

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

From the Pastor

This Sunday we wrestle with the question - why the cross? There are many theories of the Atonement, yet substitution / sacrifice seems to dominate in our country thanks to Evangelicals and Roman Catholics. We will consider the Gospel of John and John's view of what Jesus accomplished on the cross. Ty serves as worship leader. Music is provided by the Celtic Chorale on St. Patrick's Day. JJ reads centuries worth of publications about the meaning of the cross, and he distills it down to two symbols for us. And Sunday is St. Patrick's Day - wear green!

SCAM ALERT! THE PASTOR WILL NEVER, NEVER, NEVER, NEVER, EVER ASK YOU FOR GIFT CARDS OR MONEY OR A FAVOR IN ANY FORM!!!!!!

WELCOMING MINISTRY NEWS

The Church is having a Potluck on Sunday March 24 (Palm Sunday). The congregation is asked to note their intended contribution to this event on the sign-up board in Perkins Hall.

Those planning to attend the Maundy Thursday service March 28 and light meal are asked to bring the food (soup, chili, sub sandwiches) to share together in Perkins Hall. The Welcoming Ministry committee will not be providing food for this event.

Come one, Come all, to our FCC COFFEE HOUSE! Last Friday of every month - March 29 - 4 to 6 pm - Perkins Hall - Serving: good conversation, light beverages and snacks, lots of games, music of all kinds, dancing if you want it, and any other creative ideas you can come up with. Please use the Alarcon St door to enter. See you then!

CONTINUING A SMALL GROUP EXPERIENCE

Sundays, 9:15-10:15, during Lent (Feb 18 – Mar 24, Palm Sunday) in the meeting room downstairs, **up to 3 more participants are invited** to join us to view and discuss selections from the “Living the Questions” video series.

Topics:

February 25 - - Cherokee Creation Story

March 3 - - Incarnation

10 - - Prayer

17 - - Creative Transformation

24 - - Embracing Mystery

Each session is self-contained, come for one, a few, or all of them!

Questions? and child care needs: Pete Norum at handle32pan@gmail.com.

VIDEO SERIES

"When Black Female Preachers Speak - Seven Important Discussions with Black Female Theologians" A part of our decentering whiteness efforts (not to mention patriarchy)

The next gathering will be March 22 at noon in the church office conference room. Bring your own lunch / snack and drink.

When black female preachers speak, we should all listen. The insight and intention provided by black theologians illustrate their ability to bring the history of black culture and religious experience into the life of Christians and the liturgical life of the church. For centuries black mothers have passed on wisdom – in the white world, in the black community, and with men. This wisdom has illustrated how God reveals prophetic word and action for Christian living.

We have brought together some important themes coupled with visionary insights from Rev. Jacqui Lewis, Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson, Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown, Rev. Dr. Kelly Brown Douglass, Rev. Traci Blackmon, Rev. Canon Stephanie Spellers, and Bishop Yvette Flunder.

MINISTRY OF PHYSICAL RESOURCES NEEDS ADDITIONAL MEMBERS TO HELP TAKE CARE OF OUR CHURCH BUILDINGS – SEE ED ZNETKO FOR DETAILS

**ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING OFFERING
RECEIVED IN MARCH**

One Great Hour of Sharing® is one of four special mission offerings of the United Church of Christ. This Lenten Offering supports the disaster, refugee, and development ministries of the United Church of Christ within Wider Church Ministries.

CARING FOR CREATION EVENTS

**ARIZONA POWER AND LIGHT – SACRED EARTH, COMMON GROUND
TUESDAY, MARCH 26, 6:00 PM
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**

Local artists and musicians celebrate the beauty of creation and inspire our own stories of sacred connections.

Sacred Earth: Common Ground

Sacred Earth: Common Ground is a creative, engaging way to bridge the cultural-political-religious divides that threaten democracy, devastate Creation and divide communities. Our strategy is to take advantage of the bridge-building capacity of the ancient art of STORYTELLING. We believe that “the shortest distance between two people is a story” and “you cannot hate someone whose story you know.”

We invite you to join us as we create a Sacred Earth: Common Ground event in your community. With your help we will invite people from a diversity of perspectives together for a time of personal storytelling about experiences we’ve had standing on Holy Ground. Our definition of Holy Ground is simple: any time or any place where you have felt DEEPLY CONNECTED with yourself (body, mind spirit), with your neighbor, with the wider natural world, with the Divine.

