First Congregational United Church of Christ

The Parish Caller
July 8, 2022

A Message From Pastor Jay

SUNDAY WORSHIP 10:30 AM

Nursery and Sunday school at the 10:30 am service

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

The Parable of the Good Samaritan in Luke 10 is our text for this Sunday. Joyful Noise provides music and liturgy. Ziggy needs JJ to be a good Samaritan.

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.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO MARTI DIAL! - 97 ON SUNDAY!

ZOOM FAITH FORUM SATURDAY 10AM

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

Watch Worship Services Here

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DONATIONS ARE BEING RECEIVED TO PURCHASE AN AED FOR THE CHURCH. AED = AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATOR A generous donation has already been received. If you would like to give, please note "AED" with the gift.

The Southwest Conference will host Now What? Informing, Educating, and Mobilizing Progressive Churches for Reproductive Rights Saturday, July 9, 10 AM AZ/11 AM NM/El Paso. Panelists include

- 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

The event will be hosted on zoom. Registration is required.

Register online

at https://swcucc.app.neoncrm.com/eventReg.jsp? event=112&

Musical Guest Sunday - Brian and Joyful Noise

Office Open by Appointment - Call Pastor Jay 928-899-9066

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.

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 beckybryant2255@gmail.com.

FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITY

AGAPE SUMMER FOOD & FELLOWSHIP WILL RETURN JULY 20TH

A group has been meeting on Wednesday nights for food and fellowship. We are in and out in an hour and fifteen minutes. Salad, bread, refreshments, and dessert is provided. Come join us!

No sign-up required.

SUNDAY BULLETIN

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

July 10, 2022 *Those who are able may stand 10:30 a.m.

GATHERING TO WORSHIP GOD

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

Gather Song: "All Are Welcome" by Marty Haugen Joyful Noise

Call to Worship

L: Blessed is God, who created us and loves us beyond measure.

All: Blessed is God, who calls us to stop measuring out our love.

L: Blessed is God, who speaks and tells us stories about ourselves.

All: Blessed is God, who reveals to us who we are and who we could be.

L: Blessed is God, whose compassion is poured out on every single person.

All: Blessed is God, who gives us compassion to share with every single person, even people we do not know or care about.

*Hymn: "I'm Gonna Live so God can Use Me" Sing Prayer and Praise #139

Opening Prayer

Eternal God, Rescuer of the weak: given every reason to judge us, you seek justice for us. You stand with the poor in the ditches where we have discarded them. You plant your Word of truth in the One who gives us unexpected answers.

Jesus Christ, Word of Truth: you will not pass us by, but stoop to lift us us

Jesus Christ, Word of Truth: you will not pass us by, but stoop to lift us up and carry us out of our pain. You love the faithful enough to tell us stories which will shatter our complacency and send us forth to carry mercy to others. Holy Spirit, Giver of mercy: You take us by the hand, leading us out of the ditches we have dug for ourselves, into the brightly lit streets of the kingdom. You pray for us in every moment, especially when we are unable to pray for ourselves. Be present with us during worship and grant us your wisdom. Amen.

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

Gospel Reading: Luke 10:25-37 Joyful Noise

*Hymn: "They Asked, "Who's My Neighbor?" New Century Hymnal #541

Sermon: "There is No *Other* With Jesus" Pastor Jay

RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE

Anthem: "Lean on Me" by Bill Withers Joyful Noise

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

Offering of Ourselves and our Gifts Pastor Jay

Offertory: "The Love Round" Joyful Noise

*Doxology (tune: Old Hundredth)

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.

O God, we offer these gifts, tithes, 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: "Children of God"

Sing! Prayer and Praise #195

*Benediction

Pastor Jay

*Postlude: "I'm Gonna Live so God can Use Me" African American Spiritual Joyful Noise

TREASURER REPORT

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

Julie McCurdy, treasurer

ROE V. WADE DECISION

'We will stand with you in protest': National officers speak out after SC overturns Roe v. Wade

by UCC Leadership | published on Jun 24, 2022

The national officers of the United Church of Christ are speaking out against the U.S. Supreme Court decision <u>eliminating</u>, <u>after almost 50 years</u>, <u>the constitutional right to an abortion</u>.

Long before the Supreme Court decision in Roe v. Wade, the United Church of Christ, by action of the General Synod, affirmed the right of every individual to follow their personal religious and moral convictions regarding their reproductive healthcare. We continue to stand by this conviction today. This religious and moral agency includes the autonomy of birthing people to decide whether to complete or terminate a pregnancy.

Our Synod resolutions, which represent the will of the church in light of scripture, highlight the importance of ensuring access to the full range of reproductive health care regardless of race, religion, or economic status. We do not take this

stand in spite of faith, but rather because of it. Throughout sacred text humankind is tasked with care of self and others. Bodily autonomy is a human right given by God.

Today's Supreme Court decision in Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization, discarding nearly 50 years of precedent, will endanger the lives and well-being of birthing people who do not choose to continue pregnancy. God loves and cares for people who have abortions, and so does the United Church of Christ. We believe all people have the right to make their own decisions about their bodies and medical treatment. We believe women have an inalienable right to shape the direction of their lives as they see fit, and no institution established by humankind should supersede such freedom.

The Supreme Court's decision to vacate Roe v. Wade and return the protection of a woman's human right to states represents a continual effort to oppress women and people who can give birth. Such uniform repression targeted at one specific class of people, namely those who have a uterus, creates yet another stark division in a country that so desperately needs unity. In addition to gender bias, such a rendering also disproportionately effects birthing people of color and women in rural or low-income areas who face challenges in access to safe and medically supervised reproductive health care, including abortions. The gravity of this decision and the devastation of its impact cannot be overstated.

Through the prophet Isaiah, God offers these words of comfort to the Israelites during a challenging time: "So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand." (Isaiah 41:10) These are not words that assuage us with easy answers and shallow promises. There is no declaration that things will be better tomorrow. They will not be. But they do promise that we are not alone in our struggles.

We, the officers of the United Church of Christ, want those feeling the pain of today's decision to know that you are not alone. God has not abandoned you and neither will we. We will do what we always do when the law loses its love. We will grieve with you and offer space for lament and mourning. We will work with you until the rights of every person are honored in this land. We will stand with you in protest. We will kneel with you in prayer. And we will maintain our commitment to educate people about abortion access and safe medically supported reproductive healthcare. Now and always, we remain firm in the knowledge that all are beloved of God, and this cause is right and holy.

The Rev. Dr. John C. Dorhauer General Minister and President

The Rev. Traci Blackmon
The Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia A. Thompson
Associate General Ministers

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



United Church of Christ

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