



First Congregational Church

"No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here."

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR JAY

Sunday Morning Greeting & Sharing:
Meeting ID: 830 380 676
Zoom in via your computer
Phone in : 1-346-248-7799

[Jay Wilcher is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.](#)

[Topic: Sunday Morning Greeting & Sharing](#)
[Time: Mar 29, 2020 10:00 AM Arizona](#)

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)
<https://zoom.us/j/830380676>

[Meeting ID: 830 380 676](#)

[CLICK HERE TO SEE THIS SUNDAY'S BULLETIN](#)

Here is the new normal going forward:

We are recording the worship service each week (with a few of us present) and it will be available on our website each Sunday by 10:30am.

There will be a zoom meeting every Sunday morning at 10:00 a.m. to continue our pre-worship greetings to one another. Now it will be virtual!

There will be a zoom meeting every Thursday morning at 10:00 a.m. for our church family connection - to provide community, social interaction, sharing of concerns.

There will be a zoom meeting every Friday morning at 10:00 a.m. for Bible Study related to the text for Sunday.

Pastor Jay

jayfccprescott@gmail.com

[Watch Worship Services Here](#)

A MESSAGE FROM GENERAL MINISTER & PRESIDENT JOHN C. DORHAUER

March 24, 2020

Leading Through a Rapidly Changing Environment While Responding to the Coronavirus Pandemic

As you may know, the National Offices are now functioning from a work-from-home environment. The building is closed for now, and will remain so until the Governor of Ohio dismisses the stay-at-home order.

We have been preparing for such a move, anticipating that this was a possible, if not inevitable, scenario. While there will surely be some glitches in our normal operating procedures, we want to state with full confidence that the work of the National Setting will continue. With our laptops, in-home wifi or personal hotspots, and most of the files and information stored in the cloud with password access, we feel that what we need is accessible to us.

We know that many of you reading this are working under similar conditions, and that many churches have converted their services to online spaces. We are all making timely and well-advised decisions about how to do the work we were called to do and protect the health of our families, faith communities, colleagues, and ourselves.

If you are looking for resources to assist your church in this challenging time, the staff at the National Setting has created a page to help. Along with the advice and communications being shared by your conference, the resources gathered at this page are proving to be invaluable for our churches as they struggle with what to do and how to do it.

We are maintaining our schedule of special mission offerings, including One Great Hour of Sharing. The offering was scheduled to be taken on March 22, 2020. Given the rapidly changing environment, perhaps the One Great Hour of Sharing offering was not taken on the suggested date. Please know it is not too



late. You can participate in the offering at any time.

We ask for your prayers, as we daily hold you in our prayers. We will continue every day to give our best effort on your behalf. We thank you for your patience, understanding, and ongoing support for the work of the National Setting.

Faithfully, he Rev. John C. Dorhauer
General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ



I want to thank everyone that has been sending in their weekly offering. We have been checking the mail daily and putting the gifts in the safe. If your check doesn't clear right away, it is because we are making a deposit every two weeks. Until then, the deposit is tucked safely in the safe. This will be our "new normal" until we go back to our regular normal.

Julie Jaquette

OF COURSE WE BOUGHT ALL THE TOILET PAPER

by [Davin Franklin-Hicks](#)

Back in the day I used to go to see funny movies in theaters. I say back in the day because we can't go to theaters right now due to the mandatory quarantine happening in places all over where heartbeats exist and life flows. We are not alone in this. It is happening everywhere. That feels important to remember.



I also say back in the day because I have been living a life of isolation due to illness for several years now so I have been unable to go to a movie theater in a long while, even when they were open.

I used to love going to movie theaters, though. I loved watching really funny comedies in a room full of other people laughing. It magnified joy in a lovely way and I would feel connected, alive, happy. How amazing is it that we can be that impacted by each other? It's lovely when it's good.

How awful is it that we can be that impacted by each other? It's hard when it's bad.

The impact is immense. Your life and my life are so intertwined. My very survival rests in my ability to watch you live, see what I see and respond accordingly. My world and your world are so impacted by each other that the reality of separateness gets called into question all the time. We are far more connected and far more similar than we are comfortable admitting. I have choice and you have choice, but we really do make choices based on the smallest things we have no idea or awareness influence it.

