

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



Sunday is our annual "Open and Affirming Sunday" or "Pride Sunday." Here is our mission statement: ***First Congregational Church of Prescott, United Church of Christ, is an Open and Affirming congregation. We include all persons without regard to age, race, gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity, gender identity, faith, marital status, or personal ability. We welcome all to share the celebrations and challenges of our congregation. No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.***

I will share a sermon on the Bible passages used by churches to try to suggest LGBTQ lifestyles are against God's desire. Alter-Notes provides music; Diane and Sarah serve as liturgists; and JJ & Ziggy celebrate our diversity. Molly Freibott, Director of Operations - Prism Network - will be our guest.

Our denomination explains "open and affirming" in this way: **The Open and Affirming Coalition of the United Church of Christ advocates for the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community, and equips UCC congregations to become effective witnesses to Christ's extravagant welcome. Founded in 1972, the Coalition has helped the UCC reach each of its milestones on the journey towards acceptance and justice for its LGBT and same-gender-loving (SGL)\* members. From General Synod's first resolutions advocating for the civil rights of LGBT citizens to the church's historic affirmation of marriage equality, the Coalition has been a spur to the conscience of our beloved church. By claiming our right to participate fully in ministry and fellowship, by reminding UCC members of the injustices that continue to prevail in wider society, by**

providing leadership for the growing Open and Affirming movement, the Coalition has been an effective agent for change in the UCC. In the 21st century, the Coalition faces new challenges. With our support, more than 1,800 congregations are now Open and Affirming—but we want to reach the nearly 3,600 UCC churches that have not yet publicly affirmed their welcome to the LGBT community. LGBT youth still face the threat of bullying and suicide in communities across America. Transgender citizens are still denied basic civil rights. Powerful and well-financed groups are mobilizing to enact new legislation to grant broad “religious exemptions” against discrimination in employment, housing, and public services. And ONA congregations need support as they seek new ways to reach and minister to the LGBT community. With your support, the Coalition is building a stronger movement for inclusion and justice in the UCC, and beyond. Our work continues until every congregation in the United Church of Christ can offer an authentic and confident welcome to LGBT seekers and their families.

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\* *“SGL” is a term sometimes preferred in the African-American community as an alternative to “lesbian and gay.” We use both because our community crosses racial and ethnic barriers.*



**LAST WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH SUMMER  
FELLOWSHIP 5:00 PM  
6/28; 7/26; 8/30  
PASTOR JAY & CHERIE HOST ON JUNE 28 – AT 5PM  
MEET AND GREET RECEPTION;  
HORS D'OEUVRES, REFRESHMENTS, AND FELLOWSHIP**

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[Watch Worship Services Here](#)

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**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](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).

## 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](mailto: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.

VBS Student Registration Form First Congregational Church Prescott: July 17-21, 2023: 9AM-3PM

Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Parent/  
Family/Guardian Name \_\_\_\_\_ Addres  
s \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ E-mail  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone  
Numbers: Home \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_  
Work \_\_\_\_\_ Date of birth \_\_\_\_\_  
Age \_\_\_\_\_  
Last school grade completed \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Church (if any) \_\_\_\_\_ Friends  
of your child at this church \_\_\_\_\_ Special  
Needs/Allergies/Medical Information/Other: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Emerge  
ncy Contacts Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) of person(s) who may pick up this child from VBS

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Field Trip and Theatre Performance Permissions: Church/VBS may take walking field trips to Discovery Gardens Preschool, Acker Park, Ken Lindley Field & Park, or Granite Creek Park & Splash Pad. Church/VBS has my permission for my child to participate in walking field trips to these locations during VBS. I understand that my child will be participating in a live theatre event that will be open to the public on Friday, July 21, 2023 from 3:00 to 4:30 PM. Parent/Guardian's signature:

\_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please return completed registration form by 7/10/23 via email to [morgan.greenwald@gmail.com](mailto:morgan.greenwald@gmail.com) or by mail to: First Congregational Church, 216 E. Gurley Street, Prescott, AZ 86301 Phone: 928-445-4555

### 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 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

### GUEST MUSICIANS IN JULY WORSHIP

JULY 9 - DAVE RUSSELL (SAX AND FLUTE)  
JULY 16 - DENISE NASSO (PIANO AND SOLO)  
JULY 23 - JEFF WIESEL (PIANO AND SOLO)



# SUNDAY WORSHIP BULLETIN

## FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST OPEN AND AFFIRMING SUNDAY

June 25, 2023

10:30 a.m.

