First Congregational United Church of Christ

The Parish Caller March 18, 2022

A Message From Pastor Jay SUNDAY WORSHIP 10:30 AM

Nursery and Sunday school at the 10:30 am 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

SUNDAY TOPIC:

Lenten Series:

"A Path to Spiritual Wholeness"

(Jesus Grew in Wisdom and Stature; In Favor with God and Others) During the Lenten Season, we will use a tool produced by the ELCA – Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. We will look at our spirituality from a holistic approach, culminating in Easter Sunday.

This Sunday's focus is "vocational well-being." The vocation or calling that all Christians share in following Jesus in love and service is the general aspect of vocation. Beyond that, our vocation includes our life's work as we are faithful stewards of our gifts and talents. Sometimes we sense a special call, like those compelled to return to Ukraine to defend their homeland. Joyful Noise provides music; Rev. Harry returns as liturgist; and JJ reveals his vocation.

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

ZOOM SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP 2:00 PM

Let us know if you want to be added to these Zoom invitations

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEW! SPECIAL OFFERING: The UCC national headquarters has established a special fund to provide humanitarian aid to Ukraine. Those donating should write "Ukraine Relief" on their check memo line. Our Mission Outreach Committee will accept donations for a time period still TBD, and soon after deliver a check for the total amount given by the congregation to our Southwest Conference office.

SNACKS NEEDED FOR AFTER CHURCH FELLOWSHIP. IT WOULD HELP TO HAVE NON-PERISHABLE ITEMS TO SHARE AND KEEP FOR FUTURE SUNDAYS. PLEASE BRING THEM SUNDAY!

As we are now resuming our much needed social time this Sunday, we have our first 'hosts' to cover your needs to allow you to catch up, meet new members and enjoy some fellowship time. *Angela Imbierowicz and Lee Danaher* have volunteered their service this Sunday.

Thank you for your quick response.

I will be putting a **sign-up list** in Perkins Hall for Sunday volunteers. This involves setting up the serving table with any treats provided by anyone in the congregation, including the hospitality team for that Sunday. Please provide anything to share as you feel called. As usual, *Tom Macy* will continue to set up coffee, water and juices as available.

Besides this notice in THE CALLER, an email will be sent to individuals who have signed up in the past, new members, and others who have shown interest. Thank you in advance for your service.

WELCOMING/HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE Patty Lantrip

JOHN DAVIDSON 1941-2022

John passed peacefully at home under the care of Good Samaritan Hospice, due to complications of Alzheimer's disease. The family is forever grateful to GSH for their loving care and support.

A Celebration of Life will be held this Monday, March 21, 2022, at 11:00 a.m. at the First Congregational Church of Prescott, 216 E. Gurley St. If you feel so moved, donations may be made to PMOW, GSH or the Alzheimer's Association, where hopefully a cure will come for this heartbreaking disease.

A NEW SMALL GROUP EXPERIENCE (for Lent)

Beginning Sunday, March 6, twice: 9:30-!0:15 and 11:35-12:10, in the Maggie B room downstairs, small groups will be meeting to view and discuss the popular and valuable "Living the Questions" video series.

- · Coffee and donuts
- · Child care
- With spacing and masks, group of 12 max.

Topics:

March

6 an invitation to journey
13 taking the bible seriously
20 thinking theologically (about God)
27 stories of creation

April

3 lives of Jesus 10 a passion for Christ: Paul

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

Musical Guests Sunday - Joyful Noise

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

Outside groups are still not able to meet in the church as we come out of COVID spread and seek to adjust.

MARCH MISSION NEWS

NEW! SPECIAL OFFERING: The UCC national headquarters has established a special fund to provide humanitarian aid to Ukraine. Those donating should write "Ukraine Relief" on their check memo line. Our Mission Outreach Committee will accept donations for a time period still TBD, and soon after deliver a check for the total amount given by the congregation to our Southwest Conference office.

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

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

Christine Mack, Faith Relations Liaison for Prescott Area Habitat for Humanity, writes that "We are stretched, more than we have been in our 33-year history, to design and implement creative solutions to providing affordable housing in Prescott and our neighboring communities...The housing affordability crisis in the Tri-City area is even more serious than it was a year ago."

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.

