunday - Alter-Notes**

The Office Will Be Closed During Times When The CDC Has Our County In The High Transmission Category - Call Pastor Jay 928-899-9066 As Needed

# JULY MISSION NEWS

MONTHLY FOCUS: **Discovery Gardens Preschool (DGP)** is our mission project for July. **Discovery Gardens Preschool** offers children a loving environment where they can prosper both academically and socially, regardless of their life's challenges.

**Discovery Gardens Preschool** provides child-directed, developmentally appropriate practices in a center-based early childhood environment. DGP 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**.

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

Checks were sent to the following organizations/causes in July:

- Frontera de Cristo (\$320)
- Strengthen the Church (\$127.50)
- Ukraine Relief (\$250)
- Yavapai Food Bank "Start Right" backpack program for school kids (\$402.50)

July's focus for collection has been Discovery Gardens preschool...we'll see shortly how that went, plus we still have some funds (\$250) from the FCC Foundation endowment that we've designated to add to this upcoming gift. August's giving focus will be our congregation's own DACA Fund, along with the Freedom Education Fund at Prescott College. We recently also contributed \$500 to Franceny Gardea's fall tuition at Prescott College. Franceny is still pursuing her studies at Prescott College and hopes to earn her Master's degree in December.

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

Mission Outreach Committee members are Gary & 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 <u>beckybryant2255@gmail.com</u>.

# DOING JUSTICE

#### New webinar series focuses on how churches can embrace justice

## covenants by Staff Reports | published on Jul 11, 2022

A yearlong series of United Church of Christ webinars is underway, highlighting Christian social justice programs available to local churches. The monthly "Just World Covenants" program kicked off during Pride month with "Open and Affirming: The Power of Covenant." A recording of it is now available at the <u>UCC YouTube channel</u>.

This was the first webinar in a yearlong series on the many social-justice emphases that local churches can embrace. Coming episodes are listed below. The very existence of the series signals how justice issues are connected, said the Rev. Brooks Berndt. He's the UCC environmental justice minister who helped introduce <u>a new UCC Just World Covenants website</u> at the 2021 General Synod. That site collects, in one place, links and information to various UCC justicerelated programs." Justice does not stay in neat, separate boxes when it comes to the lived realities of our world," Berndt said. "Neither should our ministries. There is a lot of strength and vitality to be found in coming together."

### Series schedule

The Just World Covenants webinars are set for the third Thursday of each month. They're part of the UCC's weekly Thursdays for the Soul series. Here is the schedule, with links to further information and registration:

- July 21: <u>Our Faith Our Vote 2022: Faithful Engagement in a Time of</u> <u>Increased Voter Suppression</u>
- Aug. 18: Accessible-to-All Churches and Disabilities Justice
- Sept. 15: Just Peace Churches and the Disruptive Power of Peace
- Oct. 20: Immigrant Welcoming Congregations Working for Human Rights
  and Dignity for All
- Nov. 17: Becoming a Creation Justice Church
- Dec. 15: <u>WISE (Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive, and Engaged) for Mental</u> <u>Health</u>
- Jan. 19, 2023: <u>Our Whole Lives and Sexuality and Our Faith: Dismantling</u> <u>Shame and Stigma about Bodies and Relationships</u>
- Feb. 16, 2023: Be A Global Mission Church
- March 16, 2023: Join the Movement Toward Racial Justice
- April 20, 2023: <u>Mind the Wealth Gap: Ways the UCC Economic Justice</u> <u>Movement lives in Churches and Conferences</u>
- May 18, 2023: <u>Refugee Sponsorship</u>, <u>Asylum Accompaniment</u>, <u>and</u> <u>Sanctuary Church: How Can My Church Practice Responsible Hosting</u>?

