First Congregational United Church of Christ

The Parish Caller March 17, 2023

A Message From Pastor Jay

Here we go again! Last week Jesus offered welcome to a three strikes against her "other." Sunday's story in John 9 is about Jesus healing a man born blind and then finding him when he is cast out of the synagogue. Another "other" taken in by Jesus! The story has comedy in it - the blind man sees and the religious leaders are "blind." How is your vision? About yourself? About others? About God? The people who are the most blind in the account are the religious people. How much does that still apply today? We live with the illusion that we see clearly most of the time. A little humility may be in order. Groupe du Jour provides music; Rev. Bill Linson is liturgist; and JJ & Ziggy need help seeing.

Watch Worship Services Here

NEW MEMBERS RECEIVED ON EASTER SUNDAY - APRIL 9. A NUMBER OF PEOPLE ARE ALREADY PLANNING TO JOIN ON EASTER - LET PASTOR JAY KNOW IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN BECOMING A MEMBER!

THERE WILL BE A NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION SUNDAY, MARCH 26 AFTER WORSHIP – ALL WHO WILL BE JOINING ON EASTER AS WELL AS ANY OTHERS INTERESTED IN LEARNING ABOUT THE CHURCH ARE WELCOME.

AED TRAINING APRIL 16 AT NOON

New Life CPR will be offering a CPR Adult/Child/Infant CPR with AED as well as choking for Adult/Child and Infant. We will discuss the NEW AED that you have on site and make sure everyone is comfortable on how to use this AED. You will have a great time. Come on and join us! Lesa West

American Heart Association Heartsaver CPR/AED Training Course
Please join us to become certified in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and the use of
an automated external defibrillator (AED). The training will be led by New Life CPR. This is
useful training for all and especially since the church now has an AED on site, it would be great

to have trained users in the congregation. The Heartsaver CPR AED course trains participants to give CPR, and use an AED in a safe, timely, and effective manner. Reflects science and education from the American Heart Association Guidelines Update for CPR and Emergency Cardiovascular Care (ECC).

The training will be held in Perkins Hall after the church service on Sunday, April 16th and it should last approximately 2.5 hours. The church will cover the cost of the training and also provide pizza to trainees.

If you are interested, RSVP to Morgan Greenwald as soon as you are able at Morgan.Greenwald@gmail.com or 570-660-2227. The RSVP will help us to get a headcount prior to the training. Thanks for your interest!

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.

SATURDAY, MARCH 18, 10AM - ZOOM FAITH FORUM THE EASTERN ORTHODOX VIEW OF THE ATONEMENT EMAIL THE CHURCH OFFICE TO BE ADDED TO THE ZOOM INVITE FCCPRESCOTT@GMAIL.COM

"KNIT WITS" REVIVAL

Before COVID, we had a group that would meet once a week to knit, crochet, etc. items that would be given to those in need. There is an interest in reviving this weekly gathering at the church. Please add your name to the sign-up sheet in Perkins Hall.

Thursday, March, 23rd at 1:00pm is the first meeting at the church office conference room - green house next to the church. Thereafter, the group will meet the fourth Thursday of each month at 1:00pm.

DATE FOR 8 – NINE AND DINE

A sign-up sheet is in Perkins Hall for our first gathering for a meal and conversation. All who wish to participate will be divided into groups with a host who will coordinate the menu, date, and place to gather. This is an opportunity to get to know each other.

CHURCH CALENDAR

MARCH 17 - LENTEN BROWN BAG LUNCH AND STUDY - NOON
MARCH 18 - ZOOM FAITH FORUM 10AM
MARCH 19 - ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:30AM – WHY DID JESUS DIE?
MARCH 23 - KNIT WITS AT THE CHURCH OFFICE - 1PM

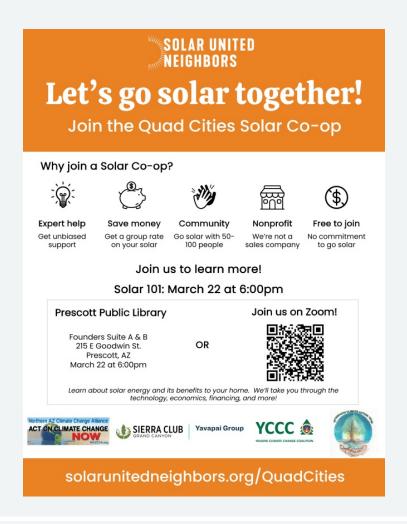
MARCH 25 - LAUNCHPAD TEEN CENTER SHARE THE LOVE EVENT – 5PM APRIL 2- TEACHING SEDER WITH RABBI SUSAN – PERKINS HALL 1:30PM APRIL 6 - MAUNDY THURSDAY – 5:30PM

