

## A Message From Pastor Jay

### SUNDAY WORSHIP 10:30 AM

Nursery and Sunday school at the 10:30am service

**MASK WEARING IS NOW OPTIONAL AS WE FOLLOW THE LATEST CDC UPDATED GUIDELINES. REFRESHMENTS AND FINGER FOODS ARE BACK NOW AFTER WORSHIP IN PERKINS HALL**

This Sunday is Open and Affirming Sunday. Our congregation joined the open and affirming church movement many years ago.

**“Open and Affirming” (ONA) is a movement of more than 1,500 churches and other ministries in the United Church of Christ that welcome lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQ) members. More than 350,000 members of the UCC belong to ONA churches—and our movement is growing rapidly.**

**After a time of study, dialogue and prayer, churches adopt an Open and Affirming “covenant” committing their members to welcome LGBTQ seekers, support their relationships, and advocate for their basic rights. All sacraments and rites of an ONA congregation are available to LGBTQ people, including baptism, confirmation, communion, and marriage. ONA churches take seriously the Bible’s admonition to “accept one another, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.” (Romans 15:7, NIV)**

Our Bible text is Galatians 5 which invites us to choose freedom in Christ over bondage to religion and culture. Brian and Thomas provide music. JJ and Ziggy choose freedom.

### **HOPE BEYOND ROE: A Service of Gathering and Lament**

**Join the officers and members of the national staff of the United Church of Christ for a time to lament and to claim hope in the wake of SCOTUS overturning Roe v. Wade.**

**Jun 24, 2022 06:00 PM in Eastern Time (US and Canada)**

**Go to [ucc.org](http://ucc.org) for more information**

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](#)

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **NEEDED: CHURCH SECURITY TEAM MEMBERS**

We really would like to have one or two more people to help with church security. Of course, it would be great if you (male or female) had/have military, law enforcement or security experience but, certainly NOT necessary. If interested, please contact Melissa Gates, 207-391-3276, [mgates716@gmail.com](mailto:mgates716@gmail.com).

### **NEEDED: GREETERS AND HOSPITALITY HOSTS**

A new schedule of dates and 'empty' spaces are ready for all of you who would enjoy serving as a GREETER or HOSPITALITY HOST. The sign up sheet is in Perkins Hall.

**New Members will be received soon.**

**Let Pastor Jay know if you are interested in joining the church**

**Musical Guest Sunday - Brian and Thomas**

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

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## JUNE MISSION NEWS

## JUNE MISSION PROJECT

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 2022, mission disbursements have been made to: Prescott Community Cupboard (\$545); Prescott Area Shelter Services (\$755); Prescott Area Habitat for Humanity (\$350); and UCC's One Great Hour of Sharing (\$335).

Our special collection for the Southwest Conference's Ukraine Humanitarian Relief fund collected \$3,735 (thank you for your generosity!) and a check was recently sent to help aid the struggling people of Ukraine.

May's mission focus was Frontera de Christo and will be disbursed and reported shortly.

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

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## FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITY

**AGAPE SUMMER SALAD FELLOWSHIP WEDNESDAY NIGHT  
JUNE 29 - 5:00PM**

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.

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## SUNDAY BULLETIN

### THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST OPEN AND AFFIRMING SUNDAY

June 26, 2022

10:30 a.m.

*\*Those who are able may stand*

#### GATHERING TO WORSHIP GOD

Prelude: "Come and Journey with a Savior" by Herbert O'Driscoll     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

Gather Music: "Gather Us In" by Marty Haugen

Opening Prayer

Elizabeth Spence

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 pressure 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

Elizabeth Spence

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

Elizabeth Spence

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: Galatians 5:1, 13-25

Pastor Jay

\*Hymn: "Jesus, the Joy of Loving Hearts"

New Century Hymnal #329

Sermon: "Freedom to Choose"

Pastor Jay

### RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE

Anthem: "Come and Follow Me" by Tom Franzak Brian Moore and Thomas Porter

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

Pastor

Jay

Offering of Ourselves and our Gifts

Pastor Jay

Offertory: "The Summons" by John L. Bell

Brian Moore

\*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

Elizabeth Spence

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: "Go, Make a Difference"

Sing! Prayer and Praise! #199

\*Benediction

Pastor Jay

\*Postlude: "Hallelujah! We Sing Your Praises" (South African Spiritual)

As of May 31, 2022, Income is \$65,563 and Expenses are \$63,739. Net INCOME is \$1,824.

