

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



Sunday is Father's Day, Juneteenth is Monday, and World Refugee Day is Tuesday. It is quite a challenge to bring the three topics together. I titled the sermon "a Loving Father for All" – imagining what the world would look like if everyone experienced a loving father, and if God provided this role as well. It appears God is looking to us to help. God is clear about how we should value refugees: Leviticus 19:33-34 "Don't mistreat any foreigners who live in your land. (34) Instead, treat them as well as you treat citizens and love them as much as you love yourself. Remember, you were once foreigners in the land of Egypt. I am the Lord your God."

Juneteenth (short for "June Nineteenth") marks the day when federal troops arrived in Galveston, Texas in 1865 to take control of the state and ensure that all enslaved people be freed. The troops' arrival came

a full two and a half years after the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation. Juneteenth honors the end to slavery in the United States and is considered the longest-running African American holiday. On June 17, 2021, it officially became a federal holiday.

So, we will gather Sunday to reflect on Father's Day and the fact that at the end of 2022, more than 100 million people were forcibly displaced globally — a record number propelled by the war in Ukraine and other conflicts around the world. For millions of refugees who are forcibly displaced each year due to conflict, violence and persecution, fleeing is the first step in a long and difficult journey to finding safety. We also reflect on the long journey to freedom for African Americans, and recent attempts to bury that history behind the wrongly used moniker "critical race theory" - history is not theory.

Brian, Morgan, and Thomas provide music; Aron is liturgist; and JJ & Ziggy let us know they are fatherless - refugees from the church basement - and victims of discrimination.

A Commemoration for Juneteenth

On June 19, we commemorate the end of slavery in America. This day partially reminds us of the progress made. This day also partially reminds us of the progress we have not made. We celebrate the freedom of black lives in our nation. We grieve that we have not correctly reconciled racism in our nation. You created each person in your image. The two greatest commandments call us to love you with all our heart, souls, and minds; Then, to love our neighbor as ourselves. Your love for us motivates us to love each other. If we do not love each other, then ultimately, we have not experienced your love. As much as we commemorate and celebrate Juneteenth, we grieve this day. We mourn that our black brothers and sisters have not been loved as our neighbors. We mourn that our black brothers and sisters have been treated less than created in Your image throughout history. So, Lord, we confess our sins and repent. The healing and reconciliation we desire comes from the gospel. On Juneteenth this year, we ask you to guide our nation. May the good news of the gospel motivate us to love each other. May the ideals of our words match the practices of our lives. May a fresh empowerment of your Spirit unite us together. Give us eyes to see and ears to hear your will and leading. - Peter Englert



OPEN AND AFFIRMING SUNDAY JUNE 25

Molly Freibott, Director of Operations - Prism Network will join us for a Minute for Mission

**LAST WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH SUMMER
FELLOWSHIP – 6/28; 7/26; 8/30
PASTOR JAY & CHERIE HOST ON JUNE 28 –
MEET AND GREET RECEPTION;
HORS D'OEUVRES, REFRESHMENTS, AND FELLOWSHIP**



[Watch Worship Services Here](#)

**Come One, Come All
To the Grand Opening
of our first ever
COFFEE HOUSE
Friday June 30
4 – 6pm
Perkins Hall**

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.

PICTURE DIRECTORY OF CONGREGATION

We have finished taking pictures for our directory.
If you did not get your picture taken and would like to be added to the picture directory, please ask Linda Mast or Marybeth Martin to take your picture during Fellowship directly after the Service in Perkins Hall

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.



CHURCH PAINTING ON DISPLAY IN PERKINS HALL

It's an Original Pastel 18 x 24, painted by Jenny Willigrod from Fountain Hills, AZ.

It's a gift to the church from Coco Lanigan, David Pifer, Sandy and Ed Znetko.

Cards will be available for purchase (\$2.00 per card) by the congregation with proceeds going to the church. (Coco Lanigan)

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.

SAVE THE DATE VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL WILL BE HELD THE WEEK OF JULY 17

Registration for our Vacation Bible School is Now Open!