We’ll invite “community artists” to spark our imaginations with a poem, a song, a dance, or a work of art on the theme of “Sacred Earth.” Then we divide people into small, mixed groups, and invite them to tell a 3-minute story about sometime when they stood on Holy Ground.

**INTERFAITH CLIMATE ACTION TEAM
CARING FOR CREATION EVENT – APRIL 25 – 5PM
TEMPLE BRITH SHALOM
PASTOR JAY IS ONE OF THE SPEAKERS**

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 (**March 20**) 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.

**CHURCH DIRECTORIES ARE ON OUR WEBSITE
FCCPRESCOTT.ORG
UNDER THE RESOURCES TAB – PASSWORD PROTECTED
EMAIL THE CHURCH OFFICE FOR PASSWORD
fccprescott@gmail.com**

**SATURDAY FAITH FORUM OPEN TO ALL
SATURDAYS AT 10AM ON ZOOM
A NEW TOPIC EACH WEEK - BIBLE, CURRENT EVENTS,
THEOLOGY, ETC.
A LIVELY DISCUSSION
LET PASTOR JAY KNOW TO BE ADDED TO THE ZOOM INVITE**

MARCH MISSION NEWS

MONTHLY FOCUS: Each month we highlight a different mission outreach project. For the month of March, we're supporting **Prescott Area Habitat for Humanity**. Seeking to put God's love into action, **Prescott Area Habitat for Humanity** brings people together to build houses, communities, and hope. Every donation helps a family build a safe and affordable home and fosters strength, stability and self-reliance through shelter.

Your contributions are so helpful for these families in need! If your own family has the ability and desire to provide a donation, checks can be made payable to the church with the memo: **PAHFH**.

Mission donations which do not specify a particular project will be disbursed as determined by our Mission team members.

In February, due to your generous support, the Mission Outreach team distributed \$475 to Prescott Community Cupboard from our January collection focus. Thank you! As always, thank you for remembering that we are blessed to be a blessing (Genesis 12:2).

Mission Outreach Committee members for 2024 are Patty Gard, Carolyn Christians, Roxanne Matthews, Bill Bryant, 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.

MAUNDY THURSDAY – MARCH 28 – 5:30 PM

We will gather on Maundy Thursday for our traditional observance of the Lord's Supper along with a communal meal.

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE – MARCH 29 - NOON SERVICE OF TENEBRAE

EASTER SUNDAY MARCH 31

ENNEAGRAM WORKSHOP COMING MAY 18

We did this workshop back in 2016. Participants enjoyed getting to know themselves better and understanding others better. An Enneagram instructor will be leading the workshop. There will be a fee for attending – scholarships will be available if needed.

What is the Enneagram?

Don Riso has defined the Enneagram as “a geometric figure that delineates the nine basic personality types of human nature and their complex interrelationships.” While the Enneagram suggests that there are nine basic personality types of human nature, there are, of course, many subtypes and variations within the nine fundamental categories. Nevertheless, the assertion of Enneagram theory is that these nine adequately map out the territory of “personality types.”

The Enneagram is also a symbol that maps out the ways in which the nine types are related to each other. This is the aspect of the Enneagram most people are familiar with because it offers them a framework for understanding themselves and everyone they deal with. As a psychospiritual typology, the Enneagram helps people to recognize and understand an overall pattern in human behavior. External behaviors, underlying attitudes, one’s characteristic sense of self, conscious and unconscious motivations, emotional reactions, defense mechanisms, object relations, what we pay attention to, our spiritual potentials and much more—are all parts of a complex pattern that forms each personality type. Therapists, business counselors, human resource directors, and spiritual seekers from around the world are all finding the Enneagram to be immensely useful for self-understanding and personal growth. Always remember however, that the Enneagram does not put you in a box; it shows you the box you are in and the way out!

What use is the Enneagram? How can it help me?

The Enneagram can be extremely useful to everyone as a source of self-knowledge because it acts as a kind of “mirror” to reveal features of our personality that normally are invisible to us. Most of the time, people function habitually, as if on “automatic pilot,” according to the pattern of their basic personality type. Usually this allows people to get along well enough in their lives, but when their normal routines break down or the stresses of their lives increase too much, their normal way of coping also tends to break down or become dysfunctional. Seeing clearly what our habitual patterns are—seeing what we are doing and why we are doing it, and at what cost to ourselves and others—holds the key to our liberation. By knowing your type correctly, you are able to see yourself—to “catch yourself in the act”—as you move throughout the day. With this increased self-awareness, you are also able to avoid reacting in negative and potentially dangerous ways.