APRIL 7 - GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE - NOON

APRIL 9 - EASTER SUNDAY - NEW MEMBERS RECEIVED

APRIL 16 - HOLY HUMOR SUNDAY

April 27 - EARTH DAY EVENT IN PERKINS HALL



MARCH MISSION NEWS

Each month we highlight a different mission outreach project/program. For the month of March, our highlighted program is Prescott Area Habitat for Humanity (PAHH).

Seeking to put God's love into action, Prescott Area Habitat for Humanity brings people together to build homes, communities, and hope.

Their inspiring mission:

- demonstrates the love of Jesus Christ;
 - focuses on shelter;
 - advocates for affordable housing;

• promotes dignity and hope;

• supports sustainable and transformational development.

PAHH is currently working on three projects in the Tri-City area—one to be completed in March and ready for a Spring move-in, two more houses should be ready for move-in sometime in early fall of 2023.

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: PAHH.

Undesignated mission donations continue to be welcome as well, and will be used 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 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.

SUNDAY BULLETIN

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

March 19, 2023 *Those who are able may stand 10:30 a.m.

GATHERING TO WORSHIP GOD

Prelude: "Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross" by William H. Doane Brian Moore

Words of Welcome – Announcements - Passing of the Peace

Gathering Song: "Teach Me" by Sandy O'Shea Groupe du Jour

A Time for Children of All Ages – JJ & Ziggy

Call to Worship (adapted from Psalm 23) The Rev. Bill Linson

L: The Lord is my shepherd. I shall not want.

All: It is you, Lord who makes me lie down in green pastures;

L: It is you who leads me beside the still waters.

All: You restore my soul and guide me in paths of righteousness for your name's sake.

L: Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff comfort me.

All: You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies.

L: You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over.

All: Surely goodness and mercy will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in your house, O Lord, forever.

*Hymn: "Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound" New Century Hymnal #547

Lenten Prayer of Confession

The Rev. Bill Linson

Holy God, we confess that we fail to question our own sightlessness. Being so sure that we "see", we miss the truths you would teach us. With your love, cure this blindness. Open our eyes to our own misunderstandings, our own failures and our own faults. Make our "shadow side" known to us and help us to diminish it with the light of your grace. For it is only when we see ourselves clearly that we can worship you truly. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen

Words of Assurance The Rev. Bill Linson
Hear the good news! Who is in a position to condemn? Only Christ, and Christ
died for us, Christ rose for us, Christ reigns in power for us, Christ prays for us.
(Romans 8:34)

Leader: Friends, believe the good news of the gospel. People: **In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!**

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

Gospel Reading: John 9:1-41

Rev. Bill Linson, Henry Dahlberg, Michael & Brit Flores

Solo: He healed the darkness of my mind the day he gave my sight to me: It was not sin that made me blind; It was no sinner made me see.

All: I once was blind but now I see.

*Hymn: "What a Covenant" New Century Hymnal #471

Sermon: "Spiritual Spectacles" Pastor Jay

RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE

Anthem: "Psalm 23: Shepherd Me, O God" by Marty Haugen Groupe du Jour

All: Shepherd me, O God, beyond my wants, beyond my fears, from death into life.

Prayers of the People / The Lord's Prayer (Use Trespasses)

Offering of Ourselves and our Gifts

Offertory: "Open My Eyes" by Manibusan/Zaragoza Brian Moore

*Lenten Doxology (tune - old 100th) Pete Norum

Praise the Creator for each day, thanks for our Guide who leads the way. Bathe in Discovery, Spirit led, and live anew in days ahead. Amen

*Prayer of Dedication

The Rev. Bill Linson

*Hymn: "Open My Eyes"

Sing! Prayer and Praise # 161

*Benediction

Pastor Jay

*Postlude: "At the Name of Jesus" - tune by Ralph Vaughan Williams Brian Moore

TREASURER REPORT

A NOTE FROM THE TREASURER – JULIE MCCURDY FEBRUARY 2023

INCOME is \$30,592 EXPENSES are \$35,472 Net EXPENSE is \$4,880

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



T: 928-445-4555 E: FccPrescott@gmail.com



First Congregational Church Prescott, UCC | 216 E. Gurley Street, Prescott, AZ 86301

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