THERE ARE STILL OPENINGS FOR VBS CHILDREN! LET MORGAN KNOW OF POSSIBLE ATTENDEES

Dates: July 17-21, 2023

Times: 9:00 to 3:00

Location: First Congregational Church: 216 East Gurley Street, Prescott, AZ 86301

Cost: Free!

Age Range: Potty-trained Preschoolers through Sixth Graders

Description: During our morning session, kids will engage in our VBS curriculum with our beloved Sunday School teachers, Ms. Jeni and Ms. Audra! Our curriculum is entitled "Hero Hotline". The goal of this VBS is to help children learn to work together and share their gifts as they answer God's call on their lives as they strive to bring peace and build each other up in this world. There will be art and music components and some outdoor activities as well. The morning session will be followed by a lunch break. Please bring a bag lunch and water each day.

Has that big and wonderful stage in Perkins Hall been calling out to you? It is just waiting to be brought back to life! Our afternoon session will give the kids a chance to shine on the stage by learning and rehearsing a play throughout the week, which will culminate in a performance on Friday. This performance will be open to the public and will give our kids the chance to learn some acting skills and perform in front of an audience. Andrew Greenwald and Britt Flores will be working together to create the play.

Registration: To register, please contact our Education Ministry Cabinet Member, Morgan Greenwald at morgan.greenwald@gmail.com. Feel free to contact Morgan (570-660-2227) with any questions. Our maximum number of participants will be 16, so sign up soon to secure your spot!

Volunteers: If you are interested in volunteering to help with our VBS program, thank you! Please contact Morgan soon as well so that we can make sure to complete the necessary background checks.

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** 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.

JJ AND ZIGGY WERE FOUND TO BE LISTENING IN TO THE SPANISH CLASS IN PERKINS HALL - THIS EXPLAINED THEIR ABILITY TO SPEAK SPANISH DURING A RECENT CHILDREN'S TIME



CHURCH CALENDAR

JUNE 17 - ANNUAL PRIDE PICNIC - GRANITE CREEK PARK NOON-4PM
JUNE 18 - FATHER'S DAY
JUNE 19 - JUNETEENTH
JUNE 20 - WORLD REFUGEE DAY
JUNE 25 - OPEN AND AFFIRMING SUNDAY - MOLLY FROM PRISM NET.
JUNE 28 - PASTOR JAY & CHERIE HOST MEET AND GREET RECEPTION
JUNE 30 - COFFEE HOUSE; 4-6PM IN PERKINS HALL
JULY 19 - VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL BEGINS

SUNDAY WORSHIP BULLETIN

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

FATHER'S DAY / JUNETEENTH (19TH) / WORLD REFUGEE DAY (20TH)

June 18, 2023

10:30 a.m.

**Those who are able may stand*

GATHERING TO WORSHIP GOD

Prelude: "God Weeps" by Mark A. Miller

Brian Moore

Words of Welcome – Announcements - *Passing of the Peace

Gathering Song: "No Matter" by Roger P. Miller

Sing! Prayer and Praise #35

Call to Worship

Aron Smith

Leader: We give praise to our God who gathers us as one people.

People: We delight in our God who has mercy upon us.

Leader: We seek to be one with refugees, asylum seekers and immigrants.

People: Clear our eyes that we may see the sufferings of displaced people.

Leader: We welcome those whose lives have been dislocated by war, famine, and injustice.

People: Open our ears that we may hear the cries of those deep in despair.

Leader: We express our solidarity with all who search for a new life, a new home.

People: Guide our feet that we may spread comfort; help us speak words of hope.

Leader: Give us open hearts that we may be truly welcoming to the stranger in our midst.

People: God remind us that through our acts of hospitality we are restored to you.

*Hymn: "I'm Gonna Live so God can Use Me"

Sing! Prayer and Praise #139

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

Gathering Prayer

Aron Smith **Leader:** Mother, Father, Creator God; Author

of all that is good - of life, peace, justice and safety; You have created us all in your image. We exist because of the radical welcome granted each one of us at birth. You have created us as refugees, asylum seekers and immigrants.