### 'Core dimensions of faith'

Berndt said each webinar will emphasize ways that local churches can be deliberate and public about Christian social justice. "Through General Synod resolutions and the dedicated efforts of numerous local churches, the UCC has developed over the years a number of designations that encourage and recognize specific ministries of justice," he said. "These designations express a core dimension of our faith. They represent our commitment to building a just world for all. Those of us involved in these programs realized it made a lot of sense to bring them together through an online hub and through collaborative endeavors like this webinar series." Content on ucc.org is copyrighted by the National Setting of the United Church of Christ and may be only shared according to the guidelines outlined.

## SUNDAY BULLETIN

#### SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

10:30 a.m.

July 31, 2022 \*Those who are able may stand

## GATHERING TO WORSHIP GOD

Prelude: "Precious Lord, Take My Hand" by Thomas A. Dorsey B

Brian Moore

A Time for Children of All Ages – JJ & Ziggy (children are welcome to go downstairs for Sunday school after the children's time)

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

Gathering Music: "Lift Up Your Hearts" by Roc O'Connor

\*Hymn: "What a Covenant"

New Century Hymnal #471

Alter-Notes

Call to Worship Melissa Gates

One: We have one life, a gift from God.

All: May we live this life for God by loving others.

One: Turn away from the temptations of wealth and power.

All: Turn away from the foolishness of this world.

One: Come into this time of worship, turning your focus onto God.

All: May we seek forgiveness, do justice, and love our neighbor as ourselves.

One: Come, now is the time to worship!

All: Come, now is the time for us to give thanks and praise to God!

**Opening Prayer** 

Melissa Gates

God of wholeness, come into our lives and stitch us together where we have torn apart. Bind us together where we have become loose and have lost connection. Heal us by helping us to seek forgiveness and to give forgiveness when relationships have been hurt or broken. Great Physician, bring us healing, bring us wholeness, bring us love that is greater than ourselves. You are our Strong Deliverer, our Redeemer, our Rescuer, our Savior. Call us away from the busy-ness of the world. Call us so that we hear your voice above the voices of the world that lead us astray. In your name, our Savior and Friend, Jesus the Christ, we pray. Amen.

### PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

Gospel Reading: Luke 12:13-21

\*Hymn: "God's Eye is on the Sparrow"

Sermon: "Enough is Enough!"

### **RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE**

Anthem: "Where Your Treasure Is" by Marty Haugen Alter-Notes; Dawna Hill, Flutist

Prayers of the People / The Lord's Prayer (use trespasses) Pastor Jay

Offering of Ourselves and our Gifts

Offertory: "God is My Shepherd" Brother James' Air

\*Doxology (tune: Old Hundredth) **Brian Moore** Praise God the source of life and breath; Praise Christ, now born to conquer death; Praise Holy Spirit's mystery: One God, pure grace, who sets us free. Amen.

\*Prayer of Dedication

Loving God, may we demonstrate our love through these gifts. Bless them and magnify them so that all creation will benefit from your abundance and gift of life and love.

\*Hymn: "I've Got Peace Like a River"

New Century Hymnal #478

\*Benediction

\*Postlude: "How Can I Keep from Singing"

Brian Moore

Pastor Jay

# TREASURER REPORT

As of June 30, 2022, Income is \$80,942 and Expenses are \$76,197. Net INCOME is \$4,745.

Julie McCurdy, treasurer

**ABOUT THE CHURCH** 

Melissa Gates

New Century Hymnal #475

Pastor Jay

Melissa Gates

Pastor Jay

Brian Moore

#### The Church of Firsts

Since 1957, the United Church of Christ has been the <u>church of firsts</u>, weaving God's message of hope and extravagant welcome with action for justice and peace. Together, we live out our faith in ways that effect change in our communities. The UCC's many "firsts" mean that we have inherited a tradition of acting upon the demands of our faith. When we read in Galatians: "There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus"—a demand is made upon us. And so we were the first historically white denomination to ordain an African-American, the first to ordain a woman, the first to ordain an openly gay man, and the first Christian church to affirm the right of same-gender couples to marry. We were in the forefront of the anti-slavery movement and the Civil Rights movement. Our response to the demands of our faith is woven into the history of our country.

## 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



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