Julie McCurdy, treasurer

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## OPEN AND AFFIRMING SUNDAY

June 08, 2022

Dear Family of the United Church of Christ,

The Council of Conference Ministers, the Officers of the United Church of Christ, and the UCC Open and Affirming Coalition join together in this pastoral letter addressing the attacks on people of transgender or nonbinary experience across the United States. We greet you in the name of the God of compassion and justice. As leaders in the United Church of Christ, we want every person of transgender or nonbinary binary experience to know this: **you are beloved by God**. No earthly power can separate you from God's love. God created you perfectly: your gender identity or expression is God's gift to you and the world. Yet, across America, laws and executive orders are criminalizing the lifesaving treatment that transgender youth need to complete their journey to wholeness and, at the same time, are depriving parents of the right to make medical decisions for their children. These laws, enacted or proposed in states across the country, are part of a broader campaign to reverse basic rights for LGBTQ+ Americans. Alabama, Arkansas, and Arizona already ban medical care for trans youth. In Texas, the state government has defined gender-affirming care as "*child abuse*." Fifteen states have banned participation by transgender youth in school sports. Six states have adopted "*don't say gay or trans*" laws that have erased any mention of LGBTQ+ people from school life. The harm done when governments seize control from parents of their freedom to provide care for their own children is obvious. Even more dangerous is the message states are sending to transgender and nonbinary youth: "*Your lives don't matter.*" [Suicide is an epidemic among LGBTQ+ youth](#)<sup>[1]</sup> and has been for years. When politicians stigmatize children and teenagers who simply wish to live their lives with integrity, the cost of mental suffering is egregious. The ripple effect of this stigma and discrimination reverberates throughout the whole community.

Jesus said: "*I came that you may have life and have it abundantly.*" (John 10:10) The lives of trans and nonbinary people are precious. They are God's beloved children, our siblings, created like all of us for a life free from hatred and recrimination. [The church cannot be silent](#) while our trans and nonbinary youth and their parents are subjected to abuse and exposed to public defamation.

And so we are not silent. To our transgender and nonbinary siblings: we offer you our encouragement, support, and love. We will remain at your side as long as others threaten your dignity and worth. We honor your courage and your faith.

**The world needs you not as others want you to be, but as you truly are.** To the congregations and ministry settings of the United Church of Christ: We ask

you to surround persons of transgender or nonbinary experience and their families and loved ones with compassion and care. [Do not be silent when this wave of persecution threatens human life.](#) This is a time to love – not behind closed doors but out in the open, with word and action. Your visible witness demonstrates that all who struggle against defamation and hatred have a home in the United Church of Christ. As Pride month begins in many states, we are reminded that “coming out” is a powerful moral force that transforms lives. This is true not only for LGBTQ+ people but also for churches. This is a time when congregations are called to **come out** to show the world that love is stronger than hate.

With every blessing,

The Council of Conference Ministers of the United Church of Christ

Officers of the United Church of Christ

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

Rev. Dr. Traci D. Blackmon, Associate General Minister, Justice and Local Church Ministries

Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson, Associate General Minister, Wider Church Ministries and

Operations, Co-Executive for Global Ministries

Open and Affirming Coalition of the United Church of Christ

Rev. Andrew Lang, Executive Director

[\[1\] If you or someone you know needs help, please reach out.](#)

<https://www.thetrevorproject.org/>

<https://www.thetrevorproject.org/resources/category/gender-identity/>

[1300 E. 9<sup>th</sup> Street, Cleveland, OH 44114 | ucc.org | 886-822-8224](#)

### The Church of Firsts

Since 1957, the United Church of Christ has been the [church of firsts](#), 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.

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## 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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