People: We pray for all those displaced by violence and disaster - for all those forced to leave their homes with no hope of return. For those forced to flee seeking essential services like healthcare and education; we grieve the millions forced to live in overcrowded camps and urban slums with no opportunities for work or recreation.

Leader: We pray for a world overwhelmed by xenophobia, for those in detention and under the threat of deportation, for policies that uphold human rights and dignity, and do not seek to tear families apart and criminalize people without documentation.

People: God, we thank you for the chance to celebrate the human community as one community; a day to affirm the worth and dignity of all your people; a people that share many things in common and are also wonderfully different.

Leader: God, sustain us with your Spirit. Guide us with your grace. Allow us to heed your call of radical welcome. Be with us now. Amen.

Scripture Readings:

Aron Smith

Exodus 23:21-23: "Do not mistreat or abuse foreigners who live among you. Remember, you were foreigners in Egypt. Do not mistreat widows or orphans. If you do, they will beg for my help, and I will come to their rescue." Exodus 23:6: "Make sure that the poor are given equal justice in court." Leviticus 19:9-10: "When you harvest your grain, always leave some of it standing along the edges of your fields and don't pick up what falls on the ground. Don't strip your grapevines clean or gather the grapes that fall off the vines. Leave them for the poor and for those foreigners who live among you. I am the Lord your God."

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 58:6-12

Aron Smith

“Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin? Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard. Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am. If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday. The Lord will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail. Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.”

*Hymn: “God Weeps”

Sing! Prayer and Praise #69

Sermon: “A Loving Father for All”

Pastor Jay

RESPONDING TO GOD’S GRACE

Anthem: “Set Your Heart on the Higher Gifts” by Steven C. Warner Brian, Morgan, & Thomas

Prayers of the People / The Lord’s Prayer (Use trespasses)

Offering of Ourselves and our Gifts

Offertory: “Choral” by Robert Schumann

Brian Moore

*Doxology (Tune: Tallis’ Canon)

Brian Moore

Praise God who gives all blessings birth; praise God all creatures on the earth; Praise God, who makes, sustains, sets free: one holy God in persons three.

Prayer of Dedication

Aron Smith

O God, we know and have seen your goodness, and because of it, we cling to the hope that unity and liberation for all are within our grasp. Continue to show us your goodness, that we may have the strength to advance your kingdom with humility and grace. Bless these offerings to that end. Amen.

*Hymn: “Go, Make a Difference”

Sing! Prayer and Praise #199

*Benediction

Pastor Jay

*Postlude: “Children of God” by James F.D. Martin

JUNE MISSION NEWS

MONTHLY FOCUS: Our June outreach emphasis will help fund two programs: our denomination's **Strengthen the Church (STC)** offering and the **Yavapai Food Bank (YFB)**.

Strengthen the Church (STC) is an annual UCC special offering with donations supporting new church development, creative ministries directed to youth and young adults, spiritual development ministries, and misc. projects addressing today's challenging issues.

The Yavapai Food Bank (YFB) provides food boxes for approximately 400 families weekly. Additionally, donations support "Start Right," a program to assist impoverished families needing assistance with back-to-school supplies and backpacks for K-12 children and youth.

If you would like to donate to either project, please make your check payable to the church, with the memo of **STC** or **YFB**. Mission donations which do not specify a particular project will be disbursed as determined by our Mission team members.

To date in 2023, mission disbursements have been made to: Prescott Community Cupboard (\$710); Prescott Area Shelter Services (\$594); Prescott Area Habitat for Humanity (\$500); and UCC's One Great Hour of Sharing (\$690).

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 MAY 2023

A NOTE FROM THE TREASURER – JULIE MCCURDY

MAY 2023

Income is \$84,759
Expenses are \$84,854
Expenses exceed income by \$95

\$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.



Close friend of our church, Roxanne Matthews and other members of Mom's Demand Action (with Tom helping out) of Prescott placed 120 pairs of shoes on FCC's steps in part of the movement called "Wear Orange" to commemorate and make people aware of the 120 people who are killed EACH day in the U.S. by gun violence. The group works to promote common sense gun laws and safe storage of guns.

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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