

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

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 "emotional well-being." The Parable of the Prodigal Son in Luke 15 provides an opportunity to consider family dynamics and emotions. The word "prodigal" means lavish, wasteful, and extravagant. The father and two brothers are each prodigal in their own way. Jesus shares this story as a hint of God's lavish grace. Sandy serves as liturgist; Brenda and Carole Sue provide music; and JJ acts out all the emotions.

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

[Watch Worship Services Here](#)

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

A NEW SMALL GROUP EXPERIENCE (for Lent)

Beginning Sunday, March 6, twice: 9:30-10:15 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 - Guest Musicians Brenda Olsen, Cellist and Carole Sue Linson, Pianist

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 26: Ukraine Orthodox Church - The Great Schism of 1054 & 2019 Schism

April 2: Yale Bible Study - The Evolution of Passover

April 9: Yale Bible Study - Passover in the New Testament

April 16: Yale Bible Study - The Beginnings of Easter

SUNDAY BULLETIN

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

March 27, 2022

10:30 a.m.

**Those who are able may stand*

GATHERING TO WORSHIP GOD

Prelude: "Tears Are a Language" by Gordon Jensen

Played by Brenda Olsen, Cellist and Carole Sue Linson, Pianist

*Often you've wondered why tears come into your eyes,
and burdens seem to be much more than you can stand.*

But God is standing near; He sees your falling tears.

Tears are a language God understands.

A Time for Children of All Ages

(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

*Hymn: "Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound"

New Century Hymnal #547

Opening Prayer ~ written by Roddy Hamilton

Sandy Znetko

Loving God, may we be found by you, and may we find a place called home - a place where faith holds us, and grace renews us; where forgiveness longs for us to be who you will us to be. May we find a place called home - where we are accepted as we are; where we are taken in and loved unconditionally - a place called home where we belong, and our souls fit, and our questions are allowed, and our anger is heard, and our needs are recognized, and our pain is held, and our names are known.

ALL: And may this be that place, O God, this community, this group of

travelers and doubters and companions on the way. Loving God, Homecoming God, may we make this a home to all who still yet seek a place of grace-filled sanctuary and gracious welcome. So be it. Amen

Lenten Prayer of Confession

Sandy Znetko

Almighty God, we confess we are not perfect. We sometimes do not recognize when our words or actions, even when we mean well, can cause harm. We miss signs and cues from others. Call us into accountability and show us mercy. Instill in our hearts kindness and compassion, for others and ourselves. Teach us how to forgive, and to extend the same mercy you have extended to us. Forgive us when we have failed to notice the harm we have caused, and help us to correct our faults and make amends as best as we are able. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Sandy Znetko

God created us to change! May we offer forgiveness and give space for one another to learn and grow. For God has shown us abundant mercy, grace, forgiveness, and healing. Go into the world, to restore and repair, to heal and forgive.

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

Gospel Reading: Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

Sandy Znetko

*Hymn: "Ah, What Shame I Have to Bear"

New Century Hymnal #203

Sermon: "Parable of the Three Prodigals"

Pastor Jay

RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE

Anthem: "Largo" by G.F. Handel Played by Brenda Olsen, Cellist and Carole Sue Linson, Pianist

Prayers of the People

Pastor Jay

Offering of Ourselves and our Gifts

Pastor Jay

Offertory: "Ani M'amin" – Jewish Folk Song

Brian Moore

*Prayer of Dedication

Sandy Znetko

May we not be like the older brother, grumbling and resentful of your generosity. Rather, with joy and hope, we offer our gifts that others might be swept up in your loving and gracious arms. Amen.

*Hymn: "O My Soul, Bless Your Creator"

New Century Hymnal #13

*Benediction

Pastor Jay

*Postlude: "What Wondrous Love is This"

Brian Moore

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.

Please let Pastor Jay know if you are interested in joining the church. If you cannot be here on Easter, another Sunday will be possible. What is involved in joining? As part of our extravagant welcome here, we have tried to remove barriers to joining as much as possible. There is no creed or statement of faith required. We value diversity of belief. There is an hour-long orientation to the church on YouTube that can be viewed. At the worship service on the day of joining, you will be asked to come up front and Pastor Jay will introduce you to the congregation. You will be asked the following questions: Do you desire to follow in the way of Jesus and listen to his teachings? Will you be a faithful member of this congregation, supporting its ministry, and using your gifts and talents here as you have opportunity? A prayer for you and a “welcome” follows!

Here is information regarding membership in our bylaws:

ARTICLE V: MEMBERSHIP

This church welcomes into its fellowship any person who subscribes to the teachings of Jesus Christ. Membership is open to all without regard to age, race, gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity, gender identity, faith, marital status, and personal ability. Members may participate in any activity of this church and may serve in an elected or appointed position of leadership. Members have the right to vote at any Annual or Special Meeting.

Membership may be determined as follows: 1. By satisfactory and public profession of the Christian faith as evidenced by the covenant of this church with the United Church of Christ. 2. By the rite of Confirmation in this church. 3. By a

letter of transfer from another Christian Church. Members covenant to participate fully in the life of the congregation by: 1. Attending worship, 2. Celebrating Communion, 3. Seeking to learn about and understand Holy Scripture and its implications for our lives as Christians, 4. Sharing time and talent dedicated to church work, 5. And supporting the financial and spiritual welfare of the membership and community to the best of their ability.

Full rights and privileges of membership are granted to those members wishing to retain membership with other Christian Churches. Members shall be granted, on request, a letter of transfer to another church. Church membership rolls will be updated periodically by members of the Cabinet. 3 We recognize as friends those who are active in the life of First Congregational Church, but who choose not to join as members. They share fully in the spiritual life of this church and may participate in all its programs and activities. Friends may serve with the Ministries, but are ineligible to serve on the Cabinet or be elected an Officer. Friends are also granted the privilege of voice without vote at any Annual or Special Meeting. The United Church of Christ (UCC) is a distinct and diverse community of Christians that come together as one church to join faith and action. With over 5,000 churches and nearly one million members across the U.S., the UCC serves God in the co-creation of a just and sustainable world. The UCC is a church of firsts, a church of extravagant welcome, and a church where "...they may all be one" (John 17:21).

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.

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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United
Church of
Christ

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