



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

Coronavirus and the Church

We will begin following these recommendations going forward that come from our national church office:

As new cases of the coronavirus (CoVid-19) are reported in the United States and around the world, the church is called to education, caution and common sense. Here are a few basic guidelines for congregations. Good hygiene helps prevent the spread not only of coronavirus but also of colds and flu!

- Members, ministers, ushers - wash your hands frequently - with soap and water and for at least 20 seconds.
- Sneeze or cough into the crook of your elbow or a tissue, not your hand. Wash immediately after coughing, sneezing or blowing your nose.
- Avoid touching your face, especially your mouth, nose and eyes, with unwashed hands.
- Regularly disinfect surfaces frequently touched including keyboards, desktops, elevator buttons and door knobs.
- Use hand sanitizer.
- Avoid close contact with someone who is sick.
- Stay home if you are sick.
- Feel free to "bump elbows" or bow to fellow congregants during passing of the peace instead of hugging or shaking hands.
- Support changes in offertory and communion practices that minimize the chance of spreading germs. For example, ushers can keep hold of the offering plate; for communion, individual (even disposable) communion cups can be used.

This Sunday we have the story of Nicodemus and Jesus from John 3. It includes the "born again" reference and the famous text of John 3:16. Two often overlooked parts of the story are John 3:17 - *"Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him"* and the other references to Nicodemus in John's gospel - 7:50-52 and 19:39-42.



Nicodemus helping to take down Jesus' body from the cross (Pietà, by Michelangelo).
Pietà nel Museo dell'Opera del Duomo di Firenze.

THIS SATURDAY, TAPESTRY AND PRESCOTT UKULELE GUILD CONCERT March 7 @ 3:00 pm - 4:15 pm

Join original PUG director Will Fisher and his vocal group Tapestry as we collaborate with the PRESCOTT UKULELE GUILD for this fun concert.

Subgroup performers are : (in this order)

- Strummin' Ukes
- Sand Fleas
- The Remnants
- Kanikapila

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



The Universal Christ by Richard Rohr: An Interactive Lenten Study

Why does it matter that "Christ" was not Jesus' last name? What changes when we opt for "original blessing" over "original sin?" What if, when Jesus said, "This is my body," he didn't just mean 'the bread,' he meant 'YOU AND ME'?

For six weeks, members of our church will engage in study to explore answers to these and other questions. We hope you will join us. The study begins Wednesday, March 4 from 5:00 - 6:30 p.m. Copies of *The Universal Christ* will be available in Perkins Hall following the worship service on Sunday, March 1, for \$10. Due to the interactive nature of the study (in pairs and small groups), a concurrent meal is not possible, but participants in the class are urged make plans to eat with one another before 5:00 p.m. or after 6:30 p.m.

GETTING TO KNOW NEW MEMBERS.....

This church became enriched recently with a group of vibrant, eager and enthusiastic individuals with the most interesting backgrounds. Here is a brief biography of the profiles received so far.



DEE WORTLEY AND SON, DANNY - Wanted to start the new year and decade in a new spiritual home! Originally from South Amboy, NJ, and later moving to San Diego with her two sons and joining her two girls there. She is retired from her government job and has been working with the mentally abled community and continues this passion here in Prescott. She is interested in helping with our Sunday School.

MARY BRUHN - From Nebraska where she was baptized in the First Congregational UCC in Geneva, NE, a lifelong 'UCCer.' Mary is a retired school administrator. She and her husband have three children and two grandchildren. Mary is currently a science teacher in the Humboldt Unified School District. Looking forward to getting more involved when permanently retired!

ANNE ROBINSON - Born in Hyannis, Cape Cod, MA, and lived in Phoenix for 30 years before coming to Prescott two years ago. Anne is a US Air Force veteran and was also a military 'brat' moving a lot. Her past jobs are many and varied, ask her about them!! She is eager to volunteer in several areas here at FCCUCC; Community Cupboard, Alternotes, and helping with fellowship time/kitchen. She was drawn to this church because of the friendliness and traditional service she enjoys. She enjoys painting, sewing, crafts, cooking, hiking, movies, art, plays and singing.

CALEB FLANAGAN - I was born in Austin, TX May 22, 1979 to parents Rusty Crane and Jan Rueb. My liberal/hippie parents named me Caleb Aaron Rueb. A couple years later we moved to Smithville, TX, where my father began teaching school. My sister was born in 1982. In 1984 we moved to a small property in the country outside Smithville where I enjoyed playing in the woods and outside in general. My parents divorced when I was about 10 and my father remarried soon after. I now had a stepbrother and sister. I did well in school and graduated salutatorian in 1997. I studied Electrical Engineering at the University of Texas at Austin. In my second year I joined the men's club volleyball team. I enjoyed playing for that team for the rest of my time in school. After some challenging personal struggles I graduated from UT with a degree in mathematics in 2002. I worked in carpentry before meeting Ann Cotten in 2005. We were both part of an alternative certification program for teachers in Houston, TX. Ann and I had much in common and became very close. In 2008 we bought a house in SW Houston and I began teaching at a small private school nearby. I taught math there until 2016. Also in 2008 Ann and I changed our last name to Flanagan. In 2011 we had a blessing ceremony to celebrate our union. About 5 years ago while on vacation in Prescott we began considering the prospect of moving to Arizona. In 2017 we bought property in Chino Valley and moved to Prescott. The move to Arizona has been very challenging for me, but I am still glad for it. It has been a healthy learning experience. I've been thankful to have found our Church and the many wonderful people in it. -- Caleb and Ann (who joined FCCUCC previously) are involved in everything musical at our church!!