*\*Those who are able may stand*

### GATHERING TO WORSHIP GOD

Prelude: "I Will Arise and Go to Jesus"--arr. Mark Hayes

Mark Achuff

Words of Welcome – Announcements – Molly Freibott, Director of Operations - Prism Network

*\*Passing of the Peace*

A Time for Children Of All Ages – JJ & Ziggy

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

Gather Music: "Welcome to This House"

Alter-Notes

Opening Prayer

Diane & Sarah Mares

Restoring God, too often we accept the conditions of the world around us and impose limitations on what is possible. We bind ourselves to societal conventions, norms, and pressures rather than follow you and your way. We conform to the values of this world rather than pursue the fruit of the Spirit. Show us the path of life and freedom in you. Teach us to plant seeds of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. May we perennially bear that fruit through Jesus Christ. Amen.

*\*Hymn: "In the Midst of New Dimensions"*

New Century Hymnal #391

Prayer of Confession

Diane & Sarah Mares

Holy One, we praise you for the extravagant diversity of your creation. From clown fish who change gender to promote the flourishing of the school and penguins who forge same-sex bonds to care for their young, from forget-me-nots that reproduce asexually to olive trees with three genders, you teach us the many ways in which your Spirit of relational love and nurturing care manifests in our world. We confess that sometimes our understandings of gender and sexuality limit the ways in which we know each other and know you. Forgive us when we, personally and as a society, use names and definitions as weapons to oppress or as fences to exclude. Free us from the constraints of our narrow views and expand our vision so that we might recognize and enjoy your creativity.

Words of Assurance

Diane & Sarah Mares

Leader: Beloved ones of God, hear the good news: in Jesus Christ, we are a new creation.

**People: God has reconciled us to Godself and to each other through the love and grace made**

**tangible in Christ.**

Leader: In the light of God's love, we are free to live fully and wildly, affirmed and accepted as beloved children of God.

**People: Joined together with our Loving God, let our lives bring joy, justice, and compassion into the world.**

Leader: In the spirit of this joyful exuberance, let us praise our loving God.

## **PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD**

Scripture Reading: Matthew 22:36-40; Galatians 5:1

Diane & Sarah Mares

\*Hymn: "No Matter"

Sing! Prayer and Praise! #35

Sermon: "Freedom to Love"

Pastor Jay

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

Anthem: "I Will Sing Praise" Joseph Martin

Alter-Notes

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

Pastor Jay

Offering of Ourselves and our Gifts

Pastor Jay

Offertory: "Lord God of Hosts"--Thomas Morley

Mark Achuff

\*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.**

\*Prayer of Dedication

Diane & Sarah Mares

Holy God, we are thankful that you are still speaking, whispering, singing, and shouting to each of us with the compassionate voice of acceptance and the grace-filled challenge of affirmation. For all these gifts of love, we thank you. For all the places, people, and situations in need of your justice and mercy, we implore you. For all the ways in which we are called to turn the world inside out and upside down, we ask your guidance and support. Use us so that we might use our gifts to disrupt the powers that would limit your love and keep widening the circle of your welcome.

\*Hymn: "Draw the Circle Wide"

Sing! Prayer and Praise! #123

\*Benediction

Pastor Jay

\*Postlude: "When We All Get to Heaven"--arr. Jolene Boyd

Mark Achuff

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

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## 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.

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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.

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**Volunteer Opportunity  
to Support Teens at the  
Arts and Crafts Festival**

We need adult volunteers to help  
teens run the Teen Arts Booth at  
the 40th Annual Prescott Rodeo  
Days Arts & Crafts Festival on  
July 1st - 3rd

For more info, please contact  
Courtney Osterfelt at  
[costerfelt@thelaunchpadteencenter.org](mailto:costerfelt@thelaunchpadteencenter.org)

Sign up here!



**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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United  
Church of  
Christ

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