You choose a lot because of me. I choose a lot because of you. That impact changes and fluctuates, but it always exists. We are connected. The COVID-19 Pandemic has been a baffling and scary situation to watch as I sit from my long-isolated perch.

It is a world-wide flash mob called "The Dance of Our Primal Fears" brought to you by: "Toilet paper: Need it. Buy it. Wait. That's too much. You don't need that much... Hold on... Stop buying it! It's not the stomach flu!"

It's a new tag line that is being workshopped by the toilet paper industry. They're working on it. Needs some polishing. They didn't see this coming either.

The fear is bringing out the neuroses to the nth degree in all of us. The neuroses we have been polishing and working on for a long time, but we were gonna wait to unleash them upon the world, maybe after the election. They have been a-building for some time now.

Under this new pressure, we are rolling those neuroses out early. Here they come on out like a mighty powerful parade as we buy all of the toilet paper in all of the stores in all of the lands.

MISSION NEWS AND UPDATES



This month's mission emphasis is the Prescott Area Habitat for Humanity (PAHH). PAHH helps low income families realize their dream of owning their own home. Those who qualify commit to doing "sweat equity" and to making mortgage payments based upon their annual income. Checks can be made payable to the church, with the memo, Habitat for Humanity.

Thanks to your generous giving to February's mission emphasis, a check for \$555. is being sent to the Prescott Area Shelter Services (PASS).

We continue to assist our "adopted" DACA student, Franceny Gardea, a student at Prescott College. This week, a check is being sent to help her make a tuition installment payment. We have established a special DACA fund to which you may donate anytime throughout the year.

Thank you for remembering that we have been blessed to be a blessing. (Genesis 12:2). Comments/questions can be directed to our mission outreach team. Becky & Bill Bryant, Helaine Berman, Patty Gard, Linda Moore, Staci Robbins, Gary Gard, chairperson

IF YOU NEED A

We are buying the toilet paper for a reason. And it's a pretty important reason. We aren't thinking. We stopped. Of course we did.

Our thinking is distorted anytime we feel fear and anxiety because of the neurochemical response that is just there to keep us safe. That reality is coupled with the long-time building of intense pressure that increased exponentially in 2016. It's been intense for a while. We couple the fear with the intensity and we react. We see it on display as we take far more than we need and are indifferent to the scarcity we create for others for our own momentary, unsettled, and fleeting sense of relief.

We are having fear. We are having impulses. We are making choices. I think about the first person that bought more toilet paper. I think about the next person in line who was like, "Why is he buying so much toilet paper? Should I buy more toilet paper?" Then she went and bought more toilet paper. Then the next person walking in the store as she walked out wondered "Why are people buying more toilet paper? There must be a reason." They bought some more just in case.

That is why we bought all the toilet paper. We do that. We are ridiculous. We just want to be safe. We are all looking around, assessing, acting and then hoping we got it right.

We are all choosing actions from the same place of fear and some of those actions will hurt us and some will help us and that is completely up to us to determine bit by bit and moment by moment and act by act as we navigate this in isolation-togetherness.

This paradox has to hold the meaning of life. It just has to be in there somewhere. We have a worldwide shared thought distortion that is damaging on so many levels and in so many ways. It's a filter that comes from that desperate part of us that just wants to believe that controlling life is possible.

I can control the moment I die if I just stay vigilant. This thought, though, is an absolute and absolutes are flags for thought distortions. It is also a thinking error. We cannot control death.

When we operate in thought distortions, fear is present a lot of the time. We also are about to do some damage if the distortion is the guiding part of our behavior. This distortion takes me from the reality that so many things are needed for my survival and makes me focus on one small thing, what's in front of me. What I end up losing when I do this is, well...mainly - you.

If I operate in this distortion fully I begin to think that I matter more and you matter less. I then become threatened if you act on something I don't understand. I then begin to worry that you will get to survive a bit more and I will get to survive a bit less. That changes me and my behavior. It leads to me clinging and clawing and climbing this small part of the world that I can cling and claw and climb because at least I am still moving and at least I am still fighting.

Then I will act selfishly. Then I will act harshly. And then it will be easy for me to become brutal.