WELCOME TO THE NEW MEMBERS; DEE AND DANNY, MARY, ANNE, CALEB AND DIANE!! Please find time to get to know these interesting and intriguing folks, both new and 'older' comers to the church. Welcome! Patty Lantrip

People of the Passion

Maundy Thursday, April 9, at 5:00 p.m. in our Sanctuary

People of the Passion is a series of nine dramatic monologues which connect our experiences and our feelings with the people of the Gospel, the people who met Jesus in the flesh, and who were changed by that experience. Until now we have seen and heard these people at a distance, and we assumed we had nothing in common with them.

The playwright, Mary Betten, takes us in for a close-up. She tells us stories, as Jesus did, and as we interpret these dramatic moments, the gospel narrative can come to life in a new way.

Each of these people of Christ's passionate love has memories, yearnings, thoughts, feelings, and some very private sadness or joy and the grace of meeting Jesus. Mary makes these people human and approachable, so that we become convinced it can happen to us, too. So enjoy the monologues. But beware: as you look through the windows of these souls, you may spy a mirror or two!

Office Counter Schedule

9 - - Marti and Patty

16 - - Linda and Rita

23 - - Susan and Suzaanne

30 - - Angela and Don

FELLOWSHIP SCHEDULE	DATE
Paula Parker & Mike Ortegus	3/1/2020
Lloyd Evans & Alice Kring	3/8/2020
Dave Deville & Patty Lantrip	3/15/2020
Julie & Sandra Jaquette Johns	3/22/2020
Dennis & Barbara McCollough	3/29/2020
Jane Cheek & Helaine Berman	4/5/2020
Linda Kaul & Michele McFadden	4/12/2020
Hal & Rhonda Hatfield	4/19/2020
Jim Christopher & Christy Dinsman	4/26/2020
Henry & Linda Dahlberg	5/3/2020
Staci Robbins & Andre Shrimpton	5/10/2020
Kathy Stephens & Murl Preble	5/17/2020
Gary & Patty Gard	5/24/2020
Paula Parker & Mike Ortegus	5/31/2020
Lloyd Evans & Alice Kring	6/7/2020
Dave Deville & Patty Lantrip	6/14/2020
Julie Jaquette & Sandra Johns	6/21/2020
Dennis & Barbara McCollough	6/28/2020

SOUTHWEST CONFERENCE UCC ANNUAL MEETING APRIL 24-26 SAHUARITA, ARIZONA

Our congregation can have four more delegates to the meeting. A \$200.00 stipend is available to anyone who would like to go and represent us. See the pastor for more details.

Annual Meeting pre-event: border immersion trip

Pre-event on Thursday, April 23! No cost—just need to provide your own transportation to the border and buy your own lunch. We will walk across the border, so people don't need to worry about driving across. Wear good walking shoes and bring a full water bottle, sunscreen, and a passport or government-issued ID (driver's license is acceptable). Participants should be able to do some light walking; the shelter in Mexico is about one-third of a mile each way. We will not be driving into Mexico. Please indicate on your Annual Meeting registration if you will attend this event.

For More Information



safeTALK Suicide Alertness for Everyone

A suicide prevention workshop
Monday, March 30, 2020
9:00 am to 12:00 pm



Most people with thoughts of suicide don't truly want to die, but are struggling with the pain in their lives. Through their words and actions, they invite help to stay alive. safeTALK teaches participants to recognize their intentions, engage with the person with thoughts of suicide, and connect them with resources to help them be safe from suicide.

Attend the half-day safeTALK program and learn to:

- Notice and respond to situations where suicide thoughts may be present.
- Recognize that invitations for help are often overlooked.
- Move beyond the common tendency to resist, dismiss, and avoid suicide.

Who should attend the workshop?

- By providing a universal model with adaptable components, safeTALK offers useful skills to every audience.
- Anyone over the age of 15 can attend.
- Formal caregivers use safeTALK skills, but students, teachers, first responders, public and private employees and professional athletes also benefit from the program.

What can I expect?

- safeTALK is a powerful experience.
- You'll feel challenged, empowered, and hopeful.
- At the end of the workshop, you'll have a chance to practice these new skills.

Seating is limited! RSVP today for this FREE event.

RSVP: matforce@cablone.net or (202) 708-0100

Cost: Free, includes a safeTALK Participant Resource Kit

Location: Open Door Coffee House - Large Conference Room
6719 E. 2nd Street, Prescott Valley



SAVE THE DATE!
140th ANNIVERSARY OF THE CHURCH
CELEBRATION
HOMECOMING FOR ALL WHO HAVE BEEN
AT THE CHURCH
SEPTEMBER 27, 2020
10:30 AM WORSHIP

Watch Sermons Here

• 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".

Birthdays

Betty Corn 03/13
Kathy Stephens 03/13
Patty Gard 03/18
Bret Ely 03/26 Andree
Shrimpton 03/28
Susan Wilson 03/30
Janet Steven 04/08
Deana Wilson 04/27
Tom Lloyd 04/28

NEW OFFICE HOURS
MON-THUR: 9:00-2:00
FRI: 9:00-1:00
FCCPRESCOTT@GMAIL.COM
928.445.4555