Once real balance has been restored to the personality structure, the Enneagram can help us to orient ourselves to the higher spiritual and psychological qualities that each type has in abundance. Thus, at its highest, the Enneagram invites us to look deeply into the mystery of our true identity. It reveals that we are not our personality, but something more—a spiritual being who has lost contact with his or her true nature. Living out of this realization shifts completely how we see ourselves, others, and the world, bringing liberation, freedom, and joy. (See pages 27-48 in *The Wisdom of the Enneagram* or pages 11-17 of *Understanding the Enneagram (Revised Edition)* for more about the psychological and spiritual context of the Enneagram.)

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.

SUNDAY WORSHIP BULLETIN

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

March 17, 2024

10:30 a.m.

**Those who are able may stand*

GATHERING TO WORSHIP GOD

Prelude: "Londonderry Air" Traditional Irish

Brian and Thomas

Words of Welcome – Announcements - *Passing of the Peace

Gather Song: "Come Gather Now" by Brian Óg

The Celtic Chorale

A Time for Children of All Ages – JJ & Ziggy

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

*Hymn: "Be Now My Vision" Ancient Irish Text

New Century Hymnal #451

Call to Worship

Ty Cook

One: Let us gather to worship.

All: O God, we wish to see Jesus! We come to worship, to pray, and to learn.

One: We come looking for Jesus in Scripture, in our own life experiences, in helping our world, in prayers for each other.

All: We come with our own wilderness journey filled with some gladness and hope, with reluctance and sorrow, with fear and confusion.

One: O God, speak to us, show us, touch us with your presence!

All: Let our Lenten journey lead us to Jesus!

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

Lenten Prayer of Confession

Ty Cook

Revitalizing God, your power goes far beyond our own, and yet still we act as though the pains of this world have final claim upon us. We give in to the despair and hopelessness of death, not trusting in your ability to call forth new life from the tombs of our lives. Forgive us for doubting your power to raise up new life in all the deaths we experience. Forgive us for wanting to limit you to “the last day” or “the world beyond this one”, not trusting you to move and act among us, within us, through us. Forgive us, and open our eyes to the wonder of new life sprouting into being in our very midst.

Assurance of Forgiveness (2 Corinthians 8:9) Ty Cook
“For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.” You are forgiven!

Gospel Reading: John 12:20-33 Ty Cook

*Hymn: “Won’t You Let Me Be Your Servant” New Century Hymnal #539

Sermon: “Why the Cross?” Pastor Jay

RESPONDING TO GOD’S GRACE

Anthem: “Prayer of St. Francis” by Sebastian Temple Thomas Porter

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

Offering of Ourselves and our Gifts

Offertory: “Morning has Broken” Traditional Gaelic Melody The Celtic Chorale

Lenten Doxology (Tune: NCH #17) by Pete Norum (2013)

Praise the Creator for each day, thanks for our Guide who leads the way.

Preparation. Meditation.

Bathe in discovery, Spirit led, and live anew in days ahead.

In remembrance. Crucifixion. Easter promise! Resurrection! Alleluia!

*Prayer of Dedication Ty Cook
God, there are many who “wish to see Jesus.” In joy and celebration of the many gifts that we share, we ask you to bless all our offerings. May Jesus shine in all the world. Amen.

*Hymn: “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross” New Century Hymnal #224

*Benediction Pastor Jay

*Postlude: “An Níochán Gaelach” Traditional Irish Brian and Thomas

**AMAZON SUPPLIES TO PROVIDE FOR JENI AND AUDRA IN
SUNDAY SCHOOL**

**This QR code will take you to the supplies that can be ordered and
provided:**



TREASURER REPORT

Reporting on finances as of February 29, 2024:

Income: \$32,515

Expense: \$31,634

Net income: \$881

Julie McCurdy, Treasurer



Because of You our church changes lives.

**THANKS TO ALL WHO PROVIDED ESTIMATES OF
GIVING FOR 2024!**

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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Church of
Christ

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