In January, we donated \$545 in congregation donations to Prescott Community Cupboard.

For February, we received \$755 in congregation donations, and just sent that to Prescott Area Shelter Services.

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.

*Our Mission Outreach Committee for the last many years has been chaired by the beloved Rev. Gary Gard, who has recently stepped down. In Gary's tenure, countless organizations have been touched by his generosity and guiding light.

Please do have a thought for Gary whenever you read this closing line, as we will continue to conclude our mission updates with Genesis 12:2 in his honor.

STUDY OPPORTUNITY

ZOOM FAITH FORUM

The new faith forum will allow a variety of faith issues to be explored. Call or email the church office to be added to the weekly Zoom invitation: 928-445-4555; fccprescott@gmail.com.

March 18: Liturgy of Home - Terry Tempest Williams at Harvard Divinity School

SUNDAY BULLETIN

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

March 20, 2022
*Those who are able may stand

10:30 a.m.

GATHERING TO WORSHIP GOD

Prelude: "Change My Heart O God"

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

Gathering Music: "Shepherd Me, O God – Gathering Rite" by Marty Haugen Joyful Noise

Gathering Prayer

Rev. Harry Strong

Generous and loving God, who provides water in the desert, wine at a wedding, fish when there are no bites, bread when we are hungry, and answers when we are confused, be with us this morning, as you are always. Blow through us, that we might sense your presence. Wrestle with us, that we might discern your path. Love us that we might become who you call us to be. Generous and loving God, help us to receive your call for us, help us to feel your presence with us, help us to discern the path you would have us follow. We come together, opening our hearts to each other, that we might recognize your work in our neighbors, that we might appreciate all the blessings that we have received, that we might celebrate your grace and be so changed by it, that we might go forth into the world, shining your light and love on those we meet.

Bless us in this time of worship that we might carry forth blessings into the

world. Amen.

*Song: "Come to the Water" by Ray Makeever

Sing! Prayer and Praise #16

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

Scripture Readings: Selected Passages

Rev. Harry Strong

Responsorial Psalm 63: "My Soul is Thirsting" by Michael Joncas

Joyful Noise

My soul is thirsting, my soul is thirsting, My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

Sermon: "Vocational Well-Being"

Pastor Jay

RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE

Musical Selection: "As a Doe" by Michael Fitzgerald

Ann and Caleb Flanagan

Prayers of the People / The Lord's Prayer

Pastor Jay

We remember those who are struggling this day, those close to our hearts, those we learn about through the news, those we pass on the street and do not know, our neighbors sitting beside us this day. Be with each of them. Help them to know your love and grace. Help us to hear your voice in the busyness of our lives. As we make plans, work hard, and enjoy friends and family, help us to remember that we have purpose, your purpose. Thank you for the many blessings that you have bestowed upon us. In celebration, we praise you for all that you have created in this world, but we also mourn that this world is not all that it could be. Although we acknowledge that we need to do more, we know we cannot do it alone. Help us to be the people you would have us be, help us to care for our neighbors: not just the person next to us in the pew, but the people of the world, crying out for justice and peace. Help us to build the world you would have us live in. Help us to care for creation.

We name silently in our hearts the people and situations that weigh on us this day. (*Silence*)

Offering of Ourselves and our Gifts

Pastor Jay

Offertory: "Change Our Hearts" by Rory Cooney

Prayer of Dedication

Rev. Harry Strong

Loving God, we share what we have because you share so abundantly with us. May our sharing be an act of thanksgiving and praise for all you have done and all you will continue to do for us. We dedicate these gifts and offer ourselves to your service. Bless us and our gifts, that we might be a source of help, hope, and joy to a world in need. With grateful hearts we pray, Amen.

*Song: "Change My Heart O God"

Sing! Prayer and Praise #128

Pastor Jay

*Postlude: "Return to God" by Marty Haugen

TREASURER REPORT

Year-to-date income is \$30,594. Expenses are \$25,465. Net gain is \$5,129.

Julie McCurdy, treasurer

CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday Worship 10:30am Nursery & Sunday School 10:30am

April 14 Maundy Thursday Service 5:30pm April 15 Good Friday Service Noon April 17 Easter Worship 10:30am

New Members Received on Easter Sunday

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



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