It is what happens again and again and again and again when we are afraid on such a massive scale. If you mix our fragility with global panic then people overreact. Of course they do. Of course. My friends, life is an endless grocery store trip for toilet paper in which people are stopping their carts in our way. We are huffing and side-eying our communication of anger until it becomes socially feasible and acceptable to yell our frustrations or escalate in a worse way.

We then adjust our path as we lock eyes on the toilet paper we came for. We then block someone else's path two seconds later as we get what we came for, not caring for a single moment that they are feeling what we felt two seconds before. This is us. This is us figuring out how to live while everyone else is figuring out how to live. We have done this before. It's always what we are doing. It just is bigger right now. Take a breath, my Dear One. Take a breath. Take another. My friend, take another. And if you didn't do that. Go back and do it.

Slow. Down. Breathe. That's fear. It lifts.

Breathe. Breathe. Remember. We have other options. One of my favorite things written down on paper for my eyes to peruse (as often as I wish) is a line from a poem by ee cummings called "i love you". The line I love is about the forgetting and the remembering that we keep on doing.

Humanity i love you because you are perpetually putting the secret of life in your pants and forgetting it's there and sitting down on it

I love this because it is the crux of living to me. We are always forgetting and we are always remembering. We hold something

LAUGH



Andy Crouch
@ahc

Honestly hadn't planned on giving up quite this much for Lent.

Zoom meeting,
audio only

Zoom meeting
with video



Kate Bevan
@katebevan

Shout-out to the nation's cats, who are dealing with the horrifying realization that their humans are going to be at home for the foreseeable, interrupting their naps, sitting on their sofas and generally disrupting their daily routines of snoozes and Important Cat Business.



Looking at the map for some weekend travel ideas.



Send me your stories or jokes, keep them clean!

Juliefccprescott@gmail.com

ANNIVERSARIES

John & Julie Mccurdy 04/18
Don & Kathy Stephens 05/20
Deana & Susan Wilson 05/27

BIRTHDAYS

Andree Shrimpton 03/28
Susan Wilson 03/30
Kristin Steele 04/04

that gives us an understanding of our aliveness and why it's important.

We hold it for awhile. Then we put it away. We live. We exist. Time passes. We forget its presence. We panic that we lost it. We remember we didn't. We retrieve it. Then we hold it again.

Let's hold it again. Together. We are scared and we've been acting like it. We have other options. We make other choices. All we have is this moment and in this moment we can choose to do this together. We are never really apart. I need you and you need me even when we are healthiest apart. I still need you. You still need me. It just is. We will survive better together and we forget that. Now we can remember. We can choose differently. Of course we can. Of course.



Janet Steven 04/08
Deana Wilson 04/27
Tom Lloyd 04/28
Gerri Lyons 05/03
Matt Ely 05/04
William Bryant 05/05
Ritch Steven 05/17
Nancy Blevens 05/18
Anne Solt 05/18
Lisa Sandberg 05/19
Caleb Flanagan 05/22
Joanne Lussier 05/25
Beth Bradstreet 05/26
Sarah Huff 05/26
Sarah Andrews 05/28
Anna Strong 05/28

- **EVERY-WEEK COMMUNION**

We have communion each week right after worship at the front of the sanctuary, everyone is welcome to participate.

- **MONTHLY COMMUNION**

Our regularly scheduled communion is held the first Sunday of each month. Communion is open to all.

- **PASS MEAL**

Once a month, we provide a meal for Prescott Area Shelter Services, the third Wednesday of the month.

- **CABINET MEETING**

Meets the 4th Thursday of each month at 5:30 p.m. in the Office Conference Room unless otherwise announced.

- **BELL CHOIR REHEARSAL**

We will train you! We meet for rehearsal at 9:00 am. On Thursdays in the Hazeltine Room downstairs.

- **CHANCEL SINGERS**

We meet Sundays at 9:00 a.m. before worship service to rehearse. All are welcome.

- **ALTER-NOTES**

We meet at 12:00 p.m. on Sunday after Coffee Time in the Sanctuary Chancel. Contact Melissa if you are interested in joining: 207-391-3276

- **SUNDAY SCHOOL**

Children may participate with Sunday School downstairs after "